

House Resolution 550

By: Representatives Anderson of the 92nd, Scott of the 76th, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91st, Yates of the 73rd, Smith of the 125th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Georgia women veterans; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in 1987, Congress established March as Women's History Month, a month-long
3 celebration of the contributions women have made to our democracy; today, we continue to
4 celebrate in the context of our military as we honor the women who have made meaningful
5 contributions in service to this country; and
- 6 WHEREAS, according to a study by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the percentage of
7 women veterans is growing; although only 10 percent of the veteran population today is
8 represented by women, 50 percent of that figure has occurred since the start of the wars in
9 Iraq and Afghanistan; and
- 10 WHEREAS, roughly 15 percent of today's active duty military are women, but many suggest
11 women's influence is greater than ever; in addition to direct service, where women assume
12 important leadership position in uniform, women are also the anchor in many military
13 families; and
- 14 WHEREAS, women's role in the military, moreover, has shifted significantly since the
15 founding of this country; women first began serving in the United States Army in traditional
16 roles such as cooks, laundresses, nurses, and seamstresses, and during the American
17 Revolution, some women forewent these traditional roles to serve in combat disguised as
18 men or spies; and
- 19 WHEREAS, in 1865, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was the first woman to receive the Medal
20 of Honor for her work caring for the wounded in the Union Army, in which she was later
21 appointed the first female surgeon; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1976, women entered United States military academies as students for the
23 first time; 119 women entered West Point, 81 entered the United States Naval Academy, and
24 157 enrolled at the United States Air Force Academy; they also enrolled in the Coast Guard
25 Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy; and

26 WHEREAS, the Women in Military Service Memorial in Arlington has been in existence for
27 more than 15 years and is led by Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, USAF, who is
28 president of the Women's Memorial Foundation; Veterans Advantage recognized General
29 Vaught as a HeroVet in 2009, citing her record as a highly decorated woman veteran; and

30 WHEREAS, despite these significant advancements and the growing number of women who
31 are active duty or veterans, hurdles remain for women in the military; and

32 WHEREAS, considering these challenges and the numerous contributions women have made
33 in the protection of our freedoms, it remains vital that we continue to celebrate and honor
34 women in the military and their remarkable strength.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body salute and honor Georgia's women veterans in the month of March,
37 2015, during Women's History Month.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
40 public and the press.