



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois State women have proudly served in  
3 defense of our Nation since the Civil War, despite their lack  
4 of military standing before the 1900s; and

5 WHEREAS, They served in all major conflicts in  
6 ever-increasing numbers, volunteering to preserve our freedom;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, They served in expanding positions of  
9 responsibility from laundresses and cooks to administrators,  
10 from medical and technical personnel to full combatants; and

11 WHEREAS, Illinois State women contributed to establishing  
12 and maintaining our independence, preserving the Union,  
13 abolishing slavery, and advancing the cause of freedom and  
14 democracy around the world; and

15 WHEREAS, In times of conflict, State of Illinois women  
16 served the military as society permitted or as the situation  
17 demanded; and

18 WHEREAS, Women came forward to replace men as battlefield  
19 emergencies demanded and some even disguised their gender in  
20 order to serve; others masked their identity, risking their  
21 lives as couriers and intelligence agents; and

22 WHEREAS, The value of their contributions has finally been  
23 recognized by their ever-increasing integration and  
24 opportunities in the Armed Forces; and

25 WHEREAS, Women now make up over 15% of the active duty  
26 force and about 23% of the reserve force, totaling over 203,000  
27 women soldiers; and

1           WHEREAS, Today women make up 7% of the United States  
2 Veterans population; therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
5 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the General Assembly authorize  
6 the construction of a memorial honoring women in military  
7 service on a portion of the State-owned property in Oak Ridge  
8 Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois.