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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, During World War II, under a special program known
3 as Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), female pilots flew
4 noncombat missions to free up male pilots for combat; and

5 WHEREAS, WASPs were considered civilians; 38 women died in
6 crashes, but neither they nor their families received military
7 benefits; and

8 WHEREAS, WASP pilots were granted veteran status in 1977,
9 making them eligible to have their ashes placed at Arlington
10 National Cemetery with military honors; since 2002, this has
11 gone on without controversy; and

12 WHEREAS, Recently, the United States Army, which oversees
13 Arlington National Cemetery, stated that in 2002, the
14 superintendent of the cemetery had no authority to begin
15 allowing the remains of WASP pilots to be buried there, and
16 under federal law, WASP pilots are only eligible for burial at
17 cemeteries run by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

18 WHEREAS, The WASPs were a distinct group of women; they
19 test-flew repaired military aircraft, trained combat pilots,
20 and towed airborne targets that other pilots fired at with live
21 ammunition during training; and

1 WHEREAS, The WASPs are not asking for anything beyond what
2 they earned; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
5 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the United States Army
6 to reverse its decision and once again allow the Women Airforce
7 Service Pilots to be buried in their rightful place at
8 Arlington National Cemetery; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the United States Secretary of the Army.