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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 881

Offered April 1, 2025

Commemorating the lives and legacies of trailblazing members of the United States Armed Forces.

Patrons—Reid, Anthony, Askew, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Feggans, Gardner, Helmer, Henson, Krizek, McQuinn, Seibold, Sullivan, Thomas, Ward and Watts

WHEREAS, over the course of nearly 250 years, countless men and women in the United States have served and sacrificed in defense of the nation at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, many of these men and women faced prejudice and discrimination in their military careers and courageously broke down racial and gender barriers to serve the United States with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, before breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier, Jackie Robinson served as a second lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II; his military service, coupled with his pioneering role in sports, underscores his significant contribution to both the Civil Rights Movement and the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black aviators in the United States Armed Forces, and their exemplary performance during World War II challenged racial prejudices and paved the way for the integration of the military; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Native American members of the United States Marine Corps, known as the Navajo Code Talkers, developed and utilized an unbreakable code based on the Navajo language, playing a crucial role in secure communications and contributing significantly to the Allied victory; and

WHEREAS, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed mostly of Japanese American soldiers, many of whom had families in internment camps, became one of the most highly decorated units in military history for its valor during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Major General Charles Calvin Rogers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism in combat during the Vietnam War; his leadership and bravery exemplified the highest standards and ideals of military service; and

WHEREAS, Major General Jeannie Leavitt was the first female fighter pilot in the United States Air Force; she played a crucial role in breaking gender barriers in military aviation and held various leadership roles within the branch, influencing the adoption of policies on diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Major Lisa Jaster was the first female United States Army Reserve soldier to graduate from the United States Army Ranger School, one of the most difficult training schools in the military; her success was a historic achievement that marked a significant step for women in combat roles; and

WHEREAS, these distinguished members of the United States Armed Forces represent only a small number of the generations of soldiers, sailors, aviators, and Marines whose bravery, dedication to duty, and perseverance have directly benefited the Commonwealth and the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the lives and legacies of these trailblazing members of the United States Armed Forces hereby be commemorated; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to representatives of these trailblazing members of the United States Armed Forces on behalf of all veterans and active duty service members who have defended the nation in uniform.

INTRODUCED

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