

BY: M. of A. Hunter

URGING the New York State Congressional delegation
to pass the Deborah Sampson Act, S.681

WHEREAS, The Federal Legislation, the Deborah Sampson Act, would expand counseling and call centers for women, improve the quality of care for infant children of veterans, increase the number of gender-specific providers and coordinators in VA facilities, provide support services for women veterans seeking legal assistance, authorize grants for organizations supporting low-income women veterans; and improve the collection and analysis of data regarding women and minority veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Deborah Sampson Act is named after a woman named Deborah Sampson Gannett, who disguised herself as a man and served in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, She served in the Army under the name Robert Shirtliff of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, for 17 months, was wounded in 1782, and was honorably discharged at West Point, New York, in 1783; and

WHEREAS, This legislation will provide enhanced access to VA care and will ensure women veterans are getting the benefits they have earned through their service; and

WHEREAS, Women make up fewer than ten percent of the national veterans population, but represent one of the fastest growing segments of VA beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 345,000 women served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and military officials are working to open all combat jobs to women; and

WHEREAS, In New York State there are 65,756 female veterans; and

WHEREAS, This legislation will specifically recognize the needs of women veterans who are more likely to face homelessness, unemployment, and go without needed healthcare; it will improve services and access at the Department of Veterans' Affairs for women veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New York State Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislation Body to pass the Deborah Sampson Act, S.681; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the Congressional delegation from New York State.