

BY: M. of A. Hunter

COMMEMORATING the 25th Anniversary of the Military
Women's Memorial

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend events which symbolize the historical, social and cultural development of this great State and embody the spirit of the principles upon which this Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Military Women's Memorial located at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Legislation was authorized in 1986 to honor women's contribution to the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, In October 1997 the Military Women's Memorial was dedicated and opened to the public; it is still the only memorial to honor and tell the stories of all the nation's women who served in and with the military beginning with the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Memorial is to honor the women who served in and with the United States Armed Forces from the time of the American Revolution until today; and

WHEREAS, Women did not officially serve in the military until the 20th Century, many women served with the military in the earlier times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, Women participated in the United States Armed Forces during World War II, which is considered a major turning point in their role in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, By the end of World War II, there were few noncombatants' jobs in which women did not serve; and

WHEREAS, Nurses and Women's Army Corps (WACs) served overseas throughout WWII; the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service-U.S. Navy Corps of female members), SPARS (Semper Paratus-Always Ready-World War II women's branch United States Coast Guard Ready Reserve) and Women Marines were restricted from overseas assignments until near the end of the war; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 400,000 women served with the military during World War II; many women lost their lives or were held as Prisoners of War, while others earned Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, and Legion of Merit; and

WHEREAS, This vital Memorial tells the story of women in the military in their own words through its database which preserves the

stories of individual women who served in or with the military; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, there is space within the Memorial which remembers those women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country and those who have received the nation's highest awards; at the end of this space, there are three marble blocks called "Sister Stones" which were cut from the same marble as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and stand as silent sentinels to these women patriots; and

WHEREAS, Through its avowed commitment to those who served in the cause of America's Freedom, the Military Women's Memorial formerly known as the Women in Military Service For America Memorial does so unselfishly advance that spirit of united purpose and shared concern which is the unalterable manifestation of our American experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Military Women's Memorial; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Viviana DeCohen, Director of the New York State Division of Veterans' Services; and Kristen Rouse, Deputy Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion New York State Division of Veterans' Services.