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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1148 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY NELSON, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS,  
BIZZARRO, COX, ROTHMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, ROZZI, THOMAS, BURNS,  
RYAN, CORBIN, STAATS, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, KAUFFMAN,  
CALTAGIRONE, JOZWIAK, MILLARD, MENTZER, PYLE, EVERETT,  
PICKETT, DRISCOLL, DIGIROLAMO, GOODMAN, MARSICO, JAMES, DALEY  
AND SCHWEYER, OCTOBER 10, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 10, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing 2018 as the 100th anniversary year of women in the  
2 United States Marine Corps.

3 WHEREAS, On August 13, 1918, Opha May Johnson became the  
4 first known woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps  
5 Reserve; and

6 WHEREAS, Johnson paved the way for over 300 more women to  
7 enlist in the Marine Corps that year, eventually leading to the  
8 creation of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve on February 13,  
9 1943; and

10 WHEREAS, Over 22,000 women serving in the Marine Corps played  
11 a pivotal role during World War II, making up over 85% of the  
12 enlisted personnel at the Marine Corps Headquarters; and

13 WHEREAS, While much smaller in numbers, women served in the  
14 Marine Corps throughout the Korean and Vietnam Wars, as well as  
15 in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and

1 Enduring Freedom and continue to serve in post-9/11 military  
2 operations; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1943, the idea of women serving in the Marine  
4 Corps was no longer considered abnormal and even former actress  
5 Bea Arthur joined the Marine Corps; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1947, Pennsylvania native Frances Wancheck was  
7 the first woman to receive a "hash mark" by the Marine Corps;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Bertha Billeb became the first female Marine  
10 promoted to Sergeant Major in 1961; and

11 WHEREAS, Margaret Brewer became the first female Marine to be  
12 promoted to General Officer in 1978; and

13 WHEREAS, Carol Mutter became the first female Marine to be  
14 promoted to Lieutenant General in 1996; and

15 WHEREAS, The first all-female team of Marines conducted a  
16 mission in southern Afghanistan to help the distressed female  
17 population of Afghanistan, a mission which no male team of  
18 Marines would be able to conduct; and

19 WHEREAS, The progress for women in the Marine Corps has only  
20 continued to grow, including the graduation of the first woman  
21 from the Infantry Officer Course on September 25, 2017;  
22 therefore it be

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the women  
24 who served in the Marine Corps and who truly exemplified the  
25 core values of the Marine Corps of honor, courage and  
26 dedication; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize 2018 as  
28 the 100th anniversary of women in the United States Marine  
29 Corps.