



**Resolution: In Support of State Veterans Affairs Departments, Offices, Commissions and like activities consider the services and benefits needed by women veterans, not only furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs at the federal level, but also by their own state-based and local government programs, to ensure women after serving the nation in uniform are able to successfully reintegrate with their families, employers and communities, and to support states legislatures in considering amending state laws to ensure women veterans receive equitable resources and programs that states provide to veterans.**

*Ratified: September 13, 2015*

**WHEREAS**, over 2.2 million women have served honorably in the nation's armed forces, comprising 10 percent of all veterans who served; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of women veterans using Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care has doubled over the past decade of war, with over 50% of women veterans of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan having used VA services; and

**WHEREAS**, over 78 percent of the new women veteran users of VA health care are of child-bearing age, and their needs represent challenges to the current model of VA health care, which has traditionally focused on men; and

**WHEREAS**, many women veterans present complex health needs, and simultaneously serve as primary or sole caregivers for dependent children, making access to many necessary transitional services difficult for them to obtain; and

**WHEREAS**, VA and external analysts have identified a number of critical issues related to the delivery of health care and benefits, including fragmentation of primary care; lack of privacy and safety, too few proficient, knowledgeable providers with expertise in women's health, and a number of quality disparities for women in the adjudication of their claims for disabilities incurred in active military service; and

**WHEREAS**, important reports, such as DAV's 2014 report, *Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home*, and documentary films including *Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home*, *Lioness*, and *Service: When Women Come Marching Home*, vividly demonstrate both the expanding role of women in the military and the sacrifices they endure while serving and after returning home; and

**WHEREAS**, State Veterans Affairs Departments, Offices, Commissions and like activities traditionally focus their programs in health, employment, education, tax relief, licenses, privileges, and other services and benefits on men who served, and may not recognize the key roles women play in today's American military; and

**WHEREAS**, state legislatures nationwide should recognize in law the importance of women's military service, and should amend state laws to ensure women veterans gain their fair share of resources states provide to veterans; and

## **Disabled American Veterans Resolution**

### **Page Two**

**WHEREAS**, departments of state government need to review all regulations governing public services for veterans to ensure these rules treat women veterans with equity; **NOW**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Foundation for Women Legislators urges state legislatures, state agencies, and in particular departments, commissions and like activities of state government that provide services and programs to veterans to ensure the needs of women veterans are adequately recognized and properly addressed; **AND**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in so doing, the National Foundation for Women Legislators hereby further recognizes all of those who have honorably served in the United States military, answering the call to duty, and do further honor the essential role and sacrifice that women veterans and their families play in preserving the life and liberty of our great nation.