

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Mayor & Council

AGENDA DATE: June 6,2023

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Representative Brian Kennedy 915.212.0001

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL: Goal 4

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and Action to approve a Resolution recognizing Women Veterans for the service and sacrifices of the Women who volunteer to serve in the United States Armed Services.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

Recognize Women Veterans for their unwavering efforts and risking their lives for the Freedoms enjoyed by all the Citizens of the United States.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, for 248 years women have proudly served in the United States armed forces in both unofficial and official capacities to secure and preserve the freedom and liberty of the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, women's contributions to the success of the American Revolution include, but are not limited to, the spinning of "Liberty Cloth," picketing merchants selling British imports, writing propaganda, and firing cannons on the battlefields; and

WHEREAS, women, some disguised as men, commanded troops, and fought in battles such as Cathay Williams, the only woman to serve as a Buffalo Soldier, and Buffalo Calf Road Woman, who knocked Lieutenant Colonel George Custer off his horse in the Battle of Little Bighorn; and

WHEREAS, thousands of women enlisted in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and Navy Nurse Corps, often tending to the killed and wounded on the battlefield; and thousands of "Hello Girls" operated switchboards near the front lines in World War I; and

WHEREAS, in World War II, 350,000 women enlisted in the Women's Army Corps, the Navy Women's Reserve, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, the Coast Guard Women's Reserve, the Women Airforce Service Pilots, the Army Nurse Corps, and the Navy Nurse Corps; and

WHEREAS, in 1948 Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, allowing women to serve as permanent members of the United States Armed Forces, but restricting each branch to 2% of women, of which many went on to courageously serve in MASH units in the Korean War combat theater; and

WHEREAS, women who volunteered to serve in the Vietnam War in the health, communications, intelligence, and administration fields, and continued to face the horrors of combat, with eight women killed, were finally allowed to be promoted to general and command units, but still faced a ten-year obstacle to the building of the Vietnam Women's Memorial; and

WHEREAS, during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, although barred from combat, 40,000 servicewomen deployed serving in more roles than were previously open, such as plane and helicopter pilots, and where more women found themselves engaged in combat as the lines of engagement were continuously blurred; and

WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, over 300,000 women, have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and whose courageous actions and exemplary performances have further opportunities for women by way of the lifting of combat restrictions, 9,000 Combat Action Badges, 114 Army Rangers, 940 tankers, infantry, and cavalry scouts; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,000 women have been Killed in Action, 100 were Prisoners of War, and countless others wounded in combat since 1773, and despite being the fastest growing subgroup of Veterans, women Veterans continue to face barriers to equality and recognition amongst their male counterparts and the civilian community, and furthermore declare they will no longer be invisible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the City of El Paso recognizes June 12th, 2023 as “**Women Veterans Day**” to recognize and honor the service and sacrifices of the women who volunteered to serve in the United States Armed Forces.

APPROVED this _____ day of June, 2023.

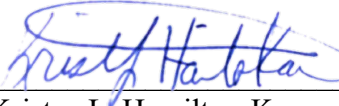
THE CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leeser,
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kristen L. Hamilton-Karam
Deputy City Attorney