

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-721

Title: AN ACT DESIGNATING NATIONAL WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY.

Vote Date: 2/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 1/30/2025

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. MD Rahman, 4th Dist.
Rep. Farley Santos, 109th Dist.
Rep. Anthony Nolan, 39th Dist.
Rep. Mark W. Anderson, 62nd Dist.
Rep. Mark DeCaprio, 48th Dist.
Rep. Steve Weir, 55th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Many veterans and servicemembers have noted that despite experiencing increased rates of military sexual trauma, homelessness, and other service-related conditions compared to their male counterparts, women veterans receive very little explicit recognition. To alleviate this lack of commemoration, twenty-one states recognize June 12th, being the anniversary of the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, to be Women Veterans Recognition Day. In accordance with these other states, this bill seeks to designate June 12th as Women Veterans Recognition Day.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Allison Weir, Executive Director, CT Veterans Legal Center

As a woman veteran, Ms. Weir stated her strong belief in the importance to recognize and honor the role and sacrifices that women have made in the US armed forces since the Revolution.

John Davis Jr., Chairman, Veterans Services Commission of Glastonbury

Mr. Davis expressed his support of the bill and the importance of honoring women veterans.

Naomi Ray Fucci

Ms. Fucci stated that the experience of women servicemembers had gone unnoticed in the State of Connecticut for 76 years, and that this bill would help change that. She also noted that while June 12th is not a nationally recognized holiday, several neighboring states have recognized it.

Additional Testimony: Multiple testifiers emphasized that many other states have designated National Women Veterans Recognition Day, and that it is more important than ever to commemorate women veterans. Testifiers included:

- **Tammy Balch**
- **Paige Brennan**
- **Chris Carver**
- **Mark Carver**
- **Jessice Dunay**
- **Dr. Michael Fucci**
- **Jennifer Gilbert**
- **Elizabeth Lagocki**
- **Hamilton Miller**
- **Lesbia Nieves**
- **Karen Nicole Porter**
- **Taylor Salman**
- **Amanda Smith**
- **Sherri Vogt**
- **Gregory Wilson**

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: 2/20/2025