

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 292

Recognizing the 20th century as the “Century of Women in the United States”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 13, 2000

Mr. CLELAND (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOND, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BRYAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBB, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 20th century as the “Century of Women in the United States”.

Whereas women made unparalleled strides during the 20th century in education, professions, legal rights, politics, military service, religion, sports, and self-reliance;

Whereas at the dawn of the 20th century, most women in the United States were denied the right to vote;

Whereas the Women’s Suffrage movement, the largest grassroots political movement in the Nation’s history, involved about 2,000,000 women and took more than 70 years of petitions, referenda, speeches, national and State campaigns, demonstrations, arrests, and hunger strikes;

Whereas women won the right to vote throughout the United States with the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1920, and by the end of the century, women were voting in larger numbers than men in some national elections;

Whereas women represent an increasing share of people being awarded college and postgraduate degrees;

Whereas women are increasingly owning their own businesses and working to narrow the gap in earnings between women and men, and in 1999 women earned 73 cents for every dollar earned by men in contrast to the 57 cents they received in 1973;

Whereas during the 20th century, women served their country proudly and capably in the armed services, including duty in both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Libya, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo, and all major contingencies including in warfighting roles;

Whereas in World War I, women were only allowed to serve in the Army as nurses, and with over 30,000 women serving in World War I, approximately 10,000 women served as volunteers overseas, with no rank and no benefits;

Whereas women now serve in all ranks, in all branches of the armed services, as pilots, intelligence specialists, drill instructors, specialists, and technicians, soldiers, airmen, and marines on the battlefields, and as sailors aboard Navy and Coast Guard ships at sea;

Whereas women were once denied the right to enter the national academies for military service or to compete to become astronauts or combat pilots, in 1976 Congress passed, and President Ford signed into law, legislation

authorizing the admission of women into the military service academies;

Whereas women are now excelling in military academies and emerging as part of the military leadership of the future, and have served with distinction as members of combat squadrons and as commanders and members of the space shuttle crew;

Whereas the 20th century saw women in new roles as justices on the United States Supreme Court, members of the President's Executive Cabinet, United States Senators and Representatives, and women's services have become invaluable in appointed and volunteer positions and as Federal legislators, State and local legislators, Governors, judges, Cabinet officers, county commissioners, mayors, city council members, directors of Federal, State and local agencies;

Whereas women have become prominent figures in amateur and professional sports highlighted in 1999 with the United States Women's Soccer Team winning the World Cup in a stunning victory; and

Whereas women can look back at the opportunities created during the 20th century and look ahead toward even greater accomplishments in the 21st century: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) commends the accomplishments and unfail-  
3       ing spirit of women in the 20th century; and

4               (2) recognizes the 20th century as the “Century  
5       of Women in the United States”.

