



HR0945

LRB099 16986 MST 41335 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, During World War II, under a special program known as Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), female pilots flew noncombat missions to free up male pilots for combat; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, WASPs were considered civilians; 38 women died in crashes, but neither they nor their families received military benefits; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, WASP pilots were granted veteran status in 1977, making them eligible to have their ashes placed at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors; since 2002, this has gone on without controversy; and

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, Recently, the United States Army, which oversees Arlington National Cemetery, has stated that in 2002, the superintendent of the cemetery had no authority to begin allowing the remains of WASP pilots to be buried there, and under federal law, WASP pilots are only eligible for burial at cemeteries run by the Department of Veteran Affairs; and

13

14

15

16

17

18

WHEREAS, The WASPs were a distinct group of women; they test-flew repaired military aircraft, trained combat pilots, and towed airborne targets that other pilots fired at with live ammunition during training; and

19

20

21

1           WHEREAS, The WASPs are not asking for anything beyond what  
2 they earned; therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
5 urge the United States Army to reverse its decision and once  
6 again allow the Women Airforce Service Pilots to be buried in  
7 their rightful place at Arlington National Cemetery; and be it  
8 further

9           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the United States Secretary of the Army.