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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Date: 2/22/2021**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HJ 3: Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial**

This Joint Resolution calls on the Governor and the State of Maryland to create a commission to create a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial. As of now there is currently no memorial specifically honoring the Maryland women who have served and continue to serve in all branches of our military.

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) reports that women represent approximately 20% of new recruits, 15% of active duty military members, and 18% of the guard and reserve forces. NCSL also reports that, as of March 2019, at least 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have enacted legislation to establish a female veteran program, designate a commemorative day or month, or provide for special license plates. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in 2016, women veterans represented approximately 9% of the U.S. veteran population and approximately 13% of Maryland's veteran population.

It is past time that we honor the service, dedication, honor, and sacrifice of these valiant women who have served in our armed forces. I humbly ask for the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee for a favorable report on this Joint Resolution. Thank you.