

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Joint Resolution 11 (Delegate Sample-Hughes, *et al.*)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

Rules

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Women Veterans Day

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This joint resolution designates March 13 as Women Veterans Day.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Compliance with the joint resolution does not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Sixteen official commemorative days, six months, and one week are recognized in State law, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor also must issue a proclamation each year encouraging citizens and other individuals to observe a moment of silence at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day to unite in remembrance and commemorate the heroic acts and efforts of Marylanders who have served and died in the U.S. Armed Forces.

**Background:** According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), as of January 2019, eight states (Alaska, California, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas) and Puerto Rico have designated a Women Veterans Day or Women Veterans Month. 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.

Women have served in wars and conflicts throughout U.S. history, beginning with the Revolutionary War, and have served formally in the military since the establishment of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901. The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 granted women permanent status in the military. Since then, federal legislation has been enacted to expand opportunities for women in the military and women's access to veterans benefits.

NCSL reports that women represent approximately 20% of new recruits, 15% of active duty military members, and 18% of the guard and reserve forces.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland**

Asian Lunar New Year Day <sup>1</sup>	January/February
Black History Month	February
Irish-American Heritage Month	March
Women’s History Month	March
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day	April 3
John Hanson’s Birthday <sup>2</sup>	April 13
National Healthcare Decisions Day	April 16
Maryland Centenarians Day <sup>3</sup>	May
Negro Baseball League Day <sup>4</sup>	May
Law Day U.S.A.	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>5</sup>	June
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week <sup>6</sup>	June
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	June 19
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Thurgood Marshall Day	July 2
Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>7</sup>	September/October
German-American Heritage Month	October
South Asian American Heritage Day	October 2
Poetry Day	October 15
American Indian Heritage Month	November
Maryland Emancipation Day	November 1
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

<sup>1</sup>Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

<sup>2</sup>John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

<sup>3</sup>Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

<sup>4</sup>Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>5</sup>Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>6</sup>Commemorated during the second week in June.

<sup>7</sup>Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** National Conference of State Legislatures; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 20, 2019  
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