

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, 2023 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the groundbreaking Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948, enabling women to serve as permanent, regular members of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force; and

*WHEREAS*, women veterans are one of the fastest-growing demographics within the United States military and are expected to reach nearly 20 percent of the veteran population by 2045; and

*WHEREAS*, Washington state is home to more than 56,000 women veterans who have served our country with honor and dignity, often in extremely dangerous situations, including being taken as POWs from World War II through Operation Desert Storm, Operation Noble Eagle, and Operation Enduring Freedom; and

*WHEREAS*, through their selfless sacrifice, courage, dedication, and honorable military service, women veterans have safeguarded our heritage and freedom while providing valuable service and expertise to our society; and

*WHEREAS*, women veterans have been leaders not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity but also at the forefront of numerous major progressive social change movements in history, paving the way for future generations to enjoy the unalienable rights, duties, and responsibilities afforded equally to all residents of the United States of America; and

*WHEREAS*, each woman veteran is extraordinary in her own way, proving that women working inside the home or outside in academia, science, technology, business, labor, governance, and more maintain critical roles in every sphere of society; and

*WHEREAS*, Washington is committed to supporting and recognizing the bravery of all women veterans, including those who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down their lives to protect our state and country;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2023, as

### *Women Veterans Day*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in honoring women veterans for their outstanding achievements and invaluable contributions to our state.

Signed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2023

Governor Jay Inslee

