

2016 -- S 2485

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROUDLY PROCLAIMING MAY 13, 2016, TO BE "NAVY NURSE CORPS DAY" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, DiPalma, Walaska, Coyne, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 23, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On May 13, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Naval
2 Appropriations Bill that authorized the establishment of the Nurse Corps as a staff corps of the
3 United States Navy. The twenty women who joined were the first women to join the United
4 States Navy and have forever been immortalized as the "Sacred Twenty"; and

5 WHEREAS, Originally, Navy Nurses were assigned to hospitals throughout the nation.
6 Later, they were sent to medical facilities overseas in Cuba, Guam, the Philippines, Haiti and
7 elsewhere. When World War I occurred, the Navy Nurse Corps had greatly expanded to
8 approximately 1,500 nurses and by 1918, they were serving in hospital units in Ireland, Scotland,
9 and in France, close to combat operations. The Navy Nurse Corps also, while on active duty, had
10 to face the deadly Influenza pandemic of 1918. Nineteen Navy Corps Nurses died while on active
11 duty during World War I; and

12 WHEREAS, During World War II, 1,799 active duty Navy Corps Nurses served our
13 nation with valor and courage across six continents. Navy nurses on duty during the Japanese
14 attack on Pearl Harbor saved countless lives; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition, these heroic nurses cared for wounded marines, soldiers and
16 sailors in New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Guam, Saipan, Iwo Jima, Okinawa,
17 Italy, England, and other points across the globe. Numerous Navy Corps Nurses were captured
18 and confined as Prisoners of War. Navy Corps Nurses serving in the Philippines were captured in
19 1942, and became known as the "Angels of Bataan" as they continued to function as a nursing

1 unit under horrific conditions and saved many lives; and

2 WHEREAS, Navy Corps Nurses have served our nation during every military conflict
3 since World War I and in their distinguished 108 years of service to our nation they have
4 provided our military members, retirees, and dependents with the finest and most compassionate
5 medical care possible; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
7 hereby proudly proclaims May 13, 2016 to be "Navy Nurse Corps Day" in the State of Rhode
8 Island; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Trish Culver, President, New England Navy
11 Nurse Corps Association.

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