



State of  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**WOMEN VETERANS MONTH**  
MARCH 2017

**WHEREAS**, women have served honorably and courageously in all of America's wars and conflicts since the American Revolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States military has evolved from a predominantly male force to a force with more than 14 percent women who are currently serving on active duty, and nearly 17 percent who are serving in the Reserves and National Guard; and

**WHEREAS**, the population of women veterans is increasing exponentially, from 1.1 million in 1980 to a projected 2 million by 2020, comprising more than 10 percent of the veteran population; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota's veteran population includes more than 6,000 women; and

**WHEREAS**, with a rapidly increasing number of women serving in the military today and returning from deployments as seasoned veterans with exposure to combat, the Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and veterans service organizations across our state and nation are working to ensure that the post-deployment mental and physical health needs unique to women veterans are being met; and

**WHEREAS**, state and federal agencies and service organizations are working together to enhance health care services for women veterans, to ensure that clinicians are properly trained to provide gender-specific care to women of all ages, and to identify innovative courses of treatment and solutions to issues that are unique to women veterans; and


**WHEREAS**, women veterans are encouraged to reach out to the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and its women veterans coordinator, as well as other veterans service organizations, to ensure their voices are heard and their unique healthcare and lifestyle issues are addressed, so that women veterans of all eras receive the services and benefits they deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans are encouraged to recognize the generations of women veterans who have proudly and valiantly served this great state and nation, and who have played an integral role in defending our homeland and preserving freedom around the world.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim March 2017, **WOMEN VETERANS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

  
Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State