

WHEREAS; this year commemorates the 78th anniversary of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, which was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948, and enabled women to serve in all branches of the United States military as permanent, full members; and

WHEREAS; women have served in every branch and component of the United States Armed Forces—from the Revolutionary War to current conflicts throughout the world—to protect and defend the country’s values and ideals, and will continue to do so in ever-increasing numbers; and

WHEREAS; with more than 2 million women veterans living in the U.S. today, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), women veterans are the fastest growing demographic of veterans in the United States; and

WHEREAS; further, Wisconsin is home to more than 30,000 women veterans, roughly 10 percent of Wisconsin’s veteran population, and the DVA estimates that by the year 2040, women will be 18 percent of the veteran population; and

WHEREAS; having served the nation with courage, loyalty, integrity, and pride, women veterans continue their service as leaders in their families, communities, local businesses, government, education, healthcare, nonprofit sectors, and more; and

WHEREAS; although women veterans are dependable, selfless, intuitive, and adaptable, women veterans are also at a higher risk of homelessness, suicide, unemployment, sexual violence, and PTSD than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS; much more remains to be done to ensure that women in the Armed Forces and women veterans are treated equitably and with the respect and honor they deserve; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs’ (WDVA) Women Veterans Program advocates for, empowers, supports, and highlights the achievements of the state’s women veterans through the Anna Mae Robertson Veteran Legacy Award, an annual Women Veterans Retreat and events, promoting Wisconsin women veteran-owned businesses and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum’s women veterans oral history archive, and the “I Am Not Invisible” traveling exhibit; and

WHEREAS; today and every day, the state of Wisconsin joins women veterans across the state, DVA, WDVA, and all Wisconsinites in commending the dedication, resilience, and perseverance of women veterans and the many sacrifices made by them and their families in service to the country and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that women veterans have the tools, support, and resources to thrive in their civilian lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 12 2026 as

WOMEN VETERANS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 29th day of May 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State