



**Jewish War Veterans**  
*of the United States of America*

# Resolutions 2023

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# 2023 JWV Resolutions

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## **SUPPORT FOR COMBAT INJURED VETERANS THROUGH THE RICHARD STAR ACT**

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WHEREAS, Combat injured veterans forced into early retirement by their injury are not receiving their vested longevity pay; and

WHEREAS, The disabled veterans, often seriously disabled, are subject to an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received, in some case completely losing their retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, Reducing retirement pay due to a combat incurred injury is clearly an injustice for combat injured veterans, many of whom require full time care; and

WHEREAS, This causes increased stress and financial concerns often requiring family members to give up their employment to help the disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, Congress acknowledged this as an injustice and partially fixed it through the FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) but this fix excluded those who were injured in combat and forced to retire before completing 20 years of service; and

WHEREAS, The Major Richard Star Act (H.R.1282) (S.344) will correct this injustice; and

WHEREAS, This Act would support more than 50,300 combat disabled veterans by allowing concurrent receipt of vested longevity pay and VA disability pay.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to work together to quickly pass the Major Richard Star Act in order to fairly compensate these disabled retirees for their service and their sacrifice.

# 2023 JVV Resolutions

**1           EXPANDING AMERICA’S NATIONAL CEMETERY ACT OF 2023 RESOLUTION**

2   WHEREAS, H.R. 1413 was introduced in the United States Congress on March 7, 2023 to  
3   require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand or otherwise modify an existing national  
4   cemetery to ensure that full military honors are provided at such cemetery, to require the  
5   Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly submit to Congress a report  
6   containing a proposal to increase national cemetery capacity and an assessment of the criteria for  
7   interment at Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes; and

8   WHEREAS, The FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required a plan to ensure  
9   Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) operations would continue “well into the future” and the  
10  Department of Defense (DOD) interpreted this as a directive to reduce eligibility; and

11  WHEREAS, Such a rule change would be discriminatory as women who were barred by law  
12  from service in combat occupations and units until recently will be denied interment as ANC  
13  despite their dedication, gallant, and often dangerous service to their country; and

14  WHEREAS, It was not the original intent of the 2019 NDAA to end this benefit for women, 20-  
15  year retirees, and elderly veterans, and

16  WHEREAS, Changing the rules is a cost cutting measure that comes on the backs of military  
17  retirees and others whose final plans included burial at a national cemetery; and

18  WHEREAS, It is necessary that before Arlington National Cemetery reaches capacity, the  
19  Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall expand or otherwise modify a national cemetery to ensure that  
20  full military honors are provided at such cemetery; and

21  WHEREAS, This Act would require an assessment by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation  
22  with the Secretary of the Army, with respect to any revisions that should be made to the revised  
23  criteria for interment in Arlington National Cemetery prescribed pursuant to section 598 of the  
24  John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 in order to ensure that  
25  such criteria recognize exceptional service and honors;

## 2023 JWV Resolutions

1 WHEREAS. This Act would also require an assessment of how the revised criteria will affect  
2 women, veterans who served in non-combat occupations as members of the Armed Forces,  
3 veterans who did not serve in combat as members of the Armed Forces, and such other groups as  
4 the Secretaries consider relevant; and

5 WHEREAS, This Act will ensure full military honors will be provided at the proposed cemetery  
6 consistent with those in place at ANC prior to ANC reaching capacity; and

7 WHEREAS, The action would make Congress' intent clear regarding eligibility changes beyond  
8 that date, increasing the likelihood of the current process staying in place; and

9 WHEREAS, If not enacted, the hardest hit will be Vietnam and Cold War-era veterans who have  
10 planned on this benefit for decades.

11 THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA supports the passage of H.R. 1413 by  
12 the Congress of the United States and urges the United States Senate to introduce and pass a  
13 companion bill supporting this Act.

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# 2023 JWV Resolutions

## **PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY**

### **CAREGIVERS (PCAFC)**

WHEREAS, This Veterans Administration (VA) program provides assistance to home bound disabled veterans in the form of assistance to caregivers; and

WHEREAS, After months of controversy, the annual reassessment program was found to be flawed and the VA agreed to halt all assessments until such time as the rules and policies associated with the benefit can be revised; and

WHEREAS, The VA agreed not to reduce or discharge stipends for any families based on earlier reassessments; and

WHEREAS, The program provides monthly financial support to about 33,000 veterans in need of full time at home care; and

WHEREAS, This program is currently only open to veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The program was scheduled to expand to all veterans on October 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Those currently eligible need to be properly cared for before the VA opens and expands the program; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 6823, also known as the “Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based

Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022” expands VA Home-Based Community

Services nationwide, provides greater access to resources, and helps to determine which services

provide optimal support for the caregiver and their family; and

WHEREAS, H.R.6823 allows caregivers who are ineligible for or were discharged from the

PCAFC to automatically enroll in the Program of General Caregiver Support Services

(PGCSS); and

WHEREAS, Passage of H.R.6823 would provide for a smooth transition between PCAFC and

PGCSS.

## 2023 JWV Resolutions

1     THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the VA to continue to revise the rules  
2     and policies associated with the benefits while continuing the moratorium on reassessments; and  
3     FURTHERMORE, JWV urges the Congress to pass H.R.6823, as the first step as well  
4     as reissue new rules in the Federal Register for public comments to address the concerns  
5     expressed by VSOs during several working group sessions with Veterans Health Administration  
6     officials.

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# 2023 JWV Resolutions

## **VA ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION**

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WHEREAS, The Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program is to provide a seamless and paperless transition for Veterans as they transition from receiving care at Department of Defense (DOD) facilities while on active duty to receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities; and

WHEREAS, A recently released Office of Inspector General draft report in 2022 outlines very troubling problems leading to patients being harmed; and

WHEREAS, Several rollouts of the program have been delayed including the one in Boise, ID until issues are resolved and VA is confident that patients are not at risk; and

WHEREAS, Patient safety is paramount and VA clinicians must be both properly trained on the system and comfortable with the Cerner EEHR system.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the VA to halt further deployment of the Electronic Health Records System until all patient safety issues are resolved and clinicians are comfortable in using the EHR; and

FURTHERMORE, JWV strongly supports continued Congressional action ordering VA to report performance of the troubled EHR system to Congress as well as continue to share updates with JWV and other VSOs.

# 2023 JWV Resolutions

**1            COAST GUARD SHOULD BE PAID DURING A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

**2** WHEREAS, The armed services of the United States consist of (alphabetically) the Air Force, the  
**3** Army, the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, the Navy, and the Space Force; and

**4** WHEREAS, The Coast Guard is in the Department of Homeland Security while the other  
**5** services are in the Department of Defense; and

**6** WHEREAS, When there is a shutdown of the Federal Government with many Federal employees  
**7** being furloughed, those in the armed services remain on the job; and

**8** WHEREAS, While those in the armed services in the Department of Defense continue to be paid  
**9** during a government shutdown, those in the Coast Guard do not get paid during such shutdown  
**10** while they continue to work.

**11** WHEREAS, H.R. 2693 “Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2023” is pending in the Congress  
**12** with 47 cosponsors, and seeks to amend Chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, to include  
**13** funding to pay members of the Coast Guard in the event of a government shutdown.

**14** THEREFORE, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV) calls on the  
**15** United States Congress to consider the Coast Guard as essential and pass H.R. 2693 and for the  
**16** Senate to introduce and pass a companion bill to amend existing law to provide that those in the  
**17** Coast Guard who continue to work during a government shutdown be paid during such shutdown;  
**18** and

**19** FURTHERMORE, JWV commends the Navy League for bringing this issue to our attention.

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# 2023 JWV Resolutions

**1 CONDEMNATION OF HATE SPEECH AND VIOLENCE TARGETING AMERICANS**  
**2 AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

**3** WHEREAS, There has been a severe increase of hate speech and violence posed against Jews and  
**4** protected classes of Americans and the citizens of Israel,

**5** WHEREAS, The speech of individuals filled with racial hate and antisemitism has led to the  
**6** murders of citizens at establishments such as places of worship and commercial establishments;  
**7** and

**8** WHEREAS, While all Americans have the right to express opinions, when those opinions lead to  
**9** hatred and violence toward another; and

**10** WHEREAS, There is no place for hatred or violence and it should never be acceptable to allow  
**11** such speech to be presented at any venue; and

**12** WHEREAS. When such speech occurs it is incumbent on those present to not accept nor applaud  
**13** such speech; and

**14** WHEREAS, Such hatred sometimes leads to violence and death, and

**15** WHEREAS. The Jewish War Veterans of the United States joins all communities in mourning  
**16** the loss in those cases and supports the building of relationships to counter acts of racism,  
**17** antisemitism and violence.

**18** THEREFORE, When incidents occur in the United States or around the world the Jewish War  
**19** Veterans of the United States will speak out in the strongest possible terms against such actions.

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# 2023 JWV Resolutions

**1                            OPPOSE TAXATION OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

**2**     WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office is considering proposing federal

**3**     Taxation on VA Disability Compensation; and

**4**     WHEREAS, This proposal would impact thousands of veterans who served honorably in defense  
**5**     of our nations; and

**6**     WHEREAS. This proposal would further chip away at the value of VA Disability Compensation  
**7**     as an earned entitlement; and

**8**     WHEREAS, This proposal would cause a significant reduction in take-home pay for millions of  
**9**     veterans during a period of high inflation; and

**10**    WHEREAS, This proposal would have almost zero impact on reducing the federal deficit; and

**11**    THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the United States Congress to reject  
**12**    the Congressional Budget Office proposal to tax VA Disability Compensation.

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# **2023 JWV Resolutions**

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## **OPPOSE TERMINATION OF VA HEALTH CARE**

### **FOR PRIORITY GROUPS 7 AND 8**

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WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office has proposed ending enrollment in VA medical care for veterans in priority groups 7 and 8; and

WHEREAS, Veterans in priority groups 7 and 8 have no more than a 40 percent service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS. This proposal would impact about two million veterans; and

WHEREAS, This proposal would chip away at the value of this benefit earned by veterans who served honorably in defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, Many of these veterans are not Medicare eligible or are under age 65 and would potentially face more expensive health care and coverage options in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Any potential cost transfer from the VA to Medicare would likely have zero impact on the federal deficit since these are both federal programs.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA urges the United States Congress to reject the Congressional Budget Office proposal to end VA health care for priority groups 7 and 8.

# 2023 JWV Resolutions

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## 1 DOULA FOR VA ACT OF 2023 RESOLUTION

2 (Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access for Veteran Affairs of 2023)

3 WHEREAS, There are approximately 2,300,000 women within the veteran population in the  
4 United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The number of women veterans using services from the Veterans Health  
6 Administration has increased by 28.8 percent from 423,642 in 2014 to 545,650 in 2019; and

7 WHEREAS, During the period of 2010 through 2015 the use of maternity services from the  
8 Veterans Health Administration increased by 44 percent; and

9 WHEREAS, Although prenatal care and delivery is not provided in facilities of the Department  
10 of Veterans Affairs, pregnant women seeking care from the Department for other conditions may  
11 also need emergency care and require coordination of services through the Veterans Community  
12 Care Program under Section 1703 of Title 38, USC; and

13 WHEREAS, The number of women veteran patients with an obstetric delivery paid for by the  
14 Department increased by 1,778 percent from 200 deliveries in 2000 to 3,756 deliveries in 2015;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The number of women aged 35 years or older with an obstetric delivery paid for  
17 by the department increased 16-fold from fiscal year 2000 to fiscal year 2015 and the number of  
18 women veterans using services from the Veterans Health Administration has increased by 28.8  
19 percent from 423,642 in 2014 to 545.650 in 2019; and

20 WHEREAS, A study in 2010 found that veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and  
21 Operation Iraqi Freedom who experienced pregnancy were twice as likely to have a diagnosis of  
22 depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia as compared  
23 to those who had not experienced a pregnancy; and

24 WHEREAS, The number of women veterans of reproductive age seeking care from the Veterans  
25 Health Administration continues to grow; and

# 2023 JWV Resolutions

1 WHEREAS, The goals of the pilot program are the following:

2 A. To improve:

- 3 1. Maternal, mental health, and infant care outcomes; and
- 4 2. Integration of DOULA support services into the Whole Health Model of the
- 5 Department, or successor model; and
- 6 3. The experience of women receiving maternity care from the Department,
- 7 including by increasing the ability of women to develop and follow their own
- 8 birthing plan.

9 B. To reengage veterans with the Department after giving birth.

10 C. Locations – the Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in:

- 11 1. The three Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) of the Department
- 12 that have the highest percentage of female veterans enrolled in the patient
- 13 enrollment system, as established under Section 1795(a) of Title 38, USC,
- 14 compared to the total number of enrolled veterans in such Network; and
- 15 2. The three VISN that have the lowest percentage of female veterans enrolled in
- 16 the patient enrollment system compared to the total number of enrolled veterans
- 17 in such Network; and
- 18 3. At least one VISN:
  - 19 a. Located in or serving a Frontier State (as defined in Section 1886(d)(3)
  - 20 (E)(iii)(II)) of the Social Security Act (42 USC 1395ww(d)(3)(E)(iii)(II)
  - 21 where more that 1/3 of the population lives in frontier land; and
  - 22 b. Serving populations experiencing higher average risk and prevalence for
  - 23 maternal mental health disorders, including American Indian or Alaska
  - 24 Native veterans.

25 D. Open Participation: The Secretary shall allow any eligible entity or covered veteran

# 2023 JWV Resolutions

1 interested in participating in the pilot program to participate.

2 E. Services Provided:

3 1. In General: under the pilot program, a covered veteran shall receive not more  
4 than 10 sessions of care from a DOULA under the Whole Health Model of the  
5 Department or successor model, under which a DOULA works as an advocate  
6 for the veteran alongside the medical team for the veteran.

7 2. Sessions: Sessions covered under paragraph 1 shall be as follows:

8 a. Three or four sessions before labor and delivery; and

9 b. One session during labor and delivery; and

10 c. Three or four sessions postpartum, which may be conducted via the  
11 mobile application for VA Video Connect; and

12 WHEREAS, H. R. 2465 has been introduced to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security  
13 Act to improve Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program for low-income mothers  
14 by providing that any woman who is eligible for medical assistance under the State plan or a  
15 waiver of such plan and who is, or who while so eligible becomes, pregnant, shall continue to be  
16 eligible under the plan or waiver for medical assistance through the end of the month in which  
17 the 365-day period (beginning on the last day of her pregnancy) ends, regardless of the basis for  
18 the woman’s eligibility for medical assistance, including if the woman’s eligibility for medical  
19 assistance is on the basis of being pregnant.” ; and

20 WHEREAS, Female veterans deserve the same consideration for these benefits as any woman in  
21 the civilian sector.

22 THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA supports and requests immediate passage by  
23 the Congress of the United States of the DOULA for VA Act of 2023.

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# 2023 JWV Resolutions

## **GIVING RESERVISTS A VALIANT ETERNITY (GRAVE) ACT RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The tradition of military funeral honors renders the highest commemoration to those that have served the nation honorably; and

WHEREAS, Under current law certain members of the Armed Forces can receive a headstone or grave marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at no cost; and

WHEREAS, The existing eligibility requirements put members of the Reserve and the National Guard at a distinct disadvantage for receiving this benefit; and

WHEREAS, The GRAVE Act simply amends existing law to allow all members of the Reserve and National Guard to receive a VA furnished headstone or grave marker for their burial site at no cost; and

WHEREAS, Existing law and policy ration the delivery of service earned benefits for citizen warriors and their families based on the amount of time they continuously spend on active duty; and

WHEREAS, The markers at cemeteries like Arlington National are more than just a mold of granite, marble, or bronze, they are a symbol of the courage and commitment that those service members displayed to defend the nation and uphold the cause of freedom worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Without having equal access to such markers, surviving Reserve component National Guard family members are potentially deprived of the opportunity to commemorate the passing of their loved one in alignment with customary military funeral honors; and

WHEREAS. The American public at-large and every nation on earth is potentially deprived of the opportunity to trace their liberty.

THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America urges the Congress of the United States of America to successfully pass the GRAVE Act.

# 2023 J WV Resolutions

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## 1 WRITTEN INFORMED CONSENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, A Bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans  
3 Affairs to establish and maintain a current and up-to-date database of all drugs within the VA  
4 formulary that carries an FDA Black Box warning and to all VA medical facilities to require  
5 signatory informed consent when prescribing any of those medications is being introduced in the  
6 House of Representatives of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, The 2021 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook Directive 1004.01(5)  
8 states that it is sufficient to obtain oral consent for the entire treatment or procedure without  
9 explicitly discussing each of its component elements for procedures that are low risk and within  
10 universally accepted standards of medical practice; and

11 WHEREAS, Starting back in 1976, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) started  
12 generating a prominently labelled black box warning (BBW) label to warn of serious life-  
13 threatening risks associated with market-approved prescription drugs or medical devices; and

14 WHEREAS, VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) noted back in 2019 an increased risk of  
15 adverse outcomes such as drug interactions and overdose, as well as diversion of opioids  
16 to nonpatients, due to the lack of conducting state's prescription drug monitoring program  
17 (PDMP) queries and inconsistent electronic health record documentation; and

18 WHEREAS, The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found in 2019 that the Department  
19 of Veterans Affairs (VA) failed to monitor whether VA mental health providers in  
20 specialty care documented the required consideration of different treatment options, such as  
21 psychotropic medications or non-pharmacologic therapy, within mental health treatment plans;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, A GAO 2018 report already recommended for the VA to obtain written informed  
24 consent on use of opioids, so that veterans may have an informed understanding of the risks and  
25 benefits, as already required by VHA policy; and

## 2023 JWV Resolutions

1 WHEREAS, A high percentage of the veteran population suffer from post-traumatic stress  
2 disorder, anxiety and/or depression; and

3 WHEREAS, By 2017, certain VA Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISN) already  
4 erected a dashboard for opioid monitoring; and

5 WHEREAS, Certain antidepressants such as Bupropion (marketed as Wellbutrin), have gained  
6 scrutiny for not only an increased risk for suicide ideation, but also for carrying a warning label  
7 for symptoms including “abdominal pain, constipation, decrease in appetite, dizziness, dry  
8 mouth, increased sweating, nausea or vomiting, trembling or shaking, trouble sleeping,  
9 weight loss, blurred vision, change in sense of taste, drowsiness, the feeling of fast or  
10 irregular heartbeat, frequent need to urinate, unusual feeling of well-being, agitation, anxiety,  
11 tinnitus, skin rash, hives, itching, confusion, extreme distrust, hallucinations, seizure, and trouble  
12 concentrating”; and

13 WHEREAS, Current VHA Handbook directives do not currently ensure consultations of high-  
14 risk medications, especially those carrying an FDA BBW, are consistently carried out and  
15 documented in a veteran’s electronic health record.

16 THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA supports and requests immediate passage  
17 by the Congress of the United States the Bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the  
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a current and up-to-date database of all  
19 drugs within the VA formulary that carries an FDA Black Box warning and to all VA medical  
20 facilities to require signatory informed consent when prescribing any of those medications is  
21 being introduced in the House of Representatives of the United States; and,

22 FURTHERMORE, That the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to create a national standard  
23 of practice for all Veterans Integrated Services Networks regarding black box warning (BBW)  
24 monitoring; and,

25 FURTHERMORE, That VA routinely ensure that VA providers are conducting state prescription

## 2023 JWV Resolutions

1 drug monitoring program queries to avoid adverse health outcomes and  
2 that the VA implement a signatory documentation policy between prescribing provider and the  
3 patient or caregiver when prescribing BBW medications to ensure they are properly informed,  
4 and the severity of potential risks are adequately presented; and,  
5 FURTHERMORE, That any negative health outcomes or risks associated with the use of BBW  
6 medications are properly tracked for further study and recorded in a manner that is publicly  
7 available and easily accessible; and,  
8 FURTHERMORE, That VA implement a mandatory and prompt follow-up wellness check  
9 schedule for veterans receiving BBW medications.

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# **2023 JVV Resolutions**

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## **1 SILVER STAR BANNER**

**2** WHEREAS, The Silver Star was established in 1932 and authorized by Congress in 1942, it was  
**3** originally known as the Citation Star, issued as early as 1818 and formally established by an Act  
**4** of Congress on 9 July 1918; and

**5** WHEREAS, The Silver Star Banner and Flag were originally created in 1917 to recognize the  
**6** sacrifices of the ill, wounded, and dying members of the United States military; and

**7** WHEREAS, The use of the Silver Star Banner to designate a home where a member of the  
**8** household was wounded faded in use for many years and has been reintroduced in the post-  
**9** Vietnam era; and

**10** WHEREAS, Currently the Silver Star Banner and Flag honor the men and women who were  
**11** wounded both physically and/or mentally and still carry the scars from their service, without  
**12** limitations set by dates and places of service; and

**13** WHEREAS, Silver Star Banner Day was founded in 2004 by the recently organized Silver Star  
**14** Families of America; and

**15** WHEREAS, A Standalone House Resolution 855 in April 2010, followed by the Senate, made  
**16** May 1 the official day to remember the sacrifices of the Nation's wounded, ill, and injured  
**17** veterans and to also honor those awarded the Silver Star Medal; and

**18** WHEREAS, Those who have loved ones affected by combat may wear or display the Silver Star  
**19** Service Banner and many choose to observe May 1 in this way.

**20** THEREFORE, The Jewish War Veterans of the USA encourages every municipality, county, state  
**21** and federal unit of government of the United States of America to prominently display the Silver  
**22** Star Banner or Flag from sunrise to sunset on May 1 of each year.

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