Executive Order 2014-08

CREATING THE WOMEN VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the nation is anticipating conclusion of the longest war in its history, and thousands of Nevadans have directly served in these wars; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 25 percent of our military strength worldwide are women, and women serve in almost every capacity in the armed forces, including in combat zones on land, at sea, and in the skies; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Department of Veterans Services estimates that Nevada has a veteran population of 225,933, and of that population, over 24,000 are women veterans; and

WHEREAS, studies show that women who have served in the military do not identify as veterans as often as men who have also served; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Department of Veterans Services created the Women Veterans Program in 2012 to address this issue as well as the unique needs of women veterans to ensure they are able to access benefits for which they may be eligible; and

WHEREAS, March is National Women's History Month and 2014 is the "Year of the Veteran" in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides that, "The supreme executive power of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada."

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada, I hereby direct and order:

1. The Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee (Committee) is hereby established.

2. The Committee shall work to support and assist the State Women Veterans Coordinator in locating, educating, and advocating for all women veterans in the state. The Committee further shall assist with outreach through various means, including the Green Zone Network, the organization of statewide women veterans events, the promotion of benefits and superior health care for women veterans, and development of programs that inform school children, business leaders, and educators about the important role women play in America's Armed Forces. The Committee shall assist the State Women Veterans Coordinator, to advocate on behalf of women veterans to ensure that programs and policies of the State of Nevada and the Department of Veterans Affairs remain open to women, and ensure that these programs and policies remain mindful of those elements of the veteran experience that are unique to women.

3. The Committee shall consist of five members from throughout the state. Members of the Committee will be appointed by the Governor based on recommendations from the Director of the Nevada Department of Veterans

Services and will serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Committee shall elect a chairperson from its membership. The Department of Veterans Services Women Veterans Program Coordinator shall provide staff support for the Committee.

4. Members of the Committee shall be Nevada residents and veterans with honorable service who are active in the veteran community.

5. The Committee shall meet at least four times before June 1, 2015, with its first meeting to be held no later than August 1, 2014.

6. The Committee shall deliver a report to the Governor on or before June 1, 2015, detailing its activities and making recommendations for improvements to services for women veterans in Nevada.

7. Travel and per diem for the members of the Committee will be provided by the Nevada Department of Veterans Services License Plate Gift Account.

8. These meetings shall be subject to Open Meeting Law as codified in Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 241.

9. All records documenting the Council's activities shall be retained and transferred to the State Archives for permanent retention in accordance with the State record retention policy.

10. Unless otherwise ordered, the Committee shall cease to exist on June 1, 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 13th day of March, in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor of the State of Nevada

By the Governor:

Secretary of State

Deputy Secretary of State