

Rape in the U.S. Military

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3 **WHEREAS** there have been many journal and newspaper articles in recent years
4 deploring the frequency of sexual harassment and rape of female personnel by male
5 military personnel; and

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7 **WHEREAS** these same articles report that the military chain of command in most cases
8 displays a totally inadequate response to these charges; and

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10 **WHEREAS** the attached article from the New York Times, published March 20, 2009,
11 written by Bob Herbert is but one of many recent articles on the subject; now

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13 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the WSDCC recognizes that sexual harassment
14 and instances of rape of female military personnel by male military personnel present a
15 serious and condemnable hostile environment for all female personnel; and

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17 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that rape must be dealt with by the
18 military chain of command as the heinous crime that it is; and

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20 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that given the many years of inadequate,
21 dilatory, and ineffective response by the military authorities to reports of rape, we ask
22 that Congress provide strict guidelines to protect female military personnel from the
23 predatory vicious crime of rape; and

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25 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we ask Congress to provide prompt
26 and appropriate recourse for all those military personnel who bring charges of rape
27 against military personnel, with safeguards to protect those who report the crime; and

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29 **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution, upon passage, be sent
30 to U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell and that they be asked to
31 sponsor legislation that will effect change in the military attitudes, rules and actions in
32 regard to preventing and dealing with reports of rape.

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35 Submitted by the 32nd LD Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
36 Committee for consideration at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma. (Date Submitted
37 4/14/2009)

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39 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
40 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its April 24, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.

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42 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.