



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building | 121 E. Court Street, 2nd Floor | Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
Phone: (607) 274-5434 | Fax: (607) 274-5430 | tompkinscountyny.gov

RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, the month of March celebrates Women’s History Month, an annual celebration of achievements and contributions of women in various fields, and

WHEREAS, the theme for 2024 is “Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion,” honoring women who have worked to eliminate bias and discrimination from society and institutions, and to promote equal rights and opportunities for all, and

WHEREAS, women have served in this nation’s military since the American Revolution, ranging from supportive roles, initially, to various ranks among the senior leadership in this current time, and

WHEREAS, despite serving their nation while having suffered the same sacrifices as men Veterans, women as active military and Veterans also dealt daily with a lack of collective recognition and equality, repeated discrimination, harassment, and violence, and

WHEREAS, Women Veterans are considered the fastest growing group in the U.S. Veteran population having grown from 4% in 2000 to 10% today, with a projected growth to 18% in 2040, and

WHEREAS, among the more than two million Women Veterans in the U.S. today are 62,600+ who call New York State home; of those nearly 300 reside in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, among notable Women Veterans with ties to this region of our state are Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Harriett Tubman, Ithaca College graduate Leigh Ann Hinton, Ithacan Florence Ebersole Smith Finch, and NASA Astronauts Eileen Collins, Cornell University graduate Dr. Mae Jemison, and Jeanette Epps, and

WHEREAS, in alignment with this year’s theme, the Rev. Viviana DeCohen (USMC Veteran) is celebrated for remarkable achievements since becoming the first woman to head this state’s Department of Veterans Services (NYS DVS), elevating it from a division to department within New York State government, expanding the number of accredited Veteran Service Officers by partnering with county Veteran Service Agencies across the state, increasing the number of women in leadership roles within the NYS DVS, and the creation and expansion of digital Veterans kiosks – among the first of which is housed at the Ithaca-Tompkins International Airport, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner DeCohen will bring her message of inspired leadership to Tompkins County by serving as the keynote speaker for the county’s Department of Veterans Services inaugural event honoring Women Veterans on March 18, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature hereby recognizes

WOMEN VETERAN’S RECOGNITION DAY

in Tompkins County on March 18, 2024, and, accordingly, encourage all residents to pay honor and tribute to our Women Veterans, past and present, for their unflinching determination to serve our nation in pursuit and defense of the freedoms our society enjoys.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Dan Klein, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this the 19th day of March 2024.

Dan Klein, Chair
Tompkins County Legislature