



CUYAMACA
COLLEGE

THE CUYAMACA VETERANS CENTER CELEBRATES

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2022



Photo taken from website: Task & Purpose

SINCE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR women have been proudly serving and making important contributions to the U.S. military. Here are just a few of their stories.

1782

Deborah Sampson disguises herself as her deceased brother and becomes the first woman to enlist in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

1861

During the American Civil War, an estimated 750 women served in the military as soldiers, disguised as men.

1863

Harriet Tubman would become the first woman to lead an armed military operation in the United States in what became known as the Combahee Ferry Raid.

1901

The U.S. establishes the Army Nurse Corps as a permanent part of the Army. It would remain all-female until 1955.

1917

During World War I, Army Nurses Edith Ayers and Helen Wood became the first female military members to be killed in the line of duty aboard the USS Mongolia.

10 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

1. As of March 2019, Mary Dever of Disabled American Veterans says that according to the Department of Defense, women make up 20 percent of the Air Force, 19 percent of the Navy, 15 percent of the Army and almost 9 percent of the Marine Corps. (via military.com)



2. Women made up about 16 percent of the Coast Guard in 2016. (via datausa.io)



3. Pictured left, TV star Bea Arthur was a truck driver in the Marine Corps during World War II. (via military.com)

4. Pictured right, abolitionist Harriet Tubman led a Union spy ring during the Civil War. (via military.com)



5. Queen Elizabeth II is the only sitting head of state to have served in World War II, as a mechanic/driver in the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service when she was still a princess. (via military.com)



American Legion Auxiliary's Women of the Year

6. A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary regardless of whether or not she is a member of the Legion. (via alaforveterans.org)

1942

The U.S. Army establishes the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. In 1943 the name changes to the [Women's Army Corps](#). 150,000 women would serve in WWII.

1945

Under the command of [Major Charity Adams](#), the [6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion](#) becomes the first all-female, all-Black battalion to serve overseas.

1973

The landmark Supreme Court Case [Frontiero v. Richardson](#) decided that benefits given by the military to the family of service members cannot be given differently on the basis of sex.

1976

West Point admitted its first 119 female cadets. 4 years later, 62 would graduate; only 2 were Black women: [Joy Dallas](#) and [Pat Walker Locke](#).

1978

The Woman's Army Corps is dissolved and its members are integrated into the regular Army.

10 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT WOMEN IN THE MILITARY



7. Pictured left, the only woman to be awarded a Medal of Honor is Mary Edwards Walker, a medical doctor during the Civil War who had to start as a nurse but ultimately became the Army's first female surgeon. She was also a spy, and a POW. But as a non-combatant, her medal was revoked between 1917 and 1977. (via history.com)

8. A search of "women" in The American Legion's memorials database yields several memorials dedicated to female military service. (via legion.org/memorials)



Pictured: Twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker

9. The first known women to join each service branch were Genevieve and Lucille Baker, and Myrtle Hazard, Coast Guard; Deborah Sampson, Army; Opha May Johnson, Marine Corps; Esther McGowin Blake, Air Force; and Loretta Walsh, Navy. (via military.com)



10. Pictured right, Navy Capt. Rosemary Mariner was one of the first eight women selected to fly military aircraft in 1973, and a year later became the Navy's first female jet pilot. At her graveside service in February 2019, nine female pilots from Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia performed the "missing woman" formation for their predecessor - the first all-female crew to do so. (via We Are The Mighty)



2009

2010

2015

2016

2019

The first all-female U.S. Marine Corps team conducted its first mission in southern Afghanistan.

The Department of the Navy announced authorization of women to begin serving aboard submarines. In 2012 [Lt. Britta Christianson](#) would be the first female submariner in history to receive her [dolphins](#).

[1st Lt. Shaye Haver](#) and [Capt. Kristen Griest](#) earned their Ranger tabs, making them the first women to successfully complete U.S. Army Ranger School.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter permits all women to apply for combat positions beginning Jan. 1, 2016. This shift opened the opportunity for all women to fill 220,000 military combat positions.

The U.S. Marine Corps integrates men and women in basic training at [MCRD Parris Island, SC](#). In 2021, they would integrate [MCRD San Diego, CA](#).