Women’s History Month
March

U.S. Navy flight nurse, Jane “Candy” Kendeigh made history on March 3, 1945 when she became the first flight nurse to fly an evacuation mission to an active battlefield, Iwo Jima. Ensign Kendeigh was also aboard the Navy’s first medical evacuation flight into the battle of Okinawa.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble the letters to describe the women of World War II?

1. eerddnitme __________________________
2. apabelc __________________________
3. cpaittroi __________________________
4. gdtilne __________________________
5. tpnessiter __________________________
6. tendfnoc __________________________
7. isiignnpr __________________________
8. rsintelie __________________________
9. saslfere __________________________
10. ineogpiner __________________________

Answer Key:
The Department of Defense (DoD) is commemorating the 75th Anniversary of World War II by recognizing the contributions and sacrifices made by Service members as well as those who served on the home front.

Women played an immeasurable role during World War II, serving bravely and with distinction from the initial attack on Pearl Harbor to the last days of the Pacific campaign.

This month, the DoD pays tribute to the women who pushed gender-defined barriers. They fought for what they believed in, paving the way for the women who came after them, changing the course of history, and redefining the United States military.

Between 1940 & 1945

- the % of the U.S. Work force from 27% to nearly 37%
- By 1945, married women worked outside the home.
- It is estimated that 6 million women joined the civilian workforce during WW2!
Norman Rockwell’s Rosie the Riveter was on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post on Memorial Day, May 29, 1943. Rockwell’s illustration features a brawny woman taking her lunch break with a rivet gun on her lap, beneath her a copy of Hitler’s manifesto, Mein Kampf and a lunch pail labeled “Rosie”.

The Post’s cover image proved hugely popular, and the magazine loaned it to the U.S. Treasury Department for the duration of the war, for use in war bond drives.

Did you know?
Rockwell’s model was 19-year-old Mary Doyle Keefe who was a telephone operator near where Rockwell lived.

Women on the Home Front

World War II opened a new chapter in the lives of American women.

As husbands and fathers, sons and brothers shipped out to fight in Europe and the Pacific, millions of women marched into factories, offices, and military bases to work in roles traditionally reserved for men in peacetime.

These women significantly changed the place of women in labor and in society.

Gladys Theus was one of fastest and most efficient welders at the Kaiser Company Permanente Metals Corporation yards near Oakland, California, producing equipment for the war effort.
Maggie Gee was an American aviator who served in the WASPs. She was one of two Chinese American women to serve in the organization, the other being Hazel Ying Lee.

One of the roles women played in the war effort was provided by the WASPs. These women became the first women to fly American military aircraft.

They ferried planes from factories to bases, transporting cargo, and participating in simulation strafing and target missions, accumulating more than 60 million miles in flight distances!

More than 1,000 WASPs served, and 38 of them lost their lives during the war. WASPs were not granted military honors or benefits. In 1977—32 years after the end of World War 2—the WASPs received full military status.

On March 10, 2010, at a ceremony in the Capitol, the WASPs received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can award civilians.

Did you know? The WASPs symbol is a female gremlin named Fifinella designed by Walt Disney!