During Women’s History Month, the Department of Defense (DoD) joins the nation in celebrating the vital role of women—not only in American history but also in our future.

Since the beginning of Women’s History Month in 1987, there have been countless achievements and sacrifices of women across all branches of the military and the DoD.

This year’s theme, chosen by the National Women’s History Alliance, is: Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope.

The theme is a tribute to the women of all cultures that have provided both healing and hope throughout history, sometimes at great sacrifice. One individual that paid the ultimate price was Captain Jennifer Moreno.

Moreno chose to serve as a nurse in the U.S. Army after graduating from the University of San Francisco with a nursing degree.

In 2009, she completed Army Airborne training and volunteered to serve with the Special Operation Command. As a Cultural Support Team member attached to a Ranger unit, her additional duties involved outreach to the Afghan women they encountered.

On October 5, 2013, a suicide bomber ambushed her compound as a returning patrol was entering. Twelve additional blasts injured 30 Rangers and killed two.

In the chaos that followed, Moreno was told to stay where she was to avoid setting off any additional bombs. Instead, she chose to help a soldier trapped nearby. Her heroic actions cost her her life.

Moreno was posthumously promoted to captain and awarded the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal, and the Purple Heart. She was 25.

During Women’s History Month, we honor the generations of women who, through their unrelenting service to our nation, have shaped America’s history and future.