

**August Facts of the Day 2013**



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE  
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

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<b>August Facts of the Day</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Fact</b>	<b>Source</b>
1	Special observances are designed to enhance cross-cultural and cross-gender awareness and promote harmony among all military members, their families, and the civilian work force. These activities are extensions of equal opportunity education and training objectives and recognize the achievements and contributions made by members of specific racial, ethnic, and gender groups in our society.	www.deomi.org
2	In 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was signed into law by President Kennedy, women were earning an average of 59 cents on the dollar compared to men. Today, women are nearly half of the nation's workforce, yet they are still experiencing a gap in pay compared to men's wages for similar work. Women earn about 80 cents on the dollar compared to men—a gap that results in the loss of about \$380,000 over a woman's career. For Black and Latina women, the pay gap is even greater.	<a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/8/2">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/8/2</a>
3	In August 1944, Anne Frank made her last entry in her famous diary. Three days later, after 25 months of seclusion, Anne and her family were arrested, along with two of the people who had helped to shelter them. Anne wrote in her diary, "Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart."	<a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/8/4">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/8/4</a>
4	Happy 223rd birthday to the United States Coast Guard! The Coast Guard was founded on August 4, 1790, when Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Today, it is a multimission maritime military service whose mission is to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region to support national security.	<a href="http://www.military.com/coast-guard-birthday">http://www.military.com/coast-guard-birthday</a>

5	<p>In August 1964, civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney, who had hoped to organize civil rights efforts in heavily segregated Mississippi, were found dead. The disappearance of the three men led to a massive FBI investigation that was code-named MIBURN for "Mississippi Burning." On the forty-first anniversary of the murders, June 21, 2005, Edgar Ray Killen was found guilty of three counts of manslaughter. The 80-year-old Killen, an outspoken White supremacist, was sentenced to 60 years in prison.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.mississippiburning.org/">http://www.mississippiburning.org/</a></p>
6	<p>On this day in 1945, at 8:16 a.m., the <i>Enola Gay</i>, an American bomber, dropped the world's first atom bomb on the city of Hiroshima. Approximately 80,000 people were killed as a direct result of the blast, and another 35,000 were injured. By the end of the year, another 60,000 people had died from the effects of the fallout.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/8/6?catId=14">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/8/6?catId=14</a></p>
7	<p>The Holy Month of Ramadan is observed yearly by more than one billion Muslims around the world. Muslims spend the ninth month of the Islamic calendar observing a community-wide fast. The annual fast of Ramadan is considered one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims who are physically able are required to fast from sunrise to sunset daily for the entire month. The evenings are spent enjoying family and community meals, engaging in prayer and spiritual reflection, and reading from the Qur'an.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.holidaysmart.com/z_islamiccalendar.htm">http://www.holidaysmart.com/z_islamiccalendar.htm</a></p>
8	<p>The United States Supreme Court consists of the chief justice and eight associate justices. At its discretion, and within certain guidelines established by Congress, the Supreme Court each year hears a limited number of the cases it is asked to decide. Those cases may begin in the federal or state courts, and they usually involve important questions about the Constitution or federal law. Presently, there are three female associate justices serving on the court: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.supremecourt.gov/about/about.aspx">http://www.supremecourt.gov/about/about.aspx</a></p>

9	<p>On August 9, 1936, at the Berlin Olympics, track star Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal of the games in the 4x100 meter relay. His relay team set a new world record of 39.8 seconds, which held for 20 years. In their strong showing in track-and-field events, Jesse Owens and other African-American athletes struck a propaganda blow against Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, who planned to use the Berlin Games as a showcase of supposed Aryan superiority.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/owens-wins-4th-gold-medal">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/owens-wins-4th-gold-medal</a></p>
10	<p>This year, U.S. military leaders formally lifted the ban on women serving in combat positions. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta stated, "It's clear to all of us that women are contributing in unprecedented ways to the military's mission of defending the nation." The change opens hundreds of thousands of frontline positions and potentially elite commando jobs to women.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nwhp.org/news/august.php">http://www.nwhp.org/news/august.php</a></p>
11	<p>According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, as of September 30, 2012, the total veteran population in the United States and Puerto Rico was approximately 22.3 million. The population of women veterans numbered 2,248,579. States with the largest number of women veterans were California, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and Georgia.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/Women_Vet_Pop_FS_1_13.pdf">http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/Women_Vet_Pop_FS_1_13.pdf</a></p>
12	<p>In 1973, the U.S. Civil Service Commission eliminated height and weight requirements, which had previously been used to discriminate against women applying for police, park service, and firefighting jobs.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.pbs.org/itvs/testofcourage/diversity4_5.html">http://www.pbs.org/itvs/testofcourage/diversity4_5.html</a></p>
13	<p>According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 158.3 million females in the United States as of 2011. The number of males was 153.3 million. At age 65 and beyond, there were 13.3 percent more women than men.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html">http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html</a></p>

14	On August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. Since then, both August 14 and August 15 have been known as Victory over Japan Day, or simply V-J Day.	<a href="http://www.history.com/topics/v-j-day">http://www.history.com/topics/v-j-day</a>
15	According to the 2012 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey, the percentage of females 16 and older who participated in the labor force was 57.7 percent, representing about 72.6 million women.	<a href="http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html">http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html</a>
16	On August 16, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, which significantly changed the status of African Americans throughout the South. The Voting Rights Act prohibited states from using literacy tests, interpreting the Constitution, and using other methods of excluding African Americans from voting.	<a href="http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart9b.html">http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart9b.html</a>
17	According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2011 median earnings for female and male full-time, year-round workers were \$37,118 and \$48,202, respectively.	<a href="http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff16.html">http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff16.html</a>
18	In June 2013, NASA chose eight new astronauts, its first new candidates in four years. Among those chosen was the first female fighter pilot to become an astronaut in nearly two decades. A female helicopter pilot also was in the group. In fact, four of the eight were women, the highest percentage of female astronaut candidates ever selected by NASA.	<a href="http://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/2013astroclass.html">http://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/2013astroclass.html</a>
19	Many women veterans face challenges when returning to civilian life that are different from those of their male counterparts, including raising children on their own or dealing with the psychological effects of events such as military sexual trauma. These issues, without intervention, can put women veterans at greater risk of becoming homeless.	<a href="http://www.va.gov/homeless/for_women_veterans.asp">http://www.va.gov/homeless/for_women_veterans.asp</a>

20	<p>According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2012, no country has fully attained gender equality. Iceland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden lead the world in their progress toward closing the gender gap. In these countries, there is relatively equitable distribution of available income, resources, and opportunities for men and women.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html">http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html</a></p>
21	<p>According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2012, the greatest gender gaps are identified primarily in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. However, a number of countries in these regions, including Lesotho, South Africa, and Sri Lanka outrank the United States in gender equality.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.pbs.org/itvs/testofcourage/diversity4_5.html">http://www.pbs.org/itvs/testofcourage/diversity4_5.html</a></p>
22	<p>In June 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a key part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act and declared that same-sex couples who are legally married deserve equal rights to the benefits under federal law that go to all other married couples. The ruling means that gay and lesbian couples who are legally married will be able to take advantage of tax breaks, pension rights, and other benefits that are available to other married couples.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/washington-creates-the-purple-heart">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/washington-creates-the-purple-heart</a></p>
23	<p>The word gender describes the socially-constructed roles and responsibilities that societies consider appropriate for men and women. Gender equality means that men and women have equal power and equal opportunities for financial independence, education, and personal development.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/stories/stories.cfm?psid=2162">http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/stories/stories.cfm?psid=2162</a></p>
24	<p>In 2012, President Obama announced unprecedented government action to combat one of the greatest human rights abuses of our time—human trafficking—which affects more than 20 million people around the world, many of them women and children. The president signed Executive Order 13627 to strengthen the U.S. government’s zero-tolerance policy on trafficking in government contracting, and launched several new initiatives to identify and assist survivors, increase resources, plan for future action, and grow public-private partnerships.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/04/19/fact-sheet-obama-administration-s-comprehensive-efforts-promote-gender-e">http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/04/19/fact-sheet-obama-administration-s-comprehensive-efforts-promote-gender-e</a></p>

25	<p>The World Economic Forum recently ranked the United States as 19th in the world on its gender gap index. Women comprise less than one fifth of elected members of Congress, and the report identified political empowerment as the greatest gender equity issue for the United States. The U.S. ranked higher in economic empowerment, but women's earning power remains lower than men's. Women in the United States have a very high ranking for educational attainment, though, with high levels of literacy and enrollment in primary, secondary, and university education. At present, there are more women than men attending college in the U.S.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/stories/stories.cfm?psid=2162">http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/stories/stories.cfm?psid=2162</a></p>
26	<p>On August 26th, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted women the right to vote, was ratified. This was the culmination of the long struggle by women searching for the right to vote. In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26th as Women's Equality Day to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment and to celebrate women's continuing efforts toward equality.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nwhp.org/resourcecenter/equalityday.php">http://www.nwhp.org/resourcecenter/equalityday.php</a></p>
27	<p>In 1964, civil rights activists organized a voter registration drive, known as Freedom Summer. The aim was to increase voter registration in Mississippi. Freedom Summer was comprised of both Black and White volunteers, who faced constant abuse and harassment. The Ku Klux Klan, police, and state and local authorities carried out a systematic series of violent attacks. These included arson, beatings, false arrests, and the murder of at least three civil rights activists.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/topics/freedom-summer">http://www.history.com/topics/freedom-summer</a></p>
28	<p>From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his <i>I Have a Dream</i> speech on this day in 1963. His speech became a defining moment of the American Civil Rights Movement, calling for racial equality and an end to discrimination.</p>	<p><a href="http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/04/30_women.html">http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/04/30_women.html</a></p>

29	<p>Title IX declares, "No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Signed by President Richard Nixon in 1972, Title IX changed history for American women (and men). An amendment to the education section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX is meant to prevent all forms of gender discrimination in all schools that receive federal funding.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nwhm.org/blog/2012/06/">http://www.nwhm.org/blog/2012/06/</a></p>
30	<p>"With passion and courage, women have taught us that when we band together to advocate for our highest ideals, we can advance our common well-being and strengthen the fabric of our nation." — President Barack Obama</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cwg">http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cwg</a></p>
31	<p>According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2011, the number of women 25 and older with bachelor's degrees was 31.4 million. Women also had a larger share of high school diplomas, as well as associate's and master's degrees. However, more men than women had professional or doctoral degrees.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html">http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html</a></p>