

August Facts of the Day 2014



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

Dr. Richard Oliver Hope Human Relations Research Center
Directed by Dr. Daniel P. McDonald, Executive Director
366 Tuskegee Airmen Drive Patrick AFB, FL 32925
321-494-2747

Prepared by
Dawn W. Smith, HRT Contractor



Observance Report No. 13-14

	August Facts of the Day	
Date	Fact	Source
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 President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, women were earning 59 cents on the dollar compared to men. Today, women comprise 57 percent of the nation's workforce, yet they are still experiencing a gap in pay compared to men's wages for similar work. The average woman in the U.S. earns about 23 cents less on the dollar than the average man, and recent studies have shown that even when factors like professional specialization, hours worked, and educational and experience levels are held constant, women still earn less than men.	http://www.eeoc.gov/
3	The Equal Pay Act requires that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work. The jobs need not be identical, but they must be substantially equal. Job content (not job titles) determines whether jobs are substantially equal. All forms of pay are covered by this law, including salary, overtime pay, bonuses, stock options, profit sharing and bonus plans, life insurance, vacation and holiday pay, cleaning or gasoline allowances, hotel accommodations, reimbursement for travel expenses, and benefits.	http://www.eeoc.gov/

4	<p>Happy 224th birthday to the U.S. Coast Guard! The Coast Guard is a maritime, military, multimission service unique among the U.S. military branches for having a maritime law enforcement mission with jurisdiction in both domestic and international waters and a federal regulatory agency mission as part of its mission set. It operates under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security during peacetime, and it can be transferred to the U.S. Department of the Navy by the president at any time or by the U.S. Congress during times of war.</p>	<p>http://www.uscg.mil/</p>
5	<p>In May 2014, 13 new names were engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. The Department of Defense determined these 13 soldiers died as a result of their wounds during the war, which stretched from the first American casualty in 1956 to the fall of Saigon in 1975. The new names join more than 58,000 others etched in the wall. Additionally, eight veterans listed as missing had their status changed to “confirmed dead.”</p>	<p>http://www.stripes.com/news/the-poignant-process-of-etching-new-names-into-the-vietnam-wall-1.281939</p>
6	<p>On this day in 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, guaranteeing African Americans the right to vote. The bill made it illegal to impose restrictions on federal, state, and local elections that were designed to deny the vote to Blacks. In Mississippi alone, voter turnout among Blacks increased from 6 percent in 1964 to 59 percent in 1969.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/johnson-signs-voting-rights-act?catId=9</p>
7	<p>According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, as of September 30, 2013, the total veteran population in the United States and Puerto Rico was approximately 22 million. The population of women veterans numbered 2,271,222. States with the largest number of women veterans were California, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and Georgia.</p>	<p>http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/docs/WomenVeteransPopulationFactSheet.pdf</p>

8	<p>The Department of Defense notified Congress on May 23, 2014, of the U.S. Army and U.S. Special Operations Command plan to eliminate gender restrictions within previously closed units of the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command. This action involves approximately 1,300 positions.</p>	<p>http://www.army.mil/article/126662/Army_announces_plan_to_open_special_ops_aviation_positions_to_women/</p>
9	<p>The 19th amendment guarantees all American women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades of agitation and protest. Beginning in the mid-19th century, several generations of women's suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans considered a radical change of the U.S. Constitution. Few early supporters lived to see final victory in 1920.</p>	<p>http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=63</p>
10	<p>This year marks the 150th anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery. The cemetery serves as a resting place for service members from every conflict in U.S. history, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Soldiers from the American Revolution were reinterred at Arlington after their gravesites were displaced by a development project in Georgetown. Today, the cemetery draws nearly 4 million visitors a year. Most are tourists visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Eternal Flame at President John F. Kennedy's tomb.</p>	<p>http://www.nwhp.org/news/august.php</p>
11	<p>On August 11, 1965, Marquette Frye, a Black motorist, was arrested by Lee Minikus, a White California Highway Patrolman, for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. Frye's arrest touched off a large-scale riot in the commercial section of Watts, a deeply impoverished Black neighborhood in Los Angeles. The riot claimed the lives of 34 people, injured 1,000 more, and 4,000 people were arrested before order was restored. The Watts Riot raged for six days and was the largest and costliest urban rebellion of the Civil Rights era.</p>	<p>http://crdl.usg.edu/events/watts_riots/</p>

12	<p>Since 1916, the American people have entrusted the National Park Service (NPS) with the care of their national parks. With the help of volunteers and park partners, NPS proudly safeguards more than 400 places that attract more than 275 million visitors every year. NPS is proud that tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individual citizens ask for help in revitalizing their communities, preserving local history, and celebrating local heritage.</p>	<p>http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/index.htm</p>
13	<p>According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 161 million females in the United States as of December 2013. The number of males was 156.1 million. At age 85 and older, the approximate ratio by which women outnumbered men in 2012 was 2 to 1.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb14-ff05.html</p>
14	<p>On August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered 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.” The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan’s formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Coming several months after the surrender of Nazi Germany, Japan’s defeat in the Pacific brought six years of hostilities to a close.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/v-j-day</p>
15	<p>Although many of the accomplishments and contributions of women have been lost from the history books, women have played a vital role in the course of human civilization. From raising families to leading armies, women have made untold contributions to history.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history</p>

16	<p>In August 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Social Security Act. In his public statement, FDR expressed concern for "young people [who] have come to wonder what would be their lot when they came to old age" as well as those who had employment but no job security. Although he acknowledged that "we can never insure one hundred percent of the population against one hundred percent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life," he hoped the act would prevent senior citizens from ending up impoverished.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/fdr-signs-social-security-act</p>
17	<p>According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2012 median earnings for female and male full-time, year-round workers were \$37,791 and \$49,396, respectively.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb14-ff05.html</p>
18	<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 Americans. 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>http://www.dol.gov/oasam/regs/statutes/titleix.htm</p>
19	<p>When returning to civilian life, many women veterans face challenges 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.</p>	<p>http://www.va.gov/homeless/for_women_veterans.asp</p>

20	<p>According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2013, no country has fully attained gender equality. Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden are farthest along their progress toward closing the gender gap.</p>	<p>http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2013.pdf</p>
21	<p>The World Economic Forum released its annual Gender Gap Report in October 2013, which examined the level of gender parity between women and men around the world. The gap is measured across four key areas: health, education, economics, and politics. The report showed that the United States' score had slightly increased, yet its overall ranking in 2013 was 23rd on the list of 136 countries. However, the U.S. tied for first in educational attainment, which looked at access for men and women to basic and higher-level education.</p>	<p>http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2013.pdf</p>
22	<p>Three of the seven service members depicted in the iconic Marine Corps Memorial, showing the flag raising on Iwo Jima, are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Ira Hayes and Rene Gagnon survived the battle and lived to see the memorial built just outside the cemetery. The third, Michael Strank, was killed in combat six days after the famous AP photo that inspired the statue was taken.</p>	<p>http://www.militarytimes.com/article/20140511/NEWS/305110026/After-150-years-Arlington-Cemetery-still-holds-secrets</p>
23	<p>What do we mean by <i>sex</i> and <i>gender</i>? <i>Sex</i> refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women. <i>Gender</i> refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. Aspects of sex will not vary substantially between different human societies, while aspects of gender may vary greatly.</p>	<p>http://www.who.int/gender/whatisgender/en/</p>

24	<p>Among the more infrequent of headstones at Arlington National Cemetery are those with gold lettering against the white marble. There are 403. These signify that the buried service member received the highest valor award — a Medal of Honor. One of the more recent belongs to 19-year-old Army Spc. Ross McGinnis, who lowered himself onto a grenade thrown inside the Humvee he was riding in Iraq in 2006.</p>	<p>http://www.militarytimes.com/article/20140511/NEWS/305110026/After-150-years-Arlington-Cemetery-still-holds-secrets</p>
25	<p>Among 16,000 Civil War dead buried at Arlington National Cemetery, including several hundred Confederate soldiers, is the son of cemetery founder Montgomery Meigs. Lt. John Rodgers Meigs died in a skirmish in October 1864. His father later had him re-interred at Arlington beneath a tomb depicting in statuary the lieutenant's death scene, his body laying in the mud amid trampling hoofprints of Confederate horses.</p>	<p>http://www.militarytimes.com/article/20140511/NEWS/305110026/After-150-years-Arlington-Cemetery-still-holds-secrets</p>
26	<p>On August 26, 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 seeking 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>http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=63</p>
27	<p>Gay Bryant wrote an article in 1984 containing the first documented use of the term <i>glass ceiling</i>. It became a permanent part of the American lexicon with a subsequent article in the <i>Wall Street Journal</i> published in 1986. The U.S. Department of Labor took it very seriously in 1991 when it issued a definition, stating that a glass ceiling is, "artificial barriers based on attitudinal or organizational bias that prevent qualified individuals from advancing upward in their organization into management-level positions."</p>	<p>http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/history/reich/reports/ceiling.pdf</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>http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/04/30_women.html</p>
29	<p>When John F. Kennedy was assassinated, his younger brother, Robert, urged that the grave be adorned with a simple white cross. He was overruled by his brother's widow, Jackie. After Robert was assassinated five years later, he was laid to rest near his brother, the grave marked with a simple, white wooden cross. The same now adorns the nearby grave of Edward "Ted" Kennedy. They are the only two wooden crosses in Arlington National Cemetery.</p>	<p>http://www.militarytimes.com/article/20140511/NEWS/305110026/After-150-years-Arlington-Cemetery-still-holds-secrets</p>
30	<p>The Pregnancy Discrimination Act amended Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, reversing the Supreme Court's decision in <i>General Electric Company v. Gilbert</i>. In <i>Gilbert</i>, the court explained that General Electric's plan did not constitute sex discrimination because "the program divides potential recipients into two groups—pregnant women and non-pregnant persons. While the first group is exclusively female, the second includes members of both sexes."</p>	<p>http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/fs-preg.html</p>
31	<p>According to the U.S. Department of Labor, by age 65, the average woman will have lost \$431,000 over her working lifetime because of the earnings gap. This is based on median weekly wage and assuming the woman works every week of her working life.</p>	<p>http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/statistics/demographics.htm</p>