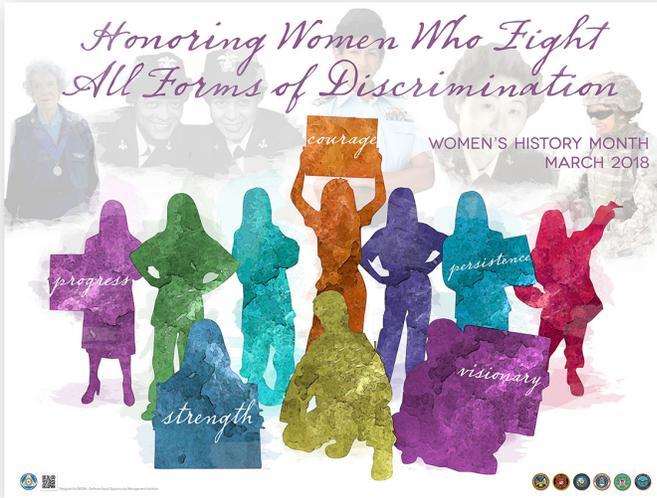


CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONORING WOMEN WHO FIGHT ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION



FACTS

Women's History Month honors and celebrates the achievements of American women throughout the history of the United States.

The Department of Defense joins the nation in paying tribute to the women who, through their unrelenting and inspirational persistence, have shaped America's history and our future.

Here are just a few of the women, who changed the course for our nation.

Captain Mildred H. McAfee was the first woman commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve and the first woman to receive the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

Susan Ahn Cuddy joined the U.S. Navy in 1942 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. She was the first Asian-American woman to join the Navy and became the first female to operate flexible-mount or turret-mounted machine guns on an aircraft. After the war, she became an intelligence officer breaking codes for the Navy. She later joined the National Security Agency, where she ran a think tank of 300 linguists and other experts gathering intelligence.

Captain Eleanor L'Ecuyer wrote successful challenges to policies that would increase career potential for women in the Coast Guard. She argued that being pregnant was not a disabling condition and therefore, should not be grounds for discharging women. Additionally, she challenged policy limiting women to serving only 20 years. She retired in 1971, as a captain, the highest rank a woman could achieve at the time.

In 1991, Lieutenant Commander Marilyn M. Dykman transferred from the U.S. Army to become the first Hispanic-American female aviator in the U.S. Coast Guard. Her achievement helped pave the way for opportunities for female cadets of all races and ethnicities at the USCG.

Colonel Debra Lewis was a member of the first class of female cadets to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, changing 178 years of tradition at the once all-male academy. She also holds the distinction of being the first female Soldier to command the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts in Philadelphia and Seattle. In 2006, she became the first woman to command an engineer brigade in Iraq.

Generations of women have courageously broken down barriers, shattered stereotypes, and changed our society. During Women's History Month, we honor the women and men who have diligently worked toward ensuring dignity, equality, and human rights for all.