

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Writing
Women
Back Into
History

Na Kainey
Ada Beer Patsy Mink
Margaret Chase Smith
Yoshiko Uchida Ida B. Wells
Amelia Earhart Maya Lin
Judy Stone Pessie Coleman
Coretta Scott King Bella Abzug
Wilma Vaught Mary Lyon Sacajawea
Alice Yu Mary McLeod Bethune
Susan B. Anthony Mary Pickford
Shirley Chisholm Juliette Low
Helen Keller Clara Barton
Pearl Buck Abigail Adams
Babe Didrikson Zaharias
Emily Dickenson
Sarah Buell
Tania Leon
Gloria Steinem
Virginia Foster Durr
Ella Baker Linda Chavez Thompson
Althea Gibson Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Constance Baker Motley Mary Church Terrell
Emma Lazarus Dorothea Dix Willa Cather
Susette La Flesche Tibbles Catherine Beecher
Jade Snow Wong Fannie Lou Hamer Martha Graham
Margaret Bourke White Mary Louise Defender Wilson
Carol Moseley Braun Mary Katherine Goddard
Gertrude Stein Elizabeth Ekford Faith Ringgold Lihua Lei
Mary Belle King Sherman Brownie Ledbetter Sally Ride

Biography

Major Karen J. Gregory, USAFR, is an Air Force Behavioral Scientist and Organizational Assessment Consultant. In 1997, Major Gregory received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Fayetteville State University, NC. In May 1999, she earned a Master of Arts dual degree in Human Resource Development and Management from Webster University.

Major Gregory formerly served as the Organizational Assessment and Development Division Chief, J-9 Research Directorate, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and as Course Director and Assistant Professor for the Organizational Behavior Course, Management Department, U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA). She has served as a consultant for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief Staff of the Air Force, USNORTHCOM/NORAD, Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, Navy Warfare Center, U.S. Coast Guard, Patrick AFB Tides Club, and the Department of Behavioral Science and Leadership (USAFA).

Major Gregory's military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, AF Commendation Medal (1OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, and AF Achievement Medal (1OLC).

Major Gregory is married to Miguel A. Fernandez. They have two sons, Alonzo and Jacob.

Preface

Major Karen J. Gregory, USAFR, is an Air Force Behavioral Scientist and consultant for the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). Major Gregory formerly served as the Organizational Assessment and Development Division Chief, J-9 Research Directorate, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and as Course Director and Assistant Professor for the Organizational Behavior Course, Management Department, U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA). She has served as a consultant for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief Staff of the Air Force, USNORTHCOM/NORAD, Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, Navy Warfare Center, U.S. Coast Guard, Patrick AFB Tides Club, and the Department of Behavioral Science and Leadership (USAFA).

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Day	Fact	Source
1	Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was the second woman to graduate from medical school in the United States and the first U.S. Army female surgeon who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for her service during the Civil War. A stamp honoring Dr. Walker was issued in 1982 commemorating her accomplishments.	St. Lawrence County, NY Branch of the American Association of University Women
2	First Lieutenant Annie G. Fox, Chief Nurse at Hickam Field, was the first Army nurse to receive the Purple Heart for her work during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.	AMEDD, U.S. Army
3	The women of World War II served under the following branches: Women's Army Corps (WAC), Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES), and Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPS). The years these respective women's corps were officially recognized were in 1943, 1948, and 1979.	American Armored Foundation
4	The first director of the Women's Army Corp (WAC), Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby, was the first woman to receive the U.S. Army's Distinguished Service Medal in 1945.	Women's' Memorial
5	First Lieutenant Cordelia E. Cook was the first woman to receive the Bronze Star while serving in the Army Nurse Corps in Italy during World War II. Cook was also awarded the Purple Heart, making her the first woman to receive two awards.	American Armoured Foundation
6	In 1943, Lieutenant Edith Greenwood received the Soldier's Medal for her heroism at a military hospital in Yuma, Arizona during World War II. She was the first woman to earn the honor.	State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs
7	In 1970, Elizabeth P. Hoisington and Anna Mae Hays were promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, making them the first female generals in U.S. history.	State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs

In 1990, Captain Marsha Evans becomes the first woman to command a naval station. In 1998, she becomes the National Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. In 2002, she becomes President and CEO of the

8 American Red Cross.

For over 150 years, the Citadel was an all male military preparatory academy. The first female, Shannon Faulkner was admitted in 1994; the first female graduate was Nancy Mace

9 who graduated in 1999.

Lieutenant Kara Hultgreen is recognized as the first fully qualified Navy woman combat fighter pilot and the first female combat fighter to die in service in 1994.

10

In 2006, Vivien Crea became the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard and the first woman to be second in command of a military faction. She is also credited as being the first female aircraft commander and commander of a Coast Guard Air

11 Station.

On June 18, 1983 Sally Ride became the first American woman to orbit Earth when she flew aboard Space Shuttle Challenger.

12

In 2006, Brigadier General Susan Helms, a former astronaut, became the first woman to command the 45th Space Wing of the Patrick Air Force Base.

13

Sheila E. Widnall Ph.D. taught at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for 30 years and was the first female to chair a department. In 1993, she assumed the position of Secretary of the Air Force, the only woman to ever head a military service.

14 She retired in 1997 and resumed her career at MIT.

Colonel Ruby Bradley is the nation's most highly-decorated female veteran. Bradley survived two wars and was a prisoner of war. In 1963, she retired from the Army with three decades

15 worth of service including 34 medals and citations for bravery.

[State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs](#)

[State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs](#)

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[State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs](#)

[Starchild - NASA](#)

[State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs](#)

[Women's International Center](#)

[Arlington Cemetery](#)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943, signed into law the Sparkman-Johnson Bill, allowing females to enter the Army and Navy Medical Corps. One month later, Dr. Margaret D. Craighill became the first woman doctor to receive an Army commission. Craighill was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and awarded the Legion of Merit.

16

In 1967, Master Sergeant Barbara Jean Dulinsky was the first female Marine to serve in a combat zone in Vietnam.

17

In 2001, Captain Vernice Armour, USMC, became the first African-American female pilot and in 2003 she became the first female combat pilot with combat missions in Iraq.

18

Edith Nourse Rogers holds the longest congressional tenure of any woman to date. During her career, Rogers authored legislation that had far-reaching effects on American servicemen and women, including the creation of the Women's Army Corp and the GI Bill of Rights.

19

Margaret Chase Smith served four terms in the House of Representatives and in 1948 was elected to the U.S. Senate. In doing so, she became the first woman elected to both houses of Congress. In 1964, she ran for President where she became the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for the Presidency by either of the two major parties.

20

After years of service in the Army Nurse Corps, Colonel Florence A. Blanchfield, in 1943, became superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps. In 1982, the hospital at Fort Campbell, Kentucky was named Colonel Florence A. Blanchfield Army Community Hospital. It is the only instance where a medical department activity was named after an Army nurse.

21

In December 1990, Darlene Iskra became the first woman to take command of a U.S. Navy ship, the Opportune. She is also one of the first women to graduate from dive school.

22

[National Library of Medicine](#)

[Women Marines](#)

[Women Marines](#)

[Women in Congress](#)

[Margaret Chase Smith Library](#)

[U.S. Army](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

As of September 30, 2008, the Air Force had the highest percentage of women serving in the Armed Forces at 19.6%, while Marines had the lowest at 6.1%. However, the Army had the highest number of women serving in 2008 with 73,902.

23 Compared to all the other services then, the Army also had the largest number of men and women serving.

[Women's Memorial](#)

World War II employed the highest number of service women in military conflicts with some 400,000 plus women serving. It also brought the highest number of women POWs totaling 90. 24 duty in the military. Of that total, 35,560 women were officers and 167,282 were enlisted.

[Women's Memorial](#)

25 As of September 30, 2008, 14% of the Armed Forces were 26 women. That is an increase from the mere 2 % in 1950.

[DEOMI](#)

[DEOMI and Census Bureau](#)

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed Sandra Day O'Connor as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, making 27 her the first woman to become a justice on the Supreme Court.

[Biography.com](#)

In 1990, President George Bush appointed Antonia Novello to be Surgeon General of the United States. She was the first 28 woman to be appointed to this post.

[Achievement.org](#)

29 As of 2007, 1.8 million veterans in America were women.

[U.S. Census Bureau](#)

In 2002, Nancy Pelosi became the first woman in American history to lead a major party in Congress as Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives. Then, on January 4, 2007, she made history again when she became the first woman to serve as 30 United States Speaker of House.

[Speaker of House](#)

Madeleine Albright was the first woman to be appointed as the U.S. Secretary of State in 1997, the highest ranking woman in 31 government.

[National Women's Hall of Fame](#)