

Women's History Month Facts of the Day

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Preface

Ms. Dawn Smith is a research editor in the Technology Development & Clearinghouse Management directorate (J-93) at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). She was responsible for compiling the information contained in this report. Her main research interests involve communication within a culture and the family. Ms. Smith received her Bachelor Degree in Interpersonal/Organizational Communications from the University of Central Florida.

Day	Fact	Source
1	National Women's History Month's roots go back to 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was 1st observed in 1909. It wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the 2nd week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month.	http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/census/2010promo_310.pdf
2	1st LT 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, Dec. 7, 1941.	AMEDD, U.S. Army
3	The women of World War II served under the following branches: WAC- Women's Army Corps, WAVES- Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services, and WASPS - Women Air Force Service Pilots. The years these respective women's corps were officially recognized were: 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	1LT 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 Armored Foundation
6	In 1943, Lt 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

8	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 American Red Cross.	State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs
9	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 who graduated in 1999.	State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs
10	LT 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.	State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs
11	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 Station.	State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs
12	On June 18, 1983 Sally Ride became the first American woman to orbit Earth when she flew aboard Space Shuttle Challenger.	Starchild - NASA
13	In 2006, Brigadier General Susan Helms, a former astronaut, becomes the first woman to command the 45th Space Wing of the Patrick Air Force Base.	State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs
14	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. She retired in 1997 and resumed her career at MIT.	Women's International Center
15	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 worth of service including 34 medals and citations for bravery.	Arlington Cemetery

16	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.	National Library of Medicine
17	In 1967, Master Sergeant Barbara Jean Dulinsky was the first female Marine to serve in a combat zone in Vietnam.	Women Marines
18	In 2001, Captain Vernice Armour, USMC, becomes the first African-American female pilot and in 2003, she became the first female combat pilot with combat missions in Iraq.	Women Marines
19	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.	Women in Congress
20	Margaret Chase Smith served four terms in the House 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.	Margaret Chase Smith Library
21	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 was the only instance where a Medical Department Activity was named after an Army nurse.	U.S. Army
22	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.	Library of Congress

23	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 with 73,902.	Women's Memorial
24	World War II employed the highest number of service women in military conflicts with some 400,000 plus women serving. World War II also brought the highest number of women POWs totaling 90.	Women's Memorial
25	In the year 2010, women have continued to demonstrate their support of our nation with 213,823 DoD and Coast Guard active duty members serving; Reserve totals are 118,223 and the National Guard total of 72,182.	DEOMI
26	Throughout the first decade of 2000, women made up 15% of the active duty Armed Services population and this number has grown slowly and steadily.	DEOMI and Census Bureau
27	In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed Sandra Day O'Connor as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, making her the first woman to become a justice on the Supreme Court.	Biography.com
28	In 1990, President George Bush appointed Antonia Novello to be Surgeon General of the United States. She was the first woman to be appointed to this post.	Achievement.org
29	As of 2008, 1.7 million veterans in America were women.	U.S. Census Bureau
30	In 2002, Nancy Pelosi became the first woman in American history to lead a major party in the 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 United States Speaker of House.	Speaker of House
31	According to the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard as of Sept. 2010 the number of Women Serving Active Duty: Army-76,193; Marine Corp-15,257; Navy-52,546; Air Force-64,275; Coast Guard-5,552.	http://www.womensmemorial.org