

## **Women's History Month Facts of the Day**

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## **Author Biography**

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  |
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| 1   | <i>Women's Education – Women's Empowerment</i> is the theme for this year's National Women's History Month.  | <a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a>   |
| 2   | Women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978.   | <a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a>   |
| 3   | In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand "Women's History Week" to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.   | <a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a>   |
| 4   | Women now outnumber men in American colleges nationwide. The fight to learn was a valiant struggle waged by many tenacious women—across years and across cultures—in our country.  | <a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a>   |
| 5   | In 2011, to coincide with Women's History Month, the White House issued a 50-year progress report on the status of women in the United States. It found that women are more likely than their male counterparts to hold a college degree and that the number of men and women in the labor force has nearly equalized.   | <a href="http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history-month#a2">http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history-month#a2</a> |
| 6   | President Barack Obama nominated Lieutenant General Janet C. Wolfenbarger to the rank of general, and commander of Air Force Material Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced Feb. 6, 2012. The promotion makes Wolfenbarger the Air Force's first female four-star general. If confirmed by the Senate, Wolfenbarger would become the military's second female officer to receive four stars behind Army Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, who was promoted to general in 2008. | <a href="http://www.wpafb.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123288971">http://www.wpafb.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123288971</a>     |
| 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.  | <a href="#">State of Connecticut Dept. of Veterans Affairs</a>  |

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| 8  | <p>International Women's Day is celebrated each year on March 8th around the world. Thousands of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political, and social achievements of women. The United Nations has sponsored International Women's Day since 1975.</p>  | <p><a href="http://www.internationalwomensday.com/home.asp">http://www.internationalwomensday.com/home.asp</a></p> |
| 9  | <p>After the American Revolution, the notion of education as a safeguard for democracy created opportunities for females to gain a basic education. The premise was that, as mothers, they would nurture not only the bodies but also the minds of male citizens and future leaders. The concept that educating women meant educating mothers endured in America for many years, at all levels of education.</p> | <p><a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a></p>                                   |
| 10 | <p>The equal opportunity to learn owes much to Title IX of the Education Codes of the Higher Education Act Amendment. This legislation, passed in 1972 and enacted in 1977, prohibited gender discrimination by federally funded institutions in all aspects of education from scholarships, to facilities, and to classes formerly closed to women.</p>   | <p><a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a></p>                                   |
| 11 | <p>Brigadier General Margaret W. Burcham became the first woman to be promoted to general officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in January 2012.</p>   | <p><a href="http://www.army.mil/women/">http://www.army.mil/women/</a></p>   |
| 12 | <p>The 1988 "Risk Rule" was rescinded in 1994 and was replaced with the "Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule," which allowed women to serve in combat support groups close to, but not on, the front lines, while maintaining their exclusion from serving in infantry, armory, Special Forces, and field artillery positions.</p>   | <p><a href="http://servicewomen.org/">http://servicewomen.org/</a></p>   |
| 13 | <p>The Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery is a living memorial honoring all military women — past, present, and future. The Memorial is the only major national memorial honoring women who have served in our nation's defense during all eras and all services. Work on the Memorial was in progress for 11 years, and it was dedicated in 1997.</p>  | <p><a href="http://www.womensmemorial.org/">http://www.womensmemorial.org/</a></p>                                 |
| 14 | <p>In 1951, The Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) was established. The Committee is composed of civilian women and men who are appointed by the Secretary of Defense to provide advice and recommendations on matters and policies relating to the recruitment and retention, treatment, employment, integration, and well-being of women in the Armed Forces.</p>       | <p><a href="http://dacowits.defense.gov/">http://dacowits.defense.gov/</a></p>                                     |

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| 15 | Major General Angela Salinas was the first woman to command a Recruit Depot, the first Hispanic female to become a general officer, as well as the first Hispanic female and only the sixth female in the Marine Corps to reach the rank of brigadier general.  | <a href="http://www.womensmemorial.org/News/salinas.html">http://www.womensmemorial.org/News/salinas.html</a>   |
| 16 | The Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2011 reported that women who were full-time wage and salary workers had median weekly earnings of \$699. Women earned 81 percent of the median weekly earnings of their male counterparts (\$824) in 2010.  | <a href="http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2010.pdf">http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2010.pdf</a>   |
| 17 | The Nobel Peace Prize 2011 was awarded jointly to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee, and Tawakkol Karman <i>"for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work."</i>  | <a href="http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2011/">http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2011/</a>   |
| 18 | Major General Marcia M. Anderson became the Army's first-ever female African American officer to obtain the rank of major general in October 2011.  | <a href="http://www.army.mil/women/profiles.html">http://www.army.mil/women/profiles.html</a>   |
| 19 | The Pentagon unveiled plans to allow women to serve in thousands of military jobs closer to the front lines, reflecting the realities of the last decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Defense officials say the new rules will still mean that women are barred from serving as infantry, armor, and special operations — considered the most dangerous combat jobs.   | <a href="http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/02/ap-pentagon-recommend-new-combat-roles-women-020812/">http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/02/ap-pentagon-recommend-new-combat-roles-women-020812/</a>                                   |
| 20 | President Barack Obama nominated Coral Pietsch to be Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Pietsch currently serves as the Senior Civilian Attorney and Special Assistant in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate for the U.S. Army Pacific. Pietsch was the first female Army Judge Advocates General (JAG) and the first Asian American to reach the rank of General in the U.S. Army in 2001. | <a href="http://servicewomen.org/">http://servicewomen.org/</a>   |
| 21 | In 2011, Rear Admiral Sandra Stosz became commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She was the first woman to lead ANY of the U.S. Military Academies. For the second year in a row, the school she leads is ranked as one of the top colleges in the country, according to U.S. News and World Report.   | <a href="http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/united-states-coast-guard-academy-1415/rankings">http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/united-states-coast-guard-academy-1415/rankings</a> |
| 22 | Rear Admiral Nora W. Tyson made history in 2010 when she became the first woman in the U.S. Navy to be named commander of a carrier strike group. She leads nearly a dozen ships and over 9,000 sailors and airmen patrolling 51 million square miles of ocean.   | <a href="http://www.stripes.com/news/navy-women-see-slow-but-steady-rise-in-ranks-1.149447">http://www.stripes.com/news/navy-women-see-slow-but-steady-rise-in-ranks-1.149447</a>   |

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| 23 | In 2011, women held 90, or 16.8%, of the 535 seats in the 112th US Congress — 17, or 17.0%, of the 100 seats in the Senate, and 73, or 16.8%, of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives.  | <a href="http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/Congress-CurrentFacts.php">http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/Congress-CurrentFacts.php</a> |
| 24 | The first co-ed college was Oberlin Collegiate Institute. It opened on Dec. 3, 1833 with 44 students - 29 men and 15 women. Oberlin also was the first college that promised to educate African American men and women. For many years, Oberlin was the only place where Black women could take college classes.   | <a href="http://www.oberlin.edu/external/EOG/OYTT/ch10.html">http://www.oberlin.edu/external/EOG/OYTT/ch10.html</a>   |
| 25 | In 2010, the Secretary of Defense lifted the ban disallowing female officers from serving on submarines. U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Nora W. Tyson became the first woman to command a carrier strike force.  | <a href="http://servicewomen.org/">http://servicewomen.org/</a>   |
| 26 | In May 2010, Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara became the Coast Guard's second woman to serve in the prestigious role of Vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.   | <a href="http://www.uscg.mil/history/uscghist/WomenOCSHistory.pdf">http://www.uscg.mil/history/uscghist/WomenOCSHistory.pdf</a>   |
| 27 | <i>...To ignore the vital role that women's dreams and accomplishments play in our own lives would be a great mistake. We draw strength and inspiration from those who came before us – and those remarkable women working among us today. They are part of our story, and a truly balanced and inclusive history recognizes how important women have always been in American society. —Virginia Woolf</i> | <a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a>   |
| 28 | Today, women in the United States Marine Corp serve in 93 percent of all occupational fields and 62 percent of all billets. Women constitute 6.2 percent of the Corps end strength and are an integral part of the Marine Corps.   | <a href="http://www.womenmarines.org/wm_history.aspx">http://www.womenmarines.org/wm_history.aspx</a>   |
| 29 | According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the total veteran population in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of September 2011, was 22.2 million. The population of women veterans numbered 1,853,690.   | <a href="http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/WomenVetPopFS1111.pdf">http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/WomenVetPopFS1111.pdf</a>   |
| 30 | In 2011, at the request of congress, the Military Leadership and Diversity Commission issued a report unequivocally recommending the Services and the DoD eliminate the combat exclusion polices against females.  | <a href="http://servicewomen.org/">http://servicewomen.org/</a>   |

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| 31 | According to the Defense Manpower Data Center, the number of women serving active duty in FY 11 are as follows: Army-76,015; Marine Corp-13,691; Navy-52,416; Air Force-62,592; Coast Guard-5,799. | <a href="http://www.fedstats.gov/key_stats/index.php?id=DMDC">http://www.fedstats.gov/key_stats/index.php?id=DMDC</a> |
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