

On June 12th, DMAVA Celebrates WOMEN'S VETERANS DAY



Women's Veterans Day, observed annually on June 12, recognizes the vital role women have played in the United States Armed Forces. This date marks the anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, which allowed women to serve as permanent, regular members of the military. The observance provides an opportunity to reflect on the contributions, dedication, and service of women throughout military history. From the Revolutionary War to modern-day deployments, women have served with honor, skill, and commitment. The following timeline highlights key milestones in the evolving role of women in the U.S. military.



Women served as nurses, cooks, and aides in military camps. Some, like Deborah Sampson, disguised themselves as men to fight in combat.

**1775-1783;
The American
Revolutionary War**



Thousands of women volunteered as nurses to serve as caretakers for wounded soldiers on both sides of the conflict. Over 21,000 women served the Union alone.

**1861-1865;
The Civil War**



For the first time women could officially serve as part of the US Army and Navy in medical and support capacities.

**1901-1908;
Army & Navy Nurse
Corps Created**



Over 30,000 military women across the Army, Navy, and Marines contribute to the war effort as not only nurses, but as clerical workers and telephone operators.

**1917-1918;
World War I**



More than 350,000 women now serve in all branches of the military, including as support pilots. By 1948 women were granted permanent status within regular armed forces.

**1941-1948;
World War II &
Aftermath**



Congress passes legislation allowing women to enroll in US Military Academies for the first time, beginning in 1976.

**1976;
Women Admitted to
Service Academies**



40,000 women are deployed to the Persian Gulf, serving a variety of functions from logistics, to aviation, to intelligence operations.

**1991;
The Gulf War**



In 2013, the Department of Defense lifted the ban on women serving in combat roles. By 2016 this was expanded to include infantry and special forces.

**2013-2016:
Combat Roles for
Women Open**

Today, women serve in every branch of the military, contributing across combat, leadership, and technical roles. Their service reflects the evolving strength and readiness of our armed forces. Honoring Women's Veterans Day means recognizing not just history, but the continued dedication and excellence of those who serve.