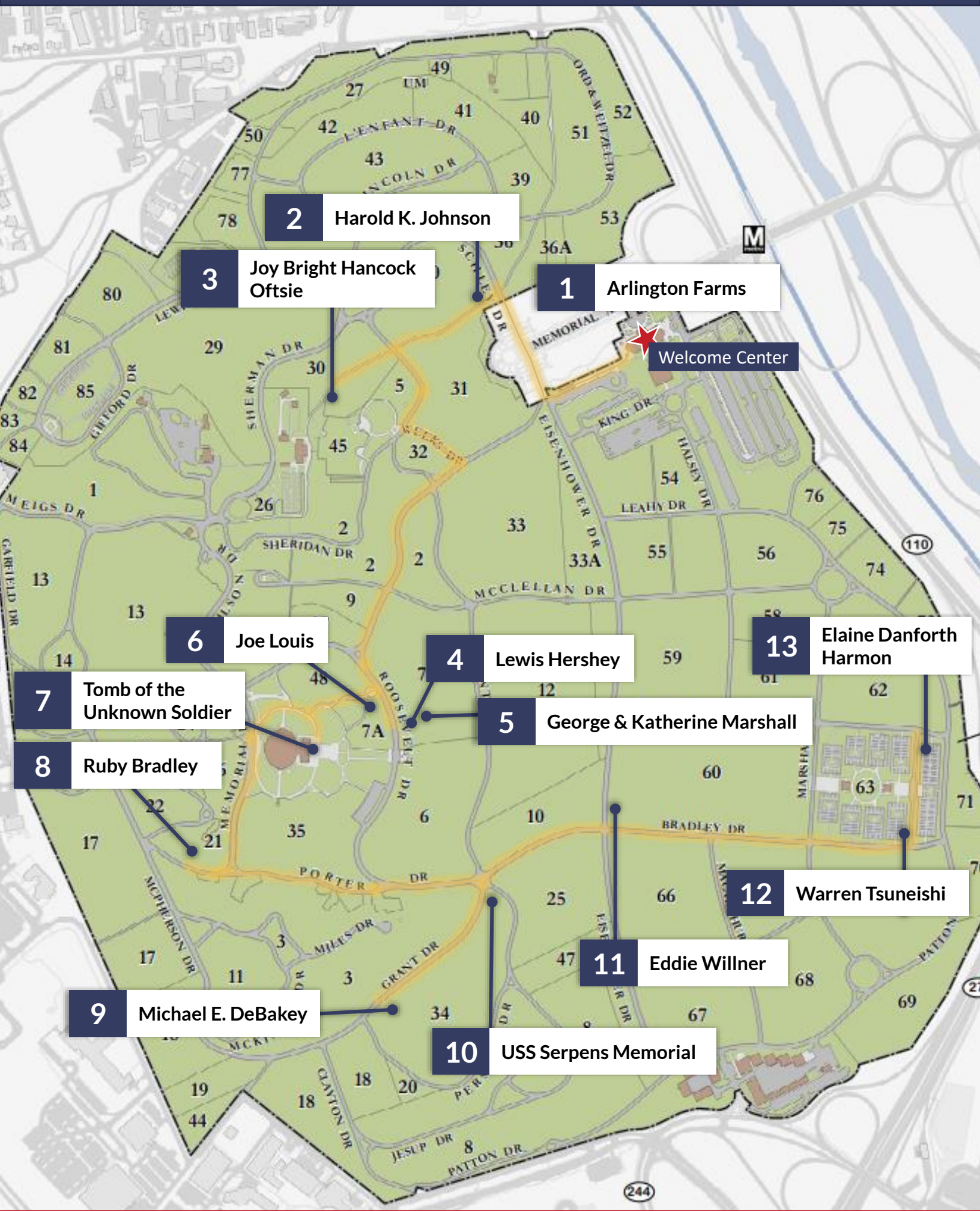


# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

## WORLD WAR II



ENGAGE



We love hearing about your visit! Share your pictures, questions, and favorite parts of the tour on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

@ArlingtonNatl  
#ANCEducation #WWIIatANC

# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR


## WORLD WAR II

Length: ~5 miles


Starting Point: Welcome Center

Exertion Level: High

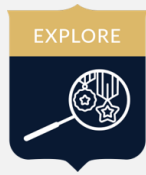
There are three types of stops on this walking tour:



**HONOR**  
HONOR stops mark the gravesites of specific individuals.




**REMEMBER**  
REMEMBER stops commemorate events, ideas or groups of people.



**EXPLORE**  
EXPLORE stops invite you to discover what this history means to you.

World War II was fought across four continents and thousands of miles of ocean. The lives of millions of military service members and civilians were affected by the events of this war. This walking tour shares some of the diverse experiences and individual stories of those who fought abroad or worked on the home front.

1	Arlington Farms	Walking from Welcome Center	 
2	Harold K. Johnson	Section 30, Grave 430-2	
3	Joy Bright Hancock	Section 30, Grave 2138-RH	
4	Lewis Hershey	Section 7, Grave 8197-D	 
5	George and Katherine Marshall	Section 7, Grave 8198	
6	Joe Louis	Section 7A, Grave 177	 
7	Tomb of the Unknown Soldier	Tomb of the Unknown Solider	 
8	Ruby Bradley	Section 21, Grave 318	
9	Michael E. DeBakey	Section 34, Grave 399-A	
10	Serpens Memorial	Section 34	
11	Eddie Willner	Section 60, Grave 15	 
12	Warren Tsuneishi	Court 7, Section TT, Column 29, Niche 4	 
13	Elaine Danforth Harmon	Court 9, Section N42, Column 12, Niche 6	 



**Social Media Connection**

As you complete this walking tour, we'd love to hear your thoughts about the people, historical events and ideas you encounter. At some stops, you'll see a "Social Media Connection" prompt that refers you to the end of the walking tour where you can see ways to share and join the conversation. We look forward to connecting with you!





# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



*A second atomic bomb is dropped on Japan, this one in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. (LOC)*



*Landing ships putting cargo ashore on one of the invasion beaches during the first days of the Normandy invasion in June 1944. The Allied invasion of Europe began in Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6, 1944. (NHHC)*

World War II was a people's war. Mobilization affected the lives of men, women and children. The individuals on this walking tour offer a small slice of the larger story of the United States' experience in World War II. They include stories of love and loss, discrimination and perseverance, and horror and joy. They represent everyday Americans — both those who are well-known to the public and those who are not — all of whom risked everything in service to their country.

## WORLD WAR II

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Two days later, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany, forming the Allied powers. During the first eight months of the European war, most Americans did not want to become involved in another war across the Atlantic Ocean. However, as the war progressed, and Germany continued its military advances, Americans increasingly supported entering the war.

Shortly before 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This event shocked the nation and pulled the United States into the war. Japan had been expanding in East Asia since its invasion of Manchuria in 1931, and in 1940, Japan, Germany and Italy formed the Axis powers. On December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan; the resolution passed almost unanimously. Declarations of war against Germany and Italy quickly followed.

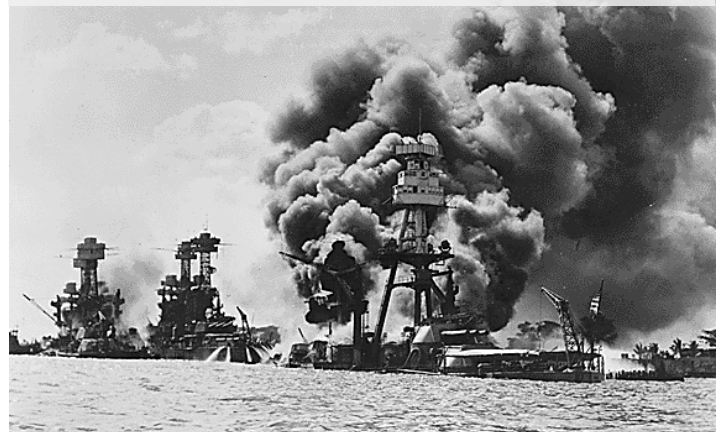
The United States sent troops to all global theaters of the war. Back home, the entire country mobilized to respond to the needs of this "total war." Because victory on the battlefield depended on massive production of military equipment, supplies and resources, all types of Americans

were involved in the war effort. The expanded wartime economy ushered in new opportunities for women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans and members of other minority groups who were able to secure positions in the armed forces or as civilian workers in factories or shipyards. Government-sponsored campaigns urged civilians to do their part for the war effort, whether that was purchasing war bonds, rationing goods or volunteering for service.

Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945. War in the Pacific Theater continued for another three months. After considering an invasion of mainland Japan, President Harry S. Truman authorized the use of atomic bombs against Japan. The United States had been secretly developing the bomb throughout the war, and it became the only nation to use this weapon when a B-29 Superfortress, the "Enola Gay," dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. This was followed by the atomic bombing of the city of Nagasaki on August 9. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945, effectively ending the war.

There has not been a conflict since World War II that has affected Americans so universally. We selected walking tour stops to highlight the diverse ways that the war impacted everyone in America, and the many ways individuals contributed to the war effort. On this tour, you'll be introduced to individuals from all walks of life — service members and civilians, officers and enlistees, men and women, white Americans and people of color. Their stories represent the thousands of Americans during World War II who showed incredible courage in the face of hardship, who excelled despite facing prejudice, and who repeatedly demonstrated their love for their country through their service.

*The USS West Virginia, USS Tennessee and USS Arizona after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1941. (NARA)*







# ARLINGTON FARMS



## WALKING TOUR STOP 1 Walking from the Welcome Center

“Gee! Twenty-eight acres of girls!” a young sailor exclaimed when he arrived at Arlington Farms.<sup>1</sup> Built in 1942 on what is now part of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Farms was a bustling community of approximately 9,000 women. The complex, built to relieve the wartime housing crisis in Washington, D.C., housed white female government workers—known as “government girls”—and Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

Beginning in 1941, women streamed into the capital city to fill the abundant civil service jobs necessitated by the U.S.’s entry into World War II. They crammed into boarding houses and apartment buildings, and yet there was still not enough room. To accommodate this influx of women into the city, the U.S. government built temporary dorm complexes to house the women for the duration of the war: in Arlington, Virginia; Suitland, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. Arlington Farms was the largest and the most well-known of these facilities, housing up to 9,000 women aged 16 to 68 at its peak.

Government girls kept the federal government running during the war. They worked as secretaries, assistants and researchers in almost every government agency and in Congress. Their work spanned from traditional administrative duties as typists to conducting policy research for Congress, classifying fingerprints for the FBI and deciphering enemy codes for the military.

Every government girl arrived in Washington for a different reason. Eddie Jane Poindexter took a job as a typist in the Navy’s Bureau of Aeronautics and moved to Arlington Farms because “it didn’t seem right to go to college during the war.”<sup>2</sup> Sally Donoho and her friends moved because living and working in the city “sounded glamorous.”<sup>3</sup> Others, like codebreaker Dot Braden, took government jobs because their families needed the income.

Often working six days a week and as many as ten hours a day, Arlington Farms women spent their free time attending activities at the recreation center, eating meals together in the cafeteria, and socializing in the hallways of the dormitories. The Farms offered professional classes in shorthand and typing, as well as academic credits through the National University. The dormitories also hosted social dances and competed with each other in sports tournaments. Beyond the wider government girls and WAVES communities, the women at Arlington Farms formed a community of their own, even writing and publishing their own newspaper, “Arlingazette: The Voice of Girl Town.”

After the war, most government girls lost their jobs to men returning from the war. Arlington Farms continued to operate until 1950; at the time it shut down, fewer than 1,800 women remained. During World War II, however, it provided a space for women to flex their independence and to gain professional skills, as well to socialize and form community.

*Women wait for letters at the mail desk in Idaho Hall of Arlington Farms in 1943. (LOC/Esther Bubley)*



*Women arrive at Arlington Farm residence halls after a bus ride from work, 1942. (LOC/Esther Bubley)*



*Residents and guests relax during intermission at one of the bi-weekly dances, 1943. (LOC/Esther Bubley)*

## WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR



*The Welcome Center, parking lot and Sections 54-62 and 73-76 now occupy the space where Arlington Farms once stood. Nothing remains from the buildings.*

*On your way to Stop 2, you will walk past the Military Women’s Memorial on Schley Dr. This is the only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America throughout history.*





# WOMEN'S SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II



*Rosie the Riveter ca. 1942. (NARA)*

The image of Rosie the Riveter is iconic. With men off fighting the war, the United States faced a labor shortage that only women could fill. For years, white women had been taught to believe that the workplace was not meant for them. After the United States entered World War II, however, the U.S. government launched a large-scale advertising campaign to recruit women for the war effort. They promoted images of “Rosies” who could weld and rivet as well as a man. Around six million women, many with children at home, served in the American defense industry during the war. But industrial jobs were not the only jobs women filled. Beyond combat, women filled almost every other wartime role available.



*Marine Corps Women's Reserve members (L-R): Minnie Spotted Wolf (Blackfeet tribe), Celia Mix (Potawatomi), and Violet Eastman (Chippewa), ca. 1942-1945. (NARA)*

## Women in Uniform

Soon after the United States entered the war, every military branch created all-female non-combat units so that men could be available to fight. More than 350,000 women served, both at home and abroad. They performed traditional “women’s” work as secretaries and nurses, but they also flew and repaired planes, served as radio operators, rigged parachutes and much more. While Congress militarized some of these units, others remained civilian for the entirety of the war. 432 women were killed during the war, and another 88 were taken as prisoners of war. Women served in the following units:

- Women’s Army Corps (WAC, originally the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps)
- Navy Women’s Reserve (WAVES)
- Marine Corps Women’s Reserve
- Coast Guard Women’s Reserve (SPAR)
- Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)
- Army Nurse Corps (established 1901)
- Navy Nurse Corps (established 1908)

## Women at Home

Not all women took up jobs with the military or in wartime production plants. Some, like the “government girls,” took up civil service work; others worked on farms producing the nation’s food supply. More remained at home, helping the war effort through grassroot campaigns. They grew victory gardens, organized scrap drives, sold war bonds and volunteered wherever they could.

Some women also served with the United Service Organizations (USO). USO women provided entertainment and comfort to service members, both offering a distraction from the horrors of war and reminding them of what they were fighting for — home and the women they left behind.

After the war, most men and employers expected women to return to domestic life. But many women did not want to return home; they liked their jobs. Still, employers forced women out of their jobs to make room for men returning from war.

In 1948, Congress passed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, guaranteeing women a permanent place in the military. However, the act restricted women from commanding men, serving in combat and comprising more than two percent of all service members. Women in the private sector did not make any major labor strides until 1963, when Congress passed the Equal Pay Act. The following year, Congress barred sex discrimination in employment (along with race, color, religion and national origin) when it passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As you explore the cemetery, consider why the majority of military gravesites belong to men and what stories we miss because of that.



*The McLelland family tend their victory garden at Escambia Farms, Florida, 1942. (LOC/John Collier)*



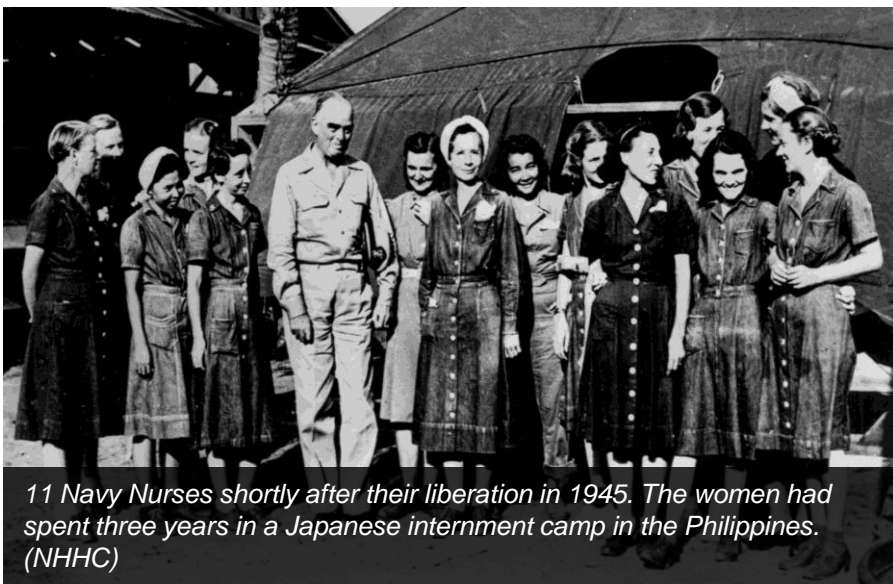
# WOMEN'S SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II, continued



**Below:** WAC recruitment poster  
1943. (LOC/Bradshaw Crandell)  
WAVES recruitment poster,  
1944. (LOC/John Falter)



Three aviation machinist's mates work on an SNJ training plane at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, 1944. (LOC)



11 Navy Nurses shortly after their liberation in 1945. The women had spent three years in a Japanese internment camp in the Philippines. (NHHC)



Private Margaret Fukuoka, WAC, 1943. (LOC/Ansel Adams)



Olivia Hooker and Aileen Anita Cooks aboard the USS Neversail during their SPAR training, ca. 1941-1945. (NARA)





# GENERAL HAROLD K. JOHNSON



## WALKING TOUR STOP 2

Section 30, Grave 430-2

**BIRTH:** February 22, 1912, Bowesmont, ND

**DEATH:** September 24, 1983, Washington, D.C.

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Johnson graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1933. He married Dorothy Rennix in 1935 and they had three children.

**CAREER:** In 1940, the Army stationed Johnson in the Philippines with the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (the Philippine Scouts). After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Army invaded the Philippines. Between December 1941 and April 1942, the U.S. Army and Filipino forces resisted Japanese attempts to seize the country, and specifically the Bataan Peninsula.

On April 3, 1942, the Japanese received reinforcements and renewed their attack. At this point, Philippine and American forces faced food and medical shortages, with rations reduced and hundreds ill from malaria and dysentery. Recalling these hardships, Johnson wrote, "A prolonged period of reduced rations destroys the will to fight almost entirely, and... may even destroy the will to live."<sup>4</sup> Despite orders from General Douglas MacArthur not to surrender, the commanding general of Philippine and American forces in Bataan, Major General Edward P. King, surrendered on April 9.

The Japanese Army took around 10,000 American and 60,000 Filipino soldiers as prisoners of war, including Harold K. Johnson. Over the next five to ten days, the POWs were forced to march

approximately 65 miles in tropical conditions, with no food or water and little rest. Thousands died, and the march was later named the Bataan Death March.

Johnson survived the march and was imprisoned at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan Prison Camp and Bilibid Prison. In December 1944, the Japanese Army transferred him and 1,600 other POWs to Japan. As the Allied Army advanced toward Japan, he was transferred to Korea, where he was liberated by the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on September 7, 1945.

**LEGACY:** Johnson received the Distinguished Service Cross for his service in the Korean War. From 1960 to 1963, he was commandant of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. At the height of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, he served as Army chief of staff from 1964 to 1968.



A painting of General Johnson in 1972. (NARA/Joseph R. Essig)

### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR



*From the Women's Memorial, continue down Schley Dr. to section 30. Johnson's grave will be on your left, two rows up from Schley and 7 headstones in from the Custis Walk.*



# CAPTAIN JOY BRIGHT HANCOCK



## WALKING TOUR STOP 3 Section 30, Grave 2138-RH

**BIRTH:** May 4, 1898, Wildwood, NJ

**DEATH:** August 20, 1986, Bethesda, MD

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Navy WAVES

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Born in New Jersey in 1898, Hancock always said she was named Joy to “offset [her] father’s disappointment that his third child was not a boy.”<sup>5</sup> Hancock’s first two husbands were aviators, and both were killed in airplane crashes in the 1920s. After her second husband died in 1925, she did not marry again for almost 30 years. She is buried with her third husband, Vice Admiral Ralph A. Ofstie.

**CAREER:** During World War I, Hancock enlisted in the Navy as a Yeoman First Class (Female), or “Yeomanette” as female yeomen were popularly known. Yeomen (F) primarily served in secretarial and clerical positions. After World War I, Hancock left the military and worked as a civilian for the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics. She also earned a pilot’s license — not, she wrote in her autobiography, “because it was the smart thing to do in the 1920s, but because I was afraid of anything that flew” and wanted to conquer her fear.<sup>6</sup>

On July 30, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the Navy Women’s Reserve, or WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). That same year, Hancock was commissioned in the WAVES as a lieutenant, and served as a liaison between the Bureau of Aeronautics and the WAVES. She became the director of the Women’s Reserve in 1946 and played an important role in getting Congress to pass the Women Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. This act secured women a permanent place in the military during peacetime. In 1948, Hancock was one of the first six women sworn into the regular Navy.

**LEGACY:** When Capt. Hancock retired from active duty in 1953, she received the Legion of Merit for her contributions to the WAVES. In 1972, she published her autobiography, “Lady in the Navy,” recounting both her own experience as well as the history of women in the Navy. Captain Joy Bright Hancock’s work was instrumental to expanding women’s opportunities in the military.



*Lt. Commander Hancock, ca. 1943. (NARA)*



*Yeoman (F) First Class Hancock in 1918. (LOC)*



## WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

Take the Custis Walk past Sheridan Dr. Hancock’s grave is six rows from Arlington House and the end of section 30. It is seven graves from the end of the row.



# GENERAL LEWIS HERSHEY



## WALKING TOUR STOP 4 Section 7, Grave 8197-D

**BIRTH:** September 12, 1893, Steuben County, IN

**DEATH:** May 20, 1977, Angola, IN

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Hershey grew up in rural Indiana. At a time when most of his peers quit school after eighth grade, Hershey graduated high school in 1910. He then enrolled at what is now Trine University to pursue a career in education. He graduated in 1914 and accepted a job at a local high school. In 1918, he married Ellen Dygert. They had four children.

**CAREER:** As director of the Selective Service System, or the draft, through World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, Hershey deeply believed in a national draft and military service for all men during both peacetime and war. While he never faced combat, he believed that an all-volunteer force was not feasible for modern warfare and incapable of adequately training recruits.

Hershey enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in 1911. In 1916, his unit was sent to the U.S.-Mexico border. Conditions at the border led him to conclude that "there is one way to take care of the defense question and that is by universal military service of some kind."<sup>7</sup>

With the United States on the verge of entering World War I in early 1917, Hershey dedicated himself to recruitment efforts. The lack of interest he encountered only reinforced his belief in mandatory service.

After the war, Hershey continued to advocate for a peacetime draft. He received a commission in the regular army in 1920. In 1936, Hershey was assigned to the personnel branch of the War Department. Over the next four years, he toured the country to prepare state and local boards to administer an eventual draft. Hershey was a proponent of a decentralized draft with local control. Throughout his career, he believed local boards should choose who served and who was deferred.

After Congress passed the Selective Service and Training Act in 1940, Hershey served as deputy director of the Selective Service, as he and others believed the program should be led by a civilian. However, in 1941, President Roosevelt appointed Hershey as director.

After the war, the draft was disbanded despite Hershey's arguments for on-going conscription. Within one year, Congress enacted new draft legislation in response to growing Cold War tensions. Hershey acted as director of the Selective Service System until President Richard Nixon forced him out in 1969 in response to the Vietnam War draft protests.

**LEGACY:** Lewis B. Hershey retired from the Army in 1973 as the only four-star general to never see combat. He planned and oversaw the national draft through three wars, conscripting more than 20 million men. Throughout his career, he fought for both the decentralization of the draft and its existence during both peace and war. There has been no national draft since Hershey's retirement in 1973.



*The first meeting of the War Manpower Commission on May 6, 1942. Hershey is standing, third from left. (LOC)*



*Hershey in 1973. (Public Domain)*

*"I am a strong believer in the ultimate good that shall arise from the war, no matter how long it may be prolonged."<sup>8</sup>*

– Lewis B. Hershey, diary entry,  
September 1918



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Walk back down Custis Walk and turn right on Sheridan Dr. Turn left on Weeks Dr and then right on Roosevelt. Follow Roosevelt until you reach Section 7, near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Before reaching the avenue that leads to the Tomb, you will see a section of headstones that face the road. Hershey's grave is four rows up from the road, in a small row with two other headstones.*



# THE HISTORY OF THE DRAFT: THE CIVIL WAR TO WORLD WAR II



Men line up for draft registration, ca. 1918-1920. (LOC)

A draft board in 1917. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)

During World War II, over sixty percent of all U.S. military service members were drafted. The draft pulled in everyone — rich and poor, married and single men. Even conscientious objectors and those turned away for medical reasons served in non-combat roles on the homefront. By the end of the war, nearly 50 million men registered for the draft and over 10 million were drafted.

## CIVIL WAR

Congress passed the first national draft law during the Civil War, one year after the Confederacy established a draft. Initially the Union tried to rely on volunteer service, but by 1863, the Army needed more men. The national draft law faced heavy criticism and resulted in widespread draft riots, including a four-day riot in New York City. The main criticism of the law was that it allowed people to buy their way out of military service by either paying \$300 or hiring a substitute.

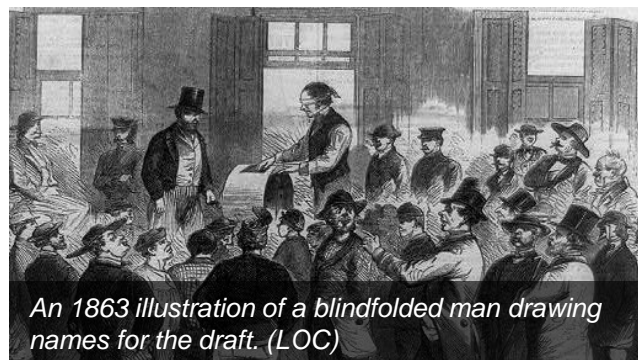
## WORLD WAR I

After the United States declared war on Germany on April 2, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act of 1917. This act created the Selective Service System and required all men aged 21 to 30 (later increased to 45) to register for service. It also had three major changes from the Civil War-era draft:

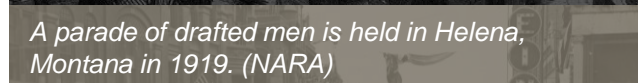
1. No one could buy their way out of service or provide a substitute.
2. Local draft boards oversaw the draft instead of the federal government.
3. Because the draft was established at the start of the war, there was no stigma attached to being drafted versus choosing to volunteer.

## WORLD WAR II

The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 established the United States' first peacetime draft. It authorized the conscription of 900,000 men aged 21-35 for one year. Six days after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Congress amended the Selective Service Act. This change increased the length of service to the duration of the war and expanded the eligibility age to 18-64.



An 1863 illustration of a blindfolded man drawing names for the draft. (LOC)



A parade of drafted men is held in Helena, Montana in 1919. (NARA)



Yoshito Matsusaka (right), a former lieutenant in the Army Reserve, and an unidentified man enter their draft board in Waipahu, Hawaii. 1943. (LOC)

## REFLECTION:

While the draft no longer exists, the Selective Service System (SSS) does. All men aged 18-25 are required to register with the SSS for the possibility of a future draft.

- Do you think the Selective Service System should exist?
- What do you think is the best way to conduct a draft? Who should have to register?
- How would you feel about being drafted? Does that change what you think about whether a draft should exist?



# GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL



## WALKING TOUR STOP 5

Section 7, Grave 8198

**BIRTH:** December 31, 1880, Uniontown, PA

**DEATH:** October 16, 1959, Washington, D.C.

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** George Marshall graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1901. He joined the U.S. Army in 1902 as a second lieutenant. During World War I, Marshall served as an aide-de-camp to General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces. He was married to Elizabeth Carter Coles from 1902 until her death in 1927. In 1930, he married Katherine Tupper, a widow with three teenage children.

**CAREER:** One of the most distinguished military and diplomatic leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, General George C. Marshall served as chief of staff of the U.S. Army during World War II. He directed the largest expansion of the Army in U.S. history, from fewer than 200,000 men before the war to more than eight million men. He also shaped American military strategy, advocating an invasion of Nazi-occupied France via the English Channel. On December 16, 1944, Marshall was promoted to the five-star rank of general of the Army, the Army's highest rank.

After the war, George Marshall served as secretary of state (1947-1949) and then as secretary of defense (1950-1951). He is the only person to have held both of those important positions. Marshall's diplomatic career was as historically significant as his military one. Most notably, he conceived an ambitious, highly successful program for the postwar economic recovery of Western Europe — known as the "Marshall Plan" — for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

**LEGACY:** British Prime Minister Winston Churchill named George C. Marshall the "Organizer of Victory." His leadership during and after World War II was crucial both to Allied victory and to the postwar recovery of Western Europe.

*The Marshalls drink coffee behind their quarters at Fort Myer, Virginia in 1941. (Together: Annals of an Army Wife)*



# KATHERINE TUPPER BROWN MARSHALL

**BIRTH:** October 8, 1882, Harrodsburg, KY

**DEATH:** December 18, 1978, Leesburg, VA

In 1946, Katherine wrote "Together: Annals of An Army Wife," a memoir about her marriage to General George C. Marshall. In it, she described the challenges and joys she faced as an Army officer's wife and, eventually, as the wife of one of the most powerful men in America. While many of her stories are lighthearted, she also wrote touchingly of her and George's grief when, in 1944, their son Allen Tupper Brown was killed by German sniper fire outside Rome, Italy:



## WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*The Marshalls' headstone is two rows directly behind Hershey's.*

"I turned to see my husband in the doorway. He came in, closing the door behind him, and told me Allen was dead. He had given his life that morning in a tank battle on the road to Rome. A blessed numbness comes to one at a time like this. I could not comprehend George's words...I kept repeating Allen is dead, Allen is dead — but no realization of what this meant came to me until later." <sup>9</sup>

Over the course of the war, this kind of grief visited the families of the more than 400,000 service members who gave their lives for the United States. That number represented about three percent of the United States' population at that time, meaning that nearly every American knew someone who had made the ultimate sacrifice.



# SERGEANT JOE LOUIS (BARROW)



## WALKING TOUR STOP 6

Section 7A, Grave 177

**BIRTH:** May 13, 1914, Lexington, AL

**DEATH:** April 12, 1981, Las Vegas, NV

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Joe Louis Barrow was born in Alabama to sharecropping parents. In 1926, his family moved to Detroit in search of greater freedom and economic opportunities. The Barrows were part of the “great migration” of African Americans who moved from the rural South to the urban North during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**CAREER:** Barrow started boxing after his family moved to Detroit. He made his boxing debut in 1932, at the age of 17, at which point he dropped the name “Barrow” and went by Joe Louis. Just two years later, Louis won the U.S. Amateur Athletic Union crown and turned professional.

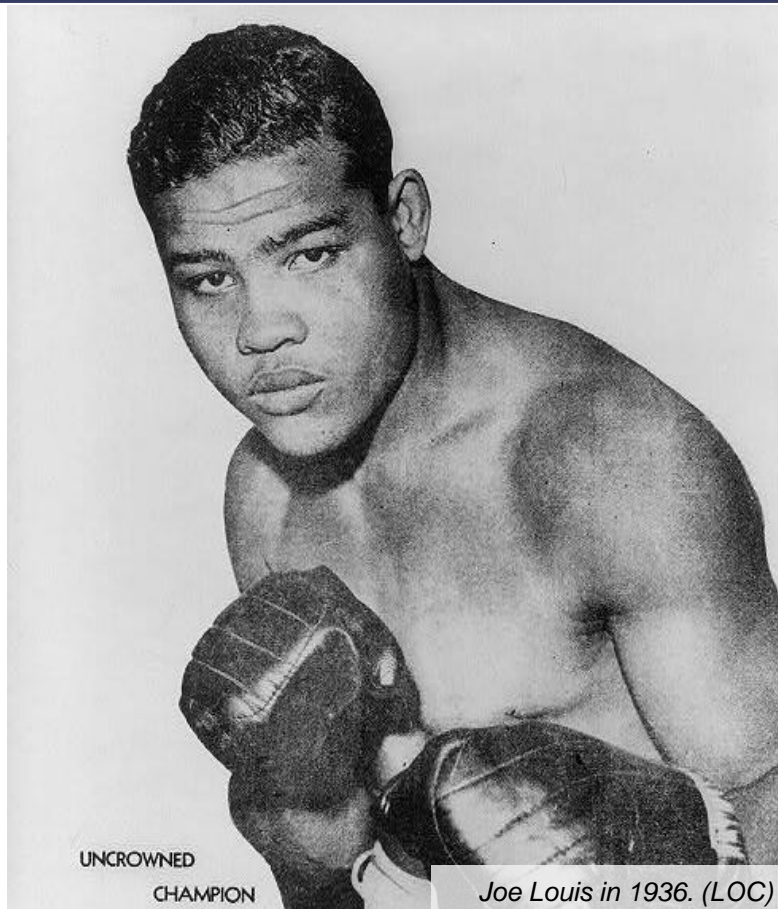
Joe Louis suffered only one defeat in his first 69 fights. That defeat occurred on June 19, 1936, at the hands of Germany’s Max Schmeling, the reigning heavyweight world champion. One year later, Louis became the world champion after defeating James J. Braddock on June 22, 1937. He held the title of heavyweight champion of the world for 12 straight years.

In 1938, in one of the most famous boxing matches of all time, Louis faced Schmeling for a rematch. This time, Louis was the champion and Schmeling was the challenger. The match, which drew a crowd of 70,000 and earned the title “the fight of the century,” quickly became a symbol of the political and soon-to-be military conflict between the United States and Nazi Germany. Louis, knowing he needed to win this match, defeated Schmeling in the first round and immediately became a national hero.

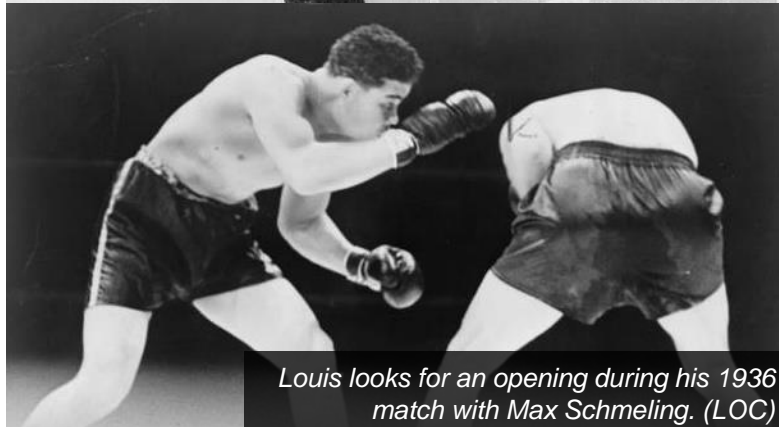
When the United States went to war against Germany in 1941, Louis enlisted in the Army, serving in the same segregated unit as Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play major league baseball. During the war, Louis fought 96 exhibition matches before more than two million troops. He also donated more than \$100,000 to Army and Navy relief efforts. When he left the Army, he had reached the rank of sergeant.

Louis retired in 1949 as the undefeated heavyweight champion of the world, but financial troubles led him to return to the ring a year later. Louis challenged the reigning heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles, who beat him in the fifteenth round. In 1951, he next challenged future champion Rocky Marciano but was knocked out in the eighth round. Joe Louis never boxed again.

**LEGACY:** Joe Louis held the title “Heavyweight Champion of the World” longer and defended it more times than any other boxer in history. He was known as the “Brown Bomber” and ended his 17-year career with 68 wins, 54 knockouts and only three losses.



Joe Louis in 1936. (LOC)



Louis looks for an opening during his 1936 match with Max Schmeling. (LOC)



Sgt. Joe Louis addressing troops in 1943. (NARA)



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

Facing the Tomb, cross Roosevelt Dr. into Section 7A. Louis's grave is in the eighth row on the far right.



# THE “DOUBLE V” CAMPAIGN & SEGREGATED SERVICE



Over one million African Americans served in World War II. While fighting for democracy abroad, they faced racism and segregation at home. In January 1942, shortly after the United States declared war, 26-year-old James G. Thompson wrote to the *Pittsburgh Courier*, an African American newspaper, asking, “Should I sacrifice my life to live half American? Would it be demanding too much to demand full citizenship rights in exchange for the sacrificing of my life? Is the kind of America I know worth defending?”<sup>10</sup> Thompson’s letter sparked what became known as the “Double V” campaign: African Americans mobilized for a “double victory” over racism and fascism, linking the fight for racial equality in the United States to the fight to win the war. Ultimately, however, there was no double victory. African American veterans returned home from victory in Europe and the Pacific to much the same inequality and segregation that they had faced at the start of the war.

Yet the wartime military service of African Americans and other racial minorities did make a difference. On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ending racial segregation in the United States military. Additionally, veterans of color evoked their wartime service as evidence that they deserved equal rights as U.S. citizens. In this way, World War II laid crucial groundwork for the postwar civil rights movement and the important legislative gains of the 1950s and 1960s.



*Courier coverage of the Double V Campaign, 1942.*

## Celebrated Segregated Units

Prior to the desegregation order, and for a few years afterward, each branch of the armed forces segregated its units by race. Often, African American units were assigned to non-combat jobs, as the military considered Black men and women less capable than white men and women. The exemplary service of the segregated units featured below forced U.S. military leadership to recognize that African Americans were capable of making outstanding contributions in the military. These units paved the way for a diverse and integrated United States armed forces.



*Tuskegee Airmen in Ramitelli, Italy in March 1945.  
(LOC/Toni Frissell)*

### Tuskegee Airmen

Prior to World War II, the United States military perpetuated the belief that African Americans lacked the necessary skills to serve as military aviators. However, intense scrutiny from prominent African American newspapers and civil rights leaders resulted in the formation of a “Negro pursuit squadron.” In June 1941, the U.S. Army Air Corps officially designated Tuskegee Institute, a historically Black college in Alabama, as the site for training African American military aviators. Between 1941 and 1946, 966 African American men completed their military aviator training at Tuskegee. The Tuskegee Airmen completed more than 1,800 missions, which included 351 bomber escort missions and 112 aerial victories.

### 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion

During World War II, the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion, popularly known as the “Six Triple Eight,” was an African American unit of the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). The 6888<sup>th</sup> was charged with sorting the two- to three-year backlog of undelivered mail for U.S. service members in England and France. The WAC was initially restricted to white women, but in November 1944, African American women were permitted to join. The 6888<sup>th</sup> was the only non-medical African American women’s unit to serve overseas during World War II. It was disbanded after the war.



*Maj. Charity E. Adams inspects the 6888<sup>th</sup>. (NARA)*





# TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER



## WALKING TOUR STOP 7 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Although the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was built to honor an unknown soldier from World War I, it eventually became a national place to honor military service and sacrifice more broadly. Today, it holds the remains of unknown soldiers from both world wars and the Korean War, as well as an empty crypt to honor missing service members from the Vietnam War.

### WORLD WAR II UNKNOWN SOLDIER

The Korean War (1950-1953) delayed the selection and interment of a World War II Unknown. In August 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved plans to select and inter an unknown from both conflicts. The ceremonies took place on Memorial Day 1958.

World War II was fought on four continents, which complicated the selection of an Unknown. The Army chose 18 bodies from North Africa, Europe, the Philippines and Hawaii as candidates to become the Unknown Soldier. From those 18, two were chosen for final selection — one from the Pacific theater and one from the European. Their remains were put in identical caskets and placed aboard the USS Canberra, where Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class William R. Charette, then the Navy's only living active-duty Medal of Honor recipient, selected the Unknown by placing a wreath of carnations on one of the caskets. The remaining unknown received a solemn burial at sea.

*Top right: Hospital Corpsman 1st Class William R. Charette selects the WWII Unknown Soldier (right). In the center is the Korean War Unknown Soldier; on the left, the second unknown WWII serviceman. May 26, 1958. (NHHHC).*

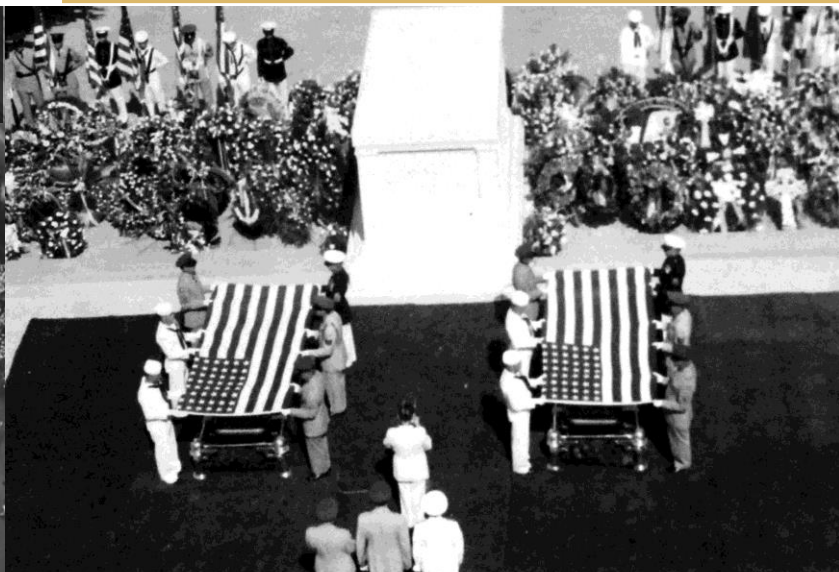
*Middle right: One of the two World War II unknown service members is transferred to USS Canberra for the selection ceremony, May 26, 1958. (NHHHC)*



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

You may observe the Tomb of Unknown Soldier from the steps on the back of Memorial Amphitheater. Maintain an attitude of silence and respect and do not attempt to cross the railings or barriers around the Tomb. During the changing of the guard, you will be asked to stand, but otherwise you may sit.

*World War II and Korean War Unknown Soldiers lying in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, May 28-30, 1958. (Architect of the Capitol)*



*Funeral ceremony for the World War II and Korean War Unknown Soldiers, May 30, 1958. (NARA)*





# HONOR FLIGHTS



EXPLORE



ENGAGE



Social Media  
Connection #2



From left, WAC veteran Marion Clift, Army veteran Betty Downs, Army veteran Sue Williams, and veteran Army nurse Beverly Reno walk away from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier after participating in a wreath-laying ceremony in September 2015. (ANC/Rachel Larue)



Honor Flight Cleveland visits Arlington to view the changing of the guard and lay a wreath at the Tomb in November 2012. (ANC)

Every March to December since 2005, Arlington National Cemetery welcomes veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War as part of the Honor Flight program. The Honor Flight Network was founded in 2005 after the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. was completed. The organization brings veterans from around the country to see the memorials dedicated to them. During their tour of Washington, D.C., veterans visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to watch the changing of the guard and honor the sacrifice of all unknown soldiers. Since 2005, the Honor Flight Network has flown more than 245,000 veterans. Currently, the program prioritizes the most senior veterans: those from World War II.

## Reflection Questions:

- How does your community recognize or honor veterans?
- Why are war memorials built? How do they help communities and individuals to remember the past?
- Is it important for veterans to visit the memorials that honor their service and the service of their comrades who died? Why?



Veterans and their assistants visit the President John F. Kennedy gravesite in May 2015. (ANC/Rachel Larue)



75 female veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War participated in the first all-female honor flight in September 2015. (ANC/Rachel Larue)



# LIEUTENANT COLONEL RUBY BRADLEY



## WALKING TOUR STOP 8 Section 21, Grave 318

**BIRTH:** December 19, 1907, Spencer, WV

**DEATH:** May 28, 2002, Hazard, KY

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army Nurse Corps

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Ruby Bradley was the fifth of six children. After graduating high school, she earned a teaching certificate at Biddle State College in Glenville, West Virginia. As a teacher, Bradley grew concerned over the health care of her students and decided to pursue nursing. In 1933, she graduated from the Philadelphia General Hospital of Nursing.

**CAREER:** Entering the nursing field during the Great Depression, Bradley's first job was with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as a nurse at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. After almost a year with the CCC, Bradley joined the Army Nurse Corps. In 1940, the Army assigned Bradley her first overseas post: the Philippines.

Less than 12 hours after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, they invaded the Philippines and attacked Camp John Hay, where Bradley was stationed. According to Bradley, the Japanese "dropped 128 bombs [on the camp], many of which did not explode. Had each one been 'live,' the results would have been even more disastrous."<sup>11</sup>

Bradley fled Camp John Hay for Manila with fellow nurse Major Beatrice Chamberson on December 23, but six days later they were captured and taken prisoner by the Japanese. During her imprisonment, Bradley established a hospital for her fellow civilian internees and acted as a head nurse, providing surgical care and medical treatment. She even delivered 13 babies. Bradley also worked to maintain sanitary conditions and to educate other internees on the importance of washing hands, clothing and utensils. She and her fellow nurses earned the nickname "Angels in Fatigues" by those they cared for while imprisoned.

The U.S. Army liberated Bradley and her fellow prisoners on February 3, 1945. Upon her release, she was promoted to 1st lieutenant and then captain later that year. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Bradley was once again on the frontlines of a war, serving as a chief nurse in Korea. On March 4, 1958, Bradley became the third woman to achieve the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army. She retired in 1963.

**LEGACY:** Despite being imprisoned for four years as a POW, Bradley never stopped serving her country and working for a better future. On the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Bradley said, "It was my pleasure to take care of the best patients in the world: the American soldier."<sup>12</sup>



Bradley, undated. (U.S. Army)



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Make your way behind Memorial Amphitheater. Turn left on Memorial Dr. and then right on Porter Avenue. Section 21 is on your right. Facing the Nurses Memorial, Bradley's headstone is in the third full length row on your right, near a tree.*



U.S. Army Nurses from Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines leave Manila after their three-year imprisonment. In the center front, Bradley waves at the camera, February 12, 1945. (U.S. Army)



# COLONEL MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY



## WALKING TOUR STOP 9

Section 34, Grave 399-A

**BIRTH:** September 7, 1908, Lake Charles, LA

**DEATH:** July 11, 2008, Houston, TX

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Born Michel Dabaghi to Lebanese immigrants Shaker Morris and Raheaja Debaghi, DeBakey grew up in Louisiana. He earned his medical degree from Tulane University in New Orleans in 1932.

**CAREER:** After earning his degree, DeBakey joined the faculty of Tulane University. While still in school, he invented the roller pump. The roller pump was an important part of the machine that keeps the heart and lungs functioning during surgery. His invention launched the era of open-heart surgery.

When the United States entered World War II in 1941, DeBakey volunteered for military service. As director of the Surgical Consultants' Division in the Army Surgeon General's Office, he helped develop Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) units. Before MASH units, field hospitals had been the primary means for physicians to treat soldiers during war. During World War II, however, transporting soldiers to field hospitals became too time-consuming and cost too many lives. The military assigned DeBakey and others to develop a better method to treat soldiers on the battlefield, and they created MASH units: small groups of medics sent to provide immediate medical attention on the battlefield. Each group included a chief surgeon, an assistant surgeon, an anesthesiologist, a surgical nurse and two enlisted technicians. For his work developing MASH units, DeBakey earned the Legion of Merit Award. After the war ended, DeBakey returned to academia but remained in the Army Reserves.

Over the next 50 years of his career, DeBakey continued to innovate. He developed the artificial graft to replace and repair blood vessels, ventricular assist pumps (LVAD) and artificial hearts. He was also the first person to successfully complete a coronary bypass operation and a multiple-organ transplant.

In addition to his work in the medical field, DeBakey helped establish the National Library of Medicine in 1956, and advised U.S. presidents, foreign governments and organizations on health care policy and systems.

**LEGACY:** Over a 75-year career, DeBakey transformed the medical field. His surgical inventions, his medical practice and teaching, and his work in health care policy saved countless lives and continue to impact the medical field today.



*DeBakey in his Army uniform, undated. (NIH)*



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Return to Porter Drive and turn left. Turn right on Grant Drive. Walk down Grant until you hit Pershing Drive. DeBakey's grave is the second to last headstone in the rows of headstones facing Grant Drive, two rows back.*

*DeBakey performing surgery, undated. (NIH)*





USS Serpens Memorial during a wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Serpens destruction, 2020. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)

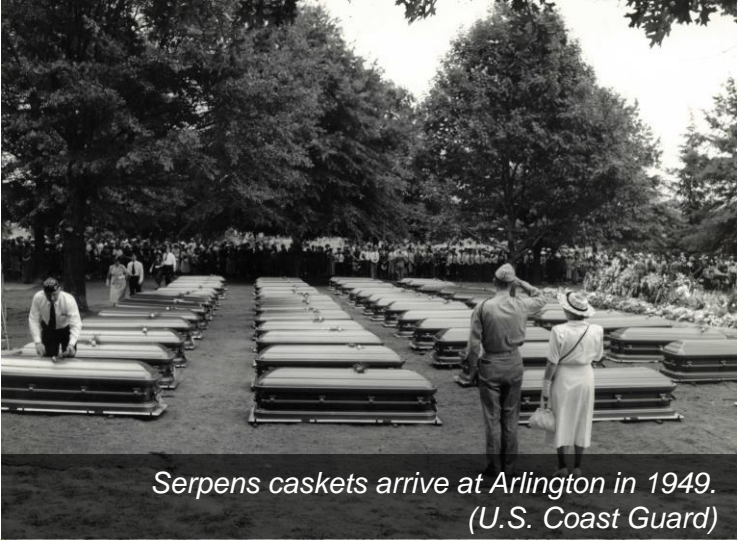
The destruction of the USS Serpens during World War II is the largest single disaster in the history of the United States Coast Guard. Named after the Serpens constellation, the USS Serpens was a cargo ship commissioned in May 1943. On the night of January 29, 1945, the 14,250-ton freighter was anchored off Lunga Beach, Guadalcanal, carrying ammunition and other cargo bound for U.S. bases in the Pacific.

While the crew was loading depth charges into the holds, a massive explosion suddenly occurred. The explosion destroyed the entire ship, save for its bow, which sank to the bottom of the ocean. Two hundred and fifty men lost their lives: 193 Coast Guard sailors, 56 U.S. Army soldiers and Dr. Harry M. Levin, a U.S. Public Health Service surgeon. Only two bodies could be identified. Ten members of the Serpens' crew survived. The ship's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Perry Stinson, another officer, and six crewmen had been ashore on administrative business. Two crewmen who were on board survived the explosion: Seaman 1st Class Kelsie Kemp and Seaman 1st Class George Kennedy, who were both awarded the Purple Heart.

Initially, the Coast Guard believed that a Japanese attack had caused the blast. A court of inquiry, however, found no evidence of enemy action. In 1949, the U.S. Navy closed the case, determining that the disaster had been caused by "an accident intrinsic to the loading process."<sup>13</sup> Speculation about what caused the Serpens' destruction continues to this day.

Remains of the 250 casualties were originally buried in Guadalcanal. On June 15, 1949, the remains were reinterred in Section 34 at Arlington National Cemetery, in 52 caskets and 28 graves. Some 1,500 people attended the reinterment service, at which Catholic, Protestant and Jewish chaplains officiated. The U.S. Marine Corps Band sounded Taps, and a Gold Star mother escorted by an American Legionnaire placed a white carnation on each casket.

The USS Serpens Memorial was dedicated on November 16, 1950. Vice Admiral Merlin O'Neill, Commandant of the Coast Guard, gave a brief address, stating, "We cannot undo the past, but we can ensure that these men shall be respected and honored forever."<sup>14</sup>



**WORLD WAR II  
WALKING TOUR**

*Walk back up Grant Drive to the intersection with Porter Dr. The Memorial is at the corner of the intersection.*



# MAJOR EDDIE H. WILLNER



## WALKING TOUR STOP 11

Section 60, Grave 15

**BIRTH:** August 15, 1926, Mönchen-Gladbach, Germany

**DEATH:** March 30, 2008, Falls Church, VA

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

Researched and written by Albert Siegfried Willner and Nina Auguste Willner, children of Eddie Willner.

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Eddie Hellmuth Willner was born to World War I veteran Siegfried and Auguste Willner. Growing up as a German Jewish boy, he attended public school and played with non-Jewish children. He also participated in community events open to all regardless of religion. Following the Nazi Kristallnacht (Crystal Night or Night of the Broken Glass) attacks against Jews in November 1938, Willner's parents sent him to live with a Jewish host family in Brussels, Belgium. Soon after, they fled Germany and joined him in Belgium.

**WORLD WAR II:** After German forces attacked the Low Countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg) and France in May 1940, the Belgian government arrested Willner's father for being German, and sent him to an internment camp in southern France. Knowing that his father was likely in France, Willner and his mother headed to the Belgian border where they were arrested and deported to France. From 1940 to 1942, Willner was imprisoned in four French internment camps. He escaped from one with his father under barbed wire.

In late August 1942, Willner and his parents were captured again by the Vichy French police and imprisoned at the Drancy transit camp outside of Paris, France. On September 11, 1942, they were deported along with approximately 1,000 others by cattle car to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. After spending days packed in a cattle car with very little water and no food, and during which many people died, the train stopped just short of Auschwitz. There, the SS (Schutzstaffel) ordered able-bodied men to disembark. Willner, then 16 years old, got off the train with his father, keeping the hope of seeing his mother later. The train then continued to Auschwitz-Birkenau. At Auschwitz, the majority of the remaining 600+ women, children and elderly, including Willner's mother, were murdered.

From 1942 to 1944, Willner and his father were imprisoned in various Nazi forced labor camps. They built rail lines, dug up unexploded bombs and constructed underground bunkers. They worked under brutal conditions in the hot summer and icy winters. Food consisted of bread, watery soup and a slice of margarine; clothing was inadequate for the environment; and diarrhea and infectious diseases were rampant. In one of these camps, Willner befriended Maurits (Mike) Swaab, an orphaned Dutch teen with whom he shared his labor and food. Many prisoners died — some were murdered by Nazi guards, others committed suicide or died from exhaustion or accidents. Willner credited his survival to his disciplined upbringing; his friendship with Swaab; his ability to speak German, which allowed him to react quickly to Nazi orders; and a faith that he would make it through.



*Willner in Belgium in the 1940s. (Willner Family)*



*Willner (right) in 1945 with Lt. Elmer Hovland, commander of the tank company he ran into after his escape. (Willner Family)*



## WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Head north and turn right on Bradley Dr. Take a left onto Eisenhower Dr. Willner's grave is in the front row, 15 headstones from Bradley Dr.*

Continued on the next page.



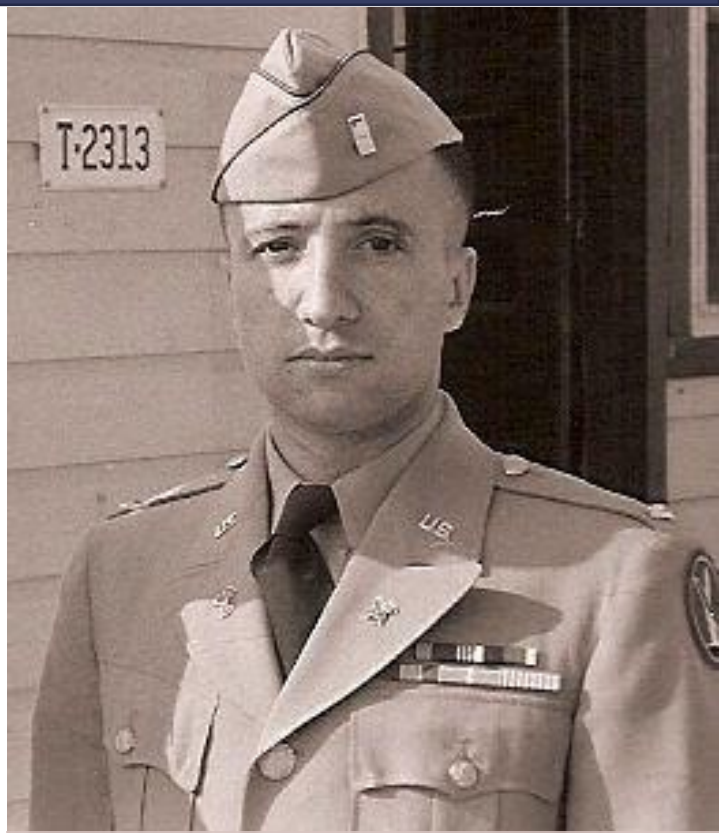
# MAJOR EDDIE H. WILLNER, CONT.

In May 1944, Willner was transferred to Blechhammer, an Auschwitz subcamp. There, A-5662 was tattooed on his left forearm. Willner worked heavy construction 10-12 hours a day at the nearby synthetic oil processing plant. Because of the plant's strategic importance to the German war effort, U.S. B-24 Liberators repeatedly bombed it. Although people were killed in these raids, Willner said that the bombings often encouraged prisoners since it meant that the Allies were on their way. At Blechhammer, Willner survived beatings, starvation, exhaustion and diseases. He also survived a gun shot in the back of his head after an SS guard started mass shooting prisoners at the camp. Willner was treated by Jewish doctors in the barracks. They cleaned the infected wound with hot water and sewed it up using thread from their clothing. In the fall of 1944, Willner's 50-year-old father was placed in the camp "infirmary." He was likely murdered there.

In January 1945, as Soviet forces advanced from the east, SS chief Heinrich Himmler ordered the evacuation of all Nazi concentration camp prisoners to the interior of Germany. In what became known as a death march, Willner, along with 4,000 Blechhammer prisoners, was forced to walk about 180 miles over 13 days in the bitter cold and snow to the Gross Rosen concentration camp. Approximately 800 people were killed by SS guards or from exposure, starvation and exhaustion on the march.

Willner was then transported further west to Langenstein-Zwieberge, a Buchenwald subcamp where prisoner life expectancy was six weeks. Willner was put to work blasting tunnels in the Harz Mountains as part of a program to hide top Nazi weapons. In April 1945, with U.S. and British forces approaching, the SS evacuated the camp and forced the prisoners on another death march. On the third night of the march, as Allied planes flew overhead, Willner, Swaab and four other prisoners attempted to escape. Despite SS guard shooting at them and a German shepherd dog attack, Willner and Swaab escaped and moved toward the sounds of Allied artillery in the distance. After several days, they found the tankers of Company D, 32d Armored Regiment, of the U.S. Third Armored Division. The company commander, 1LT Elmer Hovland, took the two 18-year-old, 75-pound survivors under his wing and, along with members of his unit, cared for them until the end of the war. When Willner returned to Belgium after the war, he discovered that he was the only one in his large, extended family to have survived the Holocaust.

**LEGACY:** Willner emigrated to the U.S. in 1947. The following year, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, in part to repay the country that saved him. He attended Officer Candidate School, married Johanna Tiburtius, herself an escapee from communist East Germany, and together they raised six children. After retiring from the military, Willner worked as a U.S. government civil servant. Eddie Willner left behind an example of the power of endurance, will, faith and optimism; the important role of perseverance and luck; and eternal gratitude to his adopted nation and its people for their sacrifice in the service of others.



*U.S. Army Lt. Willner, undated. (Willner Family)*



*Willner after his military service, undated. (Willner Family)*

## In His Own Words

In this 1989 interview for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Willner describes his experience in the Holocaust.

<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn504739>





# THE HOLOCAUST



EXPLORE



*Jews in prison uniforms marked with a yellow star stand at attention during roll call at Buchenwald concentration camp, 1941. (USHMM/Gedenkstaette Buchenwald)*

During the Holocaust (1933-1945), the German Nazi regime murdered two-thirds of all European Jews. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum defines the Holocaust as “the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators.”<sup>15</sup> Although Jews were the primary target of the Holocaust, the Nazi party persecuted other groups it deemed inferior, including people with disabilities, Roma, homosexuals and Communists.

The Nazi regime came into power in 1933 when Adolf Hitler was appointed as chancellor of Germany. The party promoted the idea that Germans were a superior race, and that Jews were inferior and therefore a threat to German superiority. The state soon implemented the Nuremberg Laws that stripped Jews of social, economic and civil rights. The laws disenfranchised Jews, stripped them of their German citizenship and forbade them from marrying German Aryans.

On November 9-10, 1938, the Nazi state unleashed a coordinated attack against Jewish businesses, homes and synagogues, in what became known as Kristallnacht, or the “Night of Broken Glass.” It was also the first time the German state arrested Jews based on their ethnicity. Following Kristallnacht, the German government legalized widespread Jewish segregation. The state banned Jewish children from attending public schools, restricted where Jewish people could go and what jobs they could hold and implemented Jewish identification policies.

In 1939, Nazis escalated their persecution of Jews. They established overcrowded, prison-like ghettos plagued with disease and hunger. They also expanded the concentration camp system. In early 1942, Nazi officials implemented what they called the “Final Solution.” “The Final Solution” was a plan to systematically murder all European Jewish people. By May 1945, the Nazi regime murdered six million Jews by gassing, shootings and from starvation and disease.

As Allied forces advanced on Germany from the east and west in 1944 and 1945, they liberated concentration camps. In the camps, they discovered evidence of mass murder and prisoners resembling skeletons. Over the next decade, Holocaust survivors worked to rebuild their lives and communities. Many emigrated to western Allied countries, including the United States.

**The SS** was an elite Nazi force charged with internal Nazi party security and establishing “racial purity” in Europe. The SS planned and oversaw the concentration camp system. The SS were not the only Nazi concentration camp guards. German soldiers and paramilitary members also guarded concentration camps.

## Reflection Questions:

- How does propaganda and misinformation contribute to acts of violence and persecution?
- What pressures and motivations might lead someone to support and/or participate in an oppressive government?
- Persecution and violence on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity and more still occur today. What can you do to fight against this?

**The Vichy government** was France’s wartime government. It was established in June 1940 after Germany occupied northern France. Officially neutral, the Vichy regime collaborated with Nazi Germany. It promoted anti-Semitism and deported Jews to concentration camps. Approximately 77,000 foreign and French Jews died as a result. Most were murdered in concentration camps outside France, though some died in internment or transit camps in France.

To learn more about the Holocaust, visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum:

<https://www.ushmm.org/learn>



# ★ TECHNICAL SERGEANT WARREN MICHIO TSUNEISHI ★



## WALKING TOUR STOP 12

Columbarium Court 7, Section TT,  
Column 29, Niche 4

**BIRTH:** July 4, 1921, Monrovia, CA

**DEATH:** January 29, 2011, Bethesda, MD

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Warren Michio Tsuneishi was born in southern California to Japanese immigrants. Named after President Warren G. Harding and born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Tsuneishi described himself as a “Yankee Doodle Dandy.” He was a student at the University of California Berkeley during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A few months later, he was forced to miss his final exams when he was evacuated to the Tanforan Assembly Center, along with thousands of other Japanese Americans living in the San Francisco Bay area. Itching for freedom, he volunteered to go to Idaho for seasonal work on a sugar beet farm. After that, he joined his family in the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center, an internment camp in Wyoming. In January 1943, the government permitted him to leave the internment camp to finish his college degree at Syracuse University in New York. After World War II, Tsuneishi married Betty Takeuchi, and together they had three children.

**CAREER:** In 1943, Warren’s brother Hughes, who was already serving in the Army, wrote to him encouraging him to volunteer for the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS). After six months of intensive training, Warren qualified as a Japanese translator. His first assignment was to the 306<sup>th</sup> Headquarters Intelligence Department of the XXIV Corps, which participated in the Philippines campaign. In the Philippines, Tsuneishi translated captured documents that revealed key information for defeating Japanese forces.

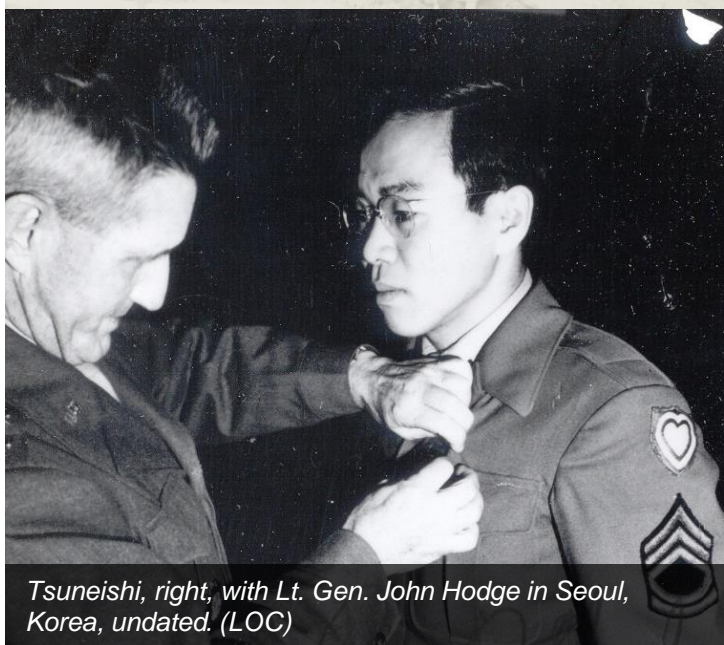
The XXIV Corps also participated in the April 1, 1945, Battle of Okinawa. Up to that point, Japanese strategy had focused on defending coastlines and preventing American forces from landing. Tsuneishi helped translate a top secret Japanese order that laid out plans to allow the Americans to land on the beaches with little resistance so that kamikaze attacks could destroy the U.S. ships and Japanese forces could wipe out the troops that had landed. Even with this vital intelligence, the battle lasted 82 days and was one of the bloodiest of the Pacific campaign.

After the war ended, the Army offered Tsuneishi a commission if he signed up for another tour of duty. He declined and returned to the U.S. to complete advanced degrees in classical Japanese literature and library science at Columbia University. He went on to work in the Yale University Library and received a PhD in political science from Yale in 1960. After receiving his PhD, Tsuneishi worked as the chief of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress until his retirement in 1993.

**LEGACY:** Although the Tsuneishi family had been forced into an internment camp, Warren and three of his brothers served in the U.S. Army during World War II — as did many Japanese Americans. Reflecting on the discrimination he faced, Tsuneishi said, “From my point of view, America is a nation in the process of trying to live up to its dreams. And I believed that then. I still believe it.”<sup>16</sup> The willingness of Japanese Americans like Tsuneishi to serve in the U.S. military was an important factor in the United States’ success in the Pacific war and in its postwar relations with Japan.



*Tsuneishi, left, serving as a U.S. military intelligence translator, ca. 1944. (LOC)*



*Tsuneishi, right, with Lt. Gen. John Hodge in Seoul, Korea, undated. (LOC)*



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Walk west on Bradley Dr  
toward the Columbarium Court.  
Court 7 is the fourth structure.  
Tsuneishi’s niche is on the  
right, two rows up from Bradley.*

### In His Own Words

Listen to Warren Michio Tsuneishi’s oral history at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project:

<http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.02153/>





# JAPANESE AMERICANS & WORLD WAR II



Organized in March 1943, the 442nd was a segregated unit during World War II. Its members were almost entirely “Nisei,” or second-generation Japanese Americans born in the United States or in Hawaii (then a U.S. territory). As President Harry Truman said in a 1946 tribute, these soldiers fought on two fronts: against “the enemy abroad and prejudice at home.”<sup>17</sup>

*Baggage piled on the street in Oakland, CA before transfer to Tanforan Assembly Center 1942. (NARA/Dorothea Lange)*



*Mrs. Yaeko Nakamura and her two children, Joyce Yuki (right) and Louise Tami stand on the step at the entrance of a dwelling at the Manzanar Relocation Center, 1943. (LOC/Ansel Adams)*



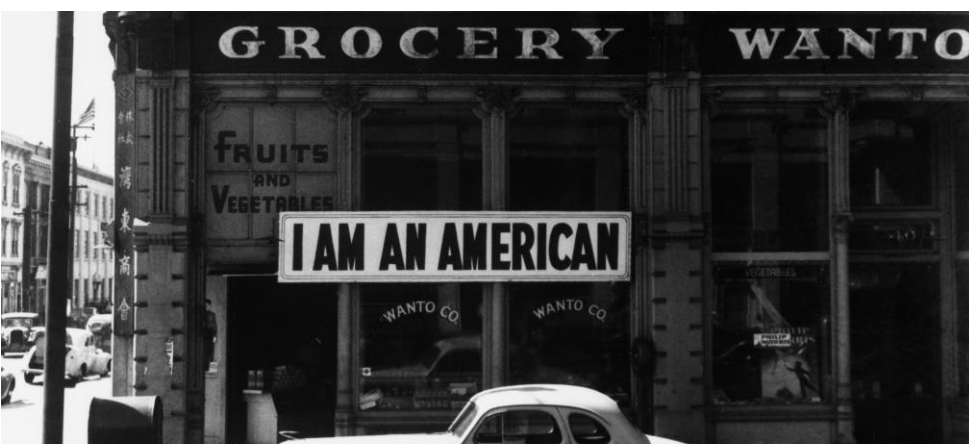
Longstanding anti-Asian racism in the United States had resulted in laws, passed between the 1880s and 1920s, which excluded Asian Americans from citizenship rights and drastically restricted immigration from Asia. Those of Japanese ancestry faced the additional burden of being treated as “enemy aliens,” suspected of disloyalty to the U.S. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, paranoia spread about the loyalty of Japanese Americans.

On February 19, 1942, ten weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing Japanese internment. During the next six months, the government forcibly removed approximately 122,000 men, women and children of Japanese descent — nearly 70,000 of whom were U.S. citizens — from their homes and placed them in remote internment camps, where they remained confined for the duration of the war. These internees included many Nisei who went on to fight, and in some cases to die, for the United States in the military.

At first, the U.S. prohibited Japanese Americans from military service. Yet some prominent military leaders, including Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy and General George Marshall, believed that Japanese Americans could, and should, prove their loyalty by serving in segregated units under the command of white officers.

In May 1942, the Hawaiian Territorial Guard was reorganized into the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. The successful training of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion — as well as the nation’s need for additional military manpower — prompted General Marshall to approve, on January 1, 1943, the creation of an all-Nisei unit. This unit became the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Within one month, 2,686 volunteers from Hawaii and 1,500 from the U.S. mainland reported for basic training. By the end of the war, some 33,000 Japanese Americans had served in the U.S. armed forces.

During World War II, the 442<sup>nd</sup> fought in Italy and France. The 442<sup>nd</sup>’s notable combat actions included liberating French towns, participating in the liberation of the Dachau extermination camp and, in April 1945, breaking through the last German defensive line in northern Italy.



*The store’s owner, an American of Japanese descent, placed the sign outside his store in Oakland, California. The store was closed after relocation orders were issued, 1943. (NARA/Dorothea Lange)*



*A 442<sup>nd</sup> squad leader on the front lines in France in 1944. (U.S. Army)*



# LIEUTENANT (FLORENCE) ELAINE DANFORTH HARMON



## WALKING TOUR STOP 13

Columbarium Court 9, Section  
N42, Column 12, Niche 6

**BIRTH:** December 26, 1919, Baltimore, MD

**DEATH:** April 21, 2015, Rockville, MD

**MILITARY BRANC:** U.S. Army WASP

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Harmon attended the University of Maryland for a degree in microbiology. Before graduating in 1940, Harmon earned a private pilot's license through the Civilian Pilot Training Program, a government pilot training school aimed at getting people interested in flying. Recalling her time in the program, Harmon said, "they allowed one girl into the program for every ten men and I was one of the lucky girls that got in."<sup>18</sup> She married Robert Harmon in July 1941.

**CAREER:** In March 1944, when her husband left overseas to help the war effort, Harmon joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program. In August 1943 when the WASP was formed, Harmon wanted to join, but initially she did not have enough flying hours. However, she said, "as time went by and [the government] found out that women could fly military aircraft," they reduced the requirement.<sup>19</sup> When Harmon entered the program, she had 40 flight hours.

Like all members of the WASP, Harmon trained at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas. In addition to aerial training, WASPs studied weather, aerodynamics and engines, Morse code and mathematics. After completing her training in November 1944, Harmon briefly served at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada before the Army deactivated WASP.

**LEGACY:** Throughout her life, Harmon advocated for the recognition of WASP pilots as veterans of equal status with male veterans.



*Elaine Harmon, undated. (Harmon Family)*

### In Her Own Words

Listen to Elaine Danforth Harmon's oral history at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project:

<http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.30070/>



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Exit Court 7 and turn left on Nimitz Dr. Harmon's niche is on the west side of the northernmost row in Court 9.*

## WASP: Women Airforce Service Pilots

In 1942, the U.S. Army faced a shortage of pilots. Famed aviators Jacqueline Cochran and Nancy Harkness Love proposed a solution: allow women to fly non-combat missions. That fall, Army Air Forces General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold formed the Women Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) and the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD), led by Love and Cochran, respectively. On August 5, 1943, the WAFS and the WFTD merged to form the WASP. WASPs ferried, tested and delivered planes for repair. They also towed aerial targets and instructed male pilot cadets. Of the more than 25,000 women who applied for WASP training, only 1,879 were accepted.

WASP was a civilian, volunteer service. Both Cochran and General Arnold advocated for the militarization of WASP. They brought a bill to Congress, but it was defeated in June 1944. The following December, the military disbanded the WASP program. During their 16 months of service, the 1,074 members of WASP flew over 60 million miles in every type of military aircraft manufactured for the war. Thirty-eight of these women died during their service.



*Elaine Harmon on the wing of a plane, ca. 1944. (Harmon Family)*





# WHO IS A VETERAN?



Members of the U.S. Army's Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) were the first American women to fly military aircraft. Although they never received a military commission, the WASP proved women could fly and deserved a place in the military. In 1974, when the Navy and Army accepted their first female pilots, Elaine Harmon and other former WASP began advocating for their own recognition as World War II veterans. They succeeded in 1977 when Congress passed the GI Bill Improvement Act. This law retroactively militarized civilian wartime services, including the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and the Flying Tigers.

Despite WASP's veteran status, Arlington National Cemetery did not grant its members military funeral honors until 2002. They were only entitled to receive honors as military spouses. Former WASP Irene Englund's (Court 4, Section O, Column 3, Niche 4) family fought this rule after her death, and Arlington National Cemetery ultimately changed its policy. However, in 2015, Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh reversed the policy, stripping WASP of both the right to be inurned at ANC and to receive military funeral honors.

Soon after McHugh's policy change, Arlington denied Elaine Harmon inurnment in the cemetery. Harmon's family began a campaign to restore WASP inurnment rights, which soon gained support in Congress.

In 2016, President Barack Obama signed H.R. 4336, which authorized the cremated remains of "persons whose service has been determined to be active duty service" to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. This meant that all WASP were finally eligible for inurnment at Arlington with military funeral honors. Elaine Harmon was inurned on September 7, 2016.

**Inurement:** placing cremated remains in an urn

**Burial or Interment:** burying non-cremated remains in the ground

## Other WASP at ANC

- Irene Englund, Court 4, Section O, Column 3, Niche 4, first WASP inurned with military funeral honors at Arlington
- Phyllis "Toby" Tobias Felker, Court 8, Section X, Column 6, Niche 5
- Jane Straughan, Court 1, Section W, Column 11, Niche 1
- Dora Dougherty Strother McKeown, Court 6, Section V, Column 3, Niche 1
- Lorraine Zillner Rodgers, Section 60, Grave 1111



President Barack Obama signs a bill to award WASP a Congressional Gold Medal in 2009. Lorraine Rodgers and Elaine Danforth Harmon attended the ceremony. (NARA)



WASPs Mary Baldwin Hillberg and Betty Ferrol Martin, undated. (NARA)



Social Media  
Connection #3



WASP trainees and a civilian instructor at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, 1943. (NARA)

## REFLECTION

- Who is a veteran? This question seems straightforward until stories like the WASP's emerge. For many years, WASP were not considered veterans, despite serving and dying for their country. Who should we honor as veterans and how should we define veteran status?
- There are three types of military burial honors at Arlington National Cemetery. [Read more about the different honors here](#). Consider who is eligible for each honor and why.





# SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS



We love hearing about your visit! Share your pictures, questions, and favorite parts of the tour on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Tag Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatl and hashtags #ANCEducation and #WWIIatANC.

## #1 WOMEN'S SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

Women have always played important roles in history, but the historical record has not always included their stories. Oral histories and other records have made it easier for their stories to be recorded and shared today. Using the [Veterans History Project](#) from the Library of Congress, choose an oral history to listen to or read the transcript. How can you share that person's story?

## #2 HONOR FLIGHTS

Ira Hayes said, "How could I feel like a hero when only five men in my platoon of 45 survived; when only 27 men in my company of 250 managed to escape death or injury?"

While combat veterans are often thanked for their service and honored as heroes, many have complicated feelings about public recognition and the friends and comrades they lost during their service. How can public memorials honor living veterans as well as those who have died?

## #3 WHO IS A VETERAN?

Did your understanding of the experiences of Americans during World War II change after visiting these sites at ANC? How so?

Share your thoughts with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by tagging Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatl and the hashtags #ANCEducation and #WWIIatANC.



# WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

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**Page 23:** Dorothea Lange, Oakland, California. Baggage of evacuees of Japanese ancestry piled on the sidewalk. The Greyhound..., May 6, 1942, National Archives, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/537701>.

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