

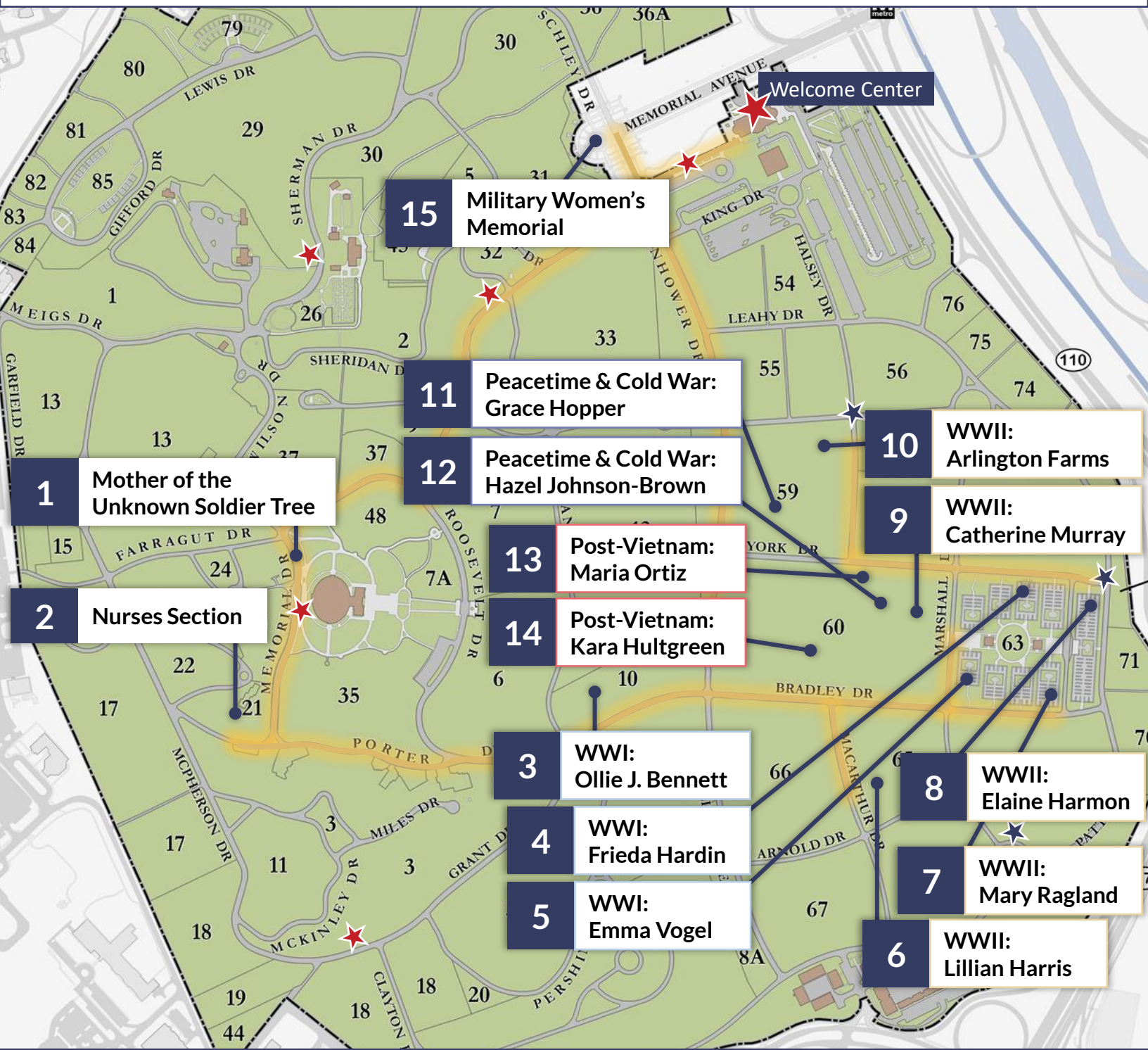
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

WOMEN'S MILITARY SERVICE

TOUR ORGANIZATION

This tour is generally structured chronologically (World War I & World War II Service, Peacetime & Cold War Service, and Post-Vietnam Service); however, numerous women served across “eras,” not only as members of the military but also as war mothers and nurses. In these instances, their stop is included in the section where their career had the most significant impact on military women’s service.

World War I Service	World War II Service	Peacetime & Cold War Service	Post-Vietnam Service
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Tip: Shorten your walk by taking the [tram](#). Tickets may be purchased inside the Welcome Center at the box office and outside in the tram circle at the marked podium. They may also be purchased online at www.arlingtonontours.com.

- ★ Tram stop (daily)
- ★ Tram stop (weekends only)



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

@ArlingtonNatl
#ANCEducation #ANCWomen

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

WOMEN'S MILITARY SERVICE

Length: ~4 miles

Starting Point: Section 35 (0.7 miles from Welcome Center)

Exertion Level: High

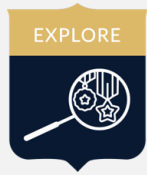
There are three types of stops on this walking tour:



HONOR stops mark the gravesites of specific individuals.



REMEMBER stops commemorate events, ideas or groups of people.



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

1	Mother of the Unknown Soldier Tree	Section 35		
2	Nurses Section	Section 21		
3	Ollie Josephine Baird Bennett	Section 10, Grave 10938-LH		
4	Freida Hardin	Columbarium Court 6/O/4/3		
5	Emma Vogel	Columbarium Court 1/M/7/1		
6	Lillian Harris	Section 65, Grave 2503		
7	Mary Crawford Ragland	Columbarium Court 7/PP/2/5		
8	Elaine Danforth Harmon	Columbarium Court 9/N42/12/6		
9	Catherine G. Murray	Section 60, Grave 11706		
10	Arlington Farms	Section 55		
11	Grace Hopper	Section 59, Grave 973		
12	Hazel Johnson-Brown	Section 60, Grave 9836		
13	Kara Spears Hultgreen	Section 60, Grave 7710		
14	Maria Ines Ortiz	Section 60, Grave 8647		
15	Military Women's Memorial	Military Women's Memorial		

World War I
Service

World War II
Service

Peacetime &
Cold War Service

Post-Vietnam
Service



INTRODUCTION



Women have played key roles in supporting the U.S. military, formally or informally, since the Revolutionary War. However, women could not serve as permanent, regular members of the U.S. armed forces until 1948, when President Harry S Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. Even after 1948, they continued to face restrictions on their service and received different treatment than male service members.

Yet, despite the restrictions they faced, women remained committed to supporting the military. Their stories demonstrate the resilience inherent in American women, who, despite their differences, have always advocated for themselves and worked to overcome gender inequality. Their efforts in each generation, while not perfect and often marked by various types of prejudice, are evocative of the larger American story — the attempt to make the ideals of our democracy equally applicable to all.

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) is much more than a burial place just for military men. Its meanings go far beyond the tales of battlefield heroism, combat, and valor awards that many associate with Arlington. The stories of American women are interwoven within this landscape, even though, historically, these stories have been less apparent than those of men. Even when barred from full military service, women worked in whatever capacities they could to support their nation. Sites related to women's history, visible and invisible, are a critical part of the Arlington National Cemetery story, and one reason that these grounds are so hallowed and cherished.

At ANC, gravesites and memorials mark numerous milestones in the history of women's military service. Those who broke gender barriers to serve their nation include Anna Etheridge Hooks (Section 15), a Civil War nurse who participated in 32 battles and received the U.S. Army's prestigious Kearny Cross; Cpt. Joy Bright Hancock (Section 30), one of the many women to enlist in the Navy as a Yeoman (F) during World War I; Adm. Grace Hopper (Section 59), who developed the first general-purpose electronic computer; Brig. Gen. Hazel W. Johnson-Brown (Section 60), the first Black woman general in the Army; and Cpt. Maria Ines Ortiz (Section 60), an Army nurse who died during combat in Iraq.

The stories in this tour represent only a tiny fraction of those that could be told. Women buried at ANC served their nation on and off the battlefield, created new roles for women in military and civic life, and contributed to the ongoing struggle for women's equality. As you explore the cemetery, consider how the stories of women in the military can deepen your understanding of well-known conflicts and societal progress, and think about how many more stories still need to be told.



TOUR ORGANIZATION

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In addition, there are some women included on this tour whose gravesites we do not recommend visiting, given their distance from the tour route. They are included on gray-colored “Additional to Explore” pages.

Top: Marines refill their rifles during training at Camp Korean Village, Iraq, undated. (U.S. Marine Corps/Jennifer Jones)

Bottom: Capt. Charity Adams and Capt. Abbie N. Campbell inspect the first contingent of the 6888th assigned overseas, February 1945. (NARA)

MOTHER OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER TREE



WALKING TOUR STOP 1 Section 35

In addition to its built memorials, Arlington National Cemetery includes more than 140 memorial trees — living tributes to service members, units, wars, battles, or historical topics. This memorial tree was dedicated on May 8, 1932, in honor of the mother of the World War I Unknown Soldier, herself unknown. It is the earliest known memorial tree in the cemetery.

Mothers and motherhood have long played an important role in relation to the military. Before women could serve in the military, many Americans viewed motherhood itself as a national service. Because women gave birth to and raised patriotic sons they sent into the military, they were deemed worthy of social recognition.

Women were also responsible for much of the emotional labor of war: grieving and mourning the dead, caring for the wounded, and maintaining the household while men went away to fight. Women especially took on leadership roles in memorializing wars and the military dead. During and after the Civil War, for example, women often organized commemorative activities, whether decorating soldiers' graves with flowers as part of Decoration Day ceremonies (which would later become Memorial Day) or forming organizations specifically focused on supporting veterans and commemorating the war.

During World War I, women expanded and formalized their roles in commemoration, often using motherhood as a justification for public service. At the time, motherhood was revered in American culture as an important contribution to society. With this in mind, in 1917, a few months after the U.S. declared war on Germany, Alice Moore French founded the American War Mothers, an organization created to unite war mothers and support the war effort. After the war, other organizations were formed, such as those consisting of Gold Star mothers — women who lost their children during the war. These groups shifted their efforts to commemorating the war, supporting veterans, and helping their fellow war mothers.

Women's commemoration efforts in the World War I era took many different forms. Projects included charity events to benefit veterans and their families, lobbying Congress to support veterans, operating homes near veterans' hospitals so women could more affordably visit wounded sons, and much more. One major project, led by the American War Mothers and the Gold Star Mothers, lobbied Congress throughout the 1920s to fund trips for mothers to visit the graves of their fallen sons in Europe. The original bill to fund such a pilgrimage to Europe did not include widows; at the time, a mother's sacrifice was considered greater and more legitimate. The bill was later amended to include widows. During Congressional testimony supporting the bill, Gold Star Mothers president Mathilda Burling stated: "It was our flesh and blood that enriched the foreign soil. After all, it was the mothers who had won the war." Between 1930 and 1933, 6,685 American mothers and widows (of the 11,440 deemed eligible) journeyed to Europe as part of this program. Yet even as women lobbied for their interests and rights, they did not all receive equal treatment. African American women were allowed to participate in the journeys to Europe; however, they traveled on racially segregated trips and received different lodgings and transportation than white women.

The Mother of the Unknown Soldier tree honors not only individual mothers, but also women's collective efforts to commemorate World War I. It recognizes that while this unidentifiable service member's mother can never be known, she too deserved to be honored. Additionally — just as the meanings of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier have expanded over time, with the addition of Unknowns from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War — this tree can be interpreted as a living tribute to all American women whose children have served and sacrificed for the nation.



Missouri mothers who lost their sons in World War I lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. General John J. Pershing, a native Missourian, holds the wreath, 1930. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)

MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Take the tram or walk to Memorial Amphitheater.

Standing on Memorial Drive, facing the amphitheater, walk to the left toward the sidewalk that curves around the amphitheater.

The tree at the edge of the sidewalk's curve is the Mother's tree.





THE NURSES SECTION



REMEMBER



WALKING TOUR STOP 2

Section 21



Section 21 in April 2020. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)

Section 21 is sometimes known as the “Nurses Section” because it is the resting place of over 650 nurses who heroically served for or in the armed forces throughout U.S. history.

Women had informally served as nurses supporting the military for many years, most notably during the Civil War. However, the Spanish-American War (1898) marked the first time that professionally trained nurses were officially hired by the military. More than 1,500 women served as contract nurses for the U.S. Army during the war, meaning that they were civilians contracted to work for the military. After the U.S. Army’s successful use of contract nurses during the Spanish-American War, Congress established the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, and then the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908.

Despite their essential role in military medicine, female military nurses occupied an undefined position for the first half of the 20th century. These skilled, professional women held no actual rank and did not receive benefits or pay equal to men. Likewise, while Black women had served as nurses during the Spanish-American War, with a few exceptions both the Army and Navy Nurse Corps mostly prohibited Black women from serving until World War II. Even then, Black women could serve in only a limited number of segregated positions.

Female nurses remained in this tenuous position until 1947, when Congress passed the Army-Navy Nurses Act. This legislation made both Nurse Corps permanent and enabled nurses to hold permanent commissioned officer ranks. Both Nurse Corps desegregated in 1948, along with the rest of the military, and in 1955, the Army Nurse Corps accepted the first man into its ranks: Edward L.T. Lyon (Section 21, Grave 663). Today, nearly 30,000 nurses — male and female — serve in the military.

Explore Section 21 and the stories below to learn more about these women who fought for their right to serve.

In the early 20th century, nursing was one of just a handful of professional occupations open to women. Nursing offered women the opportunity to professionalize what had previously often been an informal, voluntary activity. Now, with training schools, examinations, and licenses, female nurses formed a new community of professional women whose abilities far surpassed those of men doing nursing tasks in the military.

Through nursing, women propelled themselves out of the domestic sphere and into the workforce. At the same time that women were fighting for the right to vote, nurses worked to expand women’s roles in the military and society.

MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Walk down Memorial Drive, past Memorial Amphitheater. Section 21 is on the right at the end of the drive.



THE NURSES SECTION



Klotho McGee, daughter of Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, beside the Spanish-American War Nurses Memorial on May 2, 1905, the day of its dedication. (Public Domain)



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NURSES MEMORIAL

More than 1,500 women served as contract nurses during the Spanish-American War, and over 150 nurses died of disease during that conflict. After the war, the Society of Spanish-American War Nurses began a fundraising campaign to erect a memorial to these nurses at Arlington, where many of them had been buried. Dedicated in 1905, the memorial features the inscription “To Our Comrades”; it specifically aimed to memorialize these female nurses as wartime fatalities, just like men who died in combat. It was a memorial for women, created by their compatriots, intended to position women’s military nursing as equal to men’s military service.



Compare this memorial to the Spanish-American War Memorial, the tall column down Lawton Drive. The latter memorial was erected in 1902 by another women’s group: the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, a hereditary organization of women who could trace their ancestry back to the colonial era. They created this memorial to honor those who died in the Spanish-American War. These two memorials were both created by women at the turn of the century: one by memory makers, and one by wartime participants themselves. This contrast demonstrates that just as women were working their way into new roles in the military, women were also using their more traditional roles as memory keepers to exert their influence in other ways.



ANITA CAMPOS

Section 21, Grave 15986-A

Anita Campos was the first Spanish-American War nurse buried at ANC and one of the first women to earn independent eligibility to be buried here, based on her own military service rather than that of a husband or father. Born in New Jersey, Campos married her Cuban husband in 1880 and lived in Cuba for some time before the war. She died of malaria while serving in Cuba in 1899. Her grave, far from the memorial that honors her and the other nurses who died in the line of duty, inaugurated a new era at Arlington, when women could be buried here based on their own service to the nation.



NAMAH CURTIS

Section 21, Grave 15999-A-1

As the Nurses Section expanded, surviving nurses from the Spanish-American War and those from other conflicts wanted to be buried here, alongside their sister-nurses. One such nurse was Namahyoke “Namah” Curtis. Of African American and American Indian descent, Curtis was asked by the Surgeon General to recruit Black nurses to serve in the Spanish-American War. While many Black volunteer nurses were not accepted for service due to discrimination, Curtis recruited 32, and as many as 80 altogether may have served. These women’s dedicated service helped slowly pave the way for more women of color to eventually serve as nurses in the medical field, although prejudice impacted their work in numerous ways. For example, at the time many people believed the false and harmful idea that African Americans were somehow naturally immune to tropical diseases and better able to care for patients with those illness. Such theories hurt these women, at least two of whom died of typhoid fever during the war.





THE NURSES SECTION



NURSES MEMORIAL

During World War I, thousands of women served in the U.S. and overseas as nurses. They served in a variety of capacities, including in the Army Nurse Corps, the Navy Nurse Corps, and the Red Cross. Many of these nurses died during their service, especially after the outbreak of the deadly influenza pandemic in 1918. While the exact number of American nurses who died during the war remains unknown, historians generally estimate it to be above 200. Most of these fatalities can be attributed to influenza or complications from it, such as pneumonia. While these women did not die on the battlefield, they volunteered to serve the United States during wartime, and they gave their lives for their nation while fighting this disease.

After the war, their comrades, led by the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, wanted to honor their sacrifices at Arlington, in the section where many had been buried. While other memorials to the deceased nurses had been erected, this memorial would specially memorialize Army and Navy nurses — who, unlike the contract nurses of the Spanish-American War, served within the military itself, albeit in an unequal status.

Dedicated in 1938, this graceful art deco statue shows the military nurse standing tall in her uniform, cape draped over her shoulders and looking across the section as if gazing at the nurses buried below. Designed by female sculptor Frances Rich, this statue is not unlike the popular “standing Doughboy” statues that memorialized fallen soldiers in towns across the country. Placed here, funded by women, and created by a woman, the statue represented women’s contributions to the war and attempted to honor these women in the same manner as men. In 1971, this memorial was rededicated to commemorate the service of Army, Navy, and Air Force nurses in all conflicts.

*Nurses Memorial, 2020.
(ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)*



JANE DELANO

Section 21, Grave 6

Jane Delano served as superintendent of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps from 1909 to 1912, and in 1909 she founded the American Red Cross Nursing Service. By the outbreak of World War I, the American Red Cross Nursing Service had more than 8,000 registered and trained nurses ready for emergency response. During the war, the Red Cross became the official nursing reserve force of the military and supplied additional nurses for service.

After the Armistice on November 11, 1918, Delano became ill during a trip to France to survey the conditions of American nurses still stationed overseas. She died on April 15, 1919 — possibly as a result of complications from influenza, although it remains hard to determine the exact cause of her illness. Delano’s death in France deeply upset many American nurses who lost the woman who led them through the war and the pandemic. Eventually, she was buried here at Arlington National Cemetery among many of the women she led.

*Jane A. Delano, undated.
(LOC/Harris & Ewing)*



Delano’s headstone covered in flowers during her funeral service at ANC. In the background are representatives from the Red Cross, military medical officers, and uniformed Army nurses, 1920. (LOC)





THE NURSES SECTION



THE SACRED 20

The Sacred 20 refers to the first 20 women to join the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908. These women proved to be an exceptional group of female leaders who shaped the Corps' development in its first several decades. Three went on to become superintendents of the Navy Nurse Corps:

- **Esther Voorhees Hasson**
(Section 3, Grave 1378-1379)
- **Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee**
(Section 3, Grave 1797-WS)
- **Josephine Beatrice Bowman**
(Section 21, Grave 639)



The Sacred Twenty, October 1908. (BUMED Library and Archives)

Four additional members are buried in Section 21:

- **Sara Cox** (Grave 14-A)
- **Martha Pringle** (Grave 7-2)
- **Elizabeth M. Hewitt** (Grave 12-A)
- **Sara B. Myer** (Grave 468)

The women of the Sacred 20 played a crucial role in developing military medicine and expanding women's opportunities to officially serve in the armed forces. Through their pioneering leadership and achievements, they advanced both the profession of nursing and women's status in American society.

Learn more about the Sacred 20 nurses buried at Arlington on [ANC's blog](#).



JUANITA HIPPS

Section 21, Grave 769-1

Juanita Hipps entered the Army Nurse Corps in 1936 and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. While stationed in the Philippines, she served in hospitals in Bataan and Corregidor and was one of eight nurses who escaped just before the surrender of the Philippine Islands to the Japanese. Hipps served in the United States for the remainder of the war to promote war bond drives and to boost the recruitment of nurses. She wrote the book "I Served on Bataan" (1943), which became a bestseller and was partially adapted into the movie, "So Proudly We Hail!" (1943). Hipps also helped to establish the flight nurse program in the Air Corps. In the course of her service, she was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.



Maj. Juanita Hipps attaches new bars to Lt. Rosemary Hogan's military uniform, circa 1945. (U.S. Army)



ADDITIONAL STORIES TO EXPLORE: NURSES

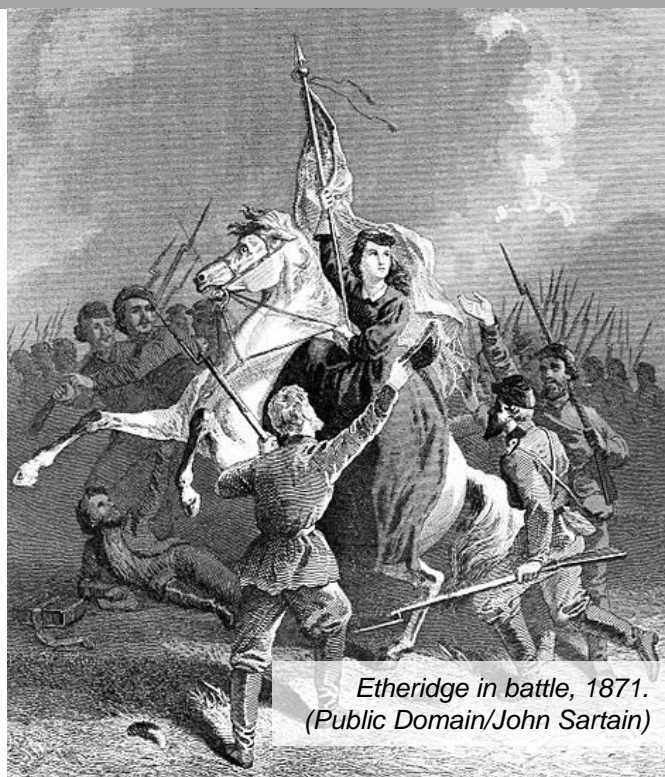


ANNA ETHERIDGE HOOKS

Section 15C, Grave 709-710

Anna Etheridge Hooks (1839–1913) served in the Civil War as a “vivandiere.” Vivandieres, or Daughters of the Regiment, were women attached to a unit who provided support for its soldiers, most importantly by braving battles to care for the wounded. They wore uniforms, were often armed (Etheridge had a pair of pistols, though records indicate that she never fired them), and could earn military honors like any other member of the regiment; however, they earned no wage for their services nor were they actually in the military. Beyond the battlefield, vivandieres also cooked and washed soldiers’ clothing.

Etheridge first saw combat on July 18, 1861, during the Battle of Blackburn's Ford in Virginia. Throughout the war, she served in 32 battles, saving hundreds of lives. Etheridge faced many dangers caring for soldiers on the battlefield. Confederate soldiers almost captured her during the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1862. During the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, a bullet grazed her hand after a U.S. soldier tried to hide behind her horse. For her service and bravery in battle, she was awarded the Kearny Cross in 1863, after the Battle of Chancellorsville. Etheridge is one of only two women decorated with this honor. She passed away on January 23, 1913, and was buried at Arlington with full military honors.



*Etheridge in battle, 1871.
(Public Domain/John Sartain)*



*Etheridge wearing her Kearny
Cross medal, ca. 1863. (LOC)*



DR. ANITA MCGEE

Section 1, Grave 526-B

Dr. Anita McGee (1864–1940) received her medical degree from Columbian College (now George Washington University) in 1892. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in April 1898, the U.S. Army needed nurses. After learning that Army Surgeon General George M. Sternberg intended to staff base hospitals with female nurses, McGee petitioned him to allow only qualified women to serve. McGee screened and approved 1,600 qualified nurses for service, and Sternberg subsequently appointed her as acting assistant surgeon of the U.S. Army, which made her the only woman permitted to wear an officer’s uniform during the Spanish-American War.

After the war, McGee drafted the legislation to establish the Army Nurse Corps, creating a permanent place for female nurses in the Army. She later helped the Navy establish the Navy Nurse Corps. Although the Army Nurse Corps guaranteed women a place in the Army, female nurses were still ineligible for veteran’s benefits such as disability pay and health care. In addition, to protect the nurses who served under her in the war, McGee founded the Society for Spanish-American War nurses in 1898. As president of the organization for six years, McGee advocated for nurses’ rights and recognition and led the campaign to erect the Spanish-American War Nurses Monument.

Dr. McGee raised the standards for nursing in the military and secured its position in the Army by creating the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Throughout her career, Dr. McGee defied social norms and paved the way for future female doctors and nurses. Dr. McGee was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in 1940.



Anita Newcomb McGee, undated. (NIH)



WORLD WAR I SERVICE



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND NURSING

During World War I, women's opportunities in the military expanded beyond those already available in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps. The military needed skilled workers in predominantly female jobs, such as telephone operators, physical and occupational therapists, and dietitians. Rather than train men who were needed in combat positions, the military hired skilled women in these professions to work in uniform and under oath. However, because of their gender, they were not allowed to actually join the military. These women remained civilian contract workers serving outside of the armed forces. Their civilian status meant that, after the war, these women were ineligible for any veterans benefits such as health care and burial in a national cemetery.

World War I also marked the first time women officially fully enlisted in the military. With the United States' rapid buildup of ships (over 1,500 in only two years), the Navy needed to find a way to increase its personnel without taking sailors and officers away from ships and combat functions. It found a solution in the Naval Act of 1916, which referred to "persons" rather than any gendered terms for enlistment requirements. This loophole allowed the first group of women to fully and officially enlist in the U.S. Navy as Yeomen (F). The F stood for "Female." Yeomen (F) served in the U.S. Navy throughout the war, primarily in secretarial and clerical positions.

Female telephone operators at Camp Kearney, June 4, 1918. (NARA)



Yeomen (F) at Charleston Navy Yard, undated. (NPS)

SUFFRAGE & SERVICE

Women's wartime service helped suffragists finally gain President Woodrow Wilson's support and ultimately the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. In September 1918, only two months before the end of the war, President Wilson called on Congress to support women's suffrage. He said, "We have made partners of the women in this war.... Shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege?"



Women's suffrage picketers at the White House, 1917. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)

Continue to the next several steps to learn about some of the women who offered their lives and service to the nation during World War I.

DR. OLLIE JOSEPHINE PRESCOTT BAIRD BENNETT

WORLD WAR I



WALKING TOUR STOP 3

Section 10, Grave 10938-LH

BIRTH: March 27, 1873, Decatur, IL

DEATH: February 4, 1957, Alexandria, VA

BACKGROUND: Dr. Ollie Josephine Bennett earned degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and Boston University School of Medicine and enjoyed doing genealogy research in her free time. Bennett married three times. At age 16, she initially married George L. Prescott in 1889. According to her grandson, Edward “Bill” Digges, Jr., Bennett eloped with Prescott after he promised to put her through medical school. They had one child before his death in 1898. She married William Finley Baird in 1909 and filed for divorce in 1914. Her third and final marriage, in 1934, was to Christopher Bennett.

CAREER: During World War I, Dr. Bennett served as an Army contract surgeon. After volunteering for service in May 1918, she traveled to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota to learn how to administer anesthesia. She then transferred to Camp McClellan in Aniston, Alabama, where she served in the base’s hospital and trained enlisted soldiers and nurses to use anesthesia on the front lines. Although Bennett received the pay, duties, and quarters of a first lieutenant, as a woman she did not officially hold that rank, nor did she actually serve in the Army. She was a contractor — a civilian working for the Army on a contract — as women could not enlist or be commissioned in the Army at the time.

After the war, Bennett worked for the War Industries Board, a government agency established during World War I to facilitate cooperation between the Army and the Navy. According to her obituary, she “supervised the health and welfare of more than 1,100 women and installed the first modern medical emergency room in a government department” in this role. She later served on the staff of the National Homeopathic Hospital in Washington, D.C. She retired from medicine about 10 years prior to her death.

LEGACY: In 1943, during World War II, Bennett testified to Congress during hearings that debated whether women should be appointed as female physicians and surgeons in the Army Medical Corps. During her remarks, she shared stories of her World War I experience, and recounted how the nurses and soldiers asked her why she did not wear lieutenant’s bars. Each time, she explained that she was not eligible, and eventually, her commanding officer gave her a hat cord to wear, which denoted she had the status of a lieutenant. Yet that did not change her actual situation. She realized, as she told Congress, that, “This constant questioning was disturbing to me. Why could not women be commissioned as men physicians are? ... It was a great pleasure for me to be able to serve my country and to do all that I could to help. However, women are taught the same as men in class, and they work, in college and out, side by side and do the same type of practice as men usually do.”

She went on to tell the committee how, for World War I female contract physicians, “[t]he only reward or compensation we can now receive is... to be buried in Arlington Cemetery. We receive no pension; we receive no bonus.” Toward the end of her statement she posed the key question: “Gentlemen of the committee and Surgeon General of the Army, I ask you, please, to give our women who qualify a chance to serve in the Army as commissioned physicians.”

Bennett’s testimony, along with the input of many others, did yield results. In April 1943, Congress passed a law that allowed women to receive temporary commissions in the Army, Navy, and Public Health Service. Yet it was not until the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, passed with the support of Joy Bright Hancock, that women could serve as permanent members of the armed forces.



Dr. Bennett, circa 1918. (Public Domain)



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Facing Porter Drive from Section 21, turn left on Porter. Turn left on Grant Drive. Walk down Grant until the headstones change directions on your right. Bennett’s headstone is 4 rows in from the back of the section, 42 headstones in from Grant.

PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS FRIEDA HARDIN

WORLD WAR I



WALKING TOUR STOP 4

Columbarium Court
6/O/4/3

BIRTH: September 22, 1896, Eden Valley, MN

DEATH: August 9, 2000, Livermore, CA

BACKGROUND: Frieda Hardin was one of nearly 12,000 women who served as a Navy Yeoman (F) during World War I. As a child, she lived in Minnesota, Kentucky, and Ohio, following her father's job as a railroad worker. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, Hardin was working at a department store in Portsmouth, OH.

She married William Kirsten in 1920 and they had four children. After Kirsten's death in 1959, she married William R. Hardin.

CAREER: In 1918, just days after learning that the Navy was allowing women to serve, she signed up because she "wanted to do something more, something bigger and better."

From September 1918 to March 1919, Hardin served as a clerk at the Norfolk Navy Yard in Virginia. She checked dock receipts at the Norfolk freight office and received top marks in all three areas in which the Navy graded women: obedience, sobriety, and reading proficiency. In 1919, the Navy released Hardin from service, along with all the other women. Women were not permitted to serve in the Navy again until World War II.

LEGACY: During the dedication of the Military Women's Memorial in 1997, Hardin gave a speech in her Yeoman (F) uniform. She told the crowd: "In my 101 years of living, I have observed many wonderful achievements but none as important or as meaningful as the progress of women taking their rightful place in society. ... To those women now in military service, I say, 'Carry on.' To those young women who may be thinking about a career in the military service, I say, 'Go for it.'"



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Return to Porter and turn left. Turn left on Marshall Drive and then right on York Drive. Enter the third court along York (Court 6). Hardin's niche is along the edge on your right, slightly in front of the first center wall.

Top right: Hardin at the Military Women's Memorial dedication in October 1997, accompanied by her son, retired Navy Capt. Jerald Kirsten. (Ancestry.com/Kirsten family)

Yeoman (F) Drill Force, ca. August 1918. (NHHHC)





COLONEL EMMA VOGEL



WORLD WAR I



WALKING TOUR STOP 5

Columbarium Court 1/M/7/1

BIRTH: September 18, 1889, Mankato, MN

DEATH: August 8, 1981, St. Petersburg, FL

BACKGROUND: Emma V. Vogel graduated from Mankato State Teachers College in 1908. In 1918, she enrolled in a three-month-long War Emergency Training Course at Reed College in physical therapy, one of the first formal training courses in physical therapy.

CAREER: Emma Vogel began her military career in 1919 as a civilian Reconstruction Aide at Army General Hospital No. 24 near Pittsburgh. Reconstruction Aides were physical and occupational therapists who used exercises, activities, and other treatments to “reconstruct” the bodies of men who were wounded in combat so they could return to society and lead functional, productive lives. Reconstruction Aides helped to develop the fields of physical and occupational therapy, both still very new before World War I. During World War I, Reconstruction Aides had served as paid employees working for the American Red Cross or the American Expeditionary Forces, but they were not in the military. Their wartime duties took them both overseas and to military installations across the United States. Wherever they were stationed, they played a critical role in dealing with the aftermath of combat and helping wounded service members regain their dignity, independence, and confidence.

In 1920, after only a few months at General Hospital #24, Vogel was transferred to Walter Reed General Hospital and named Supervisor of Physical Therapists. In this role, she helped organize and lead the Army’s first peacetime physical therapy training course. She also served as an advisor to the Surgeon General’s office for issues related to physical therapy. Over the next several decades, Vogel dedicated much of her time to improving the military status, benefits, salaries, and privileges of reconstruction aides. Progress came slowly, and it was not until World War II that female physical therapists finally attained military status; male physical therapists were barred from the same status until 1955.

From 1947 until her retirement in 1951, Vogel led the Women’s Medical Specialists Corps – now the Army Medical Specialist Corps – as its very first chief. She retired from the U.S. Army at the rank of colonel.

LEGACY: Upon Vogel’s retirement, former Surgeon General Norman T. Kirk stated, “No woman, either as a civilian employee of the Medical Department, or a commissioned officer in one of its corps, has made the contribution to the Medical Department that you have made.”

Throughout her career and especially during her retirement, Vogel vocally advocated on behalf of the World War I Reconstruction Aides. She worked to keep the memory of their service alive, donating her own papers to a museum now known as the National Museum of Health and Medicine to ensure that their legacy would not be forgotten. Due to her perseverance and leadership, her records and those of other Reconstruction Aides survived. Vogel, along with hundreds of other female Reconstruction Aides, composed part of the groundbreaking generation of American women who served in World War I and used their expertise both to support their nation and advance women’s ongoing quest for equality.



Vogel in uniform, circa 1920. (APTA)



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Exit Court 6 onto York and return to Marshall Drive. Walk to the other side of the Columbarium, turning left on Bradley. Enter the first court. Vogel’s niche is directly to the left of the entrance.



President Harry Truman and senior female medical officers posing with the law that established the Women’s Medical Specialist Corps in 1947. Vogel is on the far right. (U.S. Army)

ADDITIONAL STORIES TO EXPLORE: WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR I



CAPT. JOY BRIGHT HANCOCK (OFSTIE)

Section 30, Grave 2138-RH

Joy Bright Hancock (1898–1986) began her naval career during World War I as a Navy Yeoman (F). She served at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation in Camden, New Jersey, and eventually rose to become chief yeoman at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Cape May. After the end of the war and the dismissal of women from naval service, she worked as a civilian employee for the Navy, eventually with the Bureau of Aeronautics. By 1934, she served as the civilian head of the bureau's editorial and research section. 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 she wanted to conquer her fear. (Hancock's first two husbands were naval aviators, and both were killed in dirigible crashes in the 1920s.)

When the United States entered World War II, Hancock was determined to serve again. She joined the Navy Women's Reserve, or WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) a few months after President Franklin D.

Roosevelt authorized it in July 1942. She began as a lieutenant and achieved the rank of captain by 1946. During and after the war, she served as a leader within the Navy and committed herself to advocating for women to become a permanent part of the Navy. Through her advocacy and persuasion, alongside that of other female military leaders, she helped to secure the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948. This landmark legislation finally allowed women to serve in the regular and reserve components of the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, and made the Women's Army Corps a permanent part of the Army. In 1948, Hancock was one of the first six women sworn into the regular Navy.



Hancock, February 1918. (LOC)



SGT. VIOLET VAN WAGNER LOPEZ

Columbarium Court 3/T/22/1

At the start of World War I, the U.S. Marine Corps faced a personnel shortage. Since the Marine Corps was (at the time) under the Department of the Navy, the same vague language that allowed the Navy to open its reserves to women allowed the Marine Corps to do the same. On August 17, 1918, just four days after recruiting offices were authorized to begin female enlistments, Violet Van Wagner (1900–1992) enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves. She served as a stenographer in the Adjutant and Inspector's Department at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C. By July 30, 1919, when the Marine Corps released all its female reservists to inactive duty, Van Wagner had advanced to the rank of sergeant, the highest rank a woman could hold. She remained at the Marine Corps Headquarters as a civilian employee until 1926, at which point she went to work in the private sector.



Violet Van Wagner, undated. (U.S. Navy)



WORLD WAR II SERVICE



FREEING UP MEN FOR COMBAT

Just as in World War I, women supported World War II from both within and alongside the military. Soon after the United States entered World War II in December 1941, each military branch created new ways for women to support the armed forces so that more men could be available for combat. More than 350,000 women served in uniform, both at home and abroad. They filled roles traditionally considered to be “women’s” work, such as secretaries and nurses, but they also flew and repaired planes, served as radio operators, rigged parachutes, and much more.



L-R: Olivia Hooker and Aileen Anita Cooks during their SPAR (Coast Guard Women's Reserve) training, ca. 1941–1945. (NYPL); Three aviation machinists mates work on a training plane, 1944. (LOC); Marine Corps Women's Reserve members Minnie Spotted Wolf (Blackfeet tribe), Celia Mix (Potawatomi), and Violet Eastman (Chippewa), ca. 1942–1945. (NARA)

While Congress created some avenues for women to officially serve in the military — for example, the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) — many women remained in civilian contract positions. Four hundred and thirty-two women were killed during the war, and another 88 women were taken as prisoners of war. One such POW was Ruby Bradley (Section 21, Grave 318), an Army nurse who served in the Philippines and spent four years in a Japanese prison.

Women’s service in World War II led to the passage of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, which guaranteed women a permanent place in the armed forces — a major step toward equality.



Secretary of War James Forrestal congratulates female representatives of the four service branches on the passage of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act in 1948.

Female representatives (L-R): Col. Geraldine May (Air Force), Col. Mary A. Hallaren (Army), Capt. Joy Bright Hancock (Navy), and Maj. Julia E. Hamblet (Marines). May and Hancock lay at rest at ANC. (LOC)

Continue to the next several stops to learn about some of the women who offered their lives, skills, and service to the nation during World War II, as well as some of the organizations in which they served.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LILLIAN HARRIS

WORLD WAR II



WALKING TOUR STOP 6 Section 65, Grave 2503

BIRTH: May 6, 1913, Pittsburgh, PA

DEATH: April 15, 1998, Montgomery County, MD

BACKGROUND: A graduate of the first Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) class in 1942, Lillian Harris served as an officer in World War II. Harris had previously worked as an office manager at a sugar refining company in Baltimore, Maryland.

CAREER: Harris enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on September 5, 1942, just four months after President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized it. After training for a few months at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, Harris served as a platoon and company commander at Daytona, Florida. She then transferred to Northern Africa in 1943 as part of the first WAC communications company to serve overseas. In 1945, Harris transferred to a battalion command position in Italy. She and the other battalion service members helped manage the paperwork for the surrender of German forces in Italy.

Following the end of World War II, Harris returned to the United States for a few years before heading back abroad for an overseas posting. From May 1952 through April 1954, Harris served as the WAC staff advisor for the Far East Command in Tokyo, Japan. In this role, she advised leadership on various issues related to WACs, from housing to whether WAC personnel should serve in Korea.

In the early 1950s, the Army began allowing officers to specialize in civil affairs, logistics, public information, intelligence, or the culture, language, and economy of a foreign area. Harris was one of the first WAC officers to specialize; her chosen field was logistics. She spent the remainder of her Army career as a logistics officer at the Pentagon. Harris retired in 1968 as a lieutenant colonel, the highest rank women could hold in the Army at that time. Her awards include the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit.

LEGACY: As one of the first female career Army officers, Harris paved a new career path for women and helped oversee the expansion of women's opportunities within the military.



Lt. Col. Harris, circa 1953.
(Public Domain)



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Return to Bradley Drive. Turn left on Marshall Drive, and then right on Arnold Drive to MacArthur Drive. Harris' headstone is on the right, 16 rows back from MacArthur, 28 plots in from Arnold.

WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS (WAC)

In May 1941, as the United States edged closer to involvement in World War II, Congressional Representative Edith Nourse Rogers introduced a bill to create a volunteer, all women's corps in the Army. Rep. Rogers had volunteered as a civilian with the Red Cross and YMCA in France during World War I, and she wanted to ensure that the women who might serve in World War II would have "the same protection the men got," unlike women in World War I. These protections included Army-provided food, clothing, housing, medical care, training, and certain veterans' benefits. Her bill received little recognition until after the United States officially entered the war in December 1941. On May 15, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law a bill that authorized the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). However, this bill provided only some of the benefits Rep. Rogers sought and did not make the WAAC fully part of the Army.

Within one year, 60,000 women had volunteered for service. Although these women thought of themselves as serving in the Army, they were officially considered civilians who served with the Army. This changed in July 1943, when the WAAC was converted into the Women's Army Corps (WAC) due to Roger's legislative persistence. Members of the WAC were now officially part of the Army, and therefore eligible for Army benefits such as veterans' medical coverage, burial in a military cemetery, and legal protection as prisoners of war if captured while on duty. These protections enabled women to serve overseas. Members of the WAC — totaling more than 150,000 — were the first women to serve in the Army in non-medical capacities.

TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE MARY CRAWFORD RAGLAND

WORLD WAR II



WALKING TOUR STOP 7 Columbarium Court 7/PP/2/5

BIRTH: April 15, 1922, Georgia

DEATH: July 30, 2010, Hyattsville, MD

BACKGROUND: Mary Crawford Ragland served in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only WAC unit military unit comprised primarily of African American women that served in Europe during World War II. When she was 17 years old, Ragland's mother came home and showed her an advertisement calling for African American women to serve in the military. Her mother said, "if I were young again, I would do this." This inspired Ragland to enlist.

CAREER: The 6888th's task was to process the enormous backlog of U.S. service members' mail piled up in Great Britain and France, which they accomplished with impressive speed. Their work greatly helped the morale of the troops by enabling them to hear from loved ones back at home. Ragland served as a company clerk, typing and filing on behalf of the battalion. She was also assigned to Special Services, which provided entertainment for American troops. In this capacity, Ragland traveled to hospitals and participated in dance performances.

A highlight of Ragland's deployment was the 6888th's march down the Champs-Élysée in Paris in May 1945. In an interview, Ragland described the scene:

"[W]hen we marched down that Champs-Élysée in our Class A uniforms with those tall, proud, Black women... to the thunderous applause of those Parisians – it was a sight to behold, and I feel it to this day.... We represented first our country, our organization, the African American battalion, and all minorities. We were proud Black women."

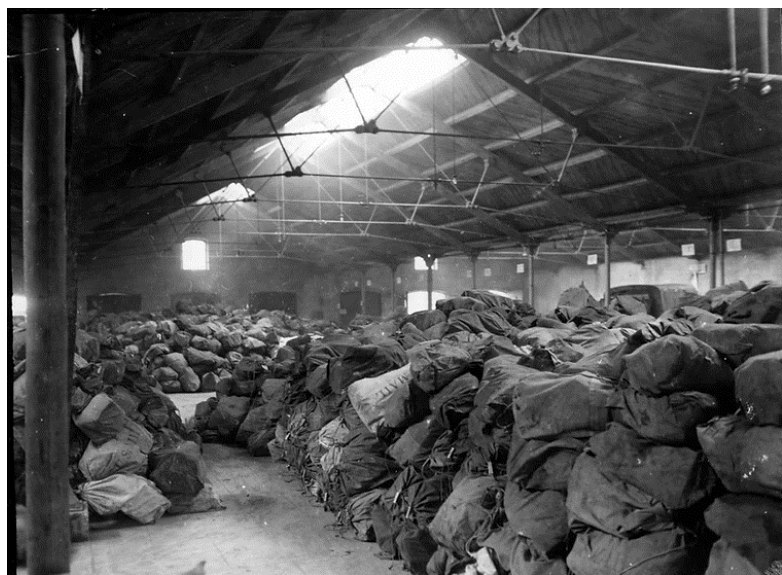
LEGACY: When Ragland and the rest of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion returned home, they received no honors or recognition for their service – service that made it possible for men fighting overseas to hear from loved ones at home and remember why they were fighting. This finally changed in 2022, when Congress awarded the women of the 6888th the Congressional Gold Medal for their "pioneering military service" and their contributions "to increase the morale of all United States personnel stationed in the European Theater of Operations during World War II."

In Her Own Words

Listen to Mary Crawford Ragland's oral history at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project:
<https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.91851/>.



Mary Ragland during her interview with the Veterans History Project on January 11, 2005. (LOC)



One of two buildings in France which held Christmas mail en route to U.S. troops, 1944. (BSEHC)



Members of the 6888th participate in a parade ceremony in Rouen, France, 1945. (NARA)



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Return to Bradley Drive. Court 7 is the fourth back along Bradley. Ragland's niche is toward the center of the third center wall in from Bradley.

LIEUTENANT ELAINE DANFORTH HARMON

WORLD WAR II – WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS



WALKING TOUR STOP 8 Columbarium Court 9/N42/12/6

BIRTH: December 26, 1919, Baltimore, MD

DEATH: April 21, 2015, Rockville, MD

BACKGROUND: Elaine Danforth Harmon graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in microbiology in 1940. Prior to graduating, Harmon earned a private pilot's license through the Civilian Pilot Training Program, a government-run pilot training school aimed at getting civilians 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." She married Robert Harmon in July 1941.

CAREER: In March 1944, Harmon joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program. She had wanted to join in August 1943, when the WASP was formed, 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 flight time requirement. Harmon entered the program with 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 WASP pilots to be recognized as veterans of equal status with male veterans despite their civilian status during the war.



Elaine Harmon, ca. 1944. (Harmon Family)

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



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Cross to the other side of the Columbarium along Nimitz Drive. Court 9 is on your right. Enter from York Drive. Harmon's niche is on the left side of the last row on the left, toward the front of the Court.

WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS (WASP)

In 1942, the U.S. Army faced a shortage of pilots. Famed female 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 received approval to form 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, whose pilots ferried, tested, and delivered planes for repair. They also towed aerial targets and instructed male pilot cadets. The program was highly competitive. Of more than 25,000 women who applied for WASP training, only 1,879 were accepted, and only 1,074 successfully completed the training program.

The WASPs served in a civilian capacity and were not in the military; both Cochran and General Arnold advocated for its militarization. Despite their efforts to lobby Congress, a 1941 bill to make WASP an official women's service was ultimately 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.



WHO IS A VETERAN?



Members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) were the first American women to officially fly military aircraft. Although they never received military commissions and remained civilians, the WASP proved women could fly and deserved a place in military aviation. In 1974, when the Navy and Army officially accepted their first female military pilots, Elaine Harmon and other former WASPs 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 included a provision stating that “the service of any person as a member of the Women’s Air Force Service Pilots ... shall be considered active duty for the purposes of all laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.”

Despite WASPs’ change in status, its members did not receive 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 challenged this rule after her death, and Arlington National Cemetery’s policy ultimately changed. In 2015, Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh reversed the policy, removing WASPs’ authorizations to be inurned at ANC and to receive military funeral honors. Soon after McHugh’s policy change, Arlington denied Elaine Harmon inurnment at the cemetery. Her 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 pursuant to the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977” to be inurned above-ground at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. This meant that all WASPs were finally eligible for inurnment. Elaine Harmon was inurned at ANC on September 7, 2016.

REFLECT

Who is a veteran? This question seems straightforward until stories like those of the WASPs emerge. For many years, members of WASP were not considered official military veterans, despite serving and dying for their country.

- Who should we honor as veterans, and how should we define veteran status?
 - Consider the other women on this tour and their veteran status: How should we honor the service of Emma Vogel and other Reconstruction Aides? The World War I service of the Navy Yeomen (F)?
- Veterans receive many government benefits, including health care and burial at a national cemetery. What do former service members miss out on when their service is not recognized during their lifetime?
- There are four 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.



President Barack Obama signs a bill to award WASP a Congressional Gold Medal in 2009. Harmon is standing behind Obama, slightly to the left. (NARA)

MASTER SERGEANT CATHERINE G. MURRAY

WORLD WAR II – MARINE CORPS WOMEN'S RESERVE



WALKING TOUR STOP 9 Section 60, Grave 11706

BIRTH: April 2, 1917, Phillipsburg, NJ

DEATH: December 20, 2017, Fort Lauderdale, FL

CAREER: While returning home from church on December 7, 1941, Catherine Murray heard President Franklin D. Roosevelt report on the radio that Japanese forces had attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Wanting to support her country, Murray decided to enlist in the military. She did not inform her family until after enlisting in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

During World War II, Murray served as a motor transport Marine. She was one of 50 women who continued to actively serve in the Marines after the war, as well as one of the first female Marines stationed in Hawaii. Throughout her career, Murray served at 15 duty stations and assumed a wide range of responsibilities. While stationed at Quantico, Virginia, she wrote manuals used to train future female Marines. After serving for 20 years, Murray retired at the rank of master sergeant in 1962, becoming the first enlisted female Marine to retire from active duty. She died in 2017 at the age of 100.



Murray in uniform, undated. (Murray Family)



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Return to York Drive. Facing Section 60 from Marshall Drive, Murray's headstone is in one of the first few rows, about 1/3 of the way in from York Drive.

In Her Own Words

Learn more about Murray's experiences in the Marines, on her [YouTube channel](#).

MARINE CORPS WOMEN'S RESERVE

During World War I, the Marine Corps recruited 300 women to serve in clerical positions on the home front. When the United States entered World War II, Major General Commandant Thomas Holcomb opposed the recruitment of women into the Marine Corps, despite all other military branches recruiting women to fill their ranks. However, the Marine Corps' losses in 1942 forced Holcomb to reconsider. He proposed to the Secretary of Navy that a Marine Corps Women's Reserve be organized to fill all noncombat positions, such as office clerks, radio operators, drivers, mechanics, and commissary clerks.

On January 29, 1943, Ruth Cheney Streeter was named the first director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. By June 1944, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve had grown to 1,000 officers and 18,000 enlisted women. Qualifications for enlisted women in the Corps required that they not be married to a Marine, not have any children under the age of 18, be between the ages of 20 and 35, and have completed at least two years of high school. A lack of proper uniforms forced the women to initially train in civilian clothes.

As the Marine Corps Women's Reserve grew throughout 1943 and 1944, its members filled over 200 different positions in the Corps. These included photographer, parachute rigger, aerial gunner, quartermaster, cryptographer, post exchange manager, stenographer, and agriculturist. Major Streeter successfully appealed to her superiors to incorporate weapons demonstrations into basic training for Women Reservists. By the end of World War II, Women Reservists held 85 percent of the jobs at U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters in the Washington D.C. area, and 1,000 served in Hawaii.



ADDITIONAL STORIES TO EXPLORE: WORLD WAR II



WORLD WAR II



CAPT. WINIFRED QUICK COLLINS

Section 3, Grave 1632-C

In June 1942, Winifred Quick Collins (1911–1999), one of the first graduates of Radcliffe College's Business Administration Program, was commissioned as an ensign in the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service). She was soon assigned to Washington, D.C. to help operate the Bureau of Naval Personnel, where her responsibilities included determining what skills women in the WAVES would need to acquire during training.

In the fall of 1944, Collins was named district personnel manager for the 14th Naval District in Hawaii, where she organized the arrival of 5,000 WAVES. She received the Bronze Star for her service during World War II. After the war, she oversaw the enlistment of women into the regular Navy and, in June 1948, she became a commissioned Navy officer, along with eight other women. Promoted to commander in 1953, she served as personnel director for the 12th Naval District — at the time, the highest position held by a woman in the Navy. She retired from the Navy in 1963 at the rank of captain.

WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE (WAVES)

In 1942, five months after the Army created the WAAC, the Naval Reserve instituted the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) program. Unlike the Yeomen (F) of World War I, WAVES could serve as commissioned officers, though only for the duration of the war plus six months. To determine how best to recruit for and manage a women's reserve, the Navy convened an advisory council of women's college leaders.

Women served in a variety of non-combat roles in the Navy, and their opportunities expanded throughout the war as the Navy faced manpower shortages. WAVES served as clerks, mechanics, cryptologists, control tower operators, parachute riggers, physicians, and in many more capacities. In October 1944, less than a year before the end of the war, the Navy opened the WAVES to Black women. Over 100,000 women served in the WAVES during World War II, comprising about 2.5% of the Navy's total wartime strength.



CDR BEATRICE "BILLY" V. BALL

Section 8, Grave 115-RH

Early in her career, Beatrice Ball (1902–1963) held an assortment of jobs. She taught literature, worked as a newspaper reporter, and served as a YWCA leader and secretary. In 1931, she moved to Washington, D.C. and joined the Metropolitan Police Department. There, she became one of the first women to graduate from the School of Criminology. After ten years with the Metropolitan Police, she transferred to the United States Park Police as its first female staff member.

In 1942, Ball enlisted in the Coast Guard's Women's Reserve (SPAR). She joined as a lieutenant, becoming part of the first SPAR company. She was first assigned to be an intelligence officer at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C., and then as a personnel officer in Ketchikan, Alaska. After World War II, the military disbanded all women's reserves, and Ball returned to civilian life.

When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Ball re-enlisted in the Coast Guard. She was promoted to the rank of commander in 1956 and remained in the Coast Guard until her retirement in 1961. Ball's service helped paved the way for women to serve as regular members of the Coast Guard.

SPAR

The United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve adopted the nickname SPAR based on the Coast Guard motto, "Semper Paratus" (Always Ready). Most SPARs performed clerical work or operated telephones and radios. However, SPARs also performed some specialized duties, serving as pharmacists' mates, parachute riggers, boatswain's mates, radio technicians, and more. Some even served on a top-secret LORAN, or long-range navigation, project.

In October 1944, the Coast Guard authorized SPAR to recruit Black women for enlisted service. In February 1945, Olivia Hooker became the first Black SPAR, enlisting in the Coast Guard after being rejected from the Navy. In total, five Black women served in SPAR. A handful of Cuban Americans and Filipino Americans also enlisted.

By the end of the war, nearly 12,000 women had served in the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard did not grant women a permanent place in the service until December 1973.



ARLINGTON FARMS



WALKING TOUR STOP 10

Section 55

“Gee! Twenty-eight acres of girls!” a young sailor exclaimed when he arrived at Arlington Farms. 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 nation’s entry into World War II. They crammed into boarding houses and apartment buildings, and yet there was still a housing shortage. 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, located 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 ranged 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, for example, 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.” Sally Donoho and her friends moved because living and working in the city “sounded glamorous.” Others, like codebreaker Dot Braden, took government jobs because their families needed the income.

Often working six days a week and up to 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. 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 exercise their independence and to gain professional skills, as well as to socialize and form community.



From top to bottom: Women wait for letters at the mail desk in Idaho Hall of Arlington Farms, 1943; Women arrive at Arlington Farm residence halls after a bus ride from work, 1942; Residents and guests relax during intermission at one of the bi-weekly dances, 1943. (LOC/Esther Bubley)

MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

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

PEACETIME & COLD WAR SERVICE

A GUARANTEED, PERMANENT PLACE IN THE MILITARY

The military did not immediately disband the various women's corps after World War II, choosing instead to end recruitment and begin a slow demobilization effort. However, despite the military's initial hesitation to accept women, many postwar military and government leaders (as well as women themselves who had served in various capacities) determined that the women's corps were a successful experiment, and some advocated to retain the corps during peacetime. As women advanced through the ranks in the second half of the twentieth century, they continued to fight for the right to serve in the military on an equal basis with men.

In 1948, Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, guaranteeing women the right to serve as permanent, regular members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the newly created Air Force. (That same year, President Harry S Truman also desegregated the military with Executive Order 9981.) After decades of advocacy by women like Joy Bright Hancock (Section 30, Grave 2138-RH), women had finally achieved a major step forward in the fight for equality. Nonetheless, the act contained many gender-based restrictions. For example, women could not command men, serve in combat, or comprise more than two percent of all service members; the highest rank they could hold was lieutenant colonel or commander, and they were discharged if they became pregnant.

Yet this act still marked a pivotal moment in women's military history. For the first time, women could serve as full members of the military in periods of peacetime. They were finally entitled to the rights, benefits, and ranks befitting their work, and they could serve alongside men with recognized distinction and honor.

In many respects, the military enacted equal protection policies — in regard to both gender and race — before the federal government guaranteed such protections to all workers. For example, Congress did not pass the Equal Pay Act (which promised to guarantee equal pay to men and women) until 1963; the following year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 barred discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, and national origin. The Women's Armed Services Integration Act and Executive Order 9981, which aimed to accomplish similar goals, preceded this legislation by over a decade.

The military integrated before the federal government in terms of both gender and race. Congress passed the Equal Pay Act in 1963, and the following year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964. 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.



Members of the Women's Army Corps in 1967. L–R: Rhynell M. Stoabs, Betty J. Benson, Elizabeth P. Hoisington, Peggy E. Ready, Edith L. Efferson, and Patricia C. Pewitt. (Public Domain)



PEACETIME & COLD WAR SERVICE



EXPANDING WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SERVE

Over the next few decades, women focused on legitimizing and expanding their right to serve in the military. Leaders of the women's corps worked to increase recruitment and make military service a viable and enviable career path for women. They also worked to expand the roles women could fill, beyond their traditional medical, administrative, and communication duties. Largely, over time, they succeeded. Women rose through the ranks and took on nearly every non-combat job available to them. In 1967, women achieved another major milestone: President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 90-130, removing the promotion and retirement restrictions on women. Now, more than one woman in each service could hold the rank of colonel and women could finally hold general (or flag) officer ranks. The public law also removed the two percent cap on the women's military population.

Meanwhile, women continued to advocate against remaining restrictions on their military service. Another key turning point came in 1970, when President Richard Nixon created the all-volunteer force. Due to the Vietnam War, the draft had become extremely unpopular; to earn support in his 1968 presidential campaign, Nixon promised to end the draft and transition to an all-volunteer force. When this policy was implemented, the military suddenly faced a recruitment problem. The only way to meet their personnel quota was to allow more women to enlist. Once again, a manpower shortage led to increased opportunities for women.

This part of the walking tour features many trailblazing women from the Cold War era, including the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and times of peace. Their individual stories demonstrate how opportunities for women to serve in the military have evolved and expanded — and how military women themselves have advocated, and continue to advocate, for their ability to serve their nation on an equal basis. **To learn more about these trailblazing women, continue to Rear Admiral Grace Hopper's headstone to read about her groundbreaking work in computer science.**



President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Public Law 90-130, November 8, 1967. (MWM)



Army nurse Edie Meeks poses in front of a Vietnam field hospital. Meeks was inspired to commission into the Army by her brother who joined the Marine Corps, undated. (U.S. Army)

Women in War: Korea and Vietnam

With the start of the Korean War in 1950, the military faced a manpower shortage, and once again, it looked to women to fill it. For the first time, women were involuntarily called to serve as the military summoned reserve women to active duty. During the war, 120,000 women served on active duty. Approximately a third of these women served in medical positions near the war's front lines, helping evacuate injured soldiers from battle zones, serving in Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH), or serving in hospital units aboard aircraft or ships. The remaining two-thirds of women largely served in administrative and communication positions, both on the home front and abroad.

During the Vietnam War (1955–1975), approximately 10,000 women served in Vietnam itself, nearly all in medical capacities. The remainder served in communications, intelligence, or administrative positions. Eight female nurses died while serving in Vietnam. Seven died in airplane or helicopter crashes; the last was killed by enemy fire.



Triaging and preparing a casualty for surgery in Korea, circa 1950. (U.S. Army)

REAR ADMIRAL GRACE HOPPER

PEACETIME & COLD WAR SERVICE



WALKING TOUR STOP 11 Section 59, Grave 973

BIRTH: December 9, 1906, New York City, NY

DEATH: January 1, 1992, Arlington, VA

BACKGROUND: From an early age, Grace Hopper loved understanding how things worked. At age seven, she dismantled all the alarm clocks in her family's home in order to understand their mechanics. Hopper's curiosity only increased as she grew up. Hopper originally wanted to be an engineer, but, at the time, only men were allowed to pursue engineering. Instead, she studied mathematics. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Vassar College (a women's college at the time) and later a Ph.D. at Yale University in the same subject. After earning her Ph.D., Hopper returned to Vassar to lead the mathematics department.

CAREER: At Vassar, Hopper implemented a series of curricular reforms to ensure that her students received an up-to-date education. She discarded old textbooks, mandated that mathematics students develop strong writing skills, and integrated the latest developments in the field of physics into the curriculum.

After the U.S. entered World War II in December 1941, Hopper wanted to contribute to the war effort. However, the government prohibited scholars in certain crucial fields, including mathematics, from volunteering for the military. It took over a year for Hopper to convince Vassar College to grant her a leave of absence. In December 1943, she enlisted in the Navy Women's Reserve (WAVES).

In June 1944, after Hopper graduated from the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School at the top of her class, the Navy sent her to Harvard University to work on the Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator, also known as Mark I. She was the only woman in the lab. Mark I was the first operating machine that could execute long computations automatically. The Navy used data computed by Hopper and the rest of the team to develop modern technology for warfare. Some of the weapons systems that relied on Hopper's work included naval guns, acoustic and magnetic mines, self-propelled rockets, and the atomic bomb.

Hopper wrote the first operations manual for the Mark I and assisted with the construction of the Mark II and Mark III computers for the Navy's use after the war. Her work underscored the importance of mathematics in warfare and provided the Navy with the tools it needed to conduct modern, high-tech military operations.

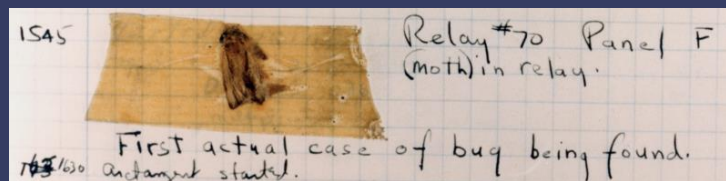
Hopper retired from the Naval Reserve in 1966 but was called back to active duty seven months later to assist with data processing during the Vietnam War. While she was supposed to serve for only six months, she remained in the Navy for 19 years. During this part of her military career, Hopper standardized the Navy's computer languages, which allowed for more efficient data management systems. Hopper retired at age 79 from the Navy with the rank of rear admiral in 1986. The following year, she received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal — the highest award granted to service members who did not serve in combat roles — as well as the Legion of Merit and the Navy Meritorious Service Medal.

LEGACY: Grace Hopper recognized the importance of modernization in the field of mathematics. As warfare evolved, her pioneering work transformed the technology accessible to the Navy and ensured that officers had the information needed to succeed. As one of the few women in a male-dominated field, Hopper continues to inspire female students to pursue careers in STEM.



Above: Commodore Grace Hopper, January 20, 1984. (NHHC)

Below: The first "computer bug" pasted in Hopper's notes on September 9, 1945. (NHCC)



On September 9, 1947, the Mark II glitched. Hopper traced the problem to a moth caught in a relay wire. She "debugged" the wire and taped the moth to her report with the caption, "First actual case of bug being found." The term "bug" already meant "problem" in other fields, but this was its first use in relation to a computer.

MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR



Walk to the intersection of York and Eisenhower Drives. Hopper's grave is 12 rows back from Eisenhower, 25 headstones in from York.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HAZEL JOHNSON-BROWN

PEACETIME & COLD WAR SERVICE



WALKING TOUR STOP 12

Section 60, Grave 9836

BIRTH: October 10, 1927, West Chester, PA

DEATH: August 5, 2011, Wilmington, DE

BACKGROUND: Hazel Johnson-Brown was the first Black woman general in the U.S. Army. Johnson-Brown and her six siblings grew up on their parents' farm in Pennsylvania. During her youth, Johnson cared for her younger siblings, and by the age of twelve she was also working as a maid in another family's home.

CAREER: Johnson-Brown initially applied to the Chester School of Nursing but was denied admission because of her race. She instead enrolled at the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1950. She worked in the emergency ward at Harlem Hospital for three years before joining the medical cardiovascular ward at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration. After only three months there, she was promoted to head nurse. During this period, she decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing at Villanova University.

Johnson-Brown joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1955 and was deployed to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to work on the female medical-surgical ward. In 1966, as the United States escalated its involvement in the Vietnam War, the Army Nurse Corps assigned Johnson to evaluate a transportable hospital intended for use in Vietnam. The following year, after overcoming a lung infection, she assumed control of central material services at Valley Forge General Hospital (at the time, one of the largest military hospitals in the United States). In 1976, Johnson-Brown served as director and assistant dean of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing while working towards a Ph.D. at Catholic University. In 1979, the Army promoted Johnson-Brown to the position of chief of the Army Nurse Corps, with the accompanying rank of brigadier general — the first Black woman in U.S. military history to attain a general officer rank. Johnson-Brown retired from the Army in 1983.

LEGACY: Throughout her career, Johnson promoted the importance of academic scholarships for Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) students. She also worked to implement the first standards of practice within the Army Nurse Corps, and she laid the foundation for the expansion of the nursing profession within the military.

In Her Own Words

In this video series for the [Visionary Project](#), Johnson-Brown described her childhood as well as experiences in the Army.



Johnson-Brown, ca. 1979. (U.S. Army)



Johnson-Brown's promotion to colonel ceremony, undated. (U.S. Army)



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Return to Marshall Drive, facing Section 60, Johnson-Brown's headstone is 16 rows back from Murray's and about 4 plots closer to York Drive.

ADDITIONAL STORIES TO EXPLORE: COLD WAR & PEACETIME

PEACETIME & COLD WAR SERVICE



MAJ. GEN. JEANNE M. HOLM

Section 45, Grave 245

The first woman to serve as a major general in the U.S. armed forces, Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm (1921–2010) had a long and distinguished career in the Air Force. She enlisted in the Army in 1942, soon after the establishment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). She transferred to the Air Force in 1949 and was appointed director of Women in the Air Force (WAF) in 1965.

In a 2003 interview, she described her efforts to expand women's career opportunities within and beyond the military: "I feel that women should be in any field that they can perform under any circumstances. And so I set about trying to open as many fields as I could, and using whatever gimmick it took to open up more fields to women." During her tenure as director, policies affecting women were updated, WAF strength more than doubled, and job and assignment opportunities greatly expanded. Her awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

After her retirement from the military in 1975, Holm accepted a civilian position as special assistant on women for President Gerald Ford. She proposed ways to remove gender bias from all federal laws. Jeanne Holm was a fierce advocate for women's rights both in the military and in civilian life, and she spearheaded many policies that have resulted in greater equality for American women today.



Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm, ca. 1973. (U.S. Air Force)



LT. COL. MARCELITE JORDAN HARRIS

Section 30, Grave 621

In 1964, Marcelite Jordan Harris (1943–2018) graduated from Spelman College, a historically Black college in Atlanta, Georgia, with a degree in speech and drama. In 1965, she received her commission as an Air Force officer through the Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. For the next ten years, she served in a variety of positions in the Air Force — from assistant director for administration for the 60th Military Airlift Wing in California to maintenance analysis officer in West Germany.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford appointed Harris as a White House social aide and personnel staff officer; she continued to serve in this position during the Carter administration. In 1978, Harris was named a commanding officer at the U.S. Air Force Academy — the first woman to hold this position — and in 1991, she became the first Black female brigadier general in the Air Force.

Three years later, she attained the rank of major general and became the first female director of maintenance and deputy chief of staff for logistics at the U.S. Air Force headquarters in Washington, D.C. Harris retired in 1997 as the highest-ranking female officer in the Air Force and the highest-ranking Black woman in the Department of Defense. Even after her retirement, she continued to support the Air Force, and in 2010, President Obama appointed her to the Board of Visitors of the Air Force Academy.

Throughout her career, Harris received numerous accolades that recognized her as a role model for women in the military. She was a trailblazer who inspired young Black women to combat sexism and racism in order to achieve their goals.



Maj. Gen. Marcelite Jordan Harris. (U.S. Air Force)



Harris celebrating the 50th anniversary of Tinker Air Force Base in 1992. Harris was the first woman to command the base. (U.S. Air Force)



POST-VIETNAM SERVICE



SERVING IN COMBAT

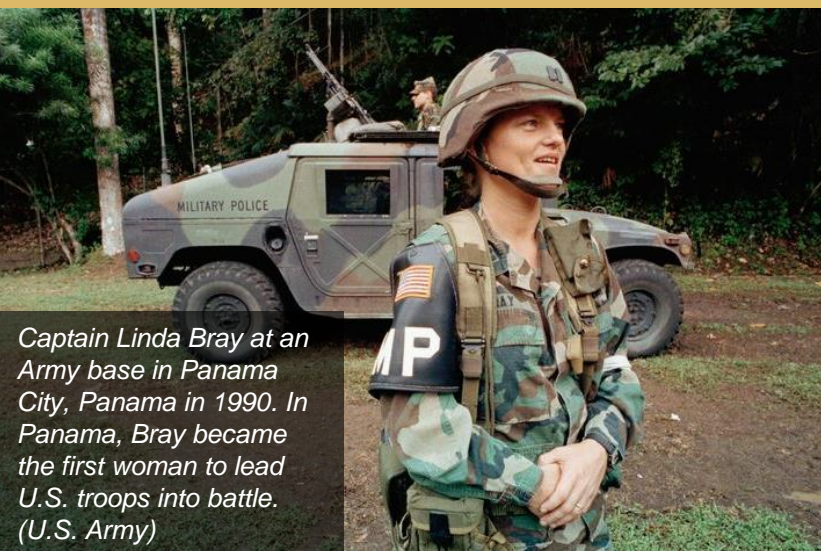
Toward the end of the 20th century, women still faced another significant hurdle to achieving equality in the military: they were prohibited from serving in combat positions. Women had been fighting this restriction for years, knowing that until they could serve side-by-side with men in combat, they would never be viewed by their leaders or fellow service members as equals and would be denied key opportunities for advancement. In April 1993, the Department of Defense announced its decision to permit women to serve in aerial and naval combat — the first in a series of new rules that opened some combat roles to women.

When U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan began in the early 2000s, women found themselves serving in combat zones but unable to officially hold combat positions — in part because during the war on terrorism, combat zones were not as clearly defined than as in previous wars. The lack of official recognition for their heroic efforts hindered women's ability to advance in their military careers. On January 24, 2013, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta lifted the ban on women serving in land-based combat. Finally, in December 2015, the Department of Defense announced that all combat positions would be open to women. Since 2015, service women have continued to honor the legacies of their predecessors by making critical advancements and integrating themselves into elite military communities.

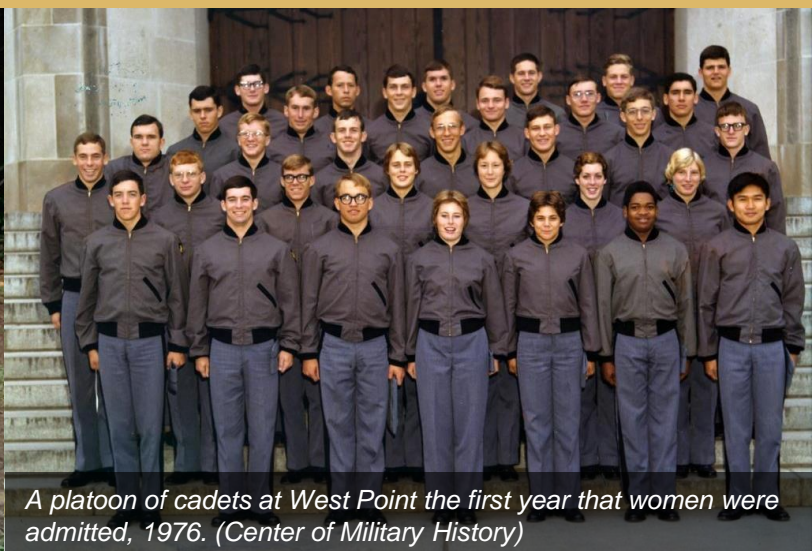
Many of the trailblazing women who helped open all combat roles for women are still alive, and many still serve in the military today. Arlington is the final resting place for their predecessors, women who sacrificed their lives on behalf of this nation and who fought for their right to serve in any position.

REFLECT

- Women often gained rights when the military faced a staffing shortage or had specific needs in times of war. This was the case during the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and when the military transitioned to an all-volunteer force in the 1970s. Consider other times a “need” — whether military need or a broader social need — has led to increased rights .
- Why do you think the U.S. military was historically resistant to women serving in all combat positions?
- What can today's military do to continue to promote gender equality?



Captain Linda Bray at an Army base in Panama City, Panama in 1990. In Panama, Bray became the first woman to lead U.S. troops into battle. (U.S. Army)



A platoon of cadets at West Point the first year that women were admitted, 1976. (Center of Military History)



Navy sailors, undated. (U.S. Navy)

LIEUTENANT KARA SPEARS HULTGREEN

POST-VIETNAM SERVICE



WALKING TOUR STOP 13

Section 60, Grave 7710

BIRTH: October 5, 1965, Greenwich, CT

DEATH: October 25, 1994, San Diego, CA

BACKGROUND: Kara Spears Hultgreen was the first female carrier-based fighter pilot in the U.S. Navy. After the Department of Defense lifted its ban on women in aerial and naval combat roles, she became the first woman to qualify as an F-14 combat pilot.

As a child, Hultgreen dreamed of becoming an astronaut. In 1987, she graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in aerospace engineering. At that point, she faced a choice in her pursuit to reach space: continue in academia or train to become a test pilot. She chose to become a test pilot.

CAREER: Hultgreen enrolled in the Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida in July 1987. From the beginning, she wanted to fly the biggest, fastest, and sleekest jets available and advocated for her right to do so. Hultgreen graduated third in her class of seven and immediately excelled in the sky. Yet despite her flying prowess, she was barred from serving as a combat pilot in Operation Desert Storm (1990), a limitation that she fiercely criticized. When the military opened aerial and naval combat to women in 1993, Hultgreen was selected as one of the first female pilots to undergo F-14 Tomcat training. When Hultgreen learned that she was finally going to serve as a combat aviator, she told a reporter, "This is historic. Sort of like being able to vote. I feel super, I'm ecstatic, I'm thrilled."

In the summer of 1994, Hultgreen became the first combat-qualified female naval aviator. She was assigned to Fighter Squadron 213, "The Blacklions," aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. In the fall of 1994, her unit was preparing for a deployment to the

Persian Gulf. While performing training exercises on October 25, Hultgreen's F-14 Tomcat experienced engine failure. The Tomcat crashed in the Pacific Ocean. Hultgreen died; her crewman survived.

LEGACY: Reflecting on Hultgreen's legacy, Susan Kilrain, one of Hultgreen's fellow naval aviators and later an astronaut, said, "Kara definitely broke down some barriers. Although many male Navy pilots were outwardly vocal against all women pilots, most respected Kara and her flying skills. She showed them that the airplane is indifferent to the gender of the pilot in control. She was also an inspiration to countless young girls."



Hultgreen with a F-14, ca. 1994. (Public Domain)

"Yes, it's a macho job in a number of ways, but that's not why I wanted to do it. I did this to become a fighter pilot. It makes me feel no less feminine and [women fighter pilots] should not make men feel less masculine."

— Kara Spears Hultgreen in a 1994 interview with *Woman Pilot* magazine



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Hultgreen's headstone is 19 rows back from Johnson-Brown's, 25 plots in from Bradley Drive.

CAPTAIN MARIA INES ORTIZ

POST-VIETNAM SERVICE



WALKING TOUR STOP 14

Section 60, Grave 8647

BIRTH: April 24, 1967, Camden, NJ

DEATH: July 10, 2007, Baghdad, Iraq

BACKGROUND: U.S. Army Captain Maria Ines Ortiz was the first Army nurse to be killed in combat since the Vietnam War. Ortiz grew up in Puerto Rico. In 1991, she enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in Puerto Rico.

CAREER: While serving in Honduras, South Korea, and at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington D.C., Ortiz decided she wanted to pursue nursing. In 1999, Ortiz graduated from the University of Puerto Rico with a degree in nursing and was commissioned as an Army officer. She next served as a dialysis nurse at Walter Reed and then as chief nurse at the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic in Maryland.

Ortiz served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In the fall of 2006, she was assigned to the 28th Combat Support Hospital, 3rd Medical Command, in Baghdad's Green Zone. Less than one year later, on July 10, 2007, Ortiz was killed during a mortar attack in the Green Zone.

LEGACY: Although women were barred from combat positions at the time of her death, that did not stop women from serving in and dying in combat zones. Like her male colleagues, Ortiz died in combat while serving her nation.



Ortiz, undated. (Public Domain)



MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

Ortiz's headstone is 8 rows up from Hultgreen's (closer to Marshall Drive), 8 plots in from York Drive.

ADDITIONAL STORIES TO EXPLORE: POST-VIETNAM

POST-VIETNAM SERVICE



LT. COM. BARBARA ALLEN RAINEY

Section 6, Grave 5813-A-7

In early 1973, the Secretary of the Navy announced a test program to train female naval aviators. Barbara Allen Rainey (1948–1982) applied that same year and was accepted into the U.S. Naval Flight Training School along with seven other women. On February 22, 1974, she became the first female naval aviator. She also became the first jet-qualified woman in the U.S. Navy.

Rainey transferred to the Navy Reserve in November 1977, while pregnant with her first daughter. She was recalled to active duty as a flight instructor in 1981. On July 13, 1982, Rainey was killed in an aircraft accident while training another pilot. Rainey paved the way for female aviators in all services to take on roles outside transportation and/or training, opening opportunities for future women — like Kara Spears Hultgreen and many others — to follow in her footsteps.



The first four female Navy officers to undergo Naval flight training, ca. 1973. L-R: Lt. (j.g.) Barbara Allen, Ensign Jane Skiles, Lt. (j.g.) Judith Neuffer, Ensign Kathleen McNary. (U.S. Navy)



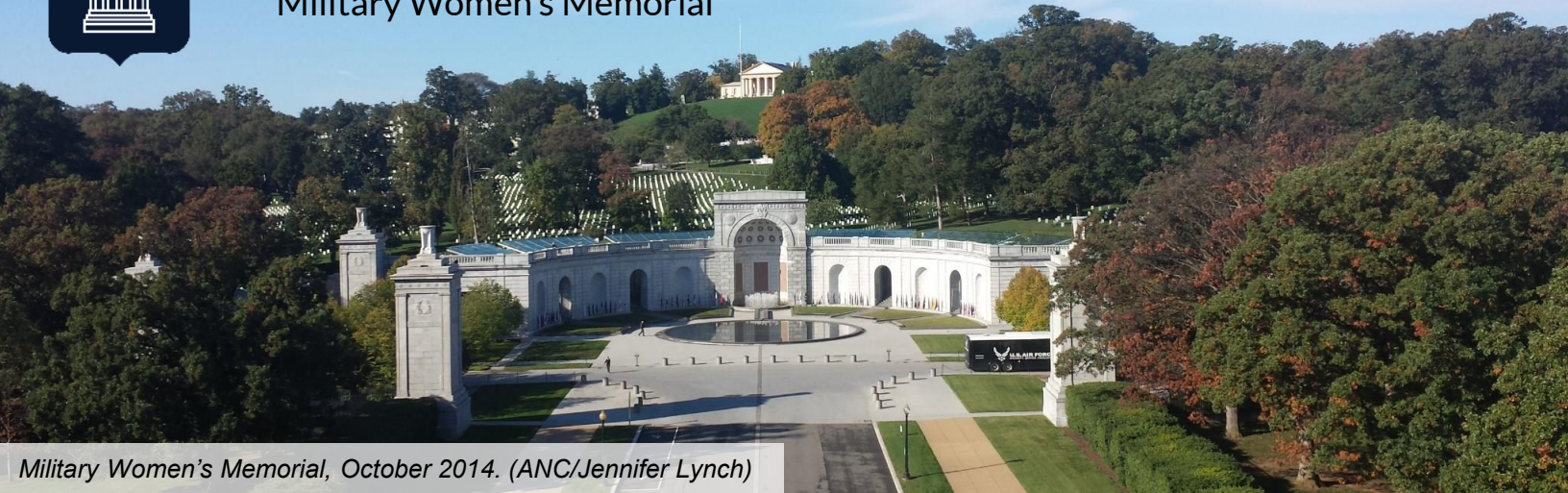
MILITARY WOMEN'S MEMORIAL



REMEMBER



WALKING TOUR STOP 15 Military Women's Memorial

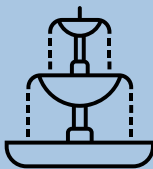


Military Women's Memorial, October 2014. (ANC/Jennifer Lynch)

[The Military Women's Memorial](#) is the voice of women in the military, their stories and their legacies. It is the only national repository that “honor[s] and tell[s] the stories of women, past and present, who serve our nation.” Inside are exhibits to women who served in or alongside the United States military from the Revolutionary War to the present. Additionally, the memorial features an education center, an extensive collection of military women's stories, and a registry of over 300,000 women who have served our nation in uniform. The Memorial is privately run and not part of Arlington National Cemetery.

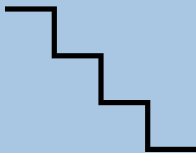
As you visit the Memorial, notice how the building's design communicates a story.

WATER



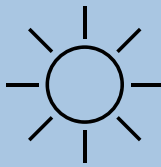
The fountain and reflecting pool symbolize the gathering of service women's “voices” through the sound and movement of water.

PASSAGE



The glass-enclosed stairways signify women breaking through barriers.

LIGHT



An arc of glass tablets illuminates the cemetery hillside at night and provides light into the exhibit gallery, shining upon the stories of women, both physically and symbolically.

As our nation rallied to pay tribute to Vietnam veterans, the question arose, “What about women?” Following the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in 1982, several World War II female veterans thought that it was time to honor military women. They asked the nation, “What about us? We served, too.”

After years of advocacy and the creation of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation (WIMSA), women secured their memorial. In November 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 610, authorizing the establishment of “a memorial on Federal lands in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.” Retired Air Force Brigadier General Wilma Vaught served as the organization's first president and was charged with finding a location for the memorial.

After touring numerous potential locations, Vaught was particularly attracted to the Hemicycle at Arlington National Cemetery. The Hemicycle was originally built as the ceremonial entrance to the cemetery, though it never served this purpose, and the structure was in disrepair. Given its proximity to both Arlington National Cemetery and the capitol city, WIMSA petitioned to build the Memorial here. They received approval in 1988 and the Memorial officially opened on October 18, 1997.

MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

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MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

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MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR

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MILITARY WOMEN WALKING TOUR



PHOTOS, continued

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