

# IN COMMEMORATION OF

## Women's History Month

### Women in US Military History

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Each day during Women's History Month in March, I highlighted women who made a significant contribution to the military on my social media channels. The intent of this effort was to recognize women for their military service and to bring attention to the barriers they faced in service to our country. By highlighting these women, I hope to create a greater appreciation for their efforts and respect for women currently serving. The selection is representative but not inclusive of all women who have served.

#### PRIVATE CATHAY WILLIAMS

Source: US Army



**PRIVATE CATHAY WILLIAMS** was born a slave near Jefferson City, MO. Cathay was the first known African American woman to serve in the US Army, enlisting in 1866 under the name "William Cathay" to hide the fact she was a woman. "The regiment I joined wore the Zouave uniform and only two persons, a cousin and a particular friend, members of the regiment, knew that I was a woman," Williams said, according to Army archives. "They were partly the cause of my joining the Army. Another reason was I wanted to make my own living and not be dependent on relations or friends." Documents show Williams served alongside the men in her unit — without being recognized as a woman — until she contracted smallpox and became ill. The disease caused her to be in and out of military hospitals until it was discovered she was female and immediately discharged.

#### MARY EDWARDS WALKER

**DR MARY EDWARDS WALKER** was an American abolitionist, prohibitionist, prisoner of war and surgeon. She is also the only woman to ever receive the Medal of Honor. In 1855, she earned her medical degree at Syracuse Medical College in New York, married, and started a medical practice. She attempted to join the Union



Army at the outbreak of the American Civil War and was denied. She served as a surgeon at a temporary hospital in Washington, DC, before being hired by Union Forces and assigned to Army of the Cumberland and later the 52nd Ohio Infantry, becoming the first female surgeon in the US Army.

She was captured by Confederate forces after crossing enemy lines to treat wounded civilians and arrested as a spy. She was sent as a prisoner of war to Richmond, Virginia until released in a prisoner exchange.

After the war, she was approved for the Medal of Honor, for her efforts to treat the wounded in battle and across enemy lines during the Civil War. Notably, the award was not expressly given for gallantry in action at that time, and in fact was the only military decoration during the Civil War. In its 159-year history, Walker is still the only woman to receive the medal and one of only eight civilians. Her name was deleted from the Army Medal of Honor Roll in 1917 (along with over 900 other, male MOH recipients); however, it was restored in 1977. After the war, she was a writer and lecturer supporting the women's suffrage movement until her death in 1919.

#### HARRIET TUBMAN



In the mid-nineteenth century, **HARRIET TUBMAN** (c. 1822–1913), a runaway slave from Maryland, helped fellow enslaved African Americans make their journey to freedom through the Underground Railroad. In the Union Army, Tubman honed her talents as spy, scout, nurse, and sometimes guerilla soldier. In her

work with the Underground Railroad, she learned the landscape of southern towns and different transportation routes, which proved to be invaluable intelligence to the Union Army. As a spy, Tubman disguised as an elderly woman and would wander unobserved through

Please see correspondence and bio information listed on page 83.

rebel territory, obtaining information from enslaved African Americans while at the same time watching Confederate troop movement, locations, ammunition depots, and supply lines.

In 1862, she traveled to Beaufort, South Carolina, and spent 3 years nursing soldiers and African Americans who were recently liberated from slavery. Lastly, as a guerilla fighter in 1863, under the command of Colonel James Montgomery, during the Combahee Ferry Raid, Tubman became the first woman to lead an armed military assault. She and 150 African American soldiers from the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment attacked plantations and destroyed Confederate mines, storehouses, and crops along the Combahee River in South Carolina. During this raid, she and her fellow black soldiers rescued 700 slaves. After the war ended, she waged a long campaign to receive recognition for her service in the military; in 1899, she was awarded \$20/month for a nurse's pension.

### LT ANNIE G. FOX



**LT ANNIE G. FOX** was the head nurse at Honolulu's Hickam Field (now Hickam AFB) on December 7, 1941. Lt Fox joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1918, at the end of the First World War. While no stranger to military service, the early morning surprise attack at Pearl Harbor landed her in combat for the first time. The 47-year-

old quickly took control of the situation as bombs rained down on the base. Firsthand accounts of the attack by hospital staff described a terrifying and chaotic situation. Enemy airplanes flying so close and low that the nurses could see the pilots talking to each other, followed by explosions and masses of black smoke after each dive. Casualties poured into the hospital within minutes of the first bombing run. As Head Nurse, Lt Fox rallied the nurses and organized the hospital's response to the assault. The wives of officers and NCOs reported to the hospital to help, and Lt Fox organized the civilian volunteers to make hospital dressings by the hundreds and assist with patient care. Lt Fox herself participated in surgery, administering anesthesia, during the heaviest part of the bombardment. Afterward, she, with the other nurses, tended to the wounded.

Without the bravery and quick action of women like Annie Fox, many more American servicemen would likely have died. In recognition of her exemplary service on the morning of December 7, 1941, Fox was awarded the Purple Heart, the first woman to receive the award. When the criteria for the Purple Heart changed, she was awarded the Bronze Star, the fourth highest combat award of the US Armed Forces. In March 2017, Hawaii Magazine named Lt Fox as one of the most influential women in Hawaii history.

### US NAVY REAR ADMIRAL GRACE HOPPER



One of the first programmers of the Harvard Mark I computer, computer scientist and **US NAVY REAR ADMIRAL GRACE HOPPER** was a pioneer of computer programming who invented one of the first linkers. Hopper was the first to devise the theory of machine-independent programming languages, and the FLOW-MATIC

programming language she created using this theory was later extended to create COBOL, an early high-level programming language still in use today.

Prior to joining the Navy, Hopper earned a PhD in mathematics from Yale University and was a professor of mathematics at Vassar College. Hopper attempted to enlist in the Navy during World War II but was rejected because she was 34 years old. She instead joined the Navy Reserves. Hopper began her computing career in 1944 when she worked on the Harvard Mark I team. In 1949, she joined the Eckert-Mauchly Computer Corporation and was part of the team that developed the UNIVAC I computer. At Eckert-Mauchly she managed the development of one of the first COBOL compilers. She believed that a programming language based on English was possible. Her compiler converted English terms into machine code understood by computers. By 1952, Hopper had finished her program linker (originally called a compiler), which was written for the A-0 System. During her wartime service, she co-authored three papers based on her work on the Harvard Mark 1.

The US Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper was named for her, as was the Cray XE6 "Hopper" supercomputer at NERSC. During her lifetime, Hopper was awarded 40 honorary degrees from universities across the world. A college at Yale University was renamed in her honor. In 1991, she received the National Medal of Technology. On November 22, 2016, she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.

### COLONEL RUBY BRADLEY



**COLONEL RUBY BRADLEY** was a US Army Nurse Corps officer, a prisoner of the Japanese in World War II, and one of the most decorated women in the US military. Bradley entered the US Army Nurse Corps as a surgical nurse in 1934. She was serving at Camp John Hay in the Philippines

when she was captured by the Japanese army 3 weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1943, Bradley was moved to the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila.

It was there that she and several other imprisoned nurses earned the title “Angels in Fatigues” from fellow captives. For the next several months, she provided medical help to the prisoners and sought to feed starving children by shoving food into her pockets whenever she could, often going hungry herself. As she lost weight, she used the room in her uniform for smuggling surgical equipment into the prisoner-of-war camp. At the camp she assisted in 230 operations and helped to deliver 13 children.

Bradley served in the Korean War as chief nurse for the 171st Evacuation Hospital. In November 1950, during the Chinese counteroffensive, she refused to leave until she had loaded the sick and wounded onto a plane in Pyongyang while surrounded by 100,000 advancing Chinese soldiers. She was able to jump aboard the plane just as her ambulance exploded from an enemy shell. In 1951, she was named chief nurse for the Eighth Army, where she supervised over 500 Army nurses throughout Korea.

Colonel Bradley was one of the most decorated women in US military history and the nation’s most decorated female veteran. Her record included 34 medals and citations of bravery, most notably two Legion of Merit medals, two Bronze Stars, and a UN Korean Service Medal with seven battle stars. Bradley left Korea with a full-dress honor guard ceremony, the first woman to receive such a salute. She also received the Florence Nightingale Medal from the International Red Cross. Bradley was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1958 and retired from the army in 1963. Toward the end of her military career, she served as the director of nursing at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

## SUSAN AHN CUDDY



**SUSAN AHN CUDDY** was the first female gunnery officer in the US Navy. She was the eldest daughter of Korean independence activist Ahn Chang-ho and Helen Ahn, the first married Korean couple to

immigrate to the US in 1902. She joined the Navy in 1942 and served until 1946, reaching the rank of lieutenant. She was the first Asian-American woman to join the US Navy.

After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Ahn Cuddy enlisted in the US Armed Forces and enrolled in the US Naval Reserve Midshipmen’s School at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. This was at a time when anti-Asian sentiment in the country was high and women were still battling over sexism in the military. She told biographer John Cha, who wrote *Willow Tree Shade: The Susan Ahn Cuddy Story* (2002), “A lot of people thought that women didn’t belong in the service. That made us try harder.”

She felt joining the Navy was a way to help free Korea from the harsh Japanese colonial era rule and was eager to join the Navy to fight the Japanese. She worked her way up in the Navy, becoming an instructor on Link Trainer flight simulators in 1943, teaching aviators how to maneuver in a simulator cockpit. Later she became the first female aerial gunnery officer in the Navy—in other words, she trained fighter pilots how to shoot down enemy aircraft. She knew how to work some guns men were having difficulty with. In *Willow Tree Shade*, Cha describes one incident where a white male pilot protested having to take directions from Ahn Cuddy because she was Asian and female. “Down here, you will shoot when I tell you to shoot!” she told the pilot.

Ahn Cuddy eventually became a lieutenant and went on to work for US Navy Intelligence and the Library of Congress. She worked for The National Security Agency in Washington, DC. During the Cold War, she was in charge of a think tank of over 300 agents working in the Russia section. She received a fellowship from the National Security Agency to study at the University of Southern California in 1956. Ahn Cuddy worked on many top-secret projects for the Department of Defense and other agencies during her service with the US government until 1959.

Even in her personal life, Ahn Cuddy proved a trailblazer. In April 1947 she married Chief Petty Officer Francis X. “Frank” Cuddy, an Irish American. They defied anti-miscegenation laws and wed at the only place that would marry them: a Navy chapel in Washington, D.C. Francis also worked for Navy Intelligence and the NSA. He was a code-breaker and helped the US free Korea.

## FIRST LIEUTENANT REBA ZITELLA WHITTLE



**FIRST LIEUTENANT REBA ZITELLA WHITTLE** was a member of the US Army Nurse Corps during World War II. She became the only American military female prisoner of war in the European Theater after her casualty evacuation aircraft was shot down in September 1944.

Whittle was born in Rocksprings, Texas, and studied at North Texas State College before attending the Medical and Surgical Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in San Antonio. After graduating, Whittle enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps on 10 June 1941 at Fort Sam Houston. With the rank of second lieutenant, she was assigned the Station Hospital at Albuquerque Army Air Base, New Mexico, where she served as a general duty ward nurse. In 1943, Whittle was accepted by the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation to train as a flight nurse at the school at Bowman Field, Kentucky. The

6-week course was designed to make the nurses largely self-sufficient during the flight, and they were trained to treat pain, bleeding and shock, attending to patients in the absence of a physician. Whittle graduated with excellent grades and departed for England aboard the RMS Queen Mary with 25 other flight nurses of the 813th Medical Air Evacuation Transport Squadron. Between January and September 1944, Whittle flew on 40 missions, logging over 500 hours flight time.

On September 27, 1944, Whittle left England on a mission to collect casualties from Advanced Landing Ground A-92 at St. Trond, Belgium. However, her C-47 was hit by German flak and crashed. The aircraft usually carried military supplies and sometimes troops on the outward flight, and then casualties on the return, so it was not marked with the Red Cross. In the crash, her surgical technician was wounded in the arm and leg, one of the pilots was killed, the other pilot was badly hurt, and Whittle suffered from a concussion and lacerations to her face and back. The crew crawled from the wrecked and burning aircraft and were captured by German soldiers.

After her release from captivity, Whittle continued to suffer from an assortment of physical and psychiatric problems. She sought compensation from the Veterans Administration and in 1950 began a series of appeals for military medical retirement. Despite diagnoses of post-traumatic encephalopathy, chronic severe anxiety reaction, and early lumbosacral arthritis, her appeals were denied. Finally, in January 1954, the Army Physical Disability Appeal Board agreed that she was relieved from active duty by reason of physical disability and thus eligible for retirement pay benefits, but as her disability was not “combat incurred,” it was backdated only to the time of her application: April 1952. Her retroactive pay amounted to \$3,780. After another review of her case, an additional \$999 was added. Had she received retroactive pay from the date of her discharge in 1946, it would have totaled \$13,760. In 1960, she appealed for the full amount of retroactive pay, but this was rejected. Whittle made no further attempts to pursue her case. After her death, her husband wrote to the Department of the Army following the announcement of the honoring of the Army and Navy nurses captured and imprisoned by the Japanese, which stated that the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration knew of no other American military women to have been taken prisoner of war. In 1983, Reba Z. Whittle was finally given official prisoner of war status. In 1997, she was posthumously awarded the Prisoner of War Medal.

## ALEDA ESTER LUTZ



**ALEDA ESTER LUTZ** was a US Army flight nurse. She was the first American woman to die in combat during World War II and, with the exception of Civil War era Dr Mary Edwards Walker, the highest decorated woman in the history of the US military.

Aleda became a staff nurse at Saginaw General Hospital (Michigan), but with the advent of World War II, she began looking for a way to contribute to the massive war effort. She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps on February 10, 1942, and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant. Lutz was transferred to the 802nd Medical Air Evacuation Squadron of the US Army's 12th Air Force, the first to depart for overseas duty. The 802nd was a Medical Air Evacuation Squadron, the first unit of its kind. This highly classified unit consisted of C-47 cargo planes that flew to the battlefield with ammunition and supplies and then took wounded-emergency cases back to the hospitals. As these were cargo planes, they flew without the Red Cross insignia.

On November 1, 1944, Lutz was fatally injured in a Medevac C-47 crash near Saint-Chamond, Loire, France. The Medevac was transporting 15 wounded soldiers (6 German POW and 9 American soldiers) from Lyon, France, to a hospital in Italy when the plane crashed. Lutz was 28 years old, and the only female on the plane.

Lutz was one of only 16 American military females to die in combat in World War II. At the time of her death, Lutz was perhaps the most experienced flight nurse in the US military service. She had the most evacuation sorties (196), most combat hours flown by any flight nurse (814) and the most patients transported by any flight nurse (3500+).

Lutz was buried with full military honors in the Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial in Draguignan, France. Lutz is the only woman buried there. Lutz is also one of the most highly decorated women in the US Military. Lutz was awarded the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the Red Cross Medal. Lutz earned six battle stars: Tunisia, Sicily, Rome-Arno, Southern France, and North Apennines. Lutz was the first army nurse to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross (posthumously, from President Franklin D. Roosevelt) and the second woman to receive the decoration (after Amelia Earhart), awarded for distinguished performance in an aerial flight.

On April 3, 1945, at the insistence of General George C. Marshall, Lutz was honored with an 800-patient hospital ship the *USAHS Aleda E. Lutz*. The Aleda E Lutz was the largest mercy ship afloat. On February 13, 1945, Aleda E. Lutz was designated a US Army hospital

ship in accordance with international practice, as set forth in the provisions of the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907.

## MARY ELIZABETH "BETTY" CLARKE



**MARY ELIZABETH "BETTY" CLARKE** was a US Army officer who served as the director of the Women's Army Corps (WAC). She was the first woman to attain the rank of major general (two star) in the US Army. Clarke served in the US Army for 36 years, the longest service of any woman for a US Army career.

In 1945, at the age of 21, Clarke enlisted in the Women's Army Corps just before World War II ended. Clarke was expecting to serve until the war ended, plus a few additional months. A male commander stated that it was unlikely she would even make it through the officers' training program. Clarke then decided to stay and made it through the initial training and eventually made a career of the US Army. Most of this time she spent in the Women's Army Corps.

Clarke held several officer positions from 1958 through 1971 in Texas, Alabama, Maryland, California, and Washington, DC. In Washington, DC, she worked at the Office of Equal Opportunity as Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. She also did WAC training and advisement. Clarke was promoted to colonel in 1972 to become the commander of the US WAC Center and School in Fort McClellan. In 1974, she was the chief of the WAC Advisory Office. In 1975, Clarke became brigadier general and served as the final director of the WAC. In 1976, she taught special courses at the US Military Academy Preparatory School to prepare women to attend military academies, since women were then allowed to attend by an executive order of President Gerald Ford.

Clarke was the last director of the WAC (1975–1978) until it was dissolved at the end of her tenure. She then immediately became commander of the US Army Military Police School and Training Center. After this assignment, she was given the rank of a two-star general and promoted to major general in June 1978, retiring from the military in 1981. Clarke died on June 10, 2011, in San Antonio, and is buried at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

## CORAL WONG PIETSCH



**CORAL WONG PIETSCH** is a US judge and a former brigadier general in the US Army Reserve. In 2001, she became the first female general officer in the Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps and the first Asian American woman to reach general officer rank in the US Army. Judge Pietsch held the position of senior attorney

and special assistant at Headquarters, US Army Pacific located in Honolulu, Hawaii. In this position, she

provided and managed legal services in support of the US Army Pacific's mission to train Army Forces for military operations and peacetime engagements aimed at promoting regional stability. Her responsibilities included providing advice and counsel in a myriad of areas of law, to include environmental law, fiscal law, personnel law, international law, and administrative law.

In 2006, Judge Pietsch was appointed by the governor of Hawaii to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, where she served for 7 years. Shortly after the appointment, the governor selected Judge Pietsch as its chair, and during her tenure, the Commission improved the claims administrative process, eliminated backlogs, implemented a public education program, and initiated an awareness program within the public schools.

Judge Pietsch's academic degrees include a bachelor of arts degree from the College of St. Theresa, master of arts degree from Marquette, and a juris doctor degree from the Catholic University of America. She was also a senior executive fellow at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and is a graduate of the Defense Leadership and Management Program and a graduate of the Army War College.

On November 1, 2011, President Obama nominated her to the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. She was confirmed by the Senate on May 24, 2012.

## RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL RHONDA L. CORNUM



**RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL RHONDA L. CORNUM** has enjoyed a distinguished career as an Army medical doctor and officer and an advocate for gender equality. In 2001, when she held the rank of colonel, she explained, "You shouldn't think of yourself as a female colonel. You should think of yourself as a colonel who just happens

to be a woman . . . I guess if I'm a crusader for anything, its equal opportunity for everybody."

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Cornum earned a doctorate in biochemistry from Cornell University in 1971. Planning to pursue a career as a research scientist, she was recruited by the Army while attending a conference presenting the results of her research on amino acids.

Cornum was enthusiastic about the opportunities the Army could offer her—"where else could a woman who is also a physician and a surgeon get paid to jump out of an airplane?" She earned an expert field medical badge and an airborne badge and learned to fly helicopters as a flight surgeon.

In 1986, Cornum was awarded an MD degree from the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland. She completed a medical residency in urology at

Brooke Army Medical Center, in San Antonio, Texas. She has been stationed at Fort Polk in Louisiana and Fort Rucker, Alabama, where she was named Flight Surgeon of the Year in 1990.

As a flight surgeon with the 229th Attack Helicopter Regiment during the Gulf War, then-Major Cornum was aboard a Black Hawk helicopter that was shot down while on a search and rescue mission, looking for a downed F-16 pilot. She suffered two broken arms, a broken finger, a gunshot wound in the back, and other injuries. After regaining consciousness, she said her first thought was “Nobody’s ever died from pain.” Cornum was taken into custody by Iraqi soldiers. She spent 8 days as a prisoner of war but was ultimately released. “Looking at it in the context of my life,” Cornum says, “it was a very bad week, but it doesn’t define me.”

Since then, Cornum has spoken widely about her experience, publishing her autobiography *She Went to War: The Rhonda Cornum Story* and testifying before Congress on the role of women in combat. She has also appeared before the Supreme Court on issues involving military educational institutions’ admissions policies. “Whether it’s being a jockey, a scientist, a pilot, or a commander, I’ve always identified with the activity first . . . I really don’t think that opportunities should be gender based . . .”

General Cornum attended the Army’s Command and Staff College and the National War College, serving as class president. She has held posts as commander of Fort Bragg’s 18th Airborne Corps 28th Combat Support Hospital and an Army Medical Unit in Tuzla, Bosnia. In 2003, she assumed command of the Army Hospital at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

General Cornum has received many military honors, including the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Purple Heart.

## EILEEN MARIE COLLINS



**EILEEN MARIE COLLINS** is a retired NASA astronaut, US Air Force colonel, military instructor, and test pilot. Collins was the first female pilot and first female commander of a Space Shuttle. Colonel Collins has logged 38 days 8 hours 20 minutes in outer space.

Following graduation from Syracuse, Collins was one of four women chosen for undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. After earning her pilot wings, she stayed on at Vance for 3 years as a T-38 Talon instructor pilot before transitioning to the C-141 Starlifter at Travis Air Force Base, California. From 1986 to 1989, she was assigned to the US Air Force Academy in Colorado, where she was an assistant

professor in mathematics and a T-41 instructor pilot. In 1989, Collins became the second female pilot to attend the US Air Force Test Pilot School.

Collins was selected to be an astronaut in 1990 and first flew the Space Shuttle as pilot in 1995 aboard STS-63, which involved a rendezvous between Discovery and the Russian space station Mir. In recognition of her achievement as the first female Shuttle Pilot, she received the Harmon Trophy. She was also the pilot for STS-84 in 1997.

Collins was also the first female commander of a US Spacecraft with Shuttle mission STS-93, launched in July 1999, which deployed the Chandra X-Ray Observatory. Collins commanded STS-114, NASA’s “return to flight” mission to test safety improvements and resupply the International Space Station (ISS). Asked if she felt even a twinge of fear after the loss of Columbia, Colonel Collins replied, “I would have to say no. I want to fly again. I am very mentally ready to go fly again.” Then pausing, noting that she wanted to be precise, she added, “I am mentally ready to go fly again when the shuttle is cleared to fly.” The flight was launched on July 26, 2005, and returned on August 9, 2005. During STS-114, Collins became the first astronaut to fly the Space Shuttle through a complete 360-degree pitch maneuver. This was necessary so astronauts aboard the ISS could take photographs of the Shuttle’s belly, to ensure there was no threat from debris-related damage to the Shuttle on reentry.

## VICE ADMIRAL (RET) RAQUEL C. BONO, MD



Serve a mission greater than yourself. It’s a powerful motto that exemplifies the life, work, and impact of **Vice Admiral (RET) RAQUEL C. BONO, MD**, who served more than 30 years with honor and distinction as a Navy officer. A board-certified trauma surgeon, Dr Bono was the first woman surgeon in the military to hold the rank of vice admiral. As the first female three-star admiral in the medical field in the history of the US Navy, as well as the first Asian American woman promoted to vice admiral, Dr Bono is accustomed to blazing paths. Born in the Philippines and raised in Texas, she credits her father—also a Navy surgeon—for instilling in her the belief that she could do and be anything, as long as she continued to serve a greater mission than herself. Dr Bono has dedicated her life’s work to doing exactly that, while inspiring and mentoring others to do the same.

Dr Bono has made it part of her mission to encourage women and minorities to pursue careers in the military and medicine. A firm believer that diversity strengthens organizations, she launched the Military Health Corps’

Female Physicians Leadership Course to encourage diversity, retain women physicians, and give military women the skills they need to succeed in senior leadership roles. Today, it is an annual standalone, 3-day course, training more than 100 women military physicians each year. Her advice to attendees: “As a leader, you have to be willing to make change happen. Leadership should make you uncomfortable; it’s not for the weak of heart because it takes courage, self-knowledge, and skill.”

Dr Bono received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas, Austin, her master of business administration from Washington State University (Spokane, WA), and her medical degree from Texas Tech Health Sciences Center (Lubbock, TX). She completed her surgical internship and residency at the Naval Medical Center (Portsmouth, VA) and performed a trauma and critical care fellowship at the Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine (Norfolk, VA).

### MARGARET H. WOODWARD



**MARGARET H. WOODWARD** is an American former military officer and major general in the US Air Force. As commander of the 17th Air Force and US Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, she was responsible for all US air actions that involved Africa. In March 2011, she commanded the air component of the US contribu-

tion to the no-fly zone over Libya, sanctioned by the United Nations, making her the first woman to oversee a US combat air campaign. In 1982, Woodward graduated from Arizona State University and joined the US Air Force the year after. For most of her career she flew aerial refueling aircraft such as the Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, though she also has experience in the Boeing C-40 Clipper, the C-37 military version of the Gulfstream G550, and the T-37 and T-38 trainers. She was involved in the US invasion of Panama, Operation Allied Force, Operations Northern and Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, and missions during the Iraq War.

In 2007, she became commander of the 89th Airlift Wing, which includes responsibility for Air Force One, and in June 2010, she became commander of the Seventeenth Air Force, the US Air Force branch of the US Africa Command. As such, she was the operational commander for the US involvement in the 2011 military intervention in Libya, dubbed Operation Odyssey Dawn, before command of the whole operation was transferred to NATO.

From June 2013 to mid 2014, she was director of the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, Office of the Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters US Air Force, Washington, DC, before retiring at the end of 2014.

### GENERAL DANA BORN



**GENERAL DANA BORN** is a distinguished 1983 graduate of the US Air Force Academy with a degree in behavioral sciences. She holds a master of science degree in experimental psychology from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, a master of arts degree in research psychology from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a doctor of philosophy degree in industrial and organizational psychology from Pennsylvania State University.

Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born was the first female dean of faculty at the US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. She commanded the 700-member Dean of the Faculty mission element and oversaw the annual design and instruction of more than 500 undergraduate courses for 4,000 cadets in 32 academic disciplines. She also directed the operation of five support staff agencies and faculty resources involving more than \$250 million.

Following her tours as an exchange officer with the Royal Australian Air Force and assistant professor at the US Air Force Academy, she completed her doctor of philosophy degree in industrial and organizational psychology from Pennsylvania State University. General Born’s staff assignments include assistant director for recruiting research and analysis in the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy, aide to the Secretary of the Air Force, and Deputy Chief of the Personnel Issues Team in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. She commanded the 11th Mission Support Squadron at Bolling AFB, Washington, DC, providing personnel, education and training, and family support to service members in the National Capital Region and around the world. Prior to her current assignment, the general was a permanent professor and head of the US Air Force Academy’s Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Department. She is currently a public policy lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

## JIMMIE KEENAN



**JIMMIE KEENAN** is a retired major general of the US Army. She served as the Deputy Commanding General of the Medical Command and chief of the US Army Nurse Corps before retiring on January 1, 2016.

Keenan entered the US Army as a Nurse Corps officer commissioned through Reserve Officer Training Corps at Henderson State University. She completed a variety of assignments such as nursing at domestic and overseas facilities of the US Army, and eventually rising to the post of Commander, Evans Army Community Hospital in Fort Carson, Colorado. She also commanded US Army Public Health Command in Aberdeen Proving Ground. Her last assignment, prior to assuming deputy command of the US Army Medical Command (MEDCOM), was Commanding General, US Army Southern Regional Medical Command.

Keenan's awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and Army Achievement Medal. She has earned the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. Keenan was the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award winner for the Health Services Command in 1988, a Regional Finalist, White House Fellowship Program in 1992, and an Army Congressional Fellow for FY 2001. She is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit and a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

General Keenan is currently the SVP for Clinic Operations for Wellmed and a 2022 inductee into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame.

## NADJA WEST



**NADJA WEST** is a retired US Army lieutenant general and the 44th Surgeon General of the US Army and former Commanding General of the US Army Medical Command. West, a physician, was the first black Army Surgeon General and was the first black female active-duty major general and the first black female major

general in Army Medicine. West is also the first Army black female lieutenant general. She is the highest-ranking woman to have graduated from the US Military Academy and was the first woman ever to be honored with the West Point Association of Graduates Distinguished Graduate Award.

West's historic promotion to be the second black female major general took place on April 19, 2013. Of her promotion, West said, "I never really thought about that part. My parents taught me to work hard and be the best I can be and things will work out. I'm just really honored. If anything at all, I hope I can be an inspiration to any one or any group that has not seen themselves in certain positions. We all want to see people who look like us doing certain things to give us inspiration. Hopefully, I can inspire someone to be able to say, 'I can do that.'" She has claimed an early, positive influence was seeing a black, female character (Uhura) on the bridge of Star Trek's USS Enterprise.

West completed her Family Medicine internship and residency at Martin Army Hospital at Fort Benning (Georgia). She deployed during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield while assigned there. West finished her residency in dermatology at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center and University of Colorado Medical Center. She was chief, Dermatology Service at Heidelberg Army Hospital in Germany. West obtained a master of science in National Security Strategy. Of her military medical career, West says, "If you want to feel inspired about what military medicine does, see how appreciative these men and women are for the care they've received. It's right here. It's the reason the military health system exists: to take care of brave men and women like these."

## ROSLYN "ROZ" SCHULTE



**ROSLYN "ROZ" SCHULTE** was a US Air Force officer killed in action in the US war in Afghanistan, making her the first female US Air Force Academy graduate to be killed by enemy action.

Schulte was assigned to the Pacific Air Force 613th Air and Space Operations Center at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, and was sent on deployment as an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations officer. Three months after she arrived in Afghanistan, she was killed by a roadside bomb near Kabul.

Schulte was posthumously awarded the National Intelligence Medal for Valor on January 25, 2010, the first named female recipient. Her citation noted "her courageous efforts to teach Afghan military officials how to gather and interpret military intelligence" and said, "She died in Afghanistan en route to a Bagram Airfield meeting on the very issue that powers the IC: sharing intelligence." In addition, she was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and NATO Medal.



Two buildings near Kabul were renamed in Schulte's honor: At Camp Eggers, one of the buildings was designated "Roz's House"; at Sia Sang, a building was named "Schulte's Place." In 2010, the Air Force Academy created the Lt. Roslyn Schulte Cadet Award to recognize a cadet who "embodies the same impeccable character, unwavering leadership, and spirit of service that distinguished Lieutenant Schulte." In 2011, Goodfellow Air Force Base dedicated a training facility building in Schulte's honor. The conference room in the ISRD of the 613th Air and Space Operations Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii is named after 1Lt Schulte. A conference room at 25th Air Force has also been dedicated in her honor.

### SHAYE LYNNE HAVER and KRISTEN GRIEST



Shaye Lynne Haver and Kristen Griest

**SHAYE LYNNE HAVER** and **KRISTEN GRIEST** were the first two women to ever graduate from the US Army Ranger School, which occurred on 21 August 2015. Griest and Haver began Ranger training in the spring of 2015 as part of a one-time pilot program to see how women would do in Ranger School. The course started with 380 men and 19 other women, marking the first-time women have ever been allowed to participate through the course. 99 of the 380 men graduated from this starting pool. Haver and Griest failed the first phase of the course twice, though their performance impressed Ranger leaders enough to be offered a chance to start over from day one, commonly referred to as a "Day 01" recycle. They admitted to the press that it was hard to start over, but said they weren't going to quit. "We decided right then and there that if that was what it was going to take to get our Tab, that's what it was going to take," Haver said. School officials report that in addition to Haver and Griest, five male candidates were also offered to start over the course from day one.

Haver and Griest both said that they felt extra pressure to succeed because they wanted to prove that women can endure the same stress and pressure that men do when training. Since questions arose about the legitimacy of the program, many commanders and generals (and one Ranger named Colonel Kragh) have spoken out in support of the women. Major General Scott Miller, the commanding general of the US Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, said he vowed before the program began that there "would be no change to the standards." Some critics argued that because Haver and her classmate Griest recycled, or started over, they were given special treatment or somehow did not meet the same standards as male Rangers. School officials reassured the public that only one in four males graduate Ranger School without a recycle.

On 26 April 2018, Haver took command of Co C, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, joining her fellow Ranger School graduate Griest in being some of the first female infantry commanders.

When US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died and lay in state at the US Capitol, Shaye Haver led the military honor guard that carried the casket.

*A majority of the images are from Wikipedia.*

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KEYWORDS: *women; military; history*

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**Gretchen Garceau-Kragh** earned her bachelor's degree in Sport Science from Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire. As an athletic trainer, she worked at The University of Connecticut, Elmira College, where she earned a master of education; the United States Military Academy; Methodist University; and The University of the Incarnate Word, where she helped to develop the Athletic Training major while also earning an MBA in Sport Management. She transitioned into the nonprofit world in 2004, working in the area of philanthropy. As an independent grant writer, she helps nonprofit organizations throughout Texas by matching them with funders who want to support their missions. Gretchen is also a Registered Parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Garceau-Kragh and her husband, John Kragh, a retired Army Colonel, live in the King William district of San Antonio, Texas, with their two cats, Coconut and Nutmeg. They are both avid golfers, having played golf in 33 states and 7 foreign countries. They have also attended baseball games at 16 of the 30 current Major League ball parks.



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