

**Trailblazers**

Sgt. Cristina Fuentes Montenegro— In 2013, she was one of the first three women to earn her USMC infantry qualifications.

Capt. Kristen Griest— In 2015, she was one of the first three women to earn the Ranger tab. In 2016, she became the Army's first female infantry officer.

Lt. Col. Christine Mau— In 2011, she was part of the first all-female combat sortie over Afghanistan. In 2015, she became the first female pilot of an F-35 jet.

Lt. Cmdr. Marilyn Melendez Dykman in 1991, transferred from the U.S. Army to become the first Hispanic-American female aviator in the U.S. Coast Guard. Her achievement helped pave the way for opportunities for female cadets of all races and ethnicities at the USCG.

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# Women's History Month

## National Women's History Month

Throughout history, women have driven humanity forward on the path to a more equal and just society, contributing in innumerable ways to our character and progress as a people. Today's world requires a diversity of qualifications and resources to ensure that peace and security are achieved and maintained.

Yet, as recently as the 1970s, women's history was close to an unknown topic in the school systems and general public consciousness.

The Education Task Force in Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The week of March 8th, which is International Women's Day, was chosen as the central point of the observance.

President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. In the following year, Representative Barbara Mikulski and Senator Orrin Hatch sponsored a Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week (NWHW) 1981. By 1986, 14 states declared March as Women's History Month.

Each year, the dates of NWHW changed and a new lobbying effort was needed. Thousands of individuals as well as educational and women's organizations spearheaded the national effort.

Congress designated March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity in 1987. A Presidential Proclamation is issued every year honoring the extraordinary achievements of women. Each year, National Women's History Month develops a unifying theme and honors women

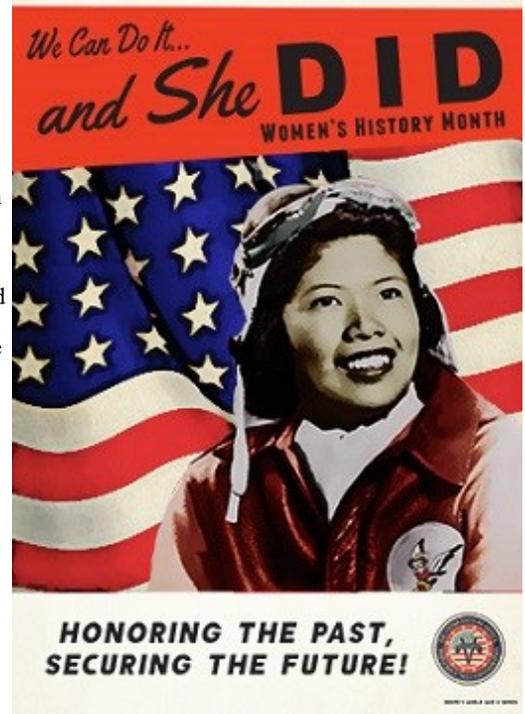
whose work and lives testify to that theme.

The impact of women on America continues in a myriad of areas, including history, education, entertainment, literature, science, sports, politics, culture, and the military.

There is power in hearing women's stories, both personally and in a larger context. Accounts of the lives of individual women are critical because they reveal exceptionally strong role models who share an expansive vision of what women can do and have

accomplished. Moreover, their efforts have placed today's young women in a historically exceptional position, where they are better empowered to ensure the equal treatment of not only women, but all individuals.

Please join DLA Distribution as we celebrate National Women's History Month.



## Commanding General's Comments



DLA Distribution Brig. Gen. Keith D. Reventlow United States Marine Corps  
Commanding General

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*The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn.—  
Journalist-Gloria Steinem*

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Each March, the Defense Department honors Women's History Month by recognizing the invaluable contributions of women who have inspired and shaped our Nation through military and civil service. During this month, we honor and celebrate the struggles and achievements of women throughout the history of the United States.

According to the 2021 Portrait of Defense Department/ Government Civilian Women report by the DoD Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 14% of senior enlisted personnel are women and more than 15% of females on active duty received a commission via Officer Candidate School or equivalent, an increase from 13% in fiscal year 2019. In addition, the report states that 48 of every 100 DoD civilian employees are women, and over 27% of those women employees are veterans.

I've had the opportunity to work for, and with, many amazing military service and federal civilian employees, many of whom have been

women. The federal government continues to aspire to be the model employer where, regardless of gender, employees are afforded the opportunity for a challenging and rewarding career in service of our country.

Within our own ranks at DLA Distribution, I'm proud to say we also have a strong presence of female leadership throughout our worldwide Distribution network. It is an honor to work with these accomplished, impressive women who are leading, supporting the Warfighter, managing their operations, and taking good care of their people at our Distribution Centers.

I encourage you to go online and read an article from the Smithsonian Magazine, March 2021 edition. In it you will find an extraordinary article written about Juanita Moody, the National Security Agency's (NSA) head of the Cuba desk at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Moody, from Morven, North Carolina, and the first of nine children, was a "code-breaking whiz" and a dedicated civil servant. Her

persistence eventually persuaded Louis Tordella, then deputy director at the NSA, to publish her reports about the build-up of Soviet personnel and equipment in Cuba, to the entire U.S. Intelligence community. The link to the story can be found in the resources section at the end of this newsletter. I'll leave it to you to read the rest of the story.

As we recognize women this month, I encourage you to pause and reflect on the women who have inspired us all to go further, take risks, and do better. I invite you to honor those women who inspire you every day, whether they are family members, famous historical figures, or coworkers.

## 38th Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Michelle Howard became the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. Navy—and the U.S. military, in 2013.

Senators confirmed Howard for the Navy's number two post in December 2013, making her the first female four-star admiral in the Navy's 238-year history.

Her promotion to Vice Chief of Naval Operations will also make her the first Black woman to attain four-star rank in Pentagon history.

Howard knew—at the age of 12—that she wanted to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, even though women couldn't apply. In 1978, when Howard entered the Academy, she was one of seven Black women in a class of 1,363.

She rose through the ranks. In 1993, when the Navy changed its policy allowing women to serve on combat vessels, Howard became the first female executive officer on an American warship, the USS Tortuga.

She was later named commander of the USS Rushmore, a 15,000-ton amphibious assault vessel with a crew of 400 sailors and more than 350 marines.

Howard became the first female captain of the Rushmore and the first Black woman to command a Navy combat vessel.

Less than a week into her new job, Howard learned that the cargo ship Maersk Alabama had been hijacked by Somali pirates.

Howard spent two days trying to peacefully end the standoff. Finally, she called in a team of Navy SEALs who shot the pirates and brought Captain Richard Phillips back to safety.

Anu Bhagwati, a former Marine captain who now serves as executive director of the Service Women's Action Network, describes the way Howard has inspired a younger generation of minority women:

"Anytime a woman, especially a woman of color, is promoted, it helps all of us. Looking up and seeing women like you, you cannot underestimate the incredible value of that moment."



Admiral Michelle Howard.

## Advocate for Survivors of Human Trafficking



Freedom House Founder Jaida Im

According to the FBI, the United States not only faces an influx of international victims but also has its own homegrown problem of interstate sex trafficking of minors.

Although comprehensive research to document the number of children engaged in prostitution in the U.S. is lacking, an estimated 293,000 American youths currently are at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

In 2009, Freedom House founder Jaida Im discovered that modern-day slavery existed in her own backyard. Human trafficking was rampant in California.

Im was overwhelmed by the

enormity of the problem and her lack of knowledge about the issue. While questioning the impact one person could make against the second-largest international crime, she was still convinced to act.

Freedom House established The Monarch for women in August 2010 in San Mateo County, the first residential shelter and long-term aftercare program of its kind in Northern California.

Freedom House upholds the core values of love, honesty, compassion, professionalism, and teamwork. The staff works closely with law enforcement and community partners to expose human trafficking, and to provide victims with the care and services they need to rebuild their lives.

In fall 2013, Freedom House opened The Nest to serve girls ages 12-17 that had been rescued from human trafficking.

It provides a place where these girls can recapture their interrupted youth in a loving family setting.

*“A woman in harmony with her spirit is like a river flowing. She goes where she will without pretense and arrives at her destination prepared to be herself and only herself.” – Maya Angelou*

## First African American Female Fighter Pilot in the United States Air Force

Lieutenant Colonel Shawna Rochelle Kimbrell is the first African American female fighter pilot in the United States Air Force. Kimbrell was born in Lafayette, Indiana on April 20, 1976. Her parents, Eve Blackman Ng A Qui and Dr. Norman N A Qui, migrated from Guyana and were naturalized citizens by the time Kimbrell was born.

In her youth, the family moved to Parker, Colorado, and Kimbrell attended school there. She decided she wanted to become a fighter pilot in the fourth grade and had her first flight lesson at the age of fourteen. She joined the Civil Air Patrol, and worked at air shows, while earning her private pilot's license.

Kimbrell received her commission after she graduated from the USAF Academy in Colorado in 1998, with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering. She later received a Master's in Business Administration from Touro University in Nevada in August 2005. Kimbrell attended undergraduate Pilot Training at

Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB) in Del Rio, Texas and earned her pilot wings in August 1999.

By November, Kimbrell completed Introduction to Fighter Fundamental training at Randolph AFB, Texas. She graduated from F-16 training at Luke AFB, Arizona in August 2000, and became the first African American female Fighter Pilot in the USAF.

Kimbrell's first operational assignment was with the 13th Fighter Squadron in Misawa, Japan, from August 2001 to July 2003. She served as an F-16 fighter pilot, and was deployed to Turkey and Saudi Arabia, in support of Operation Northern and Southern Watch. In Operation Northern Watch, Kimbrell was the first African American female to fly in a combat mission for the 35th Fighter Wing, and to employ ordnance in combat.

From August 2004 to June 2007, Kimbrell served as the A-Flight Commander, 1st Brigade Air Liaison Officer. She was deployed to Iraq as the 2nd Brigade Air Liaison

Officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After her tour was over, she was assigned to the 31st Fighter Wing at Aviano Air Base in Italy, serving as the Aircrew Flight Equipment Flight Commander and Assistant Director of Operation for the 555 Fighter Squadron.

Kimbrell served as the Course Manager for the Air Liaison Officer Qualification Course and Instructor with the 6th Combat Training Squadron at Nellis AFB, Nevada, in December 2009, before she separated from active duty and transitioned to the AF Reserves in October 2013. She is currently a member of the 78th Attack Squadron and serves as an MQ-9 pilot and Mission Commander.

Kimbrell has over 2,100 flight hours and has been awarded numerous awards throughout her career, to include five Aerial Achievement Medals, two Air Force Commendations Medals and the National Defense Service Medal.



Lt.Col. Shawna Rochelle Kimbrell

## Roxcy O'Neal Bolton 20th Century Women's Rights Pioneer

Bolton's involvement in community issues began in the 1950s. She was deeply moved by Eleanor Roosevelt's address at the 1956 Democratic National Convention, and was motivated to action by the disparity between what women were obviously capable of accomplishing and the fact that "all the men were making the decisions."

Bolton joined the National Organization for Women (NOW) soon after its founding in 1966. She championed NOW's message to county commissioners, town councils, and university presidents, arguing the case for equal rights for women, and campaigning for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

She personally convinced U.S. Senator Birch Bayh to hold the first hearings on the ERA before Congress in 1970.

In 1971, the Playboy Plaza Hotel in Miami Beach made the mistake of including Bolton on its mailing list, and offered its facilities for NOW's meetings. Bolton's response became one of her most pointed missives.

The letter began, "Your colossal gall is exceeded only by my tolerance, despite the stress on my good nature..." And ended with "How would you like to walk around with a wad of cotton on your rear end?"

Bolton founded Women in Distress in 1972. Now operated by the Salvation Army, Women

in Distress offers temporary lodging, legal assistance, counseling, and caring support to battered women and those with substance abuse problems.

She also helped establish Commissions on the Status of Women in state and county governments, fought for more women in policy-making positions, pushed for creation of the Women's Institute at Florida Atlantic University, and led a sit-in at the University of Miami protesting the unequal treatment of female students and faculty.

Bolton's extensive efforts included working to end sexist advertising, convincing National Airlines to provide maternity leave to—instead of firing—pregnant flight attendants, and persuading the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to name hurricanes after both women and men.

She also initiated the Rehabilitation Program for Young Prostitutes in the Miami-Dade area, offering educational opportunities to incarcerated women, to help keep them off the streets and drug free.

Bolton's perseverance prompted a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1971 that designated August 26th as Women's Equality Day, and prodded the President to issue an annual proclamation to commemorate that day.

That Joint Resolution—and the

resulting 1972 Proclamation issued by President Richard Nixon—represented symbolic victories of the very real gains made by women.

Bolton fought for laws protecting rape victims, and for legislation to more efficiently prosecute rape crimes. She persuaded the Florida legislature to revise existing sexual assault statutes to establish degrees of rape.

The legislation unified all sexual assault violations under a single law, which would enable a far greater number of prosecutions for acts that would otherwise go unpunished, while affording greater protections to the victims.

In 1974, her continued efforts helped establish the Rape Treatment Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami—later renamed the Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center—the nation's first hospital-based rape treatment center.

Bolton has never wavered in her struggle for equal rights. Her many years of pioneering equal rights activism have earned her numerous awards, including her 1984 induction into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame for "forcing police and prosecutors to make rape crime a priority."



Ms. Roxcy O'Neal Bolton

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*"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. ... It shouldn't be that women are the exception."*

— Supreme Court Justice  
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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Captain Howard briefs sailors aboard the USS Rushmore

## U.S. Coast Guard Trailblazer

Eleanor L'Ecuyer was born in Boston Massachusetts, to Eleanor Creed L'Ecuyer and Eugene W. L'Ecuyer (both deceased). She was the oldest of three daughters: Eleanor, Vivian and Rosalie of Fairbanks, Alaska. As children, they all attended the Girls' Latin School in Boston, their mother's alumni. Eleanor was voted president of the Alumnae Association in 1939.

In 1944, frustrated by her clerical work, Eleanor C. L'Ecuyer volunteered to join the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve, better known as the SPARs—a contraction of the Coast Guard motto, "Semper Paratus – Always Ready."

L'Ecuyer said, "I went for a walk at the suggestion of my boss and came back a member of the Coast Guard." Her choice would forever impact policies and increase opportunities for women serving in the Coast Guard.

After her discharge in 1946, she activated her G.I. Bill benefits and earned a law degree. However, job openings for a female attorney in 1950 were few and far between. In 1951, she rejoined the Coast Guard and became the first female attorney hired, although because of her sex, she was not allowed to serve in that role.

L'Ecuyer put her law degree to use. She wrote successful

challenges to several policies that would increase career potential for women in the Coast Guard.

She argued that being pregnant was not a disabling condition and therefore, should not be grounds for discharging women. Additionally, she challenged policy limiting women to serving only 20 years.

She served until 1971, rising to the rank of captain, the highest rank a woman could achieve at the time. She holds the distinction of being the longest serving SPAR.



CDR Eleanor L'Ecuyer and LCDR Vivian Reese, both of Washington, D.C., visited Palm Beach recently to make preparations for a 25th SPAR anniversary reunion. They are shown reading a 1943 press clipping describing the training being conducted at the Palm Beach-Biltmore Hotel. The reunion will be held at the hotel 20-24 November 1967.

Photo by Ursula Sceman,  
Palm Beach Post Times

### Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Equal Employment Opportunity Office

Zachary M. Currier  
Director, EEO  
DLA Distribution  
[Zachary.m.Currier@dla.mil](mailto:Zachary.m.Currier@dla.mil)

Joann F. Schopman  
Supervisor, EEO  
DLA Distribution  
[Joann.Schopman@dla.mil](mailto:Joann.Schopman@dla.mil)

Carrie Hawk  
Supervisor, EEO  
DLA Distribution  
[Carrie.Hawk@dla.mil](mailto:Carrie.Hawk@dla.mil)

Michael Brown  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Michael.Brown2@dla.mil](mailto:Michael.Brown2@dla.mil)

Cristina Rivera  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Cristina.I.Rivera@dla.mil](mailto:Cristina.I.Rivera@dla.mil)

Thomas. E. McIntyre  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Thomas.McIntyre@dla.mil](mailto:Thomas.McIntyre@dla.mil)

Cynthia Allen  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Cynthia.I.Allen@dla.mil](mailto:Cynthia.I.Allen@dla.mil)

William Vacchiano  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[William.I.Vacchianno@dla.mil](mailto:William.I.Vacchianno@dla.mil)

Laura B. D'Arca  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Laura.D'Arca@dla.mil](mailto:Laura.D'Arca@dla.mil)

Jerry A. Clements  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Jerry.Clements@dla.mil](mailto:Jerry.Clements@dla.mil)

Debbie Alexander  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Debbie.Alexander@dla.mil](mailto:Debbie.Alexander@dla.mil)

Bridgette R. Vaughn  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Bridgette.Vaughn@dla.mil](mailto:Bridgette.Vaughn@dla.mil)

Sander L. Sosatoledo  
EEO Specialist  
DLA Distribution  
[Sander.Sosatoledo@dla.mil](mailto:Sander.Sosatoledo@dla.mil)

Tommy A. Shird  
EEO Assistant  
DLA Distribution  
[Tommy.Shird@dla.mil](mailto:Tommy.Shird@dla.mil)

*"Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe you must become its soul."*

*—Coretta Scott King*

## Resources

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/juanita-moody-woman-helped-avert-nuclear-war-180976993/>  
<http://www.navyhistory.org/2013/12/vice-admiral-howard-and-the-wind-of-change-for-military-women/>  
[http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin/march\\_2011/human\\_sex\\_trafficking](http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin/march_2011/human_sex_trafficking)  
<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/honorees2012.php>  
 Photo courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard  
[http://www.floridamemory.com/photographiccollection/photo\\_exhibits/roxcy/bio.php](http://www.floridamemory.com/photographiccollection/photo_exhibits/roxcy/bio.php)  
<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/shawna-rochelle-ng-a-qui-kimbrell-1976/>  
 All photographs are public domain and are from the resources, listed above

# Observances

Third Monday of January - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

February - African American/Black History Month

March - Women's History Month

April - Holocaust Remembrance Day/Days of Remembrance

May - Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

26 August - Women's Equality Day

15 September to 15 October - National Hispanic Heritage Month

October - National Disability Employment Awareness Month

November - National American Indian Heritage Month



*The Nation's Combat  
Logistics Support Agency*

## Equal Employment Opportunity & Diversity

### Vision

Ensure consistent programs of equality, diversity and inclusion for all employees that empower the workforce to achieve their full potential and unify the workforce to achieve the mission.

### Mission

Create a collaborative culture where the empowerment of a diverse workforce bolsters individual and organizational growth.

Assist individual and organizational resiliency through programs and initiatives that attract, recruit, develop and retain the best talent as a mission necessity.

Respond to all EEO complaints with the utmost respect ensuring confidentiality, neutrality, and adherence to prescribed regulatory guidance.

Enhance education and awareness training efforts to promote a workplace free of unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, or reprisal for personnel engaging in EEO protected activity.

EEO Director  
**Zachary Currier**

Designer  
**Philip Hopkins**

Writers  
**Dawn Bonsell  
Philip Hopkins**



President Harry Truman signs the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948.

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*DLA Distribution  
Equal Employment  
Opportunity & Diversity  
Office  
430 Mifflin Avenue,  
Suite 2143  
New Cumberland, PA  
17070-5004*

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