




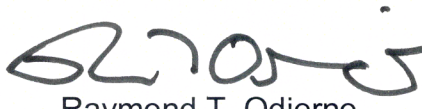
## Celebrating Women's Equality Day – 26 August 2012

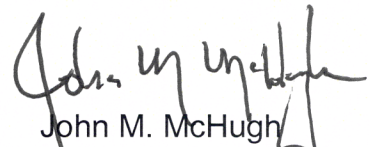
Ninety-two years ago, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified, culminating many years of women struggling for the right to vote in the United States. As we acknowledge women's struggles and celebrate their right to vote, we also recognize women in the Army for their tremendous contributions and relentless spirit in helping to keep this Nation free.

Women serve in the Army as valuable Soldiers and Civilian employees in nearly every imaginable field. Over the past ten years of continuous combat, our Army has proven itself in some of the toughest environments we have ever faced. In the face of this adversity, women have displayed unparalleled ingenuity, flexibility and adaptability, embodying mental and physical toughness and courage under fire. We can be certain that when our freedom is threatened, women will be equal to any task.

This year, on Women's Equality Day, we encourage units, agencies and Army activities to plan and execute appropriate commemorative activities to celebrate the many significant contributions of women in the Army.

  
Raymond F. Chandler III  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
Raymond T. Odierno  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
John M. McHugh  
Secretary of the Army