



01 March 2017

Women's History Month Message

Each year during the month of March, we honor the many trailblazers whose courage and conviction have enabled women everywhere to attain new heights in equality.

Women's History Month highlights the phenomenal achievements of women throughout our history, while recognizing the significant challenges they overcame. It celebrates women who bravely donned the uniform to fight for our country, as well as the passion and vision of women who have cast aside stereotypes and forged new paths for generations to follow.

From Valley Forge to the beaches of Normandy; from the 38th parallel to Hamburger Hill; and Desert Storm to Enduring Freedom, American women have distinguished themselves in service to our Nation. Here in Korea, women are a vital part to our Army's past, present and future. Our history is filled with names like Captain Viola B. McConnell, the first U.S. service member to be decorated during the Korean War. As the only nurse on duty at the outset of the war, McConnell led more than 643 evacuees to safety in the frenzied aftermath of the North Korean invasion. Her action earned her the Bronze Star Medal. Today in Korea, women like Eighth Army's Deputy Commanding General-Sustainment, Major General Tammy S. Smith, continue the outstanding legacy of accomplishments as she helps lead this headquarters in our historic transition to Camp Humphreys. Tomorrow's Army is left to all of us.

Our Army continues to lead the way in diversity and equality by allowing women the same military opportunities as men, but there is still work to be done. We must bring to light the great stories of those who have come before us and those doing great works today in order to help inspire the Army of tomorrow.

We encourage each of you to attend your local observance and immerse yourselves in the rich history of women who have served our Nation with uncanny dedication and commitment.

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

THOMAS S. VANDAL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding