

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE



USA  
32  
1997

ARMY ★ MARINES ★ NAVY ★ AIR FORCE ★ COAST GUARD

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**Della H. Raney**

*Photo: Courtesy National Archives,  
Still Picture Branch, 208 PU-161K-1, African  
American List 147*

**Della H. Raney was born in Suffolk, Virginia, on January 10, 1912. A graduate of the Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing in Durham, North Carolina, Raney was the first African-American nurse commissioned a lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II. Her first tour of duty was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. As a lieutenant serving at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama, she was appointed Chief Nurse, Army Nurse Corps in 1942, the first African American to be so appointed. She later served as Chief Nurse at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Raney was promoted to captain in 1945. After the war, she was assigned to head the nursing staff at the station hospital at Camp Beale, California. In 1946, she was promoted to major and served a tour of duty in Japan. Major Raney retired in 1978**

# January 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
|  |   |   |  |  | <b>1</b><br>New Year's Day. 1992: RADM Grace Hopper, inventor of computer language COBOL, who coined term "bug," died.                  | <b>2</b><br>1952: COL Irene O. Galloway appointed Women's Army Corps (WAC) Director.  |
| <b>3</b><br>1957: COL Mary Louise Milligan appointed WAC Director.   | <b>4</b><br>1971: Robin L. Quigley appointed Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) Director; promoted to CAPT.                           | <b>5</b><br>1994: Master Sgt Nell Hubbard, first enlisted woman to retire from military service after serving 20 consecutive years, died. | <b>6</b><br>1996: <i>USS Hopper</i> , guided missile destroyer, commissioned; named after RADM Grace Hopper.   | <b>7</b><br>1973: New 11-week WAC Officer/Officer Candidate Course inaugurated, graduates then attend male branch officer course.                        | <b>8</b><br>1965: 4 Navy nurses injured during Viet Cong terrorist bombing this month; first women in Vietnam War awarded Purple Heart. | <b>9</b><br>1943: 8 African-American Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) officers received commissions through OCS.   |
| <b>10</b><br>1912: MAJ Della H. Raney, first African-American nurse commissioned LT, Army Nurse Corps during WWII, born.   | <b>11</b><br>1959: Mary M. Roberts, RN, writer, historian, member, Army Nurse Corps, WWI, and editor emeritus, <i>American Journal of Nursing</i> , died. | <b>12</b><br>1918: Training begins for women recruited to Army Signal Corps.  | <b>13</b><br>1994: Secretary of Defense Aspin announces new, less restrictive ground combat policy regarding women in combat, rescinding 1988 "risk rule." | <b>14</b><br>1955: Stimson Library, Fort Sam Houston, TX, dedicated in memory of COL Julia C. Stimson, 5 <sup>th</sup> Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps. | <b>15</b><br>1965: First women advisors assigned to Women's Armed Forces Corps, Vietnam.  | <b>16</b><br>1943: Marcelite J. Harris, 1 <sup>st</sup> woman aircraft maintenance officer, 1 of 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 women "Air Officers Commanding," US Air Force Academy, born. |
| <b>17</b><br>1943: 2Lt Elsie Ott, first nurse to receive Air Medal for Meritorious Service.  | <b>18</b><br><b>Martin Luther King's Birthday (Observed).</b><br>1862: Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Confederate spy, removed from home to Old Capital Prison.    | <b>19</b><br>1905: Oveta Culp Hobby, creator of WAAC, US Army, born.  | <b>20</b><br>1964: Col Barbara J. Bishop became 5 <sup>th</sup> Director, Women Marines, this month.   | <b>21</b><br>1942: 149 <sup>th</sup> WAAC Post Headquarters Company, first WAAC unit posted overseas, arrived at Allied Forces Headquarters, Algiers.    | <b>22</b><br>1832: Revolutionary War heroine Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley ("Molly Pitcher") died in Carlisle, PA.                          | <b>23</b><br>1943: Alene B. Duerk appointed ENS in Navy Nurse Corps, became Navy's first woman RADM in 1972.  |
| <b>24</b><br>1866: Dr. Mary Edwards Walker receives Medal of Honor for Civil War Service. <b>31</b> 1973: Col Jeannette I. Sustad, 1 <sup>st</sup> full-time & 6 <sup>th</sup> Director, Women Marines, retired. | <b>25</b><br>1945: Navy dropped color bar against African-American nurses, this month.  | <b>26</b><br>1943: BG Sherian Grace Cadonia; first African-American general officer, US Army, born.                                       | <b>27</b><br>1944: Army nurses waded ashore at Anzio, Italy beachhead, 5 days after troop landings.  | <b>28</b><br>1960: LTC Edythe Turner promoted to temporary Colonel, US Army Reserve, 1 <sup>st</sup> career Army Reserve nurse to serve as Colonel.      | <b>29</b><br>1943: Ruth Cheney Streeter became first Director, Women Marines, with rank of colonel.                                     | <b>30</b><br>1991: Melissa Rathburn-Nealy, 1st US enlisted woman POW & 1st US woman military POW since WWII, returned to US.  |



**M a r y   E d w a r d s   W a l k e r**

*Photo: Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and  
Photographs Division, LC -USZ 62 -15558*

**Mary Edwards Walker was born on November 26, 1832 in Oswego, New York, and graduated from Syracuse Medical College in 1855. Rejected by the Union Army for service as a doctor during the Civil War, she served as a nurse for three years. In 1864, Walker was appointed assistant surgeon under contract to the Army and became the first woman doctor to serve with the Army Medical Corps. Captured by Confederate troops, she was a prisoner of war for four months until her exchange for a Confederate prisoner of war. On January 24, 1866, Mary Edwards Walker became the first woman to receive the Medal of Honor for her outstanding service in the Civil War.**

# February 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
|  | <b>1</b><br>1978: Women enlisting after this date have 6-year reserve obligation.  | <b>2</b><br>1988: LCDR Evelyn J. Fields took command of research ship <i>MacArthur</i> ; LCDR Deborah S. Gernes selected for at-sea command. | <b>3</b><br>1954: First WAC Officer Advanced Course opened at WAC School, Fort Lee, VA.                            | <b>4</b><br>1976: First 2 women US Coast Guard Academy cadets offered appointments.  | <b>5</b><br>1941: Chief Nurse Marion B. Olds and Nurse Leona Jackson, Navy, arrived on Guam.  | <b>6</b><br>1943: War Department set goal to graduate 750 pilots from Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) courses in 1943.               |
| <b>7</b><br>1944: LTCs Carrie Sheetz and Marjorie Morrow, Army Nurse Corps, killed when 95 <sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital, Anzio Italy, bombed. | <b>8</b><br>1972: Navy authorized pilot program providing scholarships to women who commit to serve 4 years active duty upon graduation.                             | <b>9</b><br>1948: 1LT Nancy C. Lieutenant, first African-American member, Regular Army Nurse Corps, joined Reserve Corps this month.         | <b>10</b><br>1967: Secretary of Defense approved increase of WAC strength by 38 percent to meet Vietnam War needs. | <b>11</b><br>1946: War Department announced WAC will be used to make up shortages of skilled personnel.  | <b>12</b><br>1945: African-American 6888 <sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion, WAC, traveled from Glasgow to Birmingham.                              | <b>13</b><br>1943: Marine Corps Women's Reserve established.   |
| <b>14</b><br>1777: Ann Bailey, also known as Nancy Bayley, dressed in men's clothing & enlisted as "Sam Gay" in Abraham Hunt's company.            | <b>15</b><br><b>President's Day (Observed).</b> 1994: Lt Jeannie Flynn completed training on F-15E; became first Air Force woman combat pilot.                       | <b>16</b><br>1862: Mary Ann "Mother" Bickerdyke nursed soldiers at Battle of Fort Donelson.  | <b>17</b><br>1942: 1LT Mary Ann Sullivan earned Legion of Merit for valor behind German lines in North Africa.     | <b>18</b><br>1943: First class of Army flight nurses graduated.  | <b>19</b><br>1988: Secretary of Defense reaffirmed policy against sexual harassment with Service Secretaries/JCS during Armed Forces Personnel Council meeting.   | <b>20</b><br>1997: Air Force LtCol Martha Rainville elected to command Vermont National Guard, first woman and youngest (38) adjutant general. |
| <b>21</b><br>1913: Georgia "Tiny" Broadwick tested new parachute called "life boat" for US Army. 1919: Dr. Mary Edwards Walker died.               | <b>22</b><br>1997: Maj Gen Marcelite J. Harris, 1 <sup>st</sup> African-American woman general officer; Director, Maintenance, DCS/Logistics, HQ Air Force, retired. | <b>23</b><br>1945: 11 Navy nurses and 3 civilian nurses interned at Los Banos liberated.   | <b>24</b><br>1992: Bertha Dworsky Henderson, POW in Corregidor during WWII, died.                                  | <b>25</b><br>1957: Department of Nursing established, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC. | <b>26</b><br>1958: Air Force Lt Col Susan J. Helms born. Helms will be member, 2 <sup>nd</sup> crew, NASA's International Space Station, beginning December 1999. | <b>27</b><br>1991: MAJ Rhonda Cornum, Army flight surgeon, on mission over Iraqi territory, shot down; becomes Iraqi POW during Gulf War.      |
| <b>28</b><br>1901: 202 of 220 contract nurses on active duty inducted into Nurse Corps (women).  |  |  |  |  |   |  |



**Kady Brownell**

*Photo: Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and  
Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-110631*

**Kady Brownell was born in a British Army camp. She served in the Union Army beside her husband, Robert S. Brownell, who was an orderly sergeant with the First Rhode Island Regiment. Kady served as color-bearer when she was attached to a company of sharpshooters at First Bull Run in July 1861. Later, she and her husband jointly reenlisted in the Fifth Rhode Island Infantry Regiment, where she served as a nurse and Daughter of the Regiment. At the Battle of New Berne, Kady identified the Fifth Rhode Island Infantry Regiment as Unionists, and is credited with saving scores of her fellow soldiers' lives.**

# March 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  | <b>1</b><br>1991: Army MAJ Marie T. Rossi, flying CH-47D Chinook Cargo Helicopter in Operation Desert Storm, killed in crash in bad weather.                            | <b>2</b><br>1973: Women began pilot training for US Navy.   | <b>3</b><br>1777: Captain Abraham Hunt learned Corporal "Sam Gay" (Ann Bailey) is a woman.  | <b>4</b><br>1977: Janna Lambine, 1 of first women admitted to US Coast Guard OCS, received wings and began flying helicopters; first woman coast guard pilot.  | <b>5</b><br>1998: Air Force Lt Col Eileen Marie Collins named first woman space shuttle commander.  | <b>6</b><br>1991: PVT Adrienne Mitchell killed in SCUD attack, Operation Desert Storm; buried with full military honors, Riverside National Cemetery. |
| <b>7</b><br>1994: Navy issued first orders to women assigned aboard combat ship, aircraft carrier <i>USS Eisenhower</i> .        | <b>8</b><br><b>International Women's Day.</b> 1945: Phyllis Daley became 1 <sup>st</sup> African-American ENS, Navy Nurse Corps. 1979: WASP as active military service. | <b>9</b><br>1976: 119 women accepted for admission to US Military Academy as Class of 1980.                                       | <b>10</b><br>1945: Navy and civilian nurses interned at Los Banos flown back to United States; awarded Bronze Star.   | <b>11</b><br>1805: Deborah Sampson (Sampson), as Robert Shurtleffe (Shurtleffe, Shurtleff) in Continental Army, on list of military pensioners, US Government. | <b>12</b><br>1991: Army MAJ Marie T. Rossi, only woman pilot killed in Gulf War, interred at Arlington National Cemetery.                                 | <b>13</b><br>1991: Specialist Melissa Rathburn-Nealy & MAJ Rhonda Cornum, Army, received Purple Heart, POW Medal, & National Defense Service Medals.  |
| <b>14</b><br>1862: Kady Brownell saved scores of fellow Union soldiers' lives at Battle of New Berne.                            | <b>15</b><br>1901: Dita H. Kinney officially appointed first Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps.  | <b>16</b><br>1995: DC Commission of Fine Arts granted approval for Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) memorial design. | <b>17</b><br>1993: Helen Hayes, actress, and 1 of 50 original members, Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), died.                              | <b>18</b><br>1967: Sgt. Barbara J. Dulinsky, first woman Marine ordered to combat zone, arrived in Vietnam.  | <b>19</b><br>1917: Navy Department authorized enrollment of women in Naval Reserve with ratings of yeoman, radio electrician, or other essential ratings. | <b>20</b><br>1998: Leslie F. Kenne, Director, Joint Strike Fighter Program, promoted to Maj Gen.  |
| <b>21</b><br>1918: During air raid, Army Nurse Isabelle Stambaugh seriously wounded; later received Distinguished Service Cross. | <b>22</b><br>1996: SGT Heather Johnson became first woman to stand watch at Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery.  | <b>23</b><br>1923: Annie W. Goodrich, first Dean, Army School of Nursing, awarded Distinguished Service Medal.                    | <b>24</b><br>1997: President Clinton nominated MG Claudia J. Kennedy, DCS/Intelligence, Army's first woman 3-star general.  | <b>25</b><br>1944: Last 2 (of 13) Army flight nurses on November 1943 evacuation flight from Sicily to Bari, with emergency landing in Albania, escaped.       | <b>26</b><br>1930: Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, DACOWITS member, 1974 -76, born.  | <b>27</b><br>1964: Army nurses began participating in relief operations to aid victims of violent earthquake in Alaska.                               |
| <b>28</b><br>1962: Troy Devine, first woman Captain in Air Force U-2 program, born.  | <b>29</b><br>1973: Last of more than 5,000 nurses left Republic of Vietnam—2 months after ceasefire.  | <b>30</b><br>1968: Sgt. Maj. Yzetta Nelson became first woman promoted to Command Sgt. Maj.                                       | <b>31</b><br><b>Erev Pesah, first seder.</b> 1912: Jane A. Delano, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps, became Chairman, American Red Cross Nursing Service. |  |   |   |



**Oveta Culp Hobby**

Photo: Courtesy National Archives, Still Pictures Branch, SC-208544

**Oveta Culp Hobby was born on January 19, 1905. A parliamentarian for the Texas House of Representatives, executive vice president of the Houston Post, and civic leader, she became the head of the Women's Interest Section of the War Department in 1941. The following year, she was tapped by General George Marshall to create the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). As its first director, and later director of the Women's Army Corps (WAC), Hobby set out to recruit, train, and equip the corps from scratch. She set a standard of service for the corps, calling such service "a serious job for serious women." A major at the start of the WAAC, by the end of World War II she had been promoted to the rank of colonel and had received the Army's Distinguished Service Cross. She was the first woman to receive this medal, the highest noncombat award given by the Army. Hobby became the first Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare when that cabinet post was created under President Eisenhower. She died on August 16, 1995.**



# April 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |   | <b>1</b><br>1991: 1LT Susan E. Meckfessel became first US Military Academy graduate appointed into Army Nurse Corps.         | <b>2</b><br>1980: Secretary of Defense announced WAAC service considered active military service for all laws administered by Veterans Administration.         | <b>3</b><br>1992: First 5 coed recruit companies from Orlando, FL, Naval Training Center graduated.                                      |
| <b>4</b><br><b>Easter.</b> 1975: Capt. Mary Klinker killed in Operation Babylift; posthumously awarded Airman's Medal for Heroism & Meritorious Service Medal. | <b>5</b><br>1991: Petty Officer Shirley Marie Cross, who served in Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, died.   | <b>6</b><br>1917: US entered WWI. By this date, 200 women had enlisted as Navy yeomen; 403 Army nurses on active duty, including 170 reserve nurses. | <b>7</b><br>1777: Pay of "Army" nurse raised to \$8 per month and 1 ration per day; matron received \$15 per month and daily ration.                                | <b>8</b><br>1971: Susanne M. Ocobok became first woman industrial civil engineer in Air Force, Kelley AFB, TX.               | <b>9</b><br>1942: Army nurses on Bataan retreat with other US forces to Corregidor, later imprisoned; 21 other nurses escaped to Australia with GEN MacArthur. | <b>10</b><br>1987: NY State Legislature adopted resolution designating week of June 1, 1987, Women Veterans Benefits Awareness Week.     |
| <b>11</b><br>1968: Army nurses assigned to 312 <sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hosp., Winston-Salem, NC, ordered to active duty; deployed to Vietnam, September 25.   | <b>12</b><br>1861: Sarah Emma Edmonds enlisted in Union Army. Serving as a nurse, then recruited as a spy, Edmonds disguised self as Franklin Thompson, African-American male. | <b>13</b><br>1876: Office of Commissioner of Claims received testimonial letter that Sarah Thompson spied for Union Army.                            | <b>14</b><br>1973: US Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional for Armed Services to require women provide proof that claims of dependents are valid.                | <b>15</b><br>1919: Jane A. Delano, Director, Army Nurse Corps, died in Army hospital in France.                              | <b>16</b><br>1979: Beverly Kelley became first woman Commander, US Coast Guard ship.   | <b>17</b><br>1975: Army nurses began participation in "Operation New Life/New Arrivals" to evacuate and care for Indochinese refugees.   |
| <b>18</b><br>1970: Army 1LT Krista Bonino born; in 1995, only woman pilot stationed in Buedingen, Germany; piloted OH-58D Kiowa warrior helicopter.            | <b>19</b><br>1864: Phoebe Yates Pember, Chief Matron, Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond, VA, largest military hospital in world at that time.                                      | <b>20</b><br>1994: Maj Jackie Parker, first woman combat pilot, Air National Guard, graduated from training in F-16C Fighting Falcon.                | <b>21</b><br>1992: Navy Constructionman Carol D. Keehner became Navy's first woman Seabee Master Chief.   | <b>22</b><br>1998: DACOWITS Spring Conference began (ended April 26).  | <b>23</b><br>1995: Geraldine Pratt May, first Women in the Air Force (WAF) Director, turned 100 this month.  | <b>24</b><br>1943: First WASP pilot course graduated, Ellington Field, TX; Dorothy Yang became first woman to receive diploma and wings. |
| <b>25</b><br>1973: Army approved helicopter and fixed-wing flight training for WAC officers.   | <b>26</b><br>1957: Naomi M. McCracken became first woman US Air Force Academy officer; assigned as Assistant Director, Cadet Records.  | <b>27</b><br>1867: Sara Emma Edmonds, Union spy, married Linus Seelye (Seeley).  | <b>28</b><br>1993: Secretary of Defense memo ordered Armed Forces train and assign women on combat aircraft and most combat ships, but not ground combat positions. | <b>29</b><br>1827: Deborah Samson died. 1956: 3 Army nurses, first to arrive in Vietnam, placed on TDY with US MAAG, Saigon. | <b>30</b><br>1972: Sgt Maj June V. Andler led Women Marines, replacing Sgt Maj Mabel A.R. Otten.   |  |



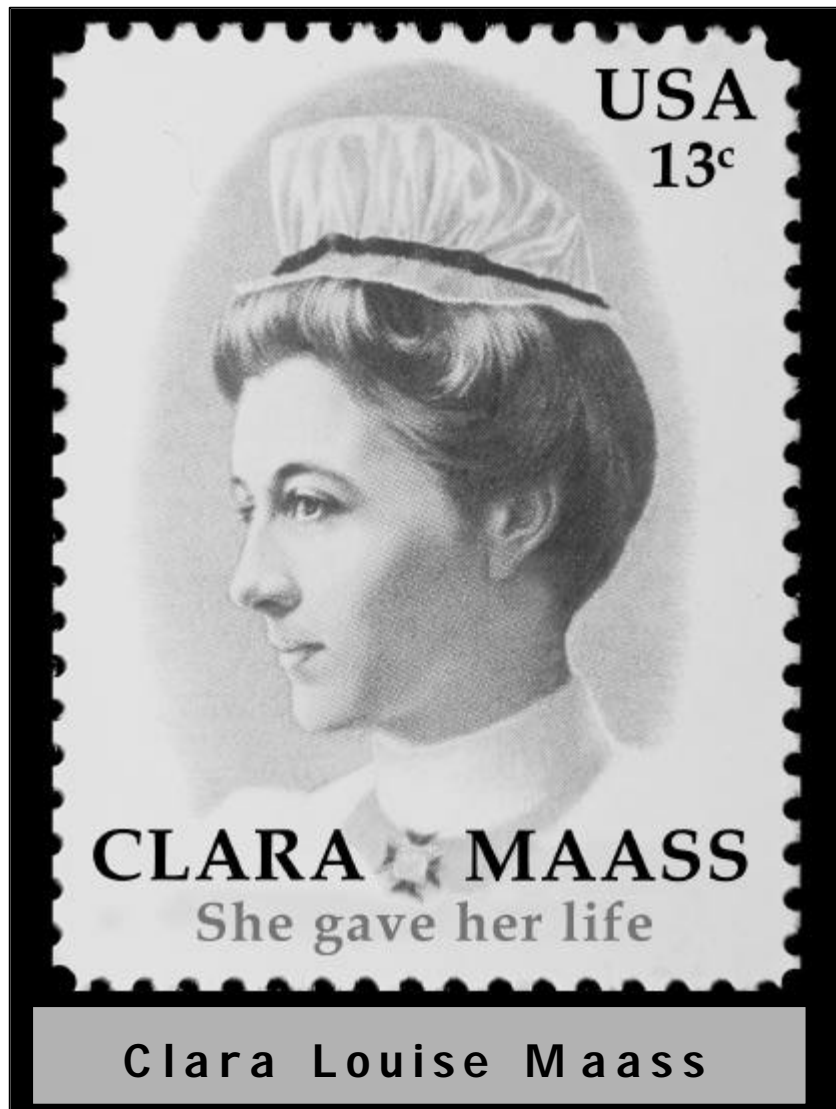
**I s a b e l l e " B e l l e " B o y d**

*Photo: Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and  
Photographs Division, LC-BH82-4864A*

**Belle Boyd was a female spy for the Confederacy. Born on May 9, 1844, she circulated among Union officials and soldiers, gathering information and carrying important letters and papers to Confederate leaders. Sometimes she delivered information herself--dodging guards and bullets; other times she had men pass the information farther behind Union lines. Boyd braved gunfire to enter a battle zone on May 23, 1862, providing General Stonewall Jackson with intelligence about the number of Union troops expected to attack his soldiers. As a result of this information, Jackson strengthened his forces and won the battle. Although she was able to escape capture several times, Boyd was finally caught and tried as a spy. She served 17 months in prison between 1862 and 1863, gaining freedom in an exchange for a Northern prisoner. After the war, Boyd toured the United States and England, lecturing about her war experiences. When she died in 1900, the women's auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Confederacy paid for her burial. In 1919, a Confederate veteran paid for a new granite tombstone to mark her gravesite.**

# May 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |   |   |  | <b>1</b><br>1950: First direct Army commissions offered to women college graduates.  |
| <b>2</b><br>1981: Elizabeth Anne Rowe became first woman graduate, US Naval Academy, this month.   | <b>3</b><br>1982: Army announced return to separate basic training for men and women.  | <b>4</b><br>1898: Joy Bright Hancock, once highest-ranking woman line officer in Navy, born. | <b>5</b><br>1967: LTC Patricia T. Murphy, Army Nurse Corps, 1 <sup>st</sup> nurse to receive Pace Award recognizing outstanding contribution to Army during calendar year.              | <b>6</b><br>1942: 66 Army nurses became Japanese POWs in Philippines; 55 nurses & Medical Specialist Corps personnel taken prisoner; interned at Santo Tomas in Manila. | <b>7</b><br>1947: CPT Mary A. Hallaren appointed WAC Director.   | <b>8</b><br>1991: US House Armed Services Committee voted to allow women to serve in combat military aircraft.   |
| <b>9</b><br>1844: Confederate spy Belle Boyd born.   | <b>10</b><br>1813: Mary Allen and May Marshall employed as military nurses aboard the <i>United States</i> .                               | <b>11</b><br>1978: First woman Marine Corps general, Margaret A. Brewer, appointed.          | <b>12</b><br>1944: First major WAC contingent arrived in Australia; more than 5,000 women served in Pacific theater.  | <b>13</b><br>1908: US Navy Nurse Corps established.   | <b>14</b><br>1973: US Supreme Court ruled women must be treated equally with men in all matters of dependency and entitlements; DOD authorized back pay.                     | <b>15</b><br><b>Armed Forces Day.</b> 1942: PL 77-554 establishing WAAC (WAC) signed. 1975: DOD ruled involuntary separation of women for pregnancy and parenthood not "viable." |
| <b>16</b><br>1942: Oveta Culp Hobby sworn in as first WAAC Director.   | <b>17</b><br>1978: First women—1 representative from each of the 5 services—debuted as members of White House Honor Guard.                 | <b>18</b><br>1953: Jacqueline Cochran became first woman to pilot aircraft supersonically.   | <b>19</b><br>1863: Jennie Rodgers, disguised as PVT Albert D.J. Cashier, Company G, 95 <sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, participated in attack against Confederates. | <b>20</b><br>1917: Army nurses Edith Ayers and Helen Burnet Wood accidentally killed in gun misfire on <i>USS Mongolia</i> en route to France.                          | <b>21</b><br>1979: Antonia H.Chayes, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force and then highest ranking woman in Pentagon granted first official Air Force WASP discharges.       | <b>22</b><br>1943: First African-American WAC unit assigned to 5 <sup>th</sup> Service Command arrived at Camp Atterbury, IN.  |
| <b>23</b><br>1862: Confederate spy Belle Boyd delivered information to GEN Jackson.<br><b>30</b> 1862: "Mother" Bickerdyke, in charge of Main Hospital, Corinth. | <b>24</b><br>1974: US Congress reduces minimum age for enlisted women to that for men, effective April 1, 1976.<br><b>31 Memorial Day.</b> | <b>25</b><br>1973: Women 's participation in Army ROTC programs at all colleges authorized.  | <b>26</b><br>1975: US House of Representatives voted to admit women to service academies.   | <b>27</b><br>1993: Air Force reported all aircraft assignments open to women.   | <b>28</b><br>1941: Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers introduced HR 4906, bill to establish WAAC. 1980: 1 <sup>st</sup> women graduated from Army, Navy, Air Force academies. | <b>29</b><br>1997: Capt Amy Lynn Svoboda, first woman pilot fatality in Air Force, died after A-10 Thunderbolt crashed during training mission.                                  |



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**Clara Louise Maass was born on June 28, 1876, and graduated from Newark German Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1895. She worked as an Army contract nurse in Florida, Cuba, and the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. In the fall of 1898, she was sent to the field hospital of the Seventh US Army Corps in Jacksonville, Florida. She next went to Savannah, Georgia, and Santiago de Cuba. Released from her Army contract on February 5, 1899, she volunteered to be placed on a list of nurses bound for Manila, the Philippines, where she spent seven months. She next went to Cuba, where she volunteered to be a subject in research on modes of transmission of yellow fever while employed at Las Animas Hospital in Havana. Bitten by a *Stegomyia* mosquito in an immunization experiment, Maass contracted yellow fever and died on August 24, 1901. The Newark German Hospital (renamed the Lutheran Memorial Hospital) later became the Clara Maass Memorial Hospital in 1952. The US Postal Service honored Clara Maass with a commemorative stamp in 1976.**

## June 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |   | <b>1</b><br>1964: SGT Patsy J. Wright became first enlisted woman assigned to Army attaché system (Athens).   | <b>2</b><br>1948: US Congress passed PL 625—Women’s Armed Services Act, establishing permanent place for women in Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.                         | <b>3</b><br>1997: B. Sue Dueitt promoted to BG, first woman promoted to general officer billet as line officer in Army Reserve.                                       | <b>4</b><br>1862: Rose O’Neal Greenhow hailed for service as Confederate spy. 1920: Army Reorganization Act authorized relative rank for Army nurses.             | <b>5</b><br>1943: 11 African-American WAC officers commissioned; graduated from 31 <sup>st</sup> OCS class.   |
| <b>6</b><br>1868: Cathay Williams (William Cathey), with Company A, 38 <sup>th</sup> Infantry, marched to Fort Bayard, NM.                                   | <b>7</b><br>1942: Dr. Elizabeth Reynard, Special Assistant to Chief, Bureau of Naval Personnel, asked Smith College president to avail facilities to Navy to train women. | <b>8</b><br>1990: CDR Rosemary Mariner became first Navy woman to command fleet jet aircraft squadron.  | <b>9</b><br>1994: Navy’s annual aviation command screening board reports; 5 of 17 women eligible selected, highest number ever for Navy.   | <b>10</b><br>1861: Dorothea Dix appointed Superintendent of Women Nurses for Union Army, first formal military position for a woman in US.                            | <b>11</b><br>1970: COLs Elizabeth P. Hoisington, WAC Director, and Anna Mae Hays, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, became first women promoted to rank of BG.             | <b>12</b><br>1948: President Truman signed Women’s Armed Services Integration Act; admitted women into regular and reserve forces of Army, Navy, Marine Corps, & Air Force.     |
| <b>13</b><br>1980: “Hello Girl” (telephone operator) Cordelia Dupois Davis presented WWI Victory Medal and Army of Occupation Ribbon.                        | <b>14</b><br><b>Flag Day.</b> 1945: COL Florence A. Blanchfield, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, awarded Distinguished Service Medal for leadership of Corps during WWII.        | <b>15</b><br>1955: Lt Col Ruby G. Bradley awarded Florence Nightingale Medal for outstanding service while a Japanese POW in WWII and for service in Korea. | <b>16</b><br>1948: Geraldine Pratt May appointed first Director, WAF.  | <b>17</b><br>1993: Lt Col Patricia Fornes became first woman to command operation combat squadron upon taking over 740 <sup>th</sup> Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, ND. | <b>18</b><br>1991: US Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Manpower and Personnel held hearing to discuss lifting combat restrictions for women in the military. | <b>19</b><br>1947: COL Florence A. Blanchfield, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, became 1 <sup>st</sup> woman with permanent commission in Regular Army.                                |
| <b>20</b><br>1899: First Army regulations governing Nurse Corps published as circular approved by Secretary of War and issued from Surgeon General’s office. | <b>21</b><br>1982: In this month in the Navy, 193 women officers on board 30 ships, 2,185 enlisted women on board 37 ships.   | <b>22</b><br>1944: US House of Representatives rejected legislation that would have militarized the WASP.   | <b>23</b><br>1921: Maj Gen Jeanne M. Holm born.  | <b>24</b><br>1965: WAC Student Officer Program founded. 1972: Army announced expansion of WAC strength to 23,800 to help fill vacancies with end of draft, June 1973. | <b>25</b><br>1950: Korean War began; CPT Viola B. McConnell only Army nurse on duty at start of hostilities.  | <b>26</b><br>1978: 8 women cadets graduated, 1 <sup>st</sup> US Merchant Marine Academy class. 1996: US Supreme Court ruled Virginia Military Institute couldn’t exclude women. |
| <b>27</b><br>1950: 13 platoons of Marine Corps Women’s Reserves mobilized for “involuntary service” for Korean War, this month.                              | <b>28</b><br>1876: Clara Louise Maass, Army contract nurse, born. 1943: US Coast Guard Academy opened doors to women; 50 SPARS officer candidates reported.               | <b>29</b><br>1951: DOD Directive 750.04-1 (renumbered 1125.1) established definitive policy on use of registered nurses in the armed services.              | <b>30</b><br>1974: Mildred C. Kelly became 1 <sup>st</sup> African-American WAC Command SGT MAJ 1975: Secretary of Defense ended involuntary discharge of pregnant women, mothers. |   |   |   |



**J e a n n e M . H o l m**

*Photo: Courtesy national Archives, Still Picture Branch,  
RG342FHNASM4A Box 2162 09040 121741 AC*

**Jeanne M. Holm was born on June 23, 1921, in Portland, Oregon. She enlisted in the Army as a truck driver in July 1942, and was commissioned from the Officers Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in January 1943 as a “third officer.” Holm left the service in 1946, and was recalled to duty in October 1948 at Fort Lee, Virginia WAC Training Center as a company commander. Transferred to the Air Force in 1949, she was the first woman to attend the Air Command and Staff School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Holm was Director of the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council from November 1965 to February 1973. A WAF Director, she was one of the first women promoted to colonel. Holm was promoted to brigadier general in 1971 and became the first woman major general in 1973. Her awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit, and the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star. She retired from the Air Force in 1975, after 38 years of service. At the time of her retirement, she was the highest ranking woman to serve in the US Armed Forces.**

# July 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
|  |  |   |  | <b>1</b><br>1943: President Roosevelt signed PL 78-110, converting WAAC to WAC. 1949: Air Force Nurse Corps established.                                    | <b>2</b><br>1862: This month, Clara Barton received permission to travel behind battlelines and deliver aid to soldiers on both sides of Civil War. | <b>3</b><br>1990: Women Marines Association national convention in Denver celebrated 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women Marines.  |
| <b>4</b><br><b>Independence Day.</b> 1994: Maj Gen Carol Mutter became then highest-ranking woman in US military; received 2-star rank from Marine Corps.                        | <b>5</b><br>1943: Oveta Culp Hobby appointed WAC Director; commissioned COL in US Army.  | <b>6</b><br>1779: Margaret Corbin, "Captain Molly," fought beside husband with Continental Army; took over his cannon when he was wounded.                | <b>7</b><br>1976: First class of women admitted to US Military Academy enrolled.   | <b>8</b><br>1974: Reverend Alice M. Henderson commissioned captain in Army Chaplains Corps; first African-American woman so commissioned since Civil War.   | <b>9</b><br>1918: Nurse Corps (women) redesignated Army Nurse Corps by Army Reorganization Act of 1918.   | <b>10</b><br>1942: First enlistments for WAAC. 1943: 1 <sup>st</sup> full-blooded Native American Women's Marine Corps recruit, PVT Minnie Spotted-Wolf, enlisted this month.    |
| <b>11</b><br>1961: Army nurses assisted in relief operations following crash of United Airlines Flight 759 near Denver, CO.  | <b>12</b><br>1988: Secretary of Defense approved opening Navy's Underwater Construction Teams & fleet oiler, ammunition ships, and combat stores ships to women.   | <b>13</b><br>1898: Namahyoke Curtis, Army contract immune nurse, asked to recruit nurses allegedly immune to typhoid and yellow fever.                    | <b>14</b><br>1944: WAC contingent arrived in Normandy.   | <b>15</b><br>1964: Margaret E. Bailey became first African-American nurse promoted to LT COL, Army Nurse Corps; later became first African-American COL.    | <b>16</b><br>1971: Jeanne M. Holm became first woman Air Force general.   | <b>17</b><br>1861: Rose O'Neal Greenhow, "dangerous, skillful spy" for Confederacy, received communication on location of "Grand Army of the Potomac."                           |
| <b>18</b><br>1887: Dorothea Dix died. 1980: 3 <sup>rd</sup> US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in <i>Goldberg v. Rostker</i> draft registration excluding women unconstitutional. | <b>19</b><br>1848: US Congress granted Elizabeth Newcume bounty land warrant and pay for military service. Newcume served—until discharge—when discovered a woman. | <b>20</b><br>1942: First WAAC Training Center opened at Fort Des Moines, IA. 440 women in 6-week OCS; 125 enlisted women in 4-week basic training course. | <b>21</b><br>1861: Kady Brownell carried flag of 1 <sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Infantry at 1 <sup>st</sup> Battle of Manassas; tried to rally troops as they retreat. | <b>22</b><br>1998: Mary-Agnes Brown Groover, Veterans Administration lawyer who headed WAC in South Pacific during WWII, died.                              | <b>23</b><br>1993: 2Lt Sarah Deal became first woman Marine selected for Naval aviation training.   | <b>24</b><br>1994: Secretary of Defense issued new policy precluding women from serving in ground units engaging or subject to attack from the enemy, effective October 1, 1994. |
| <b>25</b><br>1996: Marines Corps Lt Gen Carol A. Mutter became 1 <sup>st</sup> woman 3-star general in its history.  | <b>26</b><br>1942: CAPT Joy Bright Hancock appointed Director, Women's Naval Reserve.  | <b>27</b><br>1996: DACOWITS Overseas Installation Visits (Italy, Jordan, Hungary, Germany, and United Kingdom) end (began July 12).                       | <b>28</b><br>1944: Secretary of Navy Forrestal recommended to President Roosevelt that Navy admit and treat African-American women same as caucasian women.          | <b>29</b><br>1994: Department of Defense rescinded "risk rule," opening 32,7000 jobs in active Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard; effective October 1. | <b>30</b><br>1942: President Roosevelt signed PL 77-689 allowing Navy to accept officer and enlisted appointments in WAVES.                         | <b>31</b><br>1909: Dita H. Kinney, 1 <sup>st</sup> Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps, resigned, 1991: US Senate voted to allow women to fly combat missions.                      |



**Anna M. Rosenberg**

*Photo: Courtesy National Archives, Still Picture Branch,  
208pu176R-1*

**Anna M. Rosenberg, former regional director, Social Security Board, Region II (New York) and owner of a public relations agency, was appointed Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Personnel in 1950. A recognized labor relations expert, she was responsible for coordinating all defense policies on military manpower and civilian personnel. An advocate of universal military training, Ms. Rosenberg sought to improve the conditions of service life. She also was a proponent of integration, stressing that integration was necessary for effective use of black manpower. At her recommendation, and with the approval of Secretary of Defense George Marshall, the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) was formed in August 1951. DACOWITS was made up of 50 prominent women from the wartime women's corps, academia, business, the arts, politics, and the legal profession. The committee's mandate--given declining enlistments--was to lead a unified recruiting drive to increase the number of women in the Services, to interpret to the public the role of women in the Services, and to promote acceptance of military service as a prestigious career. DACOWITS also sought to reassure parents that young women in the military were properly supervised. DACOWITS continues to exist today.**



# August 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>1</b><br>1956: 1 <sup>st</sup> foreign women officers (6 from Burma) entered WAC Officer Basic Class. 1973: Discharge-on-marriage rule for enlisted women and officers ended. | <b>2</b><br>1990: United Nations forces began to form for "Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm"; 26,000 Army women will participate, 13 will die and 2 became POWs.   | <b>3</b><br>1942: Mildred H. McAfee became first woman officer sworn into Naval Reserve.  | <b>4</b><br>1972: WAC Training Center activates 2 additional training battalions.   | <b>5</b><br>1943: Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) and WFTD merged to form WASP. 1985: BG Wilma L. Vaught, Commander, US Military Entrance Processing Command, retired. | <b>6</b><br>1862: Jennie Rodgers, alias Albert Cashier, enlisted in IL regiment; later participated in battles in MI, TN, and AL. In 1911, still in dis-guise, admitted to veterans' hospital. | <b>7</b><br>1959: US Congress authorized PL 86-142, military credit for WAAC service for women who served after September 30, 1943.       |
| <b>8</b><br>1942: First official WAAC parade and review, Fort Des Moines, IA.  | <b>9</b><br>1989: Kristen Baker became first woman brigade commander and first captain, Corps of Cadets, US Military Academy.   | <b>10</b><br>1861: Rose O'Neal Greenhow sent another report on troops movements and other intelligence to GEN Beauregard.   | <b>11</b><br>1951: DACOWITS established to interpret to public role of women in services and to promote acceptance of military service as career for women. | <b>12</b><br>1918: Secretary of Navy Daniels approved acceptance of women in US Navy and Marine Corps.  | <b>13</b><br>1918: Opha Mae Johnson became first woman member, US Marine Corps Reserve; hired as clerk in Washington, DC headquarters.   | <b>14</b><br>1945: By end of WWII, more than 400,000 women had served in military units, working in most military occupation specialties. |
| <b>15</b><br>1942: WFTD received official approval from War Department.  | <b>16</b><br>1995: Oveta Culp Hobby, WAC Director during WWII, died.  | <b>17</b><br>1917: Army nurses Beatrice M. MacDonald & Helen G. McClelland on duty during attack on British casualty clearing station in Belgium; later received Distinguished Service Crosses. | <b>18</b><br>1908: Esther Voorhees Hasson became first Superintendent, US Navy Nurse Corps.   | <b>19</b><br>1812: Lucy Brewer served under alias of Nicholas Baker on <i>USS Constitution</i> , fights in battle with <i>HMS Guerriere</i> ; served 3 years in US Navy.          | <b>20</b><br>1945: In this month, 2 ½ years after founding, Marine Corps Women's Reserve had 17,640 women and 820 officers on duty.  | <b>21</b><br>1950: Army began voluntary recall of WAC enlisted reservists and company-grade WAC Organized Reserve Corps officers.         |
| <b>22</b><br>1998: Carol C. Elliott promoted to BrigGen this month; Vice Director for Intelligence, J2, Joint Staff, since October 1997.   | <b>23</b><br>1944: Antonia Novello, 1 <sup>st</sup> woman & 1 <sup>st</sup> Hispanic US Surgeon General (1990-93), with rank of 3-star VADM, born. 1976: 10 WACS assigned to US Military Academy staff & faculty. | <b>24</b><br>1954: US Congress authorized PL 650, limited VA benefits for WAAC personnel disabled in line of duty. 1973: Army authorized WAC enlistees to enter parachute rigger training.      | <b>25</b><br>1942: 5 Navy nurses on Guam taken prisoner by Japanese repatriated to diplomatic corps in Mozambique.  | <b>26</b><br>1959: Kathryn P. (Kay) Hire, CDR, USNR, and NASA astronaut, born. First woman aviator to serve with combat squadron.   | <b>27</b><br>1916: Actress/comedienne Martha "Colonel Maggie of the Boondocks" Raye, born.   | <b>28</b><br>1942: 120 women officers, commissioned directly as ENS or LTJG, reported to "USS Northampton"—Smith College.                 |
| <b>29</b><br>1942: First WAAC OCS class graduated 434 women as 3 <sup>rd</sup> Officers (equivalent to 2Lt).   | <b>30</b><br>1862: Sarah Emma Edmonds, Union spy, gathered information on activities of Confederate forces.   | <b>31</b><br>1944: WAC advance party arrived in Paris.  |   |   |  |   |



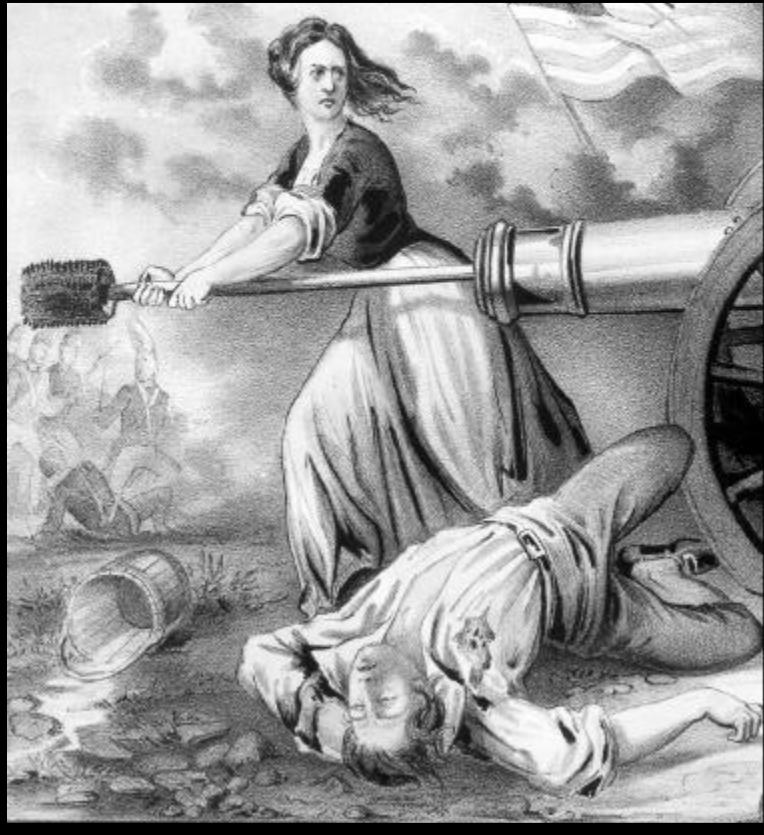
*Photo: Courtesy National Archives, Still Picture Branch, 127-GR10460*

**Ruth Cheney Streeter was born on October 2, 1895, in Brookline, Massachusetts. With the onset of World War II, Streeter became chairperson of the Fort Dix, New Jersey Citizen's Committee for the Army and Navy. She next became involved in aviation, earning both a private and a commercial pilot's license. Streeter served on the Civil Air Patrol, the North Jersey squadron of the New Jersey Civil Air Defense Services, and the New Jersey Defense Council's Committee on Aviation. She was also made an honorary pilot of the 126th Squadron of the Army Air Force. Streeter was the first director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, serving from February 13, 1943 to December 7, 1945. The first woman to hold the rank of major in the Marine Corps (commissioned, January 29, 1943), she was promoted to lieutenant colonel on November 22, 1943, and to colonel on February 1, 1944. She was awarded the Legion of Merit for wartime service (WWI), the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.**

# September 1999

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
|   |  |  | <b>1</b><br>1943: WAAC incorporated into Army. 1979: Hazel W. Johnson became 1 <sup>st</sup> African-American woman general officer upon assuming post of Chief, Army Nurse Corps; retired as BG. | <b>2</b><br>1994: Mildred H. McAfee, former Commander, WAVES, died.  | <b>3</b><br>1943: First class WAAC noncommissioned officers graduated from WAAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, IA.                                | <b>4</b><br>1917: Army Nurse Eva Jean Parmalee, wounded in air raid at base hospital in France, continued to serve; later received Distinguished Service Cross. |
| <b>5</b><br>1898: Sarah Emma Edmonds died; autobiography is <i>Nurse and Spy in the Union Army</i> .  | <b>6</b><br><b>Labor Day (Observed).</b><br>1871: Anne Warner Bailey, "heroine of Groton," hiked 3 miles to Fort Grizzwald to search for uncle at Battle of Groton Heights.                                | <b>7</b><br>1977: 1,500 US Armed Forces women participated in NATO wargames in Germany for first time, this month.   | <b>8</b><br>1939: US declared state of limited emergency in response to war in Europe; Army Nurse Corps with 625 nurses, Navy Nurse Corps with 430 nurses.  | <b>9</b><br>1861: Sally Tompkins opened Robertson Hospital, Richmond, VA. Jefferson Davis commissioned her as captain — only commissioned woman in Confederate Army. | <b>10</b><br>1942: Nancy Harkness Love organized 25 women pilots into WAFS.  | <b>11</b><br><b>Rosh Hashanah.</b> 1952: White House ceremonies commemorated first day issue of US Postal Service stamp honoring women in the Services.         |
| <b>12</b><br>1979: Megan C. Jans became pilot in command for Army's first all-women flight crew, Huey helicopter supporting NATO exercise <i>Reforger</i> . | <b>13</b><br>1957: Maj Kathleen W. Philipps assigned Consultant, Nursing Audio-Visual Education, Medical Illustration Service, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, DC.                        | <b>14</b><br>1942: General Henry "Hap" Arnold, Commanding General, Army Air Forces, approved program, Army Air Force WFTD, to train women to serve as ferrying pilots.     | <b>15</b><br>1942: War Department announced formation of WFTD headed by aviator Jacqueline Cochran.   | <b>16</b><br>1987: Secretary of Defense established DOD Task Force on Women in the Military.   | <b>17</b><br>1991: RADM Mariann Stratton became Director, Navy Nurse Corps and Assistant Chief of Personnel Management in Navy Medicine, this month. | <b>18</b><br>1951: First meeting of DACOWITS held.  |
| <b>19</b><br>1950: 11 Navy nurses en route to assignment at US Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Japan, died in plane crash upon takeoff from Kwajellein Island.    | <b>20</b><br><b>Yom Kippur.</b> 1977: Select US House Subcommittee on Veteran Affairs heard testimony on Bill 3277, recognizing WASP service as active duty in armed forces, entitling veterans' benefits. | <b>21</b><br>1972: WAC Detachment in Vietnam closed.   | <b>22</b><br>1914: Dora E. Thompson appointed Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps, first Regular Army nurse to hold post.  | <b>23</b><br>1977: <i>USCGS Morganthau</i> became first cutter to operate with women assigned as permanent crew; <i>USCGC Gallantin</i> assigned mixed crew.         | <b>24</b><br>1989: Dedication of Women Veterans Monument, Veterans Memorial Plaza, Rockaway Beach, Queens, NY.                                       | <b>25</b><br>1996: 3-day (September 25-27) National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues held, White House Conference Center.                                       |
| <b>27</b><br>1948: New Regular Army enlistments accepted for WAC for first time.  | <b>28</b><br>1977: Last WAC officers Orientation Course graduated, Fort McClellan, AL.   | <b>29</b><br>1985: US House of Representatives approved HR 1378 for Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation to establish memorial on Federal land in DC. | <b>30</b><br>1947: WAC reenlistment program ended. 1951: COL Mary G. Phillips retired; 1 <sup>st</sup> Chief, Army Nurse Corps to complete statutory 4-year appointment as Chief of Corps.        |  |  |   |

**Mary Hays McCauley**  
**"Molly Pitcher"**



*Print: Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and  
Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-665*

**Mary Hays McCauley, “Molly Pitcher,” was born on October 13, 1754 near Trenton, New Jersey. She fought beside her husband, John Casper Hays, who served with the First and Seventh Pennsylvania Regiments of the Continental Army against the British Redcoats. She earned her nickname, “Molly Pitcher,” because she brought water to soldiers exhausted by battle and heat. On June 28, 1778, during the Battle of Monmouth, when her husband collapsed from the heat, Molly replaced him at his cannon and fought in his place for the rest of the battle. Molly also swabbed cannon bores and loaded shot. The General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed “An act for the relief of Molly M’Kolly” in 1822, honoring her services and providing her an annuity and cash grant of 40 dollars--a lifetime soldier's half-pay pension--and one suit of clothes or the equivalent in cash. Monuments were erected at her gravesite in 1876 and 1916. Her likeness also appears on the monument commemorating the Battle of Monmouth.**

# October 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |   |   |   | <b>1</b><br>1976: WAC OCS deactivated; women to attend Army OCS at Fort Benning, GA.<br>1979: Army ordered same enlistment qualifications for men and women.                              | <b>2</b><br>1917: GEN Pershing requested Army Nurse Corps supervise nursing activities, American Expeditionary Force; Bessie S. Bell, Chief Nurse, Walter Reed Army Hospital, reported Nov. 13. |
| <b>3</b><br>1977: First combined male and female Army Signal Corps training began, Fort Gordon, GA.  | <b>4</b><br>1987: Allendale County, SC monument dedicated to residents who died in conflicts from WWI – Vietnam. 2LT Elizabeth Ann Jones, Army Nurse Corps, died in Saigon, 1996, inscribed.                   | <b>5</b><br>1948: First WAC OCS class since end of WWII.  | <b>6</b><br>1997: NASA mission STS-86 <i>Atlantis</i> ended, NASA astronaut Wendy B. Lawrence, CMDR, US Navy, aboard.                   | <b>7</b><br>1975: President Ford signed PL 94-106 allowing admission of women to service academies.   | <b>8</b><br>1951: Associate WAC Company Grade Officers Course initiated to obtain more officers for Korean War.   | <b>9</b><br>1973: Army authorized expansion of WAC from 23,800 to 50,400 by 1979.   |
| <b>10</b><br>1998: “Gathering of Eagles,” October 9-10, 1998, US Air Force Museum, honored WASP pilot of more than 23 aircraft, LtCol (Ret.) Dora Doroughy Strother. | <b>11</b><br><b>Columbus Day (Observed).</b>   | <b>12</b><br>1818: Elizabeth Van Lew, Union spy, later appointed postmaster of Richmond, VA by President Grant, born.   | <b>13</b><br>1754: Revolutionary War heroine “Molly Pitcher” born in Trenton, NJ.   | <b>14</b><br>1868: “William Cathey” (Cathay Williams), probably 1 <sup>st</sup> African-American woman in US Regular Army, discharged with certificate of disability; served since Nov. 15, 1866. | <b>15</b><br>1948: First 8 women officers on active duty sworn in as commissioned officers in regular Navy.   | <b>16</b><br>1946: 8000 <sup>th</sup> WAC Detachment arrived to serve in Occupied Japan.  |
| <b>17</b><br>1862: Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, alias PVT Lyons Wakeman, enrolled in 153 <sup>rd</sup> Regiment, NY State Volunteers.                                      | <b>18</b><br>1997: Women in Military Service for America memorial dedicated.   | <b>19</b><br>1774: After death of husband, Richard Trotter, in battle, Anne Trotter Bailey dressed like man; joined Army. 1944: Ban on African-American women in WAVES abolished. | <b>20</b><br>1944: SPARS opened to African-American women. 1978: President Carter signed bill abolishing WAC.                           | <b>21</b><br>1861: Loretta Janeta Velaquez, posing as Harry Buford, claimed she was appointed temporary commander of a company during Battle of Ball’s Bluff.                                     | <b>22</b><br>1987: Tree planted on Ohio State Univ. grounds site of VA Out-Patient Clinic honoring Sallie Farmer, former Army nurse & only surviving WWII-era woman POW residing in Ohio. | <b>23</b><br>1973: BG Lillian Dunlap became 1 <sup>st</sup> Army woman serving as President of officer promotion board. 1983: More than 100 women participated in “Operation Urgent Fury.”      |
| <b>24</b><br>1961: Susan Leigh Still, LCDR, US Navy & NASA astronaut, born. <b>31</b> 1966: WAC detachment established for duty in Vietnam.                          | <b>25</b><br>1994: LT Kara S. Hultgreen, 1st woman to qualify in combat-ready F-14 Tomcat, graduating 3 <sup>rd</sup> in pilot class, died--engine malfunctions approaching deck, <i>USS Abraham Lincoln</i> . | <b>26</b><br>1998: Mary J. Wamsley appointed by Secretary of Defense Cohen to succeed Elizabeth T. Bilby as Chair, DACOWITS, for calendar year 1999.                              | <b>27</b><br>1943: First Women Marines reported for duty on West Coast—at Camp Pendleton, Santa Barbara, and El Centro, CA, this month. | <b>28</b><br>1987: RADM Mary A. Fields became Director, Navy Nurse Corps and Deputy Commander, Personnel Management, Naval Medical Command, this month.   | <b>29</b><br>1997: DACOWITS Fall Conference began (ended November 2).   | <b>30</b><br>1984: US Congress granted Federal Charter to WAC Veterans Association under Federal Law 98-584.  |



**Eileen Marie Collins**

*Photo: Courtesy National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

**Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Marie Collins, born November 19, 1956, is the first woman selected to command a US space shuttle. Collins was attending the US Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base when she was selected for the NASA program in January 1990. She became an astronaut in July 1991. Collins has been a T-38 and T-41 instructor pilot, a C-141 aircraft commander and instructor pilot, and an assistant professor in mathematics at the US Air Force Academy. She has logged more than 5,000 hours in 30 different types of aircraft. As of September 1998, her NASA experience included more than 419 hours in space. She has been a member of the astronaut support team responsible for orbiter prelaunch checkout, final launch configuration, crew ingress/egress, and landing/recovery, worked in Mission Control as a spacecraft communicator, and also been a pilot on the STS-63 and STS-84. Collins piloted the STS-63 Discovery in February 1995 and the STS-84 in May 1997; those missions rendezvoused with the Russian space station Mir. In January 1999, Collins will command the Columbia's crew on a five-day mission to deploy an x-ray telescope to study phenomena such as black holes and quasars.**

# November 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | <b>1</b><br>1978: Men & women began Army joint basic training. 8 women ensigns report to duty aboard ships. 1978: BG Mary E. Clarke promoted to MG, 1 <sup>st</sup> Army woman to achieve this rank. | <b>2</b><br>1921: Ludmilla “Lou” Ferenz , Army Nurse Corps flight nurse during WWII, born.  | <b>3</b><br>1948: Col Katherine A. Towle, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Director, Women’s Reserve, took Regular commission as permanent Lt Col; appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> Director, Women Marines, temporary rank of Col. | <b>4</b><br>1965: Georgette (Dickey) Meyer Chappelle, photojournalist & war correspondent, killed by land mine while accompanying Marines near Chulai, Vietnam. | <b>5</b><br>1988: 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting, Minority Officers Association, organization dedicated to improving minority & female officer recruiting, assignments, & promotion opportunities, all services, Savannah, GA. | <b>6</b><br>1986: Women in Military Service for America memorial authorized.  |
| <b>7</b><br>1942: Commandant of Marine Corps approved inclusion of women in Marine Corps Reserve; known as Marines.  | <b>8</b><br>1967: US Congress passed PL 90-130—equal promotion & retirement rules, men & women officers; women allowed promotion above O-5 & Army National Guard membership.                         | <b>9</b><br>1995: Cheryl Stearns, first woman member, US Army’s Golden Knights parachute team, broke 3 world records; completes 24 hours of continuous skydiving.       | <b>10</b><br>1943: “Molly Marine,” 1 <sup>st</sup> statue of woman in uniformed service, US Armed Forces unveiled, New Orleans, LA. Monument dedicated to US Marine Corps Women’s Reserve.                  | <b>11</b><br><b>Veterans Day.</b> 1993: Vietnam Women’s Memorial unveiled, Washington, DC.  | <b>12</b><br>1993: Workshop on women, technology & military institution, Cornell Univ.; attended by military officers, academics, and military researchers from OSD.  | <b>13</b><br>1918: 18 African-American nurses assigned to duty in Army Nurse Corps following influenza epidemic.                            |
| <b>14</b><br>1988: Army announced women eligible to fill additional 3,128 jobs in active forces, 6,274 jobs in National Guard and 1,736 jobs in Reserves.  | <b>15</b><br>1988: President Reagan signed S20042, legislation authorizing memorial on Federal lands to military women who served during Vietnam War.  | <b>16</b><br>1776: Margaret Corbin took husband’s gun after he was killed in battle near Fort Washington, NY. 1983: “Women in Military” corridor in Pentagon dedicated. | <b>17</b><br>1945: 60 <sup>th</sup> and last WAC OCS class graduated, Fort Des Moines, IA.  | <b>18</b><br>1943: WAC members became eligible for GI insurance, this month.  | <b>19</b><br>1956: Lt Col Eileen Marie Collins, US Air Force and NASA astronaut, born.  | <b>20</b><br>1970: Navy Nurse Corps granted authority to place commemorative bronze plaque on Nurses Monument, Arlington National Cemetery. |
| <b>21</b><br>1943: LTs Lillian J. Tacina & Eugenia H. Rutkowski among 13 nurses, 17 men, Army Air Force, shot down in German-occupied Albania; escaped after 850-mile walk to Adriatic, this mo. | <b>22</b><br>1994: Company at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, became 1 <sup>st</sup> group to complete coed basic training under renewed policy of gender-integrated basic training for many noncombat jobs.  | <b>23</b><br>1942: PL 773 established US Coast Guard Women’s Reserve (SPARS). 1977: PL 95-202 passed; gives WASP veteran status.  | <b>24</b><br>1946: 8225 <sup>th</sup> WAC Battalion arrived for service with Far East Command in Tokyo.   | <b>25</b><br><b>Thanksgiving.</b>   | <b>26</b><br>1832: Dr. Mary Edwards Walker born.  | <b>27</b><br>1991: COL Nancy R. Adams promoted to BG; sworn in as 19 <sup>th</sup> Chief, Army Nurse Corps.                                 |
| <b>28</b><br>1989: President Bush signed Joint Resolution of Congress authorizing Vietnam Women’s Memorial Project.  | <b>29</b><br>1977: Evelyn P. Foote became Commander, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Basic Training Battalion, Fort McClellan, AL, this month.   | <b>30</b><br>1943: 12 <sup>th</sup> OCS class, WAAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, IA began; first desegregated class.   |   |   |   |   |



**Grace Murray Hopper**

*Photo: Courtesy Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-111439*

**Grace Hopper was born on December 9, 1906. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College in 1928 and received a Ph.D. in mathematics from Yale University in 1934. Hopper joined the Naval Reserve during World War II and was commissioned as lieutenant, junior grade. Assigned to the Bureau of Ordnance Computation Project at Harvard University, she worked as a programmer on the Mark I, the first information-processing digital computer. Discharged from active duty in 1946, she continued working for the Navy as a reservist until her retirement as a captain in 1966. Hopper was recalled to active duty in 1967 and tasked with standardizing the Navy's computer programming languages. She was promoted to commodore (rear admiral) in 1983. When she retired from the Navy at the age of 80 in 1986, she was the oldest officer on active duty. Grace Hopper died on January 1, 1992. On January 6, 1996, the Navy christened the guided missile destroyer, the USS Hopper, at the Bath Iron Works. The christening marked only the second time in the Navy's history that a warship had been named for a woman from the Navy's own ranks.**



# December 1999

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|  |   |   | <b>1</b><br>1991: BG Nancy R. Adams appointed Chief, Army Nurse Corps.  | <b>2</b><br>1942: First 2 African-American WAAC companies completed basic training; arrived at Fort Huachuca, AZ to red-carpet reception by all African-American 92 <sup>nd</sup> Division. | <b>3</b><br><b>Hanukkah begins.</b> 1948: COL Mary A. Hallaren reappointed WAC Director. 1973: 14 USC 762 passed, Women's Reserve no longer separate branch of the Coast Guard Reserve. | <b>4</b><br>1968: COL Maxene B. Michl became first WAC Center and WAC School Commander/Commandant to hold rank of full colonel.                |
| <b>5</b><br>1991: President Bush signed repeal of 10 USC 8549 (Air Combat Exclusion Law).  | <b>6</b><br>1945: Ruth Cheney Streeter resigned commission as Director, Marine Corps Women's Reserve.   | <b>7</b><br>1973: Congress passed legislation allowing women to serve in active Coast Guard.  | <b>8</b><br>1941: 11 Navy nurses on duty in Philippines evacuated patients in Canacao Hospital to safe area under-neath hospital's reinforced concrete floor.                 | <b>9</b><br>1906: RADM Grace Hopper born.   | <b>10</b><br>1941: 5 Navy nurses on Guam became Japanese POWs; repatriated on August 25, 1942.  | <b>11</b><br>1990: Sgt Marie Elliott, member of National Guard unit called to active duty, arrived in Saudi Arabia to participate in Gulf War. |
| <b>12</b><br>1980: Defense Officer Personnel Management Act enacted; women in all service branches on same promotion lists as men.                             | <b>13</b><br>1862: Sarah Emma Edmonds served as aide to COL Orlando Poe at Fredericksburg, VA.  | <b>14</b><br>1950: Anna M. Rosenberg confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Personnel.  | <b>15</b><br>1945: First WAC training center, Fort Des Moines, IA, closed. 1972: Last WAC Basic Officer Course and OCS classes graduated.                                     | <b>16</b><br>1995: <i>USS Benfold</i> delivered earlier this month, first Navy ship built from keel up with habitability modification needed for full integration of women crew.            | <b>17</b><br>1760: Deborah Samson born.   | <b>18</b><br>1948: 199 WAC officers—first such increment since women's integration into regular Services--appointed to Regular Army.           |
| <b>19</b><br>1997: RADM Marsha Johnson Evans, first woman Superintendent, Naval Postgraduate School, relinquished command.                                     | <b>20</b><br>1989: More than 600 Army women participated in "Operation Just Cause" resulting in arrest of Panama's Manuel Noriega. Military Police CAPT Linda Bray & her unit involved in combat. | <b>21</b><br>1952: Pamela Davis Dorman, first woman US Navy chaplain to serve with Marines, born.   | <b>22</b><br>1944: Harriet Ida Pickens and Frances E. Wills, first 2 African-American WAVES officers, commissioned. 1967: First 2 WAC officers selected for Army War College. | <b>23</b><br>1941: Army nurses ordered to evacuate Manila.  | <b>24</b><br>1975: Army authorized admission of women to Army OCS training, Fort Benning, GA.   | <b>25</b><br><b>Christmas Day.</b>   |
| <b>27</b><br>1991: Presidential Commission on Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces established as part of FY92 Authorization Bill, 10 USC 6015, this month. | <b>28</b><br>1990: LCDR Darlene M. Iskra, Navy, installed as Commander, <i>USS Opportune</i> , a salvage vessel.  | <b>29</b><br>1958: LTC Nancy Jane Currie, Army, born. Currie is scheduled for December 1998 space shuttle, 1 <sup>st</sup> mission to carry hardware into space for assembling International Space Station. | <b>30</b><br>1977: Army Combat Exclusion Policy kept women out of specialties or units that involve direct combat.  | <b>31</b><br>1976: WAC Center and School, Fort McClellan, AL, closed after 22 years.  |   |  |

This calendar celebrates and commemorates the achievements and activities of American women in the armed forces between 1760 and 1998. Notable achievements or milestones are reported, typically in relation to a person's date of birth or death, the date of her particular achievement, or an influential event in the lives of military women. The calendar aims to show the diversity, breadth, and depth of women's experience in the United States military. Achievements of women in all branches of the Services are depicted, and both individual and service-wide milestones are noted. The calendar also includes Federal and other holidays.

The calendar attempts to be representative of women in all walks of military life, but is not exhaustive. It commemorates women who served beside their husbands during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and those who were disguised as male soldiers. The calendar also notes women who served as spies during the Revolutionary War and the Civil War—in the latter conflict both Confederate and Union spies are reported. During the Spanish American War, World War I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, women served predominately in the various nursing corps, and in other noncombat positions. Beginning in World War II, however, with the formation of the auxiliary women's services (WAAC, WAC, WAF, WFTD, WASP, WAVES, and SPARS), women also began to serve the military in other capacities.

Beginning in the 1970s, when women became eligible to attend the Service academies, their accomplishments became more diverse. Many of the women in this calendar are celebrated as firsts. For example, the first woman to graduate first in her class from the Naval Academy, the first woman combat pilot, the first woman to head a state-level National Guard unit, the first woman brigade commander, and so on. The calendar also honors women whose breakthroughs were accomplished alongside their military service and also identifies military Olympians, astronauts, and government officials.

As of September 1, 1998, the total resident population of the United States was approximately 270,498,000, of which there were approximately 137,992,000 women, or 51 percent. That same month, there were 195,655 women in the United States military active duty forces, representing approximately 14 percent of the military. Of this total, approximately 44.6 percent were minorities. There were 71,213 women in the Army, 49,150 women in the Navy, 9,779 women in the Marines, and 65,513 women in the Air Force. The Army has the highest percentage of African-American and other minority women; they constitute almost 43 percent and almost 7 percent, respectively, of Army women. The Marines have the highest percentage of Hispanic members; approximately 13 percent of Marine women are Hispanic.

Not everything mentioned in the listing of day-by-day events represents something positive. Women have been injured and killed in the line of duty and also captured as prisoners of war. However, although women have had difficulties in advancing within the armed forces, this calendar attempts to highlight their accomplishments.

The calendar was compiled for the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute under an Interagency Agreement with the Library of Congress.

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Numerous sources were used to compile this calendar. Books, serial publications, monographs, websites, and even e-mail were used to gather information. Those who wish to learn more about women in the military should consult the bibliography, which selectively includes some of the sources consulted.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the Military Services, or the Department of Defense.

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## Homepages

The World Wide Web contains a wide variety of resources on women in the military, as well as general information sources. It is also useful to check each Service's homepage for links to various useful sites. The numerous webpages on the Civil War provide information on women in that war. Some of the most useful websites in compiling this calendar were...

<http://twu.edu/library> [for information on the WASP]

<http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/>

<http://wasp-wwii.org/wasp/>

<http://www.af.mil/news/biographies>

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<http://www.undelete.org/>

<http://www.uscg.mil/>

<http://www.wimsa.org/>



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