

# MEMORIAL DAY

PUERTO RICO NATIONAL CEMETERY  
MAY 28, 2018 • 9:00 AM



## HONORING THE SERVICE OF WOMEN VETERANS, SINCE WWII



# Honoring Women Veterans Service

Throughout our history, the important contributions of women in our nation's defense and as part of the Veteran population cannot be overstated. Theirs is a story of great strength and perseverance. VA is proud to salute women Veterans for their accomplishments and contributions to the military.

Military women's unique experiences throughout history have shaped our nation and have inspired others to reach higher than they thought possible and to achieve the once unachievable

More and more women actively serve in the military than ever before. They honor those who came before them by striving to leave the world a better and safer place before earning the title of Veteran.

In 1950, the percentage of women in uniform was just 2% compared to today, with fully 14% of our active duty and 18% of our Guard and Reserve forces being women.. This increased representation will not diminish, but continue into the foreseeable future.

The nature of warfare and our military's warfighting doctrine, place women in hostile battlespace in ever-increasing numbers, with ever-increasing opportunity for direct-fire combat with armed enemies. Women are sustaining injuries similar to their male counterparts, both in severity and complexity.

Today, we stop and welcome women Veterans with open arms for it is our sacred duty to honor their service and sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation, to attempt to repay a debt that can never be repaid. We pledge to honor them, serve them and care for them to the best of our abilities.

We could not do this if it were not for the women who serve Veterans in thousands of vital positions across the Veterans Administration. From our doctors and nurses, to administrative staff, to policy makers and researchers looking for the next medical breakthrough, these public servants are critical in everything we do.

We are also honored to serve alongside many of them and wish to honor those that came here today as well as those that rest at the Puerto Rico National Cemetery. We can think of no higher honor than this great opportunity to both fulfill a nation's promise and work alongside such capable and dedicated employees. May God bless those who serve, and have served in uniform. And may God continue to bless this wonderful country of ours.