



August 29, 2013

“Independence is happiness.”

Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906)  
Activist

As August yields to September  
[back-to-school safety tips](#)  
from the National Safety Council  
become a priority.

## ***AFDW CC commemorates Women's Equality Day at DMA***

**A**ir Force District of Washington Commander Maj. Gen. Sharon K. G. Dunbar spoke with Defense Media Activity service members during a Women's Equality Day Observance, Aug. 29, 2013 at Fort Meade, Md.

Women's Equality Day commemorates the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on Aug. 26, 1920. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. During DMA's first annual commemorative event, military and civilian service members reflected on this year's theme: honoring the 350,000 women who joined the military during WWII as well as those who are still working toward full equality for women in the United States military.

In her address to DMA, Gen. Dunbar asked the audience to remember those who paved the way for women's rights today.

“Too often we take equality for granted and forget how hard fought it's been,” Gen. Dunbar said. “I'm not sure we give due credit to the heroines who shaped the way for us. So it's fitting that we pause to honor and appreciate the pathfinders of their generation.”

Gen. Dunbar then honored Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Wilma Vaught who spoke at a Women's Equality event last week at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

“General Vaught recounted historic points about women's military service that I'd forgotten or never knew,” the general said. “These points aren't seared in my mind like General Vaught's because she actually lived through and led changes that afford us greater equality in serving.”

For over 120 years, from the mid-1700s to the late 1800s, women served in the military as nurses, seamstresses and cooks. Many who sought to serve in other capacities went so far as to disguise themselves as men. It wasn't until 1948 that women were granted full integration into America's military. Even then, they could not be married, get married, or become pregnant during their military service. In 1967, promotion restrictions were lifted to allow more than one woman in each service to hold the rank of colonel and to potentially be promoted beyond.

“Today is about equality and much more. It's about freedom of choice, of having the same opportunities as men without having to disguise

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### **► TRENDING...**

An interagency Defense Department and Forest Service program, [Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System \(MAFFS\) provides aerial firefighting resources](#) when commercial and private air tankers are no longer able to meet the Forest Service's needs. A military air expeditionary group exercises control over MAFFS resources at the Forest Service's direction.

## ► RESOURCES

### **AF.mil**

<http://www.af.mil>

### **Airman magazine**

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil>

### **Air Force Outreach**

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil>

### **Military OneSource**

<http://militaryonesource.af.mil>

### **Military HOMEFRONT**

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod>

### **Air Force Personnel Center**

<https://mypers.af.mil>

<http://www.afpc.af.mil>

### **Air Reserve Personnel Center**

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil>

### **Department of Defense News**

<http://www.defense.gov>

### **Department of Veteran Affairs**

<http://www.va.gov>

### **TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

### **U.S. Government Website**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

### **Employment Opportunities**

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com) [www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

### **Air Force Association Scholarships**

[www.afa.org/AFA/InformationFor/Military/Scholarships](http://www.afa.org/AFA/InformationFor/Military/Scholarships)

### **Air Force Safety Center**

[www.afsec.af.mil.asp](http://www.afsec.af.mil.asp)

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [AF releases nuclear enterprise's future plan](#)

The Air Force recently announced a long-term vision for the service's nuclear enterprise.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Undergrad flying training applications due in November](#)

Eligible active duty officers interested in undergraduate flying training must apply by Nov. 29 to be considered by the UFT selection board, which convenes here Jan. 14, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

## ► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

### [Curriculum policy changes mark start of a new DODEA school year](#)

Department of Defense Education Activity students, parents and employees should expect quite a few changes in the upcoming school year, the DODEA director said in an Aug. 23 interview.

## ► ENVIRONMENT, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

### [Radar modernization improves capabilities, saves money](#)

After more than 3 years of coordination, installation and testing, two new air traffic control systems were activated Aug. 2 as part of a Department of Defense and Federal Aviation Administration project to update terminal area radars here.

### [Training system brings fight to F-16 Pilots](#)

Groundbreaking advancements to F-16 Fighting Falcon warfare training at Misawa Air Base arrived during the week of Aug. 12 through 16 in the form of a Joint Deployable Electronic Warfare Range, or JDEWR.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

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who we are and what we hope to accomplish in life," Gen. Dunbar said.

More than 150 service members and civilian employees attended the observance. As well as honoring women who have paved the way for those in uniform, the general heralded pioneering women in the civilian force as well.

"Sandra Day O'Connor ushered in a new era in 1981 when she was sworn in as the first female Justice on the U. S. Supreme Court. But she had to knock down many locked doors along the way," Gen. Dunbar said. "Despite graduating third in her Stanford Law School class in 1952, no law firm in California wanted to hire her. She served as a county attorney and a civilian Army lawyer before starting her own firm and raising three children."

Gen. Dunbar also spoke of her mother who, as a student, emigrated to the U.S. from Korea. "I learned much about the quest for equality by watching my mother's struggles and triumphs."

The general encouraged women to continue to push through closed doors.

"Change and equality are made possible by pathfinders who are tenacious in pushing through closed doors," she said. "Consider how far we've come, what it took to get here, and that we're not yet where we need to be."

There's one door Gen. Dunbar doesn't mind closing. "We need to slam the door shut on sexual misconduct of any kind. Equality erodes each time it happens.

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**August 29, 1970** - The Army's Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system completed its first full-scale test, when a Spartan area defense interceptor missile launched from Kwajalein Atoll intercepted a Minute I reentry vehicle launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

**August 30, 1945** - Special Mission 75 ferried 39,928 occupation troops and 8,202 tons of supplies from a staging area in Okinawa to Japan. The mission used 259 C-54s and 360 B-24 bombers as cargo planes and associated aircraft.

**August 31, 1932** - Air Corps pilots flew five miles above the earth's surface to photograph an eclipse of the sun.

**September 1, 1995** - The SR-71 Blackbird, fastest aircraft in the world, returns to active service. It was removed from the U.S. Air Force inventory in 1990 when planners assumed that satellites could perform the strategic reconnaissance mission.

**September 2, 1982** - After an 11.4-hour nonstop flight from Edwards AFB, Calif., a B-1B prototype landed at Farnborough, England, for static display. This was the aircraft's first landing at a site other than Edwards AFB, Calif.

**September 3, 1971** - President Richard M. Nixon dedicates the new Air Force Museum.

**September 4, 1952** - The U.S. Air Force awarded the production contract for Lockheed's 383 Transport, better known as the C-130 Hercules.