



**DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS CENTER
DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY
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**MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS**

SUBJECT: 2021 Department of Defense National Women's History Month Observance

The Department of Defense celebrates March 1-31, 2021 as National Women's History Month. Together, we recognize, honor, and celebrate the service, contributions, and tremendous sacrifices women have made for society and in the defense of our Nation.

This year's theme, "*Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced*," recognizes and honors the important contributions and achievements of the many brave women who participated in the suffrage movement and fought for decades for women's right to vote. We also recognize and honor today's women voting rights activists who tirelessly advocated for all voices to be heard. As we celebrate this month, let us remember the dedication and commitment of amazing women who led in this fight, in spite of the challenges endured, never wavering in their fight for equality.

The suffrage movement led to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. Today that spark for equality has led women to reclaim their voices and position to receive all the rights and privileges of all citizens. Currently, history is being made by women such as Kamala Harris, serving as the first female Vice President of the United States; Kathleen Hicks, becoming the first female Deputy Secretary of Defense; CAPT Amy Bauernschmidt, the first woman to Command a U.S. Aircraft Carrier; April Beldo, the first female Fleet Master Chief for Manpower, Personnel and Training Command; and countless other women who serve in key leadership positions. Because women refused to be silenced, doors have opened across America with more opportunities and possibilities for the next generation of women and girls.

As we celebrate National Women's History Month, I encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect, learn, and celebrate the numerous contributions women have made throughout the history of our Nation. Remember those who serve as leaders in our military and civilian workforce and the sacrifices they make in defending the security and safety of our nation. For more information, connect to: <https://www.defenseculture.mil/Human-Relations-Toolkit/Special-Observances>.

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Director