



**March 2014**

**Women's History Month:  
Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment**

*"The best protection any woman can have...is courage."*

*~ Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
a leader of the Women's Rights Movement*

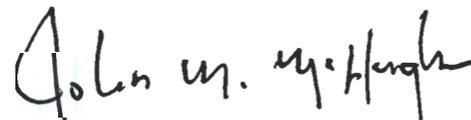
Women have achieved incredible progress that seemed unimaginable not so long ago in American history. They persevered through social and cultural challenges and overcame past legal restraints to create a new legacy of achievement for generations that followed. They opened doors and breached barriers, and they inspired those who witnessed their character, their courage and their commitment.

The collective contribution of women to our country is extensive. Women work in every facet of American life and have expanded opportunities and possibilities for generations to come. They have demonstrated their mettle in countless ways, one of which is soldiering. Even before they could serve officially as Soldiers, women served the Army in various positions and became invaluable sources of support for fighting troops. They shared hardships during wartime and some shared duties in combat. For more than two centuries, women have served and sacrificed as members of the profession of arms. Today's female Soldiers continue to serve with valor and distinction, carrying on the rich and long tradition of character, courage and commitment that makes our Army the Strength of the Nation. History is clear: when put to the test, our Army women stand tall with their brothers-in-arms to prevent, shape, and win the Nation's wars.

We are equally proud to recognize the talented women who lend their depth of experience to our Civilian work force. Their steadfast commitment is critical to the success of the Total Army. We especially acknowledge the women in our Families who provide untiring support through peace and war. As we pause to honor the many and important contributions of women to our Army and our country, we encourage our entire Army Family to pay tribute with us. Together, we are Army Strong.

  
Raymond F. Chandler III  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
Raymond T. Odierno  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
John M. McHugh  
Secretary of the Army