



Celebrating Women's Equality Day-August 26, 2016

Each year our Nation celebrates Women's Equality Day in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote. As we remember this turning point in gender equality in America, we pay tribute to the courage and conviction of the trailblazers who paved the way for the voices of future generations of women to be heard.

The women's suffrage movement began in 1848 with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott at the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. For the next seven decades women's rights pioneers continued to fight for the right to vote. Finally in 1920 Susan B. Anthony brought the movement full circle when she convinced Sen. Aaron A. Sargent to sponsor a bill which passed through Congress and became the 19th Amendment.

This year's observance carries a special significance with the Department of Defense decision to open all military job opportunities to anyone who can qualify, regardless of gender. As implementation takes place across the force it will provide women the opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities and enhance the diversity within our ranks.

Eighth Army draws strength and inspiration from more than 3,500 female Soldiers and Civilians. Their dedication and unyielding commitment to maintain the highest standards contributes greatly to our enduring legacy of service here in the Republic of Korea. This past month we welcomed the first female general officer to serve at the Eighth Army Headquarters level, Brig. Gen. Tammy Smith. As the Eighth Army Deputy Commanding General for Sustainment, she has opened another door for future female Soldiers to follow.

As leaders of character who live the Army values 24/7, we honor all women, in and out of uniform, for their dedication and commitment to make our Nation, our Army, and our Alliance stronger.

Eighth Army is strong ... and getting stronger!

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

THOMAS S. VANDAL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding