

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS FOR THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY  
JUNE 22, 1995**

It is an honor to be with all of you for this historic occasion. As honorary chair of the foundation, I would like to convey special thanks to General Wilma Vaught and to the many active duty and retired men and women in our armed services -- who have never wavered from their dream of a memorial for women in the military.

I also want to thank Secretary Perry, General Shalikashvili, and all of the Members of Congress who have lent their energy and support to this project.

A year ago I had the great pleasure of attending the groundbreaking luncheon for this memorial. On that occasion, I met a group of extraordinary women veterans who had served in World War One and World War Two.

They were women who had joined the ranks of our armed services at a time when gender was an obstacle to promotion and advancement and to fulfilling one's true potential in the military. Yet these brave, strong women persevered out of a sense of duty and faith in our country. Like women before and after them, they served with honor and distinction. They broke new ground. They upheld a proud tradition of women defending our nation that runs the course of American history.

In the weeks leading up to today's groundbreaking ceremony, I have heard from even more women veterans. I have heard from daughters and granddaughters who were only now learning the full story of their mother or grandmother's acts of sacrifice and heroism many years ago.

What has become clear to me is that, in many cases, the experiences of these women veterans -- however transforming to their lives -- were stored away like clothes in an attic after they left the service.

I want to share with you what one daughter wrote me about her mother, Margaret Loring Zapor [rhymes with Vapor], who traveled from Arizona to be with us today. Mrs. Zapor joined the WAACs in 1943 and was part of the European theater during the final years of the war. But it was only recently that her daughter, Pat, a volunteer helping with this memorial project, learned the extent of her mother's military experiences by reading letters and postcards stored in a hall closet.

Pat Zapor ended a very loving tribute to her mother by saying: "She's probably typical of thousands of women of that era who served in the military or the factories, had a life-changing experience, then came home and got on with the wife-and-mother lives they were expected to lead.

"When my father died young, leaving Mom with four children age 10 and under, I suspect her military experiences helped her survive. She had learned how to be tough, resourceful, independent and she kept our family together that way. . . . Now

I understand a bit better what came before in her life, why she always said she'd traveled enough for one lifetime, and how she managed the sheer grit it took to raise four kids alone."

For thousands of women -- and for thousands of daughters and sons, granddaughters and grandsons -- the memorial being built will help unearth memories. It will help us all gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the experiences and sacrifices of women throughout our history whose contributions too often have gone unnoticed.

Thank you very much.

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Melanne Verveer  
White House

June 9, 1995

Dear Melanne,

I never thought I'd try the ''pull whatever strings you can'' routine. But this is for Mom, so here goes.

After a good deal of sweet-talking, we finally convinced my mother to come to Washington for the groundbreaking of the Women In Military Service to America Memorial June 22. She was a WWII WAC, who did some pretty amazing things. I'll attach a copy of a summary I'm putting together for her file at WIMSA.

She doesn't travel particularly easily because of arthritis, and the fact that she's willing to deal with my three-story accommodations for a week makes it all the more remarkable.

What finally persuaded her, I think, is the combination of an unspoken interest in being recognized for what she did 50 years ago and the realization that by the time the memorial is finished it will be even harder for her to travel and her daughter may have moved on from Washington by then.

I've been doing a little volunteer work at WIMSA so I understand the logistical problems at the groundbreaking. The organizers surely have ''official'' contacts well planned. But I wanted to bring her to your attention in case there's any way to include her in meeting the President or the First Lady or any other side activities that the White House may be involved with in relation to the WIMSA groundbreaking.

You've always been most helpful in our professional contacts and I don't want to jeopardize that by asking for a personal favor.

But I recently read through dozens of letters Mom wrote home during the war and saw how her eyes lit up when I asked her about parading down the Champs d'Elysee on VE Day; about being one of the first people to know the Germans had surrendered because the message came in on her shift; about her transition from country-raised convent student to ''First Canadian girl to enter Berlin'' in the Toronto newspapers. (U.S. citizen, raised in Canada.)

If she weren't my mother, I'd still think she was worthy of notice. It's a side of Mom I never knew existed and it made me really proud. In many ways I suspect she's typical of WWII-era women in the military. It was an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience that quietly got bundled up into a box at the back of the hall closet while they got on with their wife-and-mother lives.

I'm really not looking for unusual treatment, just that you keep her in mind if there are any opportunities to plug her in as an example of why the WIMSA project is so important. She's always been proud of the things that I've accomplished and I'd love to reciprocate by seeing her get a little recognition of her own. She'd never seek attention herself -- too shy and self-effacing. But it'd be great to show her the country's proud of her.

I realize, of course, the complexity of schedules and the layers of officialdom involved in things like this, so I've no illusions that anything necessarily will work out. But I can't imagine ever having such a good reason to try to take advantage of contacts and I couldn't resist the attempt.

Many thanks for giving this a look. Call if there's anything else I can tell you. Work -- 541-3269, Home -- 301-794-7136.

Sincerely,

Pat Zapor

Draft

A summary of wartime experiences of Margaret Loring Zapor  
compiled by Patricia Zapor —  
June 1995

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WAAC/WAC March 1943 to Sept.? 1945

My mother, Margaret Moore Loring Zapor, was born June 26, 1919, in Noranda, Ont., the child of U.S. citizens living in Ontario because of my grandfather's work as a mining engineer. O She grew up in rural mining camps in northern Ontario, and was taught at home until going away to a Catholic boarding school for high school, then ~~on a~~ Catholic women's college in Michigan. She had traveled little outside Canada and New England, where her grandparents lived.

Her mother suggested she enlist as 'an adventure.' Maybe my grandmother felt that since three of her sons were 4F and the fourth was too young, she had a duty to ask her elder daughter to serve. Grandma was keenly aware of her colonial roots and the family stories of a Revolutionary War-era ancestor, Naval Commodore Preble. Patriotic duty was no doubt a greater factor than the scandal Mom's more 'proper' aunts felt at the idea of their niece enlisting.

Whatever the original idea, it was quite a dramatic turn in Mom's life when in March 1943 she found herself at Fort Ogelthorpe, Ga., for basic training as a WAAC.

In her first letter home from Ogelthorpe, she wrote on March 5, 1943, of her train trip to 'the sunny south.'

'It is cold and raining and anything but warm and sunny.... I sure know why they call Kentucky the Hill Country, it is just full of them, big hills and little hills. And at the foot of them, on them and in between them are the funniest, shabbiest-looking little shacks you ever saw, with the family wash hanging on the much-broken fences. I expected to see 'Lil Abner come out of one of them any minute.'

Her letters described army life in detail -- the uniforms that didn't fit, the routines, the food, the schedule of Masses, the rosaries and prayer cards she received from relatives -- and reassured her family not to worry if they heard from her irregularly and that she was trying to not eat meat on Fridays, despite the Army's insistence on serving it.

Near the end of the war nearly three years later, the letters reflected how her horizons had broadened -- how she had grown up from sheltered country girl to worldly soldier.

She wrote again of the sights in transit, this time about what her convoy into Berlin passed. From Berlin, July 7, 1945:

'All along the way there were heaps of battered and charred metal, remains of what, at one time, were the tanks, trucks, cars and airplanes of the great 'Super German Army.' Also along the

roadsides were Nazi graves. Little mounds of earth with a crude cross or just a stick at one end, and always a German helmet hanging on it. A few of them had flowers, mainly dead ones.'

As she did about Kentucky, she joked about local housing, though the subject was much more serious:

'They sure have air-conditioned houses! About 75 percent of them had either a small piece of roof, full of huge holes, or no roof at all. And a house with four walls, that you couldn't drive a tank through, was something we didn't see very often.'

During her time in the Army, Mom crossed the United States twice, was posted in Arkansas, outside Los Angeles, San Francisco (from where she assured her mother that malaria was NOT a problem in that climate), Scotland, near London, outside Paris, and finally, in Berlin, a few weeks after the Third Reich had collapsed.

She saw professional theater and was featured in a photo page of the San Francisco Examiner while posted in San Francisco. She crossed the Atlantic on the luxury liners, Acquitania and the Queen Mary, both converted for wartime use. She had her first airplane ride, on a transport from England to France. From London, she wrote of decorating the base church for Christmas with a red parachute. In Paris, she marveled at the WACs' accommodations in the Aga Khan's palace, a marked difference from the damp tents they'd called home in England.

Mom wrote of touring the Reich Chancellory with a journalist. They picked up pieces of Hitler's broken marble desk and saved some of the German war medals scattered about. She noted that the chancellory included a crematorium, with ashes and a nauseating smell still lingering.

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I never knew the extent of my mother's wartime experiences until Mother's Day, when, considering the recent 50th anniversary, I asked where she'd been on VE Day.

'We were in Paris -- well, just outside Paris is where we were stationed,' she said, nonchalantly insisting on accuracy.

'Paris? That must have been a pretty exciting place to be that day!' I said.

'Well, we did parade down the Champs d'Elysee,' she humbly added.

Later that night, she dug out her army memorabilia box. It had been in the back of the hall closet all my life and I never knew what was in it.

It contained a treasure trove of letters her mother had saved. There also were tourist brochures, postcards, photos, medals -- hers and souvenir German medals, and various other keepsakes. Some were unquestionably historic, like a copy of a TWX message that came in on her shift -- the first word to Paris headquarters that the Germans had surrendered, the war in Europe was over.

Clips from her hometown paper and the Toronto dailies quoted the letters I'd read. My grandmother, a freelance journalist, had turned them into stories for the home folks. Several noted her status as the 'first Canadian girl into Berlin,' as announced by the War Department.

It's amazing enough that I never knew all these things, but

when asked directly about memorable Army experiences on a form for the Women in Military Service to America foundation, all she mentioned was the ''first Canadian girl into Berlin'' item.

Growing up, we knew Mom had been in the Army, but it was only when I got into the box that I realized how special her experience had been and what great memories she had of that time.

She's probably typical of thousands of women of that era who served in the military or the factories, had a life-changing experience, then came home and got on with the wife-and-mother lives they were expected to lead.

When my father died young, leaving Mom with four children age 10 and under, I suspect her military experiences helped her survive. She had learned how to be tough, resourceful and independent and she kept our family together that way.

I always knew she'd done a good job of handling a very tough situation with us. Now I understand a bit better what came before in her life, why she always said she'd traveled enough for one lifetime, and how she managed the sheer grit it took to raise four kids alone.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Internal Use Only

June 14, 1994

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY AT GROUNDBREAKERS LUNCHEON  
HOSTED BY THE WOMEN IN THE MILITARY MEMORIAL FUND

MRS. CLINTON: -- are active duty military or retired military, Members of Congress, other supporters of this memorial. I particularly want to thank Good Housekeeping and AT&T for the major commitments they have made (inaudible) and others who have already been recognized, and I want to join in the appreciation for Wilma Boggs (phonetic) who has been the driving force behind this effort.

We were sitting at lunch, in the few minutes that Wilma has given any of us to eat and I told her how pleased I was to be part of this effort and honored to be the honorary chair, and that I had just been thinking about an experience I had which seemed somehow connected with this incredible lunch that we are having; and I told Wilma about it and she said, "Well, you have to tell everybody," and I took it as an order, which seems to be the way to deal with Wilma.

And it was that -- gee, now, it was probably 19 years ago -- 1975 -- I decided that I was very interested in having some experience in serving, in some capacity, in the military. So I walked into our local recruiting office. And I think it was just my bad luck that the person who happened to be there on duty could not have been older than 21, was in perfect physical shape.

So I sat down, and I said, you know, I wanted to explore. I didn't know whether I thought active duty would be a good idea or reserve, you know, maybe National Guard, something along those lines. I was already a lawyer and I thought there were some roles I could perform. I was like going on and on, you know, trying to justify my existence.

And then this young man looked at me and he said, "How old are you?" Well, "27." Silence. He looked at me. And, in those days there, before I learned how to wear contact lenses, I had these really thick glasses on. He said, "How bad is your eyesight?" I said, "It's pretty bad."

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He said, "How bad?" I said, "This is embarrassing."

He said, "How bad?" So I told him. He said, "That's pretty bad." And he finally said to me, he said, "You're too old; you can't see; and you're a woman." And then he went on; and, since this is the birthday of the Army, I will tell you what the rest he said was. This man -- young man -- was a Marine. He said, "But maybe the dogs would take you."

I said, "This is not a very encouraging conversation, so maybe I'll look for another way to serve my country."

I tell that story because, like many of the women in this room, that was not an isolated incident in my life; and although many of us who have continued to pursue our interests and tried to make our contributions in both civilian and military life push those feelings far in the back and kind of just overlook those experiences and, in the words of a dear friend of mine, "soldier on," no matter what the consequences or the odds might be, it is a fact that -- as we are here today celebrating this memorial and honoring the nearly 2 million women who have served since the Revolutionary War, in every possible way, to support our military and, as Senator Dole said when he quoted that wonderful book of Steven Ambrose's, "in ways that made winning the wars that we have fought as a country possible" -- that there have been a lot of obstacles overcome.

We have come to a point in history where we can be talking about this memorial because so many of you -- many women and many men who supported women in the military against often tough odds -- have been willing to stay the course and it is thrilling to see the final barriers fallen, so that women will be judged by who they are and what their contribution is as opposed to being stereotyped on the basis of their gender.

And, for all of the retired military women who are here, we are so grateful for your groundbreaking. We are so appreciative of what you have done, sometimes drawing public attention but, more often, just day after day establishing a standard of excellence and professionalism on which we could build to the point now where we have so many women in major positions of responsibility, including our Secretary of the Air Force, who is here; and it is very important to thank the

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people who have made this possible -- many who are here, others who are no longer with it.

It is a time in our country now for all of us to take stop and to give thanks, as we move into the future.

When my husband and I were in Europe, starting by honoring those who had been in the Italian campaign, including his father and including many women who -- although there in support capacities, often as nurses -- were on the front lines in a brutal, brutal conflict that knew no boundaries, we saw the graves of women who were nurses in hospitals that had been bombed just as they were doing what they could to ease the pain of that particular campaign.

We went from there to England, where we honored flyers -- American airmen -- who, again, were supported on the ground, as General Eisenhower said, by so many women who made it possible for those brave men to fly the missions that were necessary, night after night.

In the two months before the invasion of Normandy, over 2,000 planes and 12,000 airmen lost their lives. And one of the personal highlights for me was standing, as my husband, as the Commander in Chief, reviewed British troops with his military aide from the Air Force by his side marching with him -- a young woman major -- who carried herself, and carried all of your hopes, with such confidence and grace.

And, from there, on to the USS George Washington, where we saw an extraordinary display of technological excellence but also real, human accomplishment, and knew that there would soon be more women to join the 11 who were already there, who were there because they were part of a large community of 6,000 dedicated members of our military who had important tasks to perform every minute of the day.

And then, on to Normandy. And I hope that all of you had a chance to share the feelings that those of us who were there were able to experience because it was an extraordinary historic moment to be able to pay honor to those who had come before, many of whom were still there on those beaches, under those white crosses and those Stars of David, but many others who had come back. Some had never been back before.

MORE

But every veteran we spoke with had the same reaction -- that they knew why they had fought, because we had had 50 years of peace because of their efforts. And the women who were there -- the active duty women, the retired women -- were there as full participants in that honoring that they so richly deserved.

But one of the things we can do to pay tribute to all that has gone before is to make this memorial not just a beautiful building -- which it will surely be, if you have seen the renderings of it -- but to make it a living memorial that enshrines the sacrifice and contribution of women and really represents one more step toward recognizing that all of us in this greatest of all democracies had a role to play, a contribution to make, and that women who choose to make their contribution through the military should finally, as Pat Schroeder has fought for year after year, be given the chance to serve their country to the fullest of their God-given abilities.

That's what this memorial says to me. That's what I hope it will say to our sons and our daughters. And I hope it will serve as a reminder to all Americans that women have played this role since the beginning of our nation and they will continue to do so in greater numbers with greater responsibility because our country is honoring its past by building toward a bigger, better, brighter future for everyone.

Thank you very much.

Q Mrs. Clinton, we thank you for those words. You couldn't possibly know how much it meant to us when you agreed to be our honorary chair. It's meant a lot to the Foundation, our women veterans, and to the women who serve today because, from the thousands of requests she receives, almost on a daily basis, this First Lady chose this project as one of the very, very few projects that she would lend her support to in such a significant way.

The support for this memorial started early for President and Mrs. Clinton because Arkansas was one of the first states to donate money. During those years when all states were suffering with budget problems, and still are, then Governor Clinton, as he did his line item review of the budget, said, "We've got to fund the Women's Memorial," and the money came.

MORE

Mrs. Clinton, we have this gift for you, to remember this time spent with us, and it's in an easy-open box.

As you might expect, it's an advertisement for the memorial -- your own memorial scarf.

And, in addition, we have this cap and, if we don't see the Commander in Chief out there jogging with it (inaudible).

MRS. CLINTON: And we were supposed to say -- I forgot -- that the coins go on sale in July.

Q (Inaudible) looked at it. Now, it would be a great honor for us if you would join me in presenting an award to each of our groundbreakers.

First, representing the almost 13,000 women pioneers who raised their right --

(End of tape.)

\* \* \* \* \*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

Colleen  
Hill Fund

February 10, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO BILLY WEBSTER  
FROM: Robyn Dickey RD  
RE: Attached letter

Billy, this is something Hillary is very interested in participating in. She did not mention specifically if she hoped the President would be involved, however, she asked me to have you and Patti put this on the schedules.

If I can help, let me know.

Thanks.

*[Handwritten flourish]*

June 22

Billy -  
will NO HRC  
do probably  
Patti

yes  
w/ POTUS  
12 noon.

THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Dept. 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560



(703) 533-1155  
(800) 222-2294  
(703) 931-4208 (FAX)

*Foundation Honorary Chair*  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

*President*  
Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

*Campaign Honorary Chair*  
Barbara P. Bush

January 24, 1995

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Women In Military For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA), it is my privilege to officially invite you to participate in our groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, June 22nd 1995. We would be greatly honored if you would speak at this event in your capacity as Commander-In-Chief of our armed forces.

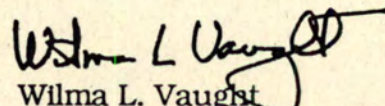
Other invited speakers will include selected top ranking civilian and military leaders and a very select number of women veterans from across the nation. Preliminary planning calls for the ceremony to take place from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Memorial site, the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery.

Other scheduled events, at which we would welcome your participation, include a "Reunion" reception for women veterans and women serving today on the evening of June 21st, and a Gala dinner on the evening of June 22nd. All groundbreaking events will be held here in Washington, D. C.

Your support of this project, starting with the donation from the State of Arkansas while you were governor, has helped us tremendously in reaching this important milestone.

We look forward to your participation in this important event and are grateful for yours and Mrs. Clinton's continued commitment.

Sincerely,

  
Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)  
President

352700

to: PATI

THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Dept. 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560



(703) 533-1155  
(800) 222-2294  
(703) 931-4208 (FAX)

SM

Foundation Honorary Chair  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

President  
Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

Campaign Honorary Chair  
Barbara P. Bush

Handwritten notes: "11/22" and "June"

November 17, 1994

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Office of the First Lady  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Handwritten notes: ~~to: Madge~~  
~~fr: Wendy~~  
~~re: Honorary~~  
~~dec: 11/22~~ chair

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Thank you once again for the opportunity to present you with the official Women In Military Service For America Memorial (WIMSA) commemorative silver dollar during the Veterans Day observances at the White House.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the status of our fundraising efforts and our tentative plans for "Groundbreaking." Especially gratifying was your gracious offer to play a role in assuring that we meet the goals necessary to break ground.

Please accept this letter as a confirmation of that discussion, and on behalf of the Foundation, an official invitation requesting your participation, as our Honorary Chair, in this important milestone occasion for the Memorial.

Tentatively scheduled to take place over two days, in June, 1995, key groundbreaking activities will include:

- A "reunion" reception for women veterans and active duty servicewomen on the evening of June 21st;
  - The official groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the Memorial on June 22nd;
- and
- A Gala dinner on the evening of June 22nd.

As the actual groundbreaking ceremony plans for June 22nd become finalized, we will be contacting you and President Clinton with the hope that you would both play key roles in this significant occasion in the military history of our nation. Invited participants for this public event will include Administration officials; Congressional leaders; the Joint Chiefs of Staff and top ranking military from each of the service branches; women veterans and active duty servicewomen; and the many individuals and organizations who support this project.

We are honored that you agreed to support the groundbreaking activities by hosting, at the White House, an informal event (type to be determined) for a small group

of WIMSA's very special friends and benefactors, whose assistance and support has made the Memorial possible.

We are certainly mindful of the constraints on your time, and the many competing demands. We are confident, however, that with our degree of flexibility, a convenient time and format can be arranged. With the groundbreaking events taking place over two days, June 21-22, a White House breakfast, lunch, reception, or tea -- on either of those days -- would work beautifully with the schedule of activities.

We were also delighted with your offer to host a similar event for potential supporters of the Memorial. It would be most helpful to our efforts if this could take place as early as possible in the first quarter of 1995.

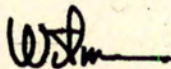
You mentioned to Robyn that you wanted to meet with your staff to explore other ways to be supportive of our efforts and goals. Please let me know if my staff and I can be of any assistance in this process.

We'll contact your office in the next few days to follow-up, answer any questions or provide additional information.

Again, my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your commitment to this project. Your support for the Memorial has been so appreciated by military women and veterans across the country. You honored all American military women by taking the coin necklaces with you for special gift presentations on your recent trip.

We feel your participation in this next major step will ensure the success of this project -- making the dream of a national memorial to recognize all servicewomen a reality.

Sincerely,



Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)  
President

THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Dept. 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560



(703) 533-1155  
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(703) 931-4208 (FAX)

Foundation Honorary Chair  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

President  
Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

Campaign Honorary Chair  
Barbara P. Bush

Handwritten notes: "June Time: 22 1-2:30pm. (no earlier than 12 noon)", "March 24, 1994", and "Full June" circled.

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation (WIMSA) would be honored if you would join us for a luncheon on June 14, 1994, Flag Day, to thank Members of Congress for their ongoing support of this project. *Good Housekeeping Magazine* will co-host the luncheon and is planning a write-up on WIMSA for its July issue "Editor's Notebook" column. *Good Housekeeping* has asked if you would write a short paragraph about your support of the Memorial for the column.

Recent commemorations of our nation's history and goals. Look for projects, with the Memorial Foundation will be a major focus. We will be a major focus for women veterans, we are working to announce the Congressional action of our Flag

Proposed Time: 1-2:30pm.  
(They can start as early as 12pm - )

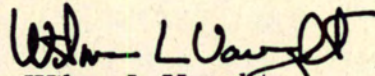
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...the focus

We are pleased to announce that for this event, which will take place at noon in Room 3030 of the... Murkowski has already agreed to serve on the Committee. Our program will include a thank you to Members of Congress, announcement of our ground breaking plans, and tributes to servicewomen who have been or are "ground breakers" in the military -- such as the women who are the first to train for combat jobs in the different branches of the service as a result of the April 1993 decision to open such positions to women.

This event, which will be open to the press, is designated the "Ground Breaker's Luncheon" in honor of the "ground-breaking" women who will be honored.

We sincerely hope that, as Honorary Chair of the Foundation, you can join us for this celebration and expression of appreciation to the Congress.

Sincerely,



Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)  
President

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1994

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught  
President  
Women In Military Service For America  
Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
Department 560  
Washington, D.C. 20042-0560

Dear General Vaught:

Thank you for your kind letter inviting Mrs. Clinton to attend a June luncheon.

Since it is difficult to know what the First Lady's upcoming official schedule will be, I am unable to make a commitment for her at this time. While it is unlikely Mrs. Clinton will be able to accept your invitation, please be assured that we will keep it in mind and contact you if we can accommodate your request.

Mrs. Clinton appreciates your thoughtfulness and sends her best wishes.

Sincerely,



Patti Solis  
Special Assistant to the President  
Director of Scheduling  
for the First Lady

C O P Y  
from ORM

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
REMARKS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
MARCH 1, 1995**

[Acknowledgements: Secretary Perry, Assistant Secretary Frederick Pang, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, Founder and Chairperson, National Political Congress of Black Women; General Wilma Vaught (rhymes with TAUGHT), General John Shalikasvili, Togo West, Secretary of the Army; Jon Dalton, Secretary of the Navy; Sheila Widnall, Secretary of the Air Force; General Carl Mundy, Commandant of the Marine Corps; Ms. Shasta E. Ali (a-LEE), sixth grade essay contest winner]

Thank you all so much. It is a great honor to be here to celebrate Women's History Month 1995. It is a chance for all of us to take special pride in the scope of women's achievements, which is particularly evident among the women here today who have served or are currently serving in our armed forces. You have shown that, no matter what obstacles are thrown your way, women have the ability to fight for and defend their country, and you have blazed the trail for women in all aspects of our society.

I recently had the privilege of attending a salute to African American veterans, and the person who introduced the President was Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Early, the first African American in the Women's Army Corps. Mrs. Early commanded the only battalion of black women to serve in Europe during World War II, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. The group, based in England and France, broke all records for redistribution of mail to front line troops. I'll never forget the stories she told that night, not only because they reflect so much of her own commitment and spirit, but also because they reflect the spirit of all women in the military, past and present. She also demonstrated her wonderful sense of humor, joking that, in fashion history, it was probably "the first time ever that each woman wanted to look like each of the others."

However, what I remember the most, was her statement, "We remember the small battlefields of World War II, such as the battle of the sexes, the battle of the races, and the common enemy we all fought. In spite of these battles, what mattered most was, we won the war."

Thanks to women like Lieutenant Colonel Adams Early and the pioneers before and after her, women are finally getting some of the recognition they deserve for their dedication and devotion to this country. Whether through Secretary Perry's recent decision expanding the number of positions available to women, or the 1993 repeal of the exclusion barring women from serving on Navy combatant ships, this nation is beginning to appreciate the historic and present-day contributions of women who day after day establish standards of

excellence and professionalism in our armed forces. Today, 700,000 women work in military and civilian positions vital to our national security. They are now flying Air Force and Navy fighter planes, Army combat helicopters and Navy combat ships. Women command ships, military units and installations, and serve in top-level positions at major commands and at the Pentagon. And while between 1987 and 1994, the Department of Defense's active duty strength declined by over 560,000 personnel, the representation of women increased from 10.2 to 12.2 percent of the force.

Few Americans realize that women have participated in every conflict or crisis this nation has faced since the American Revolution. Throughout this nation's early history, women were routinely present with armies in battle. The Civil War saw women on both sides on an unprecedented scale. Not only cooking, sewing and foraging for supplies, but also serving as saboteurs, scouts, and couriers. One brave and determined woman, Dr. Mary Walker, the first American woman doctor, received the Medal of Honor.

In this century, women have proven themselves time and time again. The contributions of women were vital in both World War I and II, when many were wounded, killed or decorated in service to their country. Their heroism knew no bounds. This past summer, my husband had the honor to meet Lt. June Wandrey during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the battle of Anzio-Nettuno, Italy, in World War II. Battling not only the Nazis, but also hunger, exhaustion, weather, and malaria, Lieutenant Wandrey soldiered on, working steady eighteen hour days, caring for the sick, wounded and the dying in North Africa, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg. Her compassion and her commitment to the American soldiers dying and wounded every day on behalf of their country helped so many of them make it through their pain and fear. As one soldier's widow said to her, "My husband died at Anzio beachhead, and all this time I was angry. Now, I've met you, and I know he didn't die alone."

Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Early in England and France, and Lieutenant June Wandrey in the Italian theater, and thousands of women like them, risked their lives so that the next generation of Americans, my generation, would have fifty years of peace.

Today, women in our armed forces are making the same commitment. Women in the Persian Gulf War were involved so much so that the troops called it "the mom's war." Thirty-five thousand women served as pilots, mechanics, intelligence specialists, truck drivers, and ground-crew chiefs. And for this our whole nation must thank them again and again with grateful awe for their sacrifice.

But much remains to be done. Many older women veterans remain unaware of the benefits they are entitled to. Some VA hospitals still do not have mammography equipment, or space to provide women privacy from men. And we must continue to recognize the obstacles and challenges that women still face.

And we can use occasions such as this one to celebrate the lives of women whose

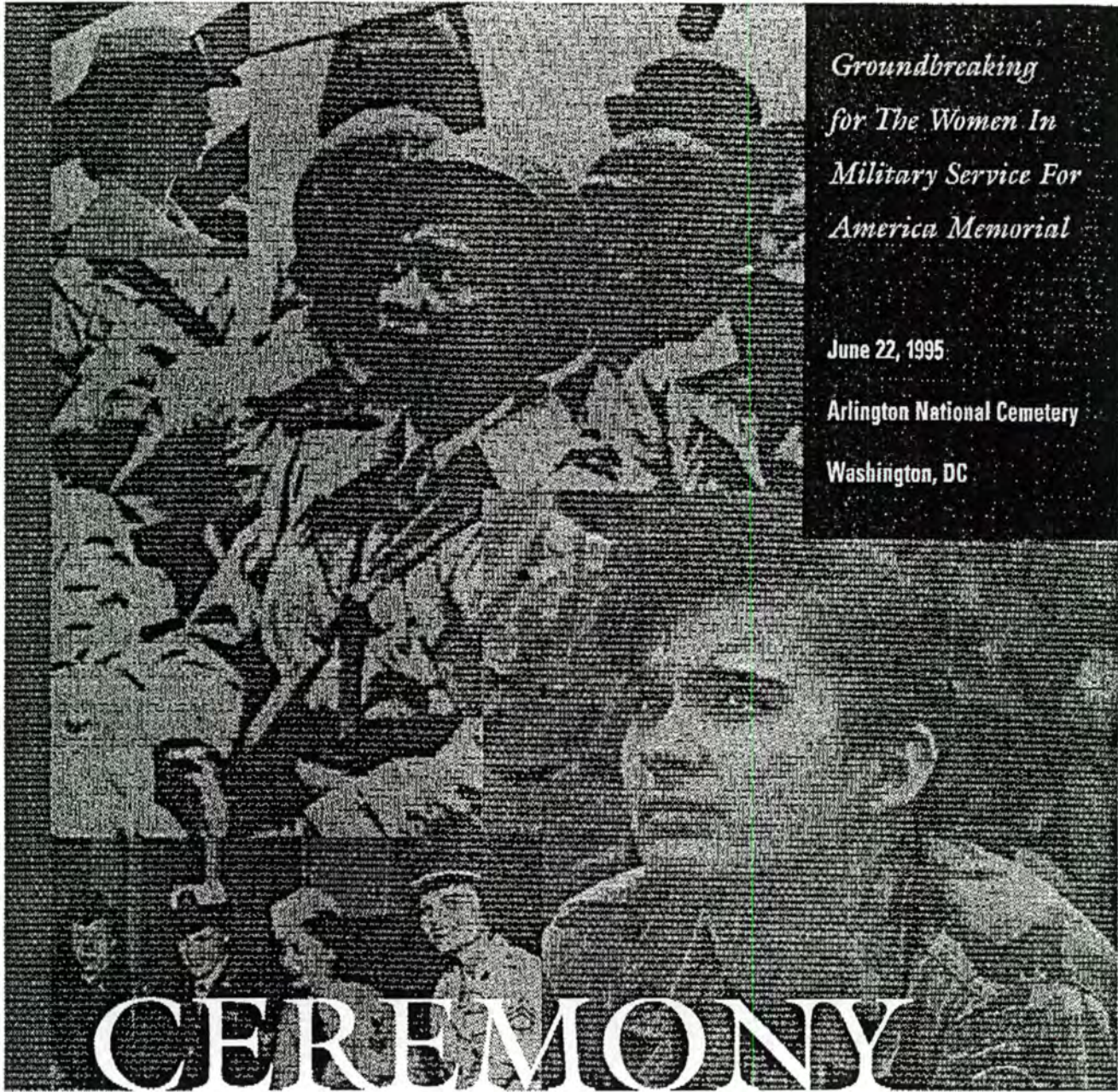
names and faces have not graced the pages of our history books, whose voices have been thus far dim to our national ear. Today, we are looking forward to a time when our society does not need to remind itself to note the extraordinary accomplishments of women. There will be a day when, in passing the lessons of this generation from teacher to student, from parent to child, we tell the story of women and men without needing to make any distinction.

We have always known that the scope of women's abilities reach far beyond the home and family, and it is our job, as part of Women's History Month, to raise awareness and remind our fellow citizens about the many roles women play in our society. Progress will not be measured just in the jobs women do, but in the choices and opportunities they have before them to fulfill their potential...whether as a soldier, lawyer, businesswoman, teacher, homemaker, or anything else.

Today, and for the rest of this month, we recognize women for their many contributions to this country. But we also look to the future, to a time when our daughters will have greater choices and opportunities for success and happiness because of the choices and decisions we have made today.

The women soldiers here today are the pioneers, and have set a standard of dedication and commitment that has made this nation one of the greatest on earth. Thank you all very much.

###



*Groundbreaking  
for The Women In  
Military Service For  
America Memorial*

June 22, 1995

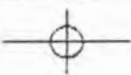
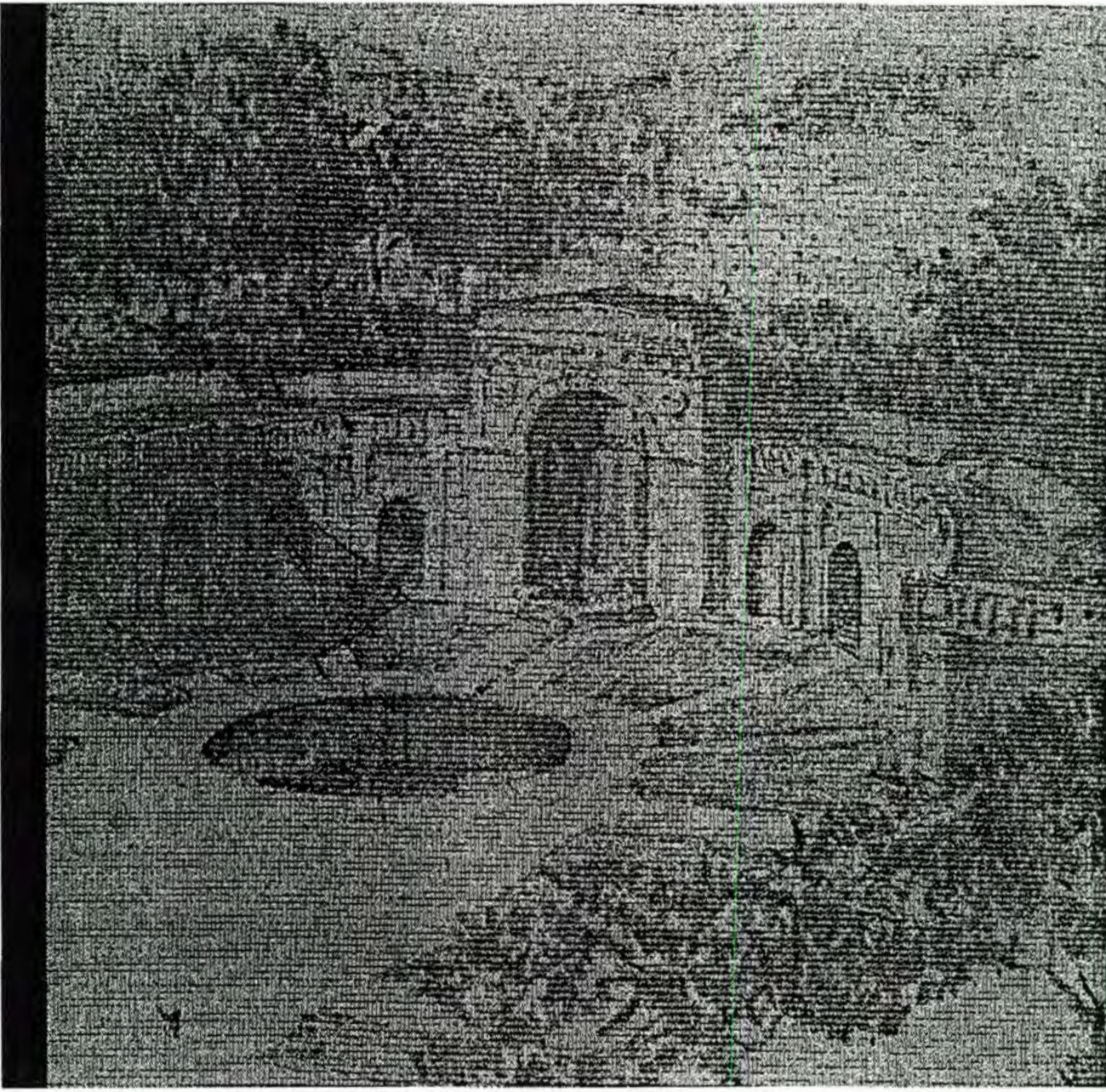
Arlington National Cemetery

Washington, DC

# CEREMONY

C 2

*File June 22. -*



C2 Grork.



# Groundbreaking Ceremony Program

## WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

### PRELUDE

United States Army Band

### PROCESSION OF FLAGS OF STATES AND TERRITORIES

Military District of Washington

### WELCOME

**Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret.)**  
*President, Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation .*

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
*Honorary Chair, Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc.*

### PRESENTATION OF COLORS

### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

**CMSgt Daisy L. Jackson, USAF**

### INVOCATION

**Commander Julia T. Cadenhead, USN CHC**

### REMARKS

**The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski**

**The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy II**

**The Honorable Togo D. West, Jr.**  
*Secretary of the Army*

**The Honorable George Frampton**  
*Assistant Secretary, Department of Interior*

**General John Shalikashvili, USA**  
*Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff*

**The Honorable William J. Perry**  
*Secretary of Defense*

**The Honorable Mary Lou Keener**  
*General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs*



7

# Groundbreaking Ceremony Program

## THE VOICES OF THE WOMEN

**MRS. ANNE PEDERSEN FREEMAN**, who turned 94 in May, was one of the 12,500 women to enlist in the U.S. Navy during World War I. Entering November 7, 1918, 4 days before Armistice, she enlisted for the "duration plus 6 months." She was discharged June 30, 1919 as a Yeoman 1st Class.

**COLONEL MARY A. HALLAREN** joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later the Women's Army Corps) in 1942, commanding the first battalion of WACs sent to the European Theater of Operations. In 1947, she became the third Director of the Corps, playing a key role in the enactment of the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act establishing a permanent role for women in the military.

**BRIGADIER GENERAL ANNA MAE MCCABE HAYS** joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1942, serving overseas during World War II and the Korean conflict. In 1967, during the Vietnam Conflict, she became Chief of the Army Nurse Corps and in 1970, became the first woman promoted to Brigadier General.

**BRIGADIER GENERAL HAZEL W. JOHNSON-BROWN** was the first minority woman to be promoted to General. She served in the Army Nurse Corps from 1955 to 1983, was the 16th Chief of the Corps, and the first Chief to hold an earned doctorate degree.

**SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SAUNDRA L. O'TOOLE** joined the Coast Guard in 1979, serving previously in the Coast Guard Reserve and the United States Marine Corps. She currently serves as Special Assistant to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, the first woman to hold this position.

**MAJOR GENERAL CAROL A. MUTTER** entered the United States Marine Corps in 1967. She is the Commander of the Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Virginia and the senior ranking woman in the Armed Forces on active duty today.



2



GROUNDBREAKING ADDRESS

~~The~~ President of the United States

← William J. Clinton

OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING

~~The~~ President of the United States

William J. Clinton

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret.)

Marion Gail Weiss, AIA

Michael Manfredi, AIA

Brigadier General Anna Mae McCabe Hays, USA NC (Ret.)

Enlisted Person

SSgt. Melissa Crane, USMC

~~NEED~~ →

CLOSING REMARKS

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret.)

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Need Name

United States Army Band

NEED!

Graciously underwritten by AT&T Government Markets

DAIS GUESTS  
Need copy here

GROUNDBREAKERS  
Need copy here

4

**FOUNDATION HONORARY CHAIR**

Hillary Rodham Clinton

**CAMPAIGN HONORARY CHAIR**

Barbara P. Bush

**HONORARY GROUNDBREAKING CO-CHAIRS**

Mrs. William J. Perry

Mrs. Federico Peña

Mrs. Togo West

Mrs. John Dalton

Dr. William S. Widnall

Mrs. John Shalikashvili

Mrs. Gordon R. Sullivan

Mrs. Jeremy M. Boorda

Mrs. Ronald R. Fogleman

Mrs. Carl E. Mundy

Mrs. Robert E. Kramek

Mrs. Dennis J. Reimer

Mrs. Charles C. Krulak

**NATIONAL SPONSORS COMMITTEE**

**FORMER PRESIDENTS**

President Gerald Ford

President Jimmy Carter

President Ronald Reagan

President George Bush

**FORMER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE**

The Honorable Robert S. McNamara

The Honorable Clark M. Clifford

The Honorable Melvin R. Laird

The Honorable Elliot L. Richardson

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld

The Honorable Harold Brown

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger

The Honorable Frank C. Carlucci, III

The Honorable Dick Cheney

**FORMER CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF**

General John Vessey, USA (Ret.)



5

NATIONAL TRIBUTE COMMITTEE

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)
Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ)	Senator Frank H. Murkowski (R-AK)
Senator John Breaux (D-LA)	Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)
Senator Hank Brown (R-CO)	Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA)
Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR)	Senator Charles S. Robb (D-VA)
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO)	Senator William V. Roth, Jr. (R-DE)
Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)	Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-MD)
Senator Larry E. Craig (R-ID)	Senator Alan K. Simpson (R-WY)
Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-NY)	Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
Senator Thomas A. Daschle (D-SD)	Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA)
Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT)	Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK)
Senator Robert Dole (R-KS)	Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY)
Senator Pete V. Domenici (R-NM)	Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC)
Senator Byron L. Dorgan (D-ND)	Senator John W. Warner (R-VA)
Senator J. James Exon (D-NE)	Congressman Neil Abercrombie (D-OH)
Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	Congressman Bill Archer (R-TX)
Senator Wendell H. Ford (D-KY)	Congressman Roscoe G. Bartlett (R-MD)
Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA)	Congressman Herbert H. Bateman (R-VA)
Senator Bob Graham (D-FL)	Congressman Douglas K. Bereuter (R-NE)
Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)	Congressman Michael Bilirakis (R-FL)
Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT)	Congressman John A. Boehner (R-OH)
Senator Jesse A. Helms (R-NC)	Congressman Henry Bonilla (R-TX)
Senator Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC)	Congressman Glen Browder (D-AL)
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)	Congresswoman Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-KS)	Congressman Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA)	Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth (R-ID)
Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI) *	Congresswoman Eva Clayton (D-NC)
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ)	Congressman Bob Clement (D-TN)
Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)	Congresswoman Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI)
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT)	Congressman Philip M. Crane (R-IL)
Senator Trent Lott (R-MS)	Congressman Randy (Duke) Cunningham (R-CA)
Senator Connie Mack (R-FL)	Congresswoman Pat Danner (D-MO)
Senator John McCain (R-AZ)	Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
	Congressman Thomas D. DeLay (R-TX)

6  
Katy -  
We decrease the pt. size  
& leading on these names by  
1/2 pt. to give us more room  
(ditto for Gala program)

Congressman Ronald V. Dellums (D-CA)  
Congressman John D. Dingell (D-MI)  
Congressman Calvin Dooley (D-CA)  
Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn (R-WA)  
Congressman Robert Ehrlich, Jr. (R-MD)  
Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA)  
Congressman Lane Evans (D-IL)  
Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (D-AS)  
Congressman Vic Fazio (D-CA)  
Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA)  
Congresswoman Tillie Fowler (R-FL)  
Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse (D-OR)  
Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY)  
Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-TX)  
Congresswoman Jane Harman (D-CA)  
Congressman W.G.(Bill) Hefner (D-NC)  
Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD)  
Congressman Tim Hutchinson (R-AR)  
Congressman William Jefferson (D-LA)  
Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski (D-PA)  
Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)  
Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy (D-MA)  
Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)  
Congressman Dale E. Kildee (D-MI)  
Congressman John J. LaFalce (D-NY)  
Congressman Jerry Lewis (R-CA)  
Congressman Bob Livingston (R-LA)  
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)  
Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY)  
Congressman Frank R. Mascara (D-PA)  
Congresswoman Jan Meyers (R-KS)  
Congressman Norman Y. Mineta (D-CA)  
Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D-HI)

Congressman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (D-MS)  
Congressman James P. Moran (D-VA)  
Congresswoman Constance Morella (R-MD)  
Congressman John P. Murtha (D-PA)  
Congressman John T. Myers (R-IN)  
Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)  
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)  
Congressman John E. Porter (R-IL)  
Congressman Jack Quinn (R-NY)  
Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY)  
Congressman Carlos A. Romero-Barcelo (D-PR)  
Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)  
Congresswoman Marge Roukema (R-NJ)  
Congressman Martin Sabo (D-MN)  
Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D-CO)  
Congressman Norman Sisisky (D-VA)  
Congressman Joe Skeen (R-NM)  
Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY)  
Congressman Floyd D. Spence (R-SC)  
Congressman Clifford B. Stearns (R-FL)  
Congressman Gerry E. Studds (D-MA)  
Congressman Bob Stump (R-AZ)  
Congressman William M. (Mac) Thornberry (R-TX)  
Congressman Peter G. Torkildsen (R-MA)  
Congressman Robert Underwood (D-GU)  
Congressman Bruce F. Vento (D-MN)  
Congresswoman Barbara F. Vucanovich (R-NV)  
Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA)  
Congressman Melvin Watt (D-NC)  
Congressman Frank R. Wolf (R-VA)  
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)  
Congressman Albert Wynn (D-MD)  
Congressman William H. Zeliff, Jr. (R-NH)

OK

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WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michael F. Clayton, Esq., Legal Counsel

Dovey Roundtree, Esq., Legal Counsel, USA Veteran



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OK

IN APPRECIATION

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation wishes to thank the individuals and organizations who have supported this project since its inception in 1986. The Foundation's major contributors include:

*AT&T Government Markets*

*The State of Kuwait*

*The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

*General Federation of Women's Clubs International*

*General Motors Automotive Division*

*Mrs. Mary Hoffman*

*The American Legion*

*The American Legion Auxiliary*

*Paralyzed Veterans of America*

*Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary*

*Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.*

*NationsBank*

The Foundation would also like to thank the following organizations for their contributions of talent and services to the Groundbreaking:

*BFI*

*Department of the Army*

*Grafik Communications, Ltd.*

*Military District of Washington*

*Morgan, Lewis & Bockius*

*Susan Davis International, Ltd.*

*Water People*

*Arington  
National  
Can.*

*H2O*

*C3 Grafik.*

## THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

*Duty. Honor. Pride. These words reflect the spirit of generations of Americans who have sought to defend the rights and freedom of others. At The Women's Memorial, these words will come to life in the stories and memories of the nearly two million women who have served in defense of our nation. ■ The Women's Memorial will be built at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, our most honored military resting ground. As a gift to all Americans, the four-acre site and its structures will be transformed into an inspirational and dynamic memorial that educates as well as honors. Designed by Marion Gail Weiss and Michael Manfredi of Weiss/Manfredi Architects, the Memorial will include a reflecting pool and an arc of glass tablets, inscribed with quotations by servicewomen. During the day, the glass tablets will serve as skylights to the Education Center, which will house the Hall of Honor, exhibits, 196-seat auditorium and the Memorial's computerized Register. ■ The Register, which will serve as the "heart" of the Memorial, is a computerized database of the women who have served — their names, their photographs, their memories. The Foundation has been seeking to register as many veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserve servicewomen as it can reach. More than 100,000 of the 1.8 million women eligible have been registered thus far. All women registered prior to dedication will be listed as Charter Members of the Memorial. There is a special "They Also Served" Register for women who served in the Red Cross, USO and Special Services overseas during conflicts. ■ The Women's Memorial will provide an important legacy for all generations by capturing the undocumented history of our American servicewomen. It will be a place of honor for those who served in the past, those who serve today, and those who will serve in the future.*



WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC. DEPARTMENT 560, WASHINGTON, DC 20042-0560

C4 GVRbk.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Patti -

Do you  
think I need  
to worry about  
this for POTUS-?

Ruij



Department 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500



Department 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560



Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Office of the First Lady  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

20300-0006 01



THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

Callen  
File Fund

February 10, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO BILLY WEBSTER  
FROM: Robyn Dickey RD  
RE: Attached letter

Billy, this is something Hillary is very interested in participating in. She did not mention specifically if she hoped the President would be involved, however, she asked me to have you and Patti put this on the schedules.

If I can help, let me know.

Thanks.

*[Handwritten flourish]*

Billy -  
will NO HRC  
do probably  
Patti

yes  
w/ POTUS  
12 noon.

**THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

Dept. 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560



(703) 533-1155  
(800) 222-2294  
(703) 931-4208 (FAX)

*Foundation Honorary Chair*  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

*President*  
Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

*Campaign Honorary Chair*  
Barbara P. Bush

January 24, 1995

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Women In Military For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA), it is my privilege to officially invite you to participate in our groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, June 22nd 1995. We would be greatly honored if you would speak at this event in your capacity as Commander-In-Chief of our armed forces.

Other invited speakers will include selected top ranking civilian and military leaders and a very select number of women veterans from across the nation. Preliminary planning calls for the ceremony to take place from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Memorial site, the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery.

Other scheduled events, at which we would welcome your participation, include a "Reunion" reception for women veterans and women serving today on the evening of June 21st, and a Gala dinner on the evening of June 22nd. All groundbreaking events will be held here in Washington, D. C.

Your support of this project, starting with the donation from the State of Arkansas while you were governor, has helped us tremendously in reaching this important milestone.

We look forward to your participation in this important event and are grateful for yours and Mrs. Clinton's continued commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Wilma L. Vaught' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)  
President

scheduling 352700

to: PATTI

THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Dept. 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560



(703) 533-1155  
(800) 222-2294  
(703) 931-4208 (FAX)

gm

Foundation Honorary Chair  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

President  
Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

Campaign Honorary Chair  
Barbara P. Bush

Full June

November 17, 1994

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Office of the First Lady  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

to: Madge  
fr: Wendy  
re: Honorary  
de: 11/22 chair

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Thank you once again for the opportunity to present you with the official Women In Military Service For America Memorial (WIMSA) commemorative silver dollar during the Veterans Day observances at the White House.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the status of our fundraising efforts and our tentative plans for "Groundbreaking." Especially gratifying was your gracious offer to play a role in assuring that we meet the goals necessary to break ground.

Please accept this letter as a confirmation of that discussion, and on behalf of the Foundation, an official invitation requesting your participation, as our Honorary Chair, in this important milestone occasion for the Memorial.

Tentatively scheduled to take place over two days, in June, 1995, key groundbreaking activities will include:

- A "reunion" reception for women veterans and active duty servicewomen on the evening of June 21st;
  - The official groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the Memorial on June 22nd;
- and
- A Gala dinner on the evening of June 22nd.

As the actual groundbreaking ceremony plans for June 22nd become finalized, we will be contacting you and President Clinton with the hope that you would both play key roles in this significant occasion in the military history of our nation. Invited participants for this public event will include Administration officials; Congressional leaders; the Joint Chiefs of Staff and top ranking military from each of the service branches; women veterans and active duty servicewomen; and the many individuals and organizations who support this project.

We are honored that you agreed to support the groundbreaking activities by hosting, at the White House, an informal event (type to be determined) for a small group

of WIMSA's very special friends and benefactors, whose assistance and support has made the Memorial possible.

We are certainly mindful of the constraints on your time, and the many competing demands. We are confident, however, that with our degree of flexibility, a convenient time and format can be arranged. With the groundbreaking events taking place over two days, June 21-22, a White House breakfast, lunch, reception, or tea -- on either of those days -- would work beautifully with the schedule of activities.

We were also delighted with your offer to host a similar event for potential supporters of the Memorial. It would be most helpful to our efforts if this could take place as early as possible in the first quarter of 1995.

You mentioned to Robyn that you wanted to meet with your staff to explore other ways to be supportive of our efforts and goals. Please let me know if my staff and I can be of any assistance in this process.

We'll contact your office in the next few days to follow-up, answer any questions or provide additional information.

Again, my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your commitment to this project. Your support for the Memorial has been so appreciated by military women and veterans across the country. You honored all American military women by taking the coin necklaces with you for special gift presentations on your recent trip.

We feel your participation in this next major step will ensure the success of this project -- making the dream of a national memorial to recognize all servicewomen a reality.

Sincerely,



Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)  
President

Proposed Time: 1-2:30pm.

(They can start as early as 12pm - .)

THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Dept. 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560



(703) 533-1155  
(800) 222-2294  
(703) 931-4208 (FAX)

*Foundation Honorary Chair*  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

*President*  
Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

*Campaign Honorary Chair*  
Barbara P. Bush

June 22 1-2:30pm (no earlier than 12 noon)  
Time: March 24, 1994

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation (WIMSA) would be honored if you would join us for a luncheon on June 14, 1994, Flag Day, to thank Members of Congress for their ongoing support of this project. *Good Housekeeping Magazine* will co-host the luncheon and is planning a write-up on WIMSA for its July issue "Editor's Notebook" column. *Good Housekeeping* has asked if you would consider providing a quote about your support of the Memorial for the column.

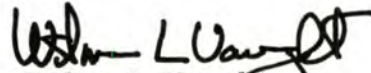
Recent legislation, including the authorization of an upcoming July issue of a commemorative coin honoring women in the military (only the fourth coin in our nation's history to specifically honor women), has moved us closer to our fundraising goals. Looking ahead to a successful sale of the coins and a positive outcome on other projects, we anticipate being able to set a date for the groundbreaking for the Memorial for early Spring, 1995. This event, at the Arlington National Cemetery site, will be a major step toward realizing the dream of thousands upon thousands of women veterans and servicewomen who have supported us since 1986. Many of these women, veterans of World War I, World War II and Korea, have been praying and working so that this event, and the dedication, would occur during their lifetime. The announcement of our ground breaking plans, and the expression of appreciation to Congressional members for their assistance in making this happen, will be the focus of our Flag Day celebration.

We are in the process of developing a Congressional Host Committee for this event, which will take place at noon in Room SC-5 of the U. S. Capitol. Senator Murkowski has already agreed to serve on the Committee. Our program will include a thank you to Members of Congress, announcement of our ground breaking plans, and tributes to servicewomen who have been or are "ground breakers" in the military -- such as the women who are the first to train for combat jobs in the different branches of the service as a result of the April 1993 decision to open such positions to women.

This event, which will be open to the press, is designated the "Ground Breaker's Luncheon" in honor of the "ground-breaking" women who will be honored.

We sincerely hope that, as Honorary Chair of the Foundation, you can join us for this celebration and expression of appreciation to the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilma L. Vaught". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)  
President

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1994

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught  
President  
Women In Military Service For America  
Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
Department 560  
Washington, D.C. 20042-0560

Dear General Vaught:

Thank you for your kind letter inviting Mrs. Clinton to attend a June luncheon.

Since it is difficult to know what the First Lady's upcoming official schedule will be, I am unable to make a commitment for her at this time. While it is unlikely Mrs. Clinton will be able to accept your invitation, please be assured that we will keep it in mind and contact you if we can accommodate your request.

Mrs. Clinton appreciates your thoughtfulness and sends her best wishes.

Sincerely,



Patti Solis  
Special Assistant to the President  
Director of Scheduling  
for the First Lady

COPY  
from ORM

—  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

6/20/75

Alisa,



FYI, heres draft of  
Peters remarks for Thursday,  
not yet cleared by Tony Luke.  
Anything we should say re.  
the First Lady?

Tony Blinken

6-9175  
—

6/20/95 4 p.m.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON  
THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE  
MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING  
ARLINGTON, VA  
JUNE 22, 1995**

[Acknowledgments:] General Mutter [TK: phon], thank you for your kind words of introduction. And General Vaught, thank you for all that you have done to bring us to this day. To all of the remarkable servicewomen who surround me on this podium; to this very distinguished audience; and most of all, to the women of our armed forces -- past, present and future: I am delighted to be with you to break ground for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

Here, at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, the more than 1.8 million women who have served or are serving in the military will finally have a permanent, visible place in America's history. This memorial will chronicle two centuries of service too long undocumented, unlauded and under-appreciated. It will record that women stood alongside men in every major conflict in our nation's history. And it will remind us that they fell in defense of our freedom. More than just a tribute to the past, this memorial will also stand as an inspiration to future generations -- a shining legacy of dedication and valor.

Women were there as George Washington's troops fought for independence -- clothing and feeding our troops and binding their wounds. They were there in the struggle to preserve the

Union -- as cooks and tailors, couriers and scouts, even spies and saboteurs. Some were so determined to fight for what they believed in that they masqueraded as men and took up arms.

Women were there during the two World Wars. And slowly, a military establishment that for decades had sought to keep women out of war brought them in to serve -- as WACS and WAVES, SPARS and WASPS and Women Marines. In our nation's shipyards and factories, they built democracy's arsenal. And from the beaches of Normandy to the islands of the Pacific, they endured bombs and torpedoes, disease and deprivation to support our fighting forces in the field.

Despite this history of bravery and accomplishment, women remained <sup>were treated or viewed as</sup> second class soldiers. They could give their lives for liberty... but they could not give orders to men. They could heal the wounded and hold the dying... but they could not aspire to the highest ranks. They could take on the toughest assignments... but they could not take up arms in combat.

But still they volunteered -- fighting for freedom around the world, and also for the right to serve to the fullest of their potential. And from conflict to conflict -- from Korea, to Vietnam to the Persian Gulf War -- women slowly overcame the barriers to service.

As a result, the past few decades have witnessed a remarkable series of firsts. The first woman service academy graduate... the first female fighter pilot... the first woman company commander... the first female skipper. And, I'm proud to say, the first woman Secretary of the Air Force, Sheila Widnall, who is with us today. Some other firsts are here on this podium.

Twenty-five years ago this month, Anna Mae McCabe Hays became the first woman promoted to General. And Hazel Johnson-Brown was the first minority woman to reach that rank. I am honored to stand with them today.

But just as important as the firsts are all those who have followed them. Now, women are test pilots and drill sergeants, squadron commanders and rear admirals, academy instructors and service recruiters. I'm proud that my administration has opened almost 260,000 new positions in the military to women, including combat assignments. And I am determined that, as we continue to make women full and equal partners with men in our nation's defense, we do so in a climate of tolerance, teamwork and respect.

In the end, the story of women in America's military is made up of thousands of individual stories -- and it is those stories that this memorial will tell. In their detail and drama, they help us understand all that women have done to keep our country safe and free.

They are women like June Wandrey Mann, who volunteered for the Army Nurse Corps in World War II. She served two and a half years overseas -- from primitive field hospitals in Tunisia and Italy to a center for concentration camp survivors outside of Munich. In her courage and caring, Lt. Wandrey represented the best of America.

They are women like Charity Adams Earley, the Women Army Corps' first African American officer. Along with thousands of other African American veterans, both men and women, she

helped our nation act on a truth too long denied: that if people of different races could serve as brothers and sisters abroad, surely they could live together as neighbors at home. And we should salute the military's foresight and flexibility. In integrating minorities and women, our armed forces not only mirrored change, they helped to produce it.

They are women like [TK TK: Haiti veteran]

And they are women like Barbara Allen Rainey. The mother of two daughters. The Navy's first female aviator. And, tragically, the victim of a training crash. Her story reminds us that even in peacetime, those who wear the uniform face danger every day. And now she rests just behind me, in the quiet of these sacred grounds.

This memorial will tell their stories -- and hundreds of thousands more. And it will make a long overdue downpayment on a debt that can never be fully repaid. It is the debt we owe to the generations of American women in uniform who gave -- and who give -- so much to our country. And it is the debt we will owe to future generations of women who will dedicate their lives to defending our freedom. May this memorial say to each and every one of them: we cherish your devotion... we admire your courage... and we thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your service.