



**DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS CENTER
DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY
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14 Aug 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2020 Department of Defense Women's Equality Day

The Department of Defense (DoD) joins in the celebration of Women's Equality Day, on August 26, 2020. This year's theme is "*Valiant Women of the Vote*," in recognition of the women who fought for the right to vote. We commemorate their tremendous sacrifices and celebrate the significant contributions women have made to our society. Additionally, we recognize and honor their service both in uniform and through civilian service to the defense of our nation.

Since its inception in 1971, Women's Equality Day annually celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution that granted women the right to vote for the first time and the end of the women's suffrage movement. The amendment secured the rights of women to make their voices heard and facilitated the removal of barriers and inequalities leveraged against them. It was, and still remains, a major landmark in the women's rights movement today.

Women from all races and ethnic groups continue to make incredible strides and have accomplished feats their grandmothers could never have imagined. Women like Lieutenant General Stayce Harris, first Black female three-star general; Sandra Day O'Connor, first woman to serve as a Justice of the Supreme Court; Coral Wong Pietsch, first Asian-American woman to reach the rank of general in the U.S. Army; and Lieutenant Junior Grade Madeline Swegle, first Black female tactical aircraft pilot, serve as examples of the progress women have achieved in our country. This progress, in our Department and beyond, is possible because of the vision and sacrifice of those who took a stand for women's equality.

While Women's Equality Day commemorates and celebrates women's right to vote, it has grown to mean much more. It celebrates women's organizations across the country for their continuous hard work to provide women with equal opportunities and marks American women's advancements toward equality.

I ask that you join the Department in remembering and honoring women who have fought for women's equality, and by continuing to support women's equality throughout our nation.

Clarence A. Johnson, SES
Director
Diversity Management Operations
Center

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