

Women Veterans Day is June 12

Though not an official holiday or day of remembrance, Women Veterans Day is observed by many states—New Mexico included—which annually pass proclamations officially marking its observance to honor our women veterans.

The date marks the anniversary of President Harry Truman signing the *Women's Armed Services Integration Act* on June 12, 1948, allowing women to serve as permanent, "regular" members of the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and the recently-formed Air Force.



Previously, women were relegated to serving in civilian support positions such as nursing, laundering, mending clothing and cooking. Despite this segregation, many served in war zones alongside their male compatriots, and some even dressed as men during the Civil War and fought on the front lines.

Here in New Mexico, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has issued a proclamation commemorating the day, which reads:

WHEREAS women have a long yet mostly unknown history of military service to our nation, dating back to their volunteer service in support of the Continental Army in the battle for our country's independence; and

WHEREAS women were officially recognized as a part of the United States Armed Forces since the creation of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, allowing women to serve as regular members of the military; and

WHEREAS more than 10% of our nation's 19-million Armed Forces veterans are women. 16,600 live in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS women veterans in New Mexico excel in leadership and hard work, as they serve the state as doctors, engineers, educators, business leaders, and in many other important capacities; and

WHEREAS the state of New Mexico is grateful for our women veterans who, as with all veterans, selflessly served with dedication, honor, and bravery in service to our state and country.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of New Mexico, now hereby declare June 12, 2022, as

Women Veterans Day

throughout the state of New Mexico.

To celebrate Women Veterans Day, DVS asked women veterans in New Mexico to submit photos of themselves from their service days. The department would like to thank all women for their service and sacrifice for our country. *(photos listed alphabetically...after the first three, who are DVS staff)*



DVS Cabinet Secretary
TSgt Sonya Smith
USAFR (1986-1999)



DVS Women Veterans
Program Manager
CAPT Robin Wilson
USN (1991-2010)



DVS Veterans
Service Officer
OS3 Danielle Thompson
USN (2007-2011)



PO1 Dezideria Amezcua
USN (2015-present)



Capt. Susan Bontly
USAF (1982-1987)



COL Sara Breceknridge
USA Nurse Corps (1988-2017)



CTR1 Jenny Brizal
USN (2000-2010)



CSM Liz Bryant
NMARNG (1980-2018)



PO3 Carleen Cherino
USN (1989-1997)



CPT Meagan Chopito
USAR (2010-present)



PO3 Amanda Cordero
USN (2011-2016)



Cpt Kathryn Cordova
USMCR (1969-1973)



YN2 Mary Cox USN
(1959-1963)



SPC4 Gina DeAguiro
USA (1968-1971)



Terresa Dudley
USMC (1981-1984)



Cpl Lori English USMC
At right
(1968-1970)



O3E Rose Fenton
USN (1987-2017)



CDR Patricia Finley
USN Nurse (1987-2008)



SPC Kelly Fitzpatrick
USA (1976-1980)



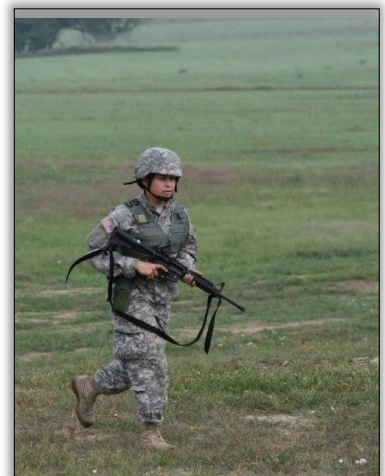
Capt Carol Gaines
USMC (1959-1964)



PO1 Victoria Haddox
USN (2005-2019)



SPC Jan Herrbach
USA (1974-1978)



SPC Destinie Jaramillo
NMARNG (2010-2017)



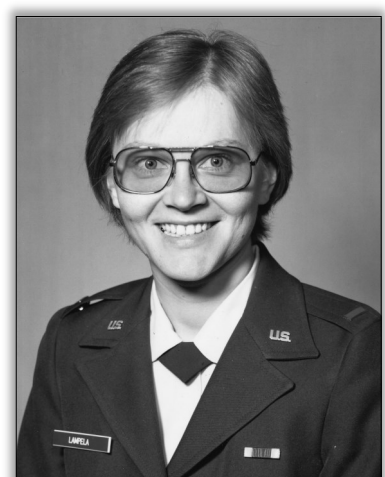
MAJ Jan Jourdain
USA (1978-1994)



LTC Yolonda Joyner
USA (1981-2006)



CPT Kenney, Bonnie
USA (1973-1977)



Capt. Laurel Lampela
USAF (1979-1989)



SP5 May Lockett
USA (1965-1968)



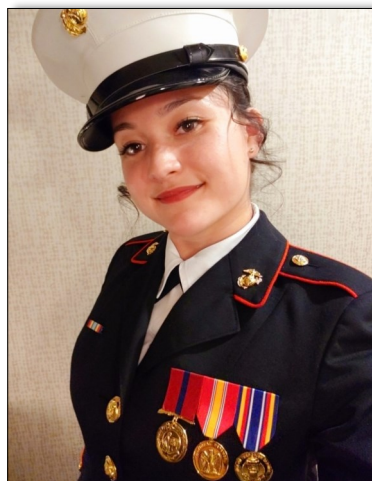
SFC Helena Mahkee
USA (2001-2021)



CMsgt Vickie Mares
NMANG (1976-2011)



SrA Michelle Martinez
USAF (1996-1999)



Sgt Arianna Mendoza
USMC (2013-2019)



SGT Carolyn McClary
USA 2003-2012



LCpl Rosalie Moreno
USMC (1966-1968)



SMSgt Linda Mortensen
USAF (1983-2011)



Ssgt Lynn Mroz
USAF (1973-1982)



MM3 Kathy Natachu
USN (1989-1996)



SSgt Valeri Ogilvie
USAF 1982-1993



SrA Nicole Olonovich
USAF 2003-2008



1LT Solange Pihut
USA (2014-2022)



SGT Laura Reich
USAR 1982-1987



CAPT Claudia Risner
USN (1981-2019)



Sgt Iris Ruiz
(at left)
NMANG (2010-current)



MSG Pat Salazar
NMARNG 1993-2018



COL Christine Sautter
USA Nurse (1985-2011)



Cpl Jonella Seymore
USMC (1990-1994)



Lt Col Renee Sussman
USAF (1978-1998)



SPC Mariah Sweeney
NMARNG (2018-present)



CPO/HM Deb Tallent
USN (1975-2009)



MSgt Sheila Vigil
USAF (2005-current)



PFC Angela Waseta-Rivera
USA (1993-1995)



(L) SPC Jessica Watters
NMARNG (2010-2016)



Sgt Lea White
USMC (1985-1989)



PO3 Joan Wittig
USN 1989-1993



SSgt Beth Wojahn
USAF 1989-1999

(R) SPC Pashense Warford
NMARNG (2013-2019)