

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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Women in the Military: Willing, Able, Essential First Documentary on Military Women's Roles Debuts

Women In the Military: Willing, Able, Essential, the first documentary to recount the little known legacy of women's contributions to America's military, is set to debut at the Women In Military Service For America Memorial on March 4, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Released at this time in celebration of Women's History Month, this hour-long documentary chronicles the extraordinary history of the some 2.5 million women, all volunteers, who have served with the armed forces, beginning with the American Revolution; and fills in a missing piece of U.S. history known but to a few.

"Since America's founding days, women have been stepping forward to serve this country," said the film's Emmy-award-winning director and writer Susan Sherwood. "From uncommon soldiers who disguised themselves to fight and nurses that faced horrific wounds, to those who proudly wear the uniform today, women have always contributed to our military might. This film tells their story."

The film, produced by the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum in Media, PA, features rarely seen archival war footage, dramatic re-enactments and 18th and 19th century images illustrating women's roles in war. Through poignant interviews with military women and historians, their personal accounts of self-sacrifice and dedication come to life.

"The Women's Memorial Foundation is enormously proud to host the national premier of *Women In the Military: Willing, Able, Essential*," said retired Air Force Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, the Foundation president. "There is such a rich and exciting history just waiting to be told and this film captures the essence of it all. It made me proud to be one of those women." General Vaught, along with other military women and historians featured in the film, will be among the guests at the debut.

Media interested in attending the event or interested in receiving additional information and/or press materials should contact Patti Spaniak, at pspaniak@gmail.com or 646-409-7775 or visit www.paveteransmuseum.org.

The Women's Memorial is the nation's only major memorial honoring all servicewomen, past and present. Located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, the Memorial is readily accessible by Metro (Blue Line) and paid parking is available at the Cemetery Visitor Parking Lot. For more information call 800-222-2294, 703-533-1155 or visit the Women's Memorial website at www.womensmemorial.org. The Memorial is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.