

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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Oldest Known Woman Veteran to Visit the Women's Memorial

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation is honored to welcome Ms. Lucy Coffey, the nation's oldest known woman veteran, when she visits the Women's Memorial on Saturday, July 26. Though a charter member of the Women's Memorial, this will be Ms. Coffey's first visit to her Memorial, which has been made possible by Honor Flight Austin. When asked during a recent interview to name the one place she wanted to go during her trip to Washington, D.C., Ms. Coffey replied, "the Women's Memorial." She will also visit the World War II Memorial.

A World War II member of the Women's Army Corps (WAC), Ms. Coffey served in the Pacific Theater in Australia, Dutch New Guinea and finally in the Philippines, arriving in April 1945 during the Luzon Campaign. She was discharged in Japan on Nov. 11, 1945, after having achieved the rank of staff sergeant. One of the early women to serve during the war, she first entered the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in April 1943, just a month shy of her 37th birthday. She transitioned to the WAC when it was established a few months later. Ms. Coffey's discharge papers list her as an accountant; and according to media reports, she worked in the procurement office. She remained in Japan as a civil servant for several years, later transferring to Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where she worked until her retirement in 1971.

For more information, call 703-533-1155 or 800-222-2294. The Women's Memorial, located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, is readily accessible by Metro (Blue Line) and paid parking is available.

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial is the nation's only major memorial honoring all servicewomen, past and present. Featuring an exhibit gallery, theater and Register of women who have served, the Memorial is open to the public, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily.

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Note to the Media: Ms. Coffey is not able to do interviews. However, photos during the visit are welcome, as well as during a brief presentation ceremony at which time she will be presented her Women's Memorial Charter Member card and Registration by retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, the Women's Memorial Foundation president; as well as mementos from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the local WAC Veterans Chapter.