



celebrates
**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**



We Can Do It!

American Women in WWII



American women played important roles during WWII, both at home and in uniform. Not only did they give their sons, husbands, fathers, and brothers to the war effort, they gave their time, energy, and some even gave their lives.

In defense factories, women worked along side men building planes, tanks, and weapons. Hitler derided Americans as degenerate for putting their women to work. **Rosie the Riveter** helped assure that the Allies would have the war materials needed to beat the Axis.

Nearly 350,000 American women **served in uniform** volunteering for the newly formed Women's Army Corps (WAC), the Navy Women's Reserve (WAVES), the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS), the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), the Army Nurse Corps, and the Navy Nurse Corps.

At the war's end, a majority of women wanted to keep their new jobs, but most were forced out by men returning home and by the downturn in demand for war materials. Women veterans **encountered roadblocks** when they tried to take advantage of benefit programs for veterans, like the G.I. Bill. The nation that needed their help in a time of crisis, it seems, was not yet ready for the greater social equality that would slowly come in the decades to follow.



To learn more about
American Women in WWII:
www.nationalww2museum.org



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