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Indiana Commission for Women



Moving Indiana Women Forward - November 11, 2010

Honor a Veteran! Honor a Woman Veteran!

Today, we commemorate Veterans Day. Take the time to honor veterans, especially women veterans, for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Women have been giving military service to the U.S. since its beginning. The first known woman to receive a pension for her service in the military was Margaret Corbin, who fought with her husband at Fort Mifflin during the Revolutionary War. In 1779, Congress voted to give her a disability pension of one half a soldier's pay and one suit of clothes or the equivalent in cash.

The role of women in the military has changed throughout history. Prior to 1973, women made up approximately 2% of military forces. In 2008, 14% of service members were women and about 80% of all services' career positions are open to women. Of the approximately 23 million veterans in the U.S., approximately 1.8 million are women.

In Indiana, there are currently 2,373 Hoosier women serving in the various branches of active service. There are 1,032 female military retirees among the over 33,000 women veterans in Indiana. Hoosier women veterans can join the [Hoosier Women Veterans Registry](#) through the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Its purpose is to serve as an informational bridge to connect women veterans to the numerous resources and benefits that are available to women.

Additional Resources

- Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.in.gov/dva>

U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans: <http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>

- American Legion Women Veterans: <http://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/womenveterans>

- VFW She Serves: <http://joinsheserves.org/>

- Women Veterans R.O.C.K.: <http://womenvetsrock.org>

Several Women Veterans honored as Torchbearers

Several of ICW's previous Torchbearer Awards recipients have been honored for their service to the United States. Included as recipients are:

- **Lt. General Carol Mutter**, the first woman to be nominated by the President for and to receive a three-star General rank.

- **Brig. General Margaret Washburn**, the first female general officer in the Indiana National Guard

Learn more about these and other Torchbearers at the ICW webpage: www.in.gov/icw/2334.htm.

Nominate an outstanding woman for the 2011 Torchbearer Awards

Don't forget to think about the women in your life that the Indiana Commission for Women should honor at the 2011 Torchbearer Awards in March.

Nominations for the *2011 Indiana's Salute to Women: The Torchbearer Awards* are still open. The Torchbearer Awards are the State of Indiana's most prestigious recognition of Hoosier women and will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in March 2011.

Nominations may be submitted by email or by post. Visit the ICW website at: www.in.gov/icw/2334.htm to download the nomination form and guidelines. To submit your nomination online, email the completed form to: icw@dwd.in.gov. Submitted nominations are due on or before Friday, November 19, 2010.

For more information, assistance or a printed copy of the nomination form, contact ICW at (317) 233-6303 or icw@dwd.in.gov.

About the Indiana Commission for Women

The Indiana Commission for Women is committed to the full participation of women in all aspects of society in order to make Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family. Our mission is to understand the needs of Indiana women and their families, and to work strategically both within government and in our communities to help bring about positive change. We work to remove the barriers that hinder women's participation by:

- Increasing awareness of the status of women in Indiana and the issues they face
 - Recognizing and promoting contributions that Hoosier women make to their community, state and nation
 - Providing balanced analysis of public policy issues that impact women in Indiana.
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