

President and Founder Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation

No law has ever passed conscripting women into the Armed Forces or support services. Yet they served in abundance. We celebrate those first daring women, those shining beacons, who during more than two centuries have made it possible for women to press forward in service to our country.

While building the Vietnam Women's Memorial, veteran women sliced through decades of silence and transformed images and conversations about Vietnam affirming that women share the crucible of war. The striking image, cast in bronze, of three women in uniform and a wounded soldier, penetrated the public consciousness, and stunned the community at large. Women fought antagonists from every corner of America for a memorial they had earned the right to decades earlier. We challenged elite art critics, bigotry and in the end, altered a nation's thinking in how it heals its wounds, how memory is shaped, and how history records women's service. In 1993, finally, these heroic women, of the Vietnam Era, were visible to the world.

Today, young and vibrant women dressed in desert camouflage and sand colored boots join us at the Vietnam Women's Memorial, in Washington, DC. We invite them on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day, to share their stories of service in Iraq, Afghanistan {and elsewhere} during our programs. Others just show up; most are quiet and observant - drawn to the Vietnam Women's Memorial and the understanding and hugs given generously by Vietnam vets. These women wear different insignia and carry different tools than in previous wars. When on duty they carry, and use, weapons - unlike those women who preceded them, decades ago. Each generation inspires and leads into the next era, opening the doors for advancement and leaving their important legacies.



Diane Carlson Evans



Together with the contingents of military women, whose skilled and professional contribution reflects loyalty, courage, and fortitude, are thousands of civilian women as well - who throughout the history of our nation volunteered to serve in support of our Armed Forces. We counted on them then, and we still do today.

The late Admiral William J.

Crowe, Jr., USN, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left us with his inspiring words spoken at the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, "Perhaps the most enduring aspect of this memorial will be its impact on the future. It says something profound about what vigorous, courageous and determined individuals can do in times of crisis. What a marvelous example...it will be for coming generations of young American women. Hopefully it will inspire them to dream, to strive, to challenge adversity and not to be intimidated by peril. What a magnificent legacy for the women who served during the Vietnam War to leave to our great Republic. This moving monument finally completes the Vietnam circle by honoring the spirit and achievements of the women who participated in that effort. But more important, it will serve as a shining beacon for future generations of American women."

Those "future generations" Admiral Crowe spoke of, are serving around the world today. We are proud of them, and we must work hard to prove to them we care. 🇺🇸

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Carlson Evans".

Diane Carlson Evans
President and Founder
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