



# Women Marines Association

## Office of the President

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82 years ago, the slogan "Free a Marine to Fight" drew 19,000 women to the Women Marine Reserves during World War II. Today we have gained in our ranks from 7% to 9.8%! Women are increasingly finding themselves in almost all combat military occupational specialties and serving across the globe in many dangerous places.

Every generation questions if the next generation will fill the shoes of the past. Ask the Women Marines who have recently completed a six-month long deployment or more importantly ask the Women who have transitioned to the integrated platoons about their experiences. They are the ones that are continually growing and creating our historical legacy.

Earning the title of "Marine" is held with great pride. We wear the eagle, globe, and anchor for life. To be a Woman Marine you are part of a sisterhood. You are never alone. And you bring an experience to the ranks of veterans that cannot be matched anywhere else. There is no other service that can claim our title.

Our Marines of today are still breaking the barriers, making history, and in doing so, honoring those who came before. As we stop and celebrate this historical and honored Anniversary, we should pride in our accomplishments and the role we have each played in our Corps history and recognize how those contributions have led to today's integrated Marine team.

As you celebrate, it is a time to reflect not only on the past – it is a time to reflect on the future and know that we all have a stake in forming the shape of our next generation of Marines.

Thank you for your service. Your service to the Corps, WMA and the community. Happy Anniversary Marines.  
Semper Fi!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann L. Crittenden".

**Ann L. Crittenden**  
**WMA National President**