



A Legacy of Healing and Hope

Over 265,000 American women served during the Vietnam era (1956 through 1975) and more than 11,000 saw duty in Vietnam. The majority served as nurses, caring for thousands of wounded servicemen in the difficult conditions of

crowded transports, harsh weather, difficult terrain, and long hours. Between 1964 and 1973, dedicated nurses tended to more than 300,000 wounded, saving nearly 98 percent of those who eventually reached hospitals.



During the Vietnam War, many military women received meritorious service awards such as the Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Medal.



Over one thousand women were employed as photojournalists, clerks, typists, intelligence officers, translators, flight controllers, and band leaders. Despite the lack of national recognition, these women demonstrated courage, commitment, and sacrifice.



Civilian and military women supported American efforts by tending to the sick, wounded, and orphaned. Following long hours of assigned duties, many women volunteered their free time to MedCAP (Medical Civil Assistance Program) activities.



The Memorial

Inspired to tell the story of all Vietnam-era women, former Army nurse Diane Carlson Evans worked with thousands of veterans to create the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Dedicated on November 11, 1993, Glenna Goodacre's sculptural grouping joins the national "circle of healing" that begins at the Three Servicemen Statue, and continues past the Wall and the Women's Memorial to the In Memory plaque.



This first memorial in the nation's capital to honor the military service of women completes the public tribute to the veterans of the Vietnam War. The names of seven Army nurses and one Air Force nurse appear on the Wall. The eight trees surrounding this memorial mark their sacrifice.

Courtesy: Women In Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc., National Archives, U.S. Naval Historical Center [black and white photos]; NPS/Terry Adams [memorial photo]