

Please join us for a special presentation by

Francoise B. Bonnell, Ph.D.

who will discuss

***A Debt to Democracy & A Date with Destiny:
The Women's Army Corps & Its Legacy***

*A part of the George C. Marshall Legacy Series
sequence on All Who Want to Serve*

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

5:30 PM with reception to follow

Pogue Auditorium
George C. Marshall Foundation
VMI Parade, Lexington, Virginia



Reservations required by calling Leigh McFaddin
at 540-463-7103, ext. 138 or by email to
mcfaddinh@marshallfoundation.org

Members will be admitted free; non-members will pay \$15 at the door.

You are invited to see the new exhibition, "*For My Country, For Myself*," that will be on display in the Lower Gallery through April. The doors will open at 4:45 for those who wish to see the exhibition that opens that day.

All Who Want to Serve
is being presented in partnership with
the U.S. Army Women's Museum.



all who want
to serve



All Who Want to Serve

Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall had a daunting problem to solve: staffing the Army for a global war. Working with a reluctant Congress in 1940, the visionary Marshall instituted an unpopular peace-time draft for military service. As Marshall grew the Army to 8,000,000 in uniform by war's end in 1945, he encouraged all able bodied men and women to serve. Women, in particular, found Marshall's constant support during WWII. Starting with the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1941 by Congressional act, he made this unit a full member of the Army in 1943 as the Women's Army Corps and selected Col. Oveta Culp Hobby to lead it. Women served in support roles in the Navy as WAVEs and in the (Army) Air Corps as WASPs. About 1.2 million women served in all services during WWII.

Forever the pragmatist, General Marshall found or created opportunities for members of minority groups to serve in regular or special units. America in the 1940s was still a segregated society, and discrimination existed widely. Marshall was not intent on social engineering, but he did want to use anyone who wanted to serve. He had a world war to win.

Marshall crossed traditional boundaries to create special units formed along racial and ethnic lines. The famous Tuskegee Airmen grew from the needs for more airmen in fighter units. Native American "code talkers" were deployed to the Pacific by the Army and Marine Corps to use native languages for coded communication. In January 1943 General Marshall approved the formation of all-Nisei combat units.

Several years later Marshall as secretary of defense during the Korean War instituted the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, DACOWITS, and it still exists.



Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall stated the Women's Army Corps (WAC) was established to work with the Army "for the purpose of making available to the national defense the knowledge, skill, and special training of the women of the nation." The need for manpower was enormous during a two-front war, and diverse cross section of American women readily stepped forward to assume new roles. As a result, the strength and character of the women who served helped redefine the Army and the nation. Indeed, the legacy of this unprecedented event was poignantly illustrated on December 3, 2015 with the opening of all military combat roles and positions to women. **Françoise Bonnell**, Ph.D., Director of the U.S. Army Women's Museum, will talk about women in the Army.

The Women's Army Corps found themselves challenged to attract capable women who were willing to serve during World War II. Many would serve as nurses. The Nurse Corps in the Army and Navy grew from just 400 before the United States entered the war to more than 30,000. The nurses found themselves in the midst of the battles. It was a very different situation from WWI. This meant that wherever the military went, the Army nurses went with them. More than 10,000 Army nurses were stationed in England in preparation for the invasion of France. They arrived in Normandy just four days after the D-Day invasion, landing soon after the beachhead had been secured. They worked day in and day out, under extremely difficult circumstances. The stories of Army women in service not only as nurses but also in administrative and operational roles, as test pilots and codebreakers, are numerous.



The *George C. Marshall Legacy Series* interprets General Marshall's legacy through a multi-year series of exhibitions, speakers and programs centered on key themes or episodes from General Marshall's career. Because Marshall's career touched on nearly every major event of the first half of the 20th century, the landscape for the Legacy Series is rich and vast. We access our own significant resources and collections to create unique activities and events to share with the public. The Legacy Series promises substantial benefits to Foundation members, children and families, scholars and researchers, historians and history buffs, and museum visitors of all ages.

Current and next sequences include:

"All Who Want to Serve"	(January—April 2016)
February 27, 2016	Lt. Col. Robert Friend will discuss his experiences as a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen
March 2016	Patriotic Paint Party
April 2016	Film Series
"Speed and Fury"	(May—August 2016)

Please see our website for a calendar of events and activities at marshallfoundation.org

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