

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

FACTS about Connecticut Women

Facts About Connecticut's Female Veterans

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Department of Veterans' Affairs

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FACTS about Connecticut Women

This month, as we celebrate Women's History Month we would also like to recognize Connecticut's female veterans and active duty servicewomen. The following women are pioneers for women in the military.



1917

- **Loretta Walsh** becomes the first Yeoman in the United States Navy.

1919

- **Opha M. Johnson** is the first female to enlist in the United States Marine Corps Reserves (www.userpages.aug.com).

1941

- **Annie G. Fox** (pictured left), who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor, becomes the first woman to receive the Purple Heart (www.archives.gov).

1943

- **Lt. Edith Greenwood** receives The Soldiers Medal for her heroism at a military hospital in Yuma, Arizona during World War II. She is the first woman to earn the honor.

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- **Lt. Elsie S. Ott** is awarded with the Air Medal for her duties as an air evacuation nurse. She is the first female to receive the award (www.userpagse.aug.com).

1959

- **Ann Dervartanian** (pictured, right), of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), became the first woman to attain E-9, the highest ranked position within the military (www.search.eb.com/women; www.redstone.army.mil).



1970

- **Elizabeth P. Hoisington** and **Anna Mae Hays** of Pennsylvania are promoted to the rank of brigadier general, making them first female generals in U.S. history.

1973

- The U.S. military is integrated when the women-only branches are eliminated.

1985

- **Denise L. Matthews** of Old Saybrook, Connecticut becomes the first woman to graduate at the head of her class at a military academy. She graduates from the Coast Guard Academy in New London and, given her pick of assignments, elects to serve on a buoy tender in Honolulu (Connecticut Firsts, 1996).

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1990

- More women than ever before are in combat support roles. Nearly 10% of the armed forces in the Middle East are women.
- Captain **Marsha Evans** of Illinois becomes the first woman to command a Naval Station. In 1998, she becomes National Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. In 2002, she becomes President and CEO of the American Red Cross.
- **Commander Rosemary Mariner** is the first woman to assume command of an aviation squadron.
- **Commander Darlene Iskra** of California becomes the first woman to command a U.S. Navy Ship - the U.S.S. Opportune (www.userpages.aug.com).

1994

- **Shannon Faulkner** (pictured right) of South Carolina becomes the first woman to attend the Citadel, a previously all-male military training facility.
- **Lt. Kara Hultgreen**, born in Greenwich, Connecticut is recognized as the first woman, fully qualified combat fighter pilot, and, sadly, the first woman combat fighter to die in service (www.userpages.aug.com; www.now.org).





2003

- **Linda Spoonster Schwartz, RN, MSN, DrPH, FAAN** (pictured left) of Ohio is appointed Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veteran's Affairs. She is the first women in the 140 year history of the Veteran's Affairs to serve as Commissioner. Dr. Schwartz was a member of the United States Air Force (1967-1986) and served both on Active Duty and as a Reservist. She retired in 1986 with the rank of Major after sustaining injuries in an aircraft accident while serving as a USAF Flight Nurse. She was the first woman veteran to receive the prestigious Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs Commendation Medal. She was also the first woman to receive the National

Commendation Medal of Vietnam Veterans of America for Justice, Integrity and Meaningful Achievement.

2006

- **Brigadier General Susan Helms** of Portland, Oregon becomes the first woman to command the 45th Space Wing of the Patrick Air Force Base. She is a former astronaut (www.jsc.nasa.gov).
- **Vivien Crea** (pictured right) becomes the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the first woman to ever be second in command of a military faction. She is also credited as the first female aircraft commander and commander of a Coast Guard air station (www.wic.org, www.uscg.mil).



FACTS

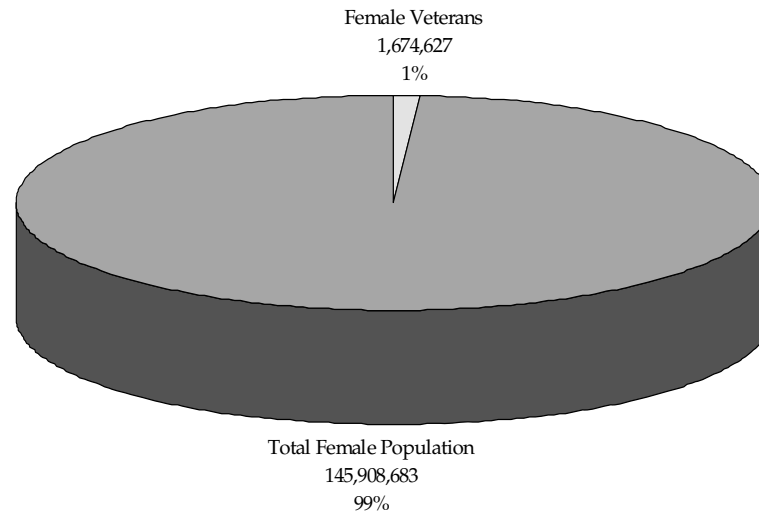
about
Connecticut
Women

In 2004 there were nearly 1.7 million women in Connecticut, making up 51% of Connecticut's population. Of these 1.7 million women, 14,886 are veterans. Female veterans make up less than 1% of the state's total population but make up 6% of all veterans in Connecticut.

The following charts show various characteristics of Connecticut's female veterans.

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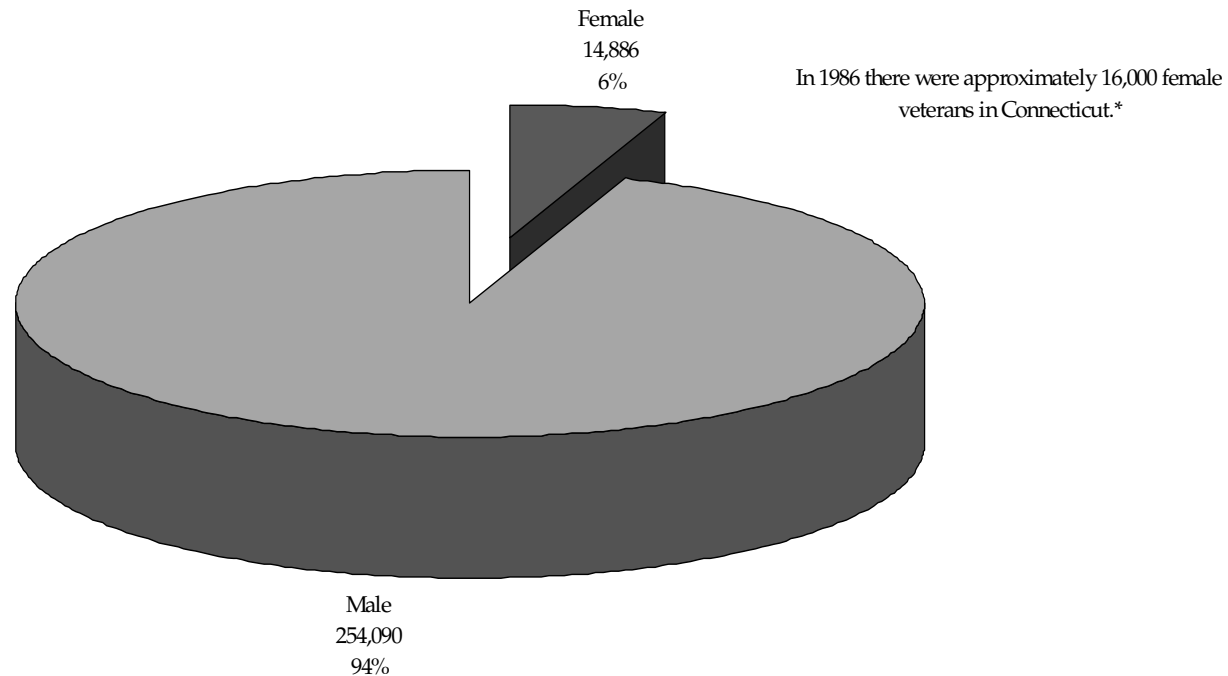
Female Veterans in the United States As of September 30, 2004



Source: Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs; Veteran Data and Information; VP04 Ver. 1.0;
U.S. Census Bureau 2004 American Community Survey

FACTS about Connecticut Women

Connecticut Veterans by Gender As of September 30, 2004

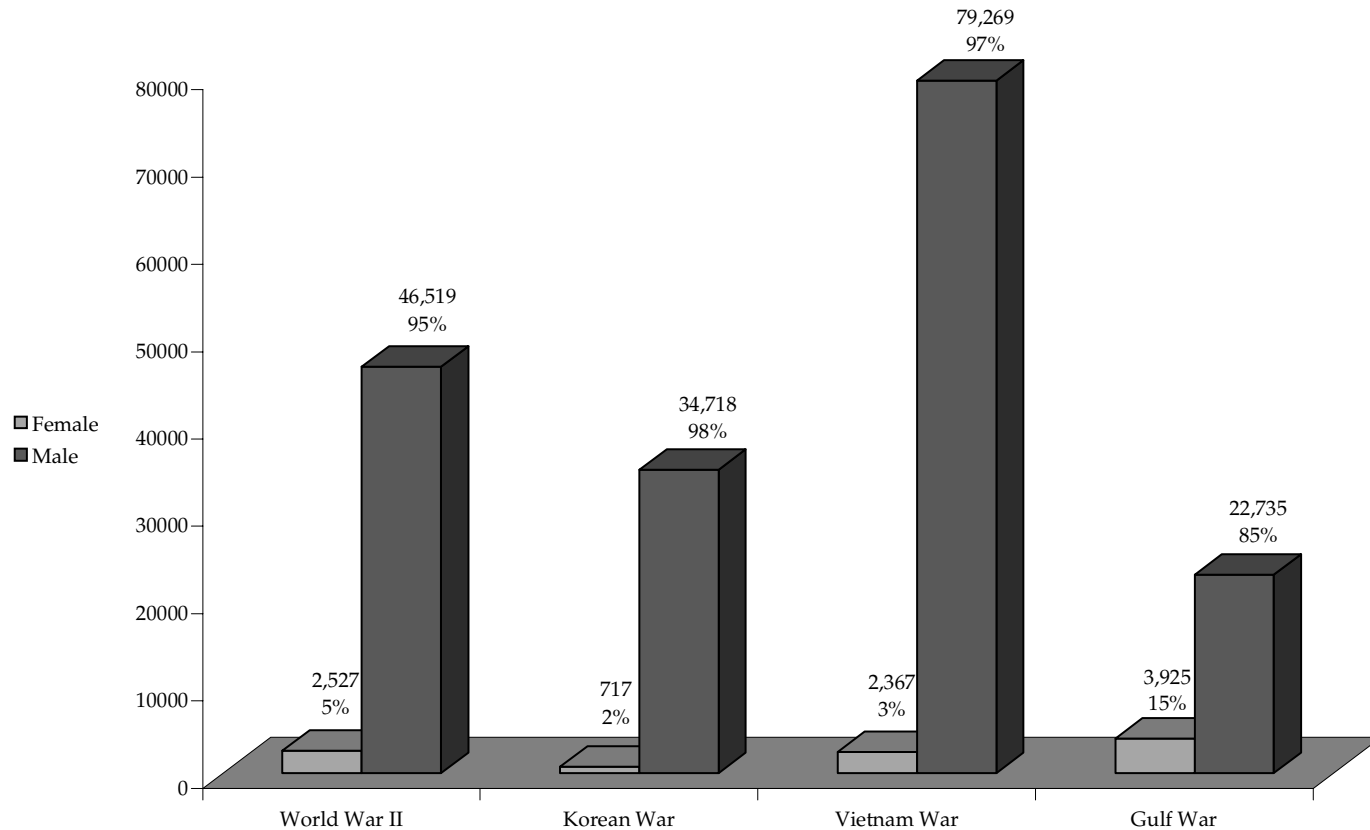


Source: Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs; Veteran Data and Information; VP04 Ver. 1.0

*Memorandum of Understanding: Women Veterans Task Force; 1985

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Connecticut Veterans by Gender and Period As of September 30, 2004

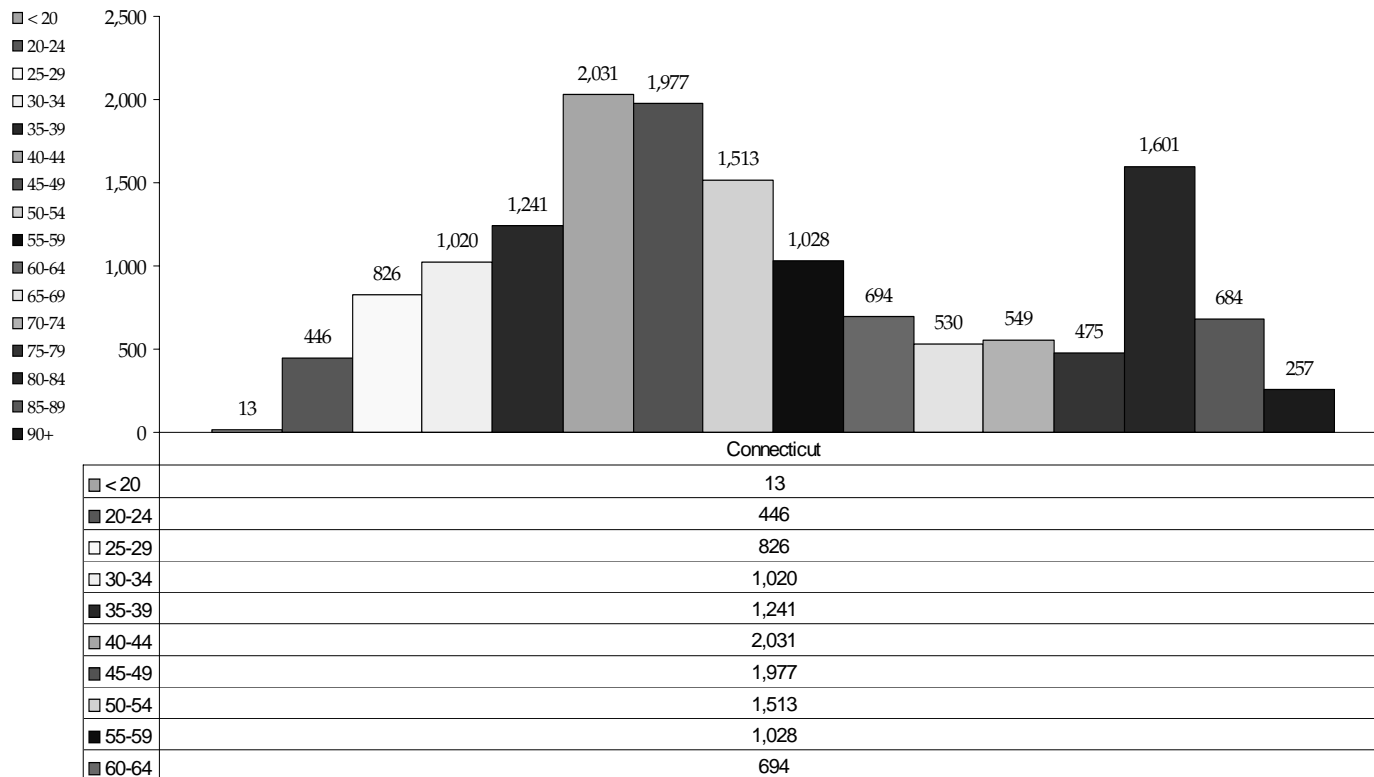


Source: Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs; Veteran Data and Information; VP04 Ver. 1.0

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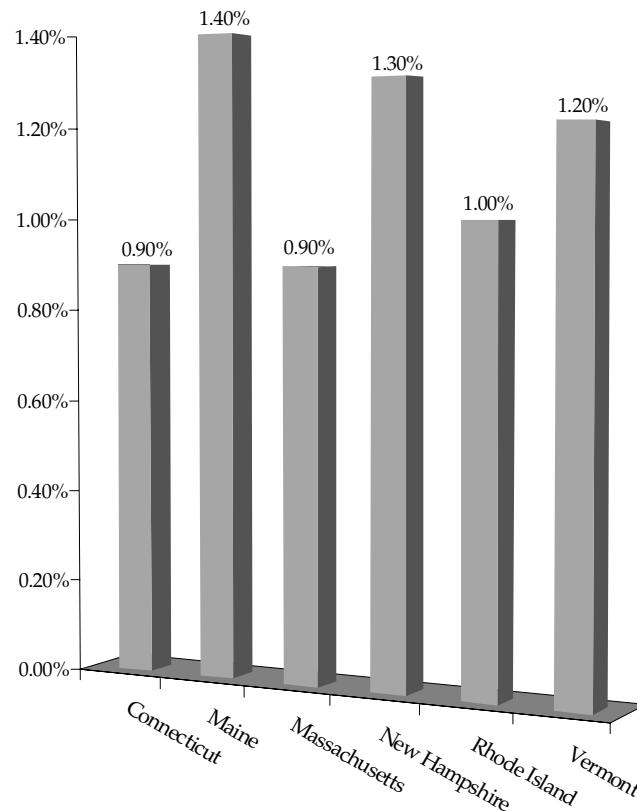
Connecticut's Female Veterans by Age Age as of September 30, 2004



Source: Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs; Veteran Data and Information; VP04 Ver. 1.0

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Women Veterans Throughout New England,
as a Percentage of Each State's Total
Population
As of September 30, 2004



Similar to data for the United States, female veterans make up approximately 1% of the total population for each New England state.

Source: Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs; Veteran Data and Information; VP04 Ver. 1.0;
U.S. Census Bureau 2004 American Community Survey

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