



# State of Maine

## Commission on Women Veterans

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### *Mission Statement*

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Identify and recognize Maine Women Veterans while establishing communication, clarifying their unique needs and informing them of their ability to access benefits due them as veterans of the armed forces while advocating on the State and Federal levels.

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## HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

The Advisory Commission on Women Veterans was created by the 118<sup>th</sup> Legislature, LD 2159. This Act required the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish a Commission of 3 to 5 women to advise the Department on issues affecting women veterans. The Commission is also to serve as a liaison between women veterans and the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus.

Major General Earl L. Adams duly appointed the original Commission members. They are:

Debra Couture, Chair of the Commission, is a Senior Health Care Financial Analyst for the Department of Human Services who has significant background in long-term care and finance and holds a Masters Degree in Health Care Administration. She is a Commander in the Naval Reserve and is Commanding Officer of Detachment 806, Naval Hospital Bethesda drilling at Bangor and Brunswick, Maine. She is a veteran of Desert Storm.

Representative Donna Loring is an Army combat veteran who served as a Communication Specialist in Vietnam during the 1968 TET Offensive. She is Coordinator for Tribal, State, and International relations for the Penobscot Nation, and is the Penobscot Nation's Representative to the Legislature. Donna was Chair of the Commission from October 1998 to April 2001.

Rosanne Tousignant is the Administrator of the Augusta Maine Veterans Home. Rosanne served as a medic during the Vietnam War. She has a long career in the health care field and holds a Masters Degree in Human Service Administration from Springfield College.

Two other original appointees who are no longer members of the Commission include Linda Karod, a retired Colonel in the Maine Army National Guard and Linda Laweryson, a Marine of the Vietnam Era.

The newest member appointed to the Commission by Major General Tinkham is Mona Naragon. Mona is a veteran of the Vietnam War and is past Commander of the American Legion in Maine.

## UST200, Women and War Proposed Syllabus

Instructors: Mazie Hough, (History and Women's Studies)  
Pauleena MacDougall, (History and Maine Folklife )  
Carol Toner (History and Maine Studies)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

UST200, Women and War, will examine the experiences of Maine women veterans during World War II and the Korean War. Through readings, lecture, and field work in oral history, students will gain an understanding of the contributions made by the thousands of Maine women who served in the military during the 1940s and 1950s.

Women have played an important role in the nation's military history from the Revolution to the present, yet their contributions have not been fully appreciated. In this class, students will study World War II, the Korean War, the U.S. social and political context for those wars, Maine History in the 1940s and 1950s, gender and the military experience, and oral history practices. These topics will provide background and training for the students who will interview Maine veterans during the second half of the semester. These interviews will become part of a larger oral history project that seeks to collect the stories of Maine's women veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War.

### CLASS FORMAT

For the first 7 weeks of the semester, this class will meet on ITV for lecture and discussion. During the next 6 weeks, students will complete two interviews with Maine veterans of World War II or Korea. Students will be assigned to small groups to discuss the interview process with others in their group via computer conferencing. The class will meet again during the final week of the semester for conclusions and course evaluation.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading: Students will read the assignments found in the course schedule and be prepared to discuss the readings during class.
2. Class Discussion: The first half of the semester will center on our readings and discussions. We will use the phone bridge for small group discussions preceding our larger class discussion. The instructors will consider attendance and class participation (including computer conferencing) when assigning final grades.
3. Response Essays: Students will complete six response essays during the first part of the semester. These response essays, (typed, 2 pages each) are based on the weekly reading assignment, and are designed to get students thinking about the reading materials. The essays will help students prepare for class discussions.

4. Interviews: During the last half of the semester, students will interview at least two women veterans of World War II or the Korean War. Prior to the interview sessions, students will have studied these wars, students will have an idea of the gendered experience of military service, and students will have trained in the techniques of doing oral history. Students will follow strict guidelines in setting up and following through with these interviews. After the interview, students will transcribe the interview. The transcribed interviews will be due at the end of the semester.

5. Final Evaluation: Students will write a brief essay (3-4 pages) at the conclusion of the course evaluating their experiences in this course and the strengths and limitations of interviews as an historical source.

[Or would it be better to have students write an analysis of the women they interviewed?]

#### GRADING

Response Essay: (6 two-page essays) 20%

Class Participation: 15%

Two Interviews: 25% each

Final Evaluation: 15%

#### COURSE SCHEDULE

##### Week 1:

Introduction, review of syllabus, and discussion of the confluence of history, women's studies, and oral history

##### Week 2:

World War II (lecture/discussion by Hough, Toner or some other historian)

Reading Assignment:

Selected Chapters in *Gender Camouflage: Women and the U.S. Military* by Francine D'Amico and Laurie Weinstein, Editors.

*Women at War, Gender Issues of Americans in Combat*, by Rosemarie Skaine, Chapter 3, "Evolution of Women's Involvement in War and Combat: The Historical View."

Response Essay #1 due

##### Week 3:

The Women's Armed Services Integration Act and the Korean War (lecture/discussion by Hough, Toner or some other historian)

Reading Assignment:

Selected Chapters in *Gender Camouflage: Women and the U.S. Military* by Francine D'Amico and Laurie Weinstein, Editors.

*Women in the Military, An Unfinished revolution*, by Jeanne Holm,

Ch. 10, "Integration: 1948"

Ch. 11, "The Fledgling Air Force"

Ch. 12, "The Fifties: Korea and the Cold War"

Response Essay #2 due

Week 4:

Panel of women veterans from WWII and the Korean War

Reading Assignment:

*A Montana Girl in World War II*, Grace Porter Miller

Or

*Lady GI: A Woman's War in the Southern Pacific: The Memoir of Irene Brion*, by Irene Brion

Or

*Emmaline Goes to War*, by Emma Chenault Kelly

Or

*My War: WWII as experienced by one woman soldier*, by Catherine Bell Chrisman

Response Essay #3 due

Week 5:

Maine History in the 1940s and 1950s (Carol Toner)

Reading Assignment:

*Maine, the Pine Tree State*, Richard Judd et. al. Editors

Chapter 21, "Maine in Depression and War, 1929-1945"

Chapter 22, "Maine Out of the Mainstream, 1945-1967"

Response Essay #4 due

Week 6:

Gender and the Military Experience (Mazie Hough)

Reading Assignment:

Selected chapters in *The World Wars Through the Female Gaze*, by Jean Gallagher

Response Essay #5 due

Week 7:

Techniques of Oral History (Pauleena MacDougall)

Reading Assignment:

*The Tape Recorded Interview*, by Edward D. Ives

Response Essay #6 due

Weeks 8-13:

Students will be in the field conducting interviews with veterans. During this time students will conference with other students and with instructors regarding the progress of the interviews.

Two completed transcripts will be due at the end of week 13.

Week 14:

Conclusion and course evaluation.

We will meet together in class to discuss the experience of uses of oral history. We will also analyze the interviewees' military experiences and their memories of those events.

Final evaluation due at this meeting.

LD 2035  
pg. 1HA (H-828), item 2 to LD 2035  
[Download Bill Text](#)LR 3080  
Item 2

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

' **Sec. 1. Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to make recommendations regarding outreach activities for women veterans. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall review the report of the Advisory Commission on Women Veterans and develop a plan to meet the needs identified, including outreach activities to contact women veterans within the State to explain benefits available to them, and shall start these outreach activities; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Reporting date established. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall report on the progress of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management concerning outreach activities and other concerns for women veterans to the Legislature by January 15, 2003.'

#### FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management may incur additional General Fund costs to start certain outreach

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LD 2035  
pg. 2HA (H-828), item 2 to LD 2035  
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Item 2

activities. The amounts will depend on the outreach activities that are to be recommended in a report that must be submitted to the Legislature and can not be determined at this time.

### SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The resolve requires the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to report on the progress regarding outreach activities and other concerns for women veterans to the Legislature by January 15, 2003.



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◀ LD 2210

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LD 2212 ▶

# 120<sup>th</sup> MAINE LEGISLATURE

## Second Regular Session

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 2211**

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H.P. 1723

**An Act to Include a Woman Veteran on the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes**

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### Status of LD 2211 (LR 3621, item 1) - 2002/7/26 - 3:21 p.m.

**House Status:** Wed Apr 3, 2002, ENACTED,  
**Senate Status:** Wed Apr 3, 2002, ENACTED,

Final Disposition: ENACTED, Wed Apr 3, 2002  
Governor's Action: SIGNED, Thu Apr 11, 2002  
PUBLIC law, Chapter 676

Fiscal Impact: No Fiscal Impact

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◀ LD 2210

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LD 2211  
pg. 1PUBLIC Law Chapter 676  
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Item 1

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**CHAPTER 676**

H.P. 1723 - L.D. 2211

**An Act to Include a Woman Veteran on the Board of Trustees  
of the Maine Veterans' Homes****Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §603**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 455, §30, is further amended to read:

**§603. Board of trustees**

The administration of the homes is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes, as authorized by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 34. The board consists of 10 11 members, one of whom must be the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, ex officio, who shall serve serves without term. The Governor shall appoint the remaining trustees, who must be honorably discharged war veterans. One member must be a woman. One member must be appointed from and represent each of the largest veterans' organizations, not exceeding 5, that are nationally chartered and have a department in Maine. The remaining members must be appointed at large and shall serve staggered 3-year terms. The membership must be distributed across the State so that 3 approximately 1/3 reside in the southern part of the State, 3 approximately 1/3 in the central part and 3 approximately 1/3 in the northern part. In the event of a vacancy, a successor must be appointed to complete the a member's unexpired term. Each trustee continues to hold office until a successor is appointed and qualified.

**Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §604, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 460, §3, is amended to read:

**2. Meetings.** The board shall meet at least 6 times annually. Five Six members shall constitute a quorum.



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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

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Legislative Document

No. 2159

H.P. 1532

House of Representatives, January 23, 1998

An Act to Establish an Advisory Commission on Women Veterans.

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative TUTTLE of Sanford.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BELANGER of Wallagrass, BIGL of Bucksport, CHIZMAR of Lisbon,  
GAMACHE of Lewiston, LABRECQUE of Gorham, TESSIER of Fairfield, TRUE of  
Fryeburg, Senator: CAREY of Kennebec.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2           Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

4                   5-B.           Advisory           Expenses           37-B MRSA  
6    Defense and    Commission    Only            §1151  
7    Veterans'       on Women  
8    Services        Veterans

10          Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA c. 25 is enacted to read:

12                                   CHAPTER 25

14                                   WOMEN VETERANS

16    §1151. Advisory Commission on Women Veterans

18           1. Establishment. The Advisory Commission on Women  
19    Veterans, as established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection  
20    5-B and referred to in this section as the "commission," shall  
21    act as an advisory commission to the Department of Defense and  
22    Veterans' Services on issues affecting women veterans. The  
23    commission shall also serve as a liaison between women veterans  
24    and the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus.

26           2. Membership. The commission is composed of no fewer than  
27    3 and no more than 5 members, all of whom must be women veterans,  
28    to be appointed by the Adjutant General.

30           3. Chair. The commission shall elect a chair from among  
31    its members.

32           4. Terms of office. The term of office of a member is 3  
33    years.

34           5. Compensation. Members of the commission are entitled to  
35    be reimbursed for their expenses.

36           6. Staff assistance. The Department of Defense and  
37    Veterans' Services shall provide assistance to the commission in  
38    the conduct of its business.

39           7. Meetings. The commission shall meet at least 3 times a  
40    year.

41           8. Duties. The duties of the commission are to:

42           A. Advise the Department of Defense and Veterans' Services  
43    on issues affecting women veterans; and

2 B. Serve as a liaison between women veterans and the  
Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus.

4

#### SUMMARY

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8 This bill establishes the Advisory Commission on Women  
Veterans to advise the Department of Defense and Veterans'  
Services on issues affecting women veterans and to serve as a  
10 liaison between women veterans and the Veterans Administration  
Hospital at Togus.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission has been in existence for three years. It has held over 25 meetings, has sent members to a national conference, accomplished outreach through newsletters, has held one State Wide conference, and networked with the Veterans Administration. We have made contact with over 600 women veterans in Maine, but there are thousands that have yet to be reached. Many women who have served in our armed forces do not consider themselves veterans. Many feel that if they did not serve in a combat situation, then their service does not count for benefits. We are attempting to eliminate this way of thinking. More and more women today serve in our armed forces side by side with their male counterparts than ever before and this will continue.

The Commission has been operating on no funding for the past year. There is approximately \$100.00 left in our treasury. This amount remains from a statewide conference that the Commission held last November in Portland. Many donations were received that assisted the Commission in the holding of the conference

The Commission has represented itself through the design of a website and with the volunteer help of servicewomen who have assisted with outreach at conferences.

The Commission hopes to implement the following plan over the next two years. Beginning in FY2001, the Commission will begin holding outreach meetings throughout the State. These will be conducted with the Veterans Administration at Togus and their Women Veterans Clinic staff. The Commission anticipates using the Maine Veterans Homes throughout the State as the site for each of the sessions. These homes are located in Caribou, Scarborough, Augusta, South Paris, and Bangor. In addition, the website that was created in 1999 will be updated with current information and new connections to enable those who visit the site to be informed of the Commission activities, benefits available to them, information on accessing those benefits, and requests for those visiting the site to register with the commission to receive newsletters and any additional information that the commission may obtain.

The year 2003 would consist of the Commission analyzing all feedback from the site visits conducted in 2002 and holding a centrally located statewide conference for women veterans. In addition, the Commission would conduct a survey of their outreach efforts and elicit suggestions from respondents as to other areas of the State where outreach seminars should be held.

The Commission has been more successful in reaching women veterans of the WWII and Korea eras, due to their concern for adequate health care and their search for those benefits. However, women veterans of the Vietnam and Desert Storm eras may not have health care as a main issue. Their needs may not be as urgent. They may need information on education and housing benefits, as well as health care.

We are not asking for special privileges or benefits. We are only asking that assistance be granted to allow the Commission to try to find these veterans and give them the information that they need to access the services that they are entitled to receive.

The cost of services rendered to one MaineCare resident of a nursing facility in the State of Maine is greater than \$50,000 per year. That amounts to approximately \$20,000 per year in State general fund money. If this Commission was able to identify three women veterans who were eligible for veteran's medical benefits and Long-term care and did not need to utilize the MaineCare program for those services, the money saved would more than cover the amount of funding that is being requested in this bill.

Women Veteran's Commission

Meeting                      July 26, 2002

Donna Loring distributed copies of LDs 2035 and 2211.

We discussed the report that is due to the Legislature on January 15, 2003. The Commission must develop a plan of action and the needs of the Commission and forward to Roland LaPlante. Roland must review the contents of the report. He will submit the final version to the Legislature.

The Commission reviewed what needed to go in the report. The information contained in the report must be detailed and specific to the exact areas that need to be addressed and what is needed for Women Vets.

Deb would send Commission members the testimony from the original bill.

Ideas for outreach:

Public Service Announcements (PSA)

Newsletter (professional, in appearance)

    Send it quarterly to all registered women vets.

Review comments from the Fall 2000 Conference

Public Relations: maybe buttons or decals for cars

Donna will check into contacting Nancy Wanderer. Susan Collins appointed her as the "Women Veteran's Advisory Council" person.

Next meeting scheduled for August 12, 2002 at 3:00 PM – Maine Veteran's Home, Augusta.

**Briefing Paper**  
**For Chair, Advisory Council on Women Veterans**  
**October 21, 1999**

**Future Goals of the Commission**

- The Commission was authorized by the 118<sup>th</sup> Legislature. It consists of five Commissioners serving three year terms.
- Since its inception the Commission has focused on the needs of women veterans and needs not currently being met by either the State or Federal government.
- An extensive survey was conducted during the summer of 1999 and 23% of the women returned the survey. By far, the largest problem area was in the area of health care with 15% indicating concerns about current and future medical treatment through Togus. The concerns for medical treatment consisted of the following areas:
  1. Distance they have to travel for treatment
  2. Delayed access time for appointments at Togus and length of waiting time upon arrival for appointments
  3. Better facilities for exams and treatment of women veterans at Togus and clinics, to include updated medical equipment for mammograms and examining rooms.
  4. Long term health care (nursing home availability when needed)
  5. Availability of Prescription drugs – very concerned over the cost of medicines and would like to see a prescription program for all veterans
  6. Care for veterans seeking medical treatment for non service-connected conditions
  7. Overall general health care for all veterans and the funding of the Togus medical facilities to keep it fully operational
- Another of area of major concern was the sexual trauma issue. In the VA system, males suffer from sexual trauma about 10 times the rate women do. However, the percentage of women suffering from sexual trauma is growing rapidly while the rate of men suffering is slowly dropping. In Maine, the Togus facility is the key area for sexual trauma treatment while each Vet Center has a smaller capacity.
- By far, the greatest problem facing the Commission is the lack of an adequate budget. A request was submitted last session for \$25,000 with only \$10,000 being approved. Because of this small amount, and since it was received so late in the year, some funding has come from the Bureau of Veteran Services, Since their budget is so small to start with, it has reduced the ability of the Bureau to accomplish its goals and objectives. Additionally, the staff they have had to pick up the support work load not covered by the volunteer Commissioners. Future budgets must have full funding and some of this money must be allocated personnel support.



5840 or 69% women  
within 45 min of  
Portland

MAINE

VETERAN POPULATION BY SEX, COUNTY AND PERIOD OF SERVICE AS OF JULY 1, 1999

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COUNTY	TOTAL VETERANS	WARTIME VETERANS									PEACETIME VETERANS			
		TOTAL	PERSIAN GULF		VIETNAM ERA		KOREAN CONFLICT		WORLD WAR II	WW I	TOTAL	POST-PERSIAN GULF	POST-VIETNAM ERA	OTHER PERIODS
			TOTAL	NO PRIOR WARTIME SERVICE	TOTAL	NO PRIOR WARTIME SERVICE	TOTAL	NO PRIOR WARTIME SERVICE						
SEX: FEMALE														
TOTAL	8,400	5,400	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,600	700	600	1,500	**	3,000	**	2,400	**
ANDROSCOGGIN	430	240	130	130	80	80	20	20	10	0	180	*	150	*
AROSTOOK	570	350	170	170	110	110	30	30	50	0	210	*	170	*
CUMBERLAND	1,830	1,230	320	300	320	310	160	130	500	*	600	*	470	10
FRANKLIN	200	120	40	30	40	40	20	20	30	0	80	0	60	*
HANCOCK	430	260	80	70	110	110	40	40	40	0	170	*	130	*
KENNEBEC	780	510	160	160	140	140	70	60	160	*	270	*	220	10
KNOX	240	150	30	30	60	60	20	20	50	0	80	*	60	*
LINCOLN	260	190	40	30	50	50	30	30	80	0	70	0	50	*
OXFORD	330	220	50	50	60	50	30	30	90	0	110	*	80	*
PENOBSCOT	850	530	200	200	130	120	80	70	150	0	320	*	290	*
PISCATAQUIS	160	100	30	30	20	20	10	10	50	0	60	0	50	*
SAGadahoc	210	110	50	50	60	60	10	10	*	0	90	*	70	0
SOMERSET	410	250	80	70	110	100	30	30	50	0	160	*	130	*
WALDO	260	170	50	40	50	50	20	20	50	0	90	0	80	*
WASHINGTON	350	240	60	60	60	60	30	20	100	0	110	*	90	*
YORK	1,130	720	250	230	300	290	70	60	150	*	410	*	350	*

NOTES:

1. "Total Wartime" equals the sum of Persian Gulf Era (no prior wartime service), Vietnam Era (no prior wartime service), Korean Conflict (no prior wartime service), World War II, and World War I. "Other Peacetime" includes those veterans who served only between World War I and World War II, and those who served only between World War II and the Korean Conflict.
2. There is currently no official date marking the end of the Persian Gulf War. For demonstration purposes only, a year was arbitrarily chosen to begin Post-Persian Gulf peacetime separations. The year selected was based on the average length of past American wars and military conflicts. No information from the Department of Defense or the U.S. Congress was used in the selection of the year. When the Persian Gulf War period is officially terminated, these numbers will be revised.
3. Detail may not add to printed totals due to rounding.
4. \* indicates less than 5.      \*\* indicates less than 50.

## Maine Women Veterans Oral History Project

A Project of the  
**Maine Studies**  
Program

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*The Spencer Twins of Brewer, Maine. Pictures of the twins were often used in promotional materials for the war effort during World War II.*

*- Courtesy of the Maine Folklife Center, University of Maine.*

The Maine Women Veterans Oral History Project originated in the [Maine Commission on Women Veterans](#), Chaired by Donna Loring, a Vietnam veteran and the Penobscot Nation representative to the state legislature. Loring approached [University of Maine](#) faculty in an effort to establish an oral history project to collect the stories of some of Maine's 8,000 women veterans. Responding to Loring's request, Mazie Hough, Associate Director of the [Women's Studies Program](#), and Carol Toner, Coordinator of the [Maine Studies Program](#) and Research Associate in [History](#), initiated the Maine Women Veterans Oral History Project. The goal of the project is to interview Maine women veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War. In the fall semester 2000, Hough and Toner taught [WST201, Women and War](#), which examined the experiences of military women during World War II and the Korean War. Students in this class interviewed women who served in those wars. In the fall semester 2001, Hough and Toner will teach the class again, this time with a focus on Vietnam and the Gulf War, and students will interview women veterans from those wars.

In January, 2001, the project received a generous grant from the [Margaret Chase Smith Library](#) in Skowhegan, Maine, to transcribe the veterans' taped interviews. This link between the Women Veterans Oral History Project and the MCS Library reflects the efforts of Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith on behalf of military women. In 1948, then-Representative Smith was instrumental in maneuvering the Women's Armed Services Integration Act through Congress, an act which granted women permanent status in the military, with full benefits and equal pay.

The project's interview tapes and transcripts will be deposited in the Maine Folk Center at the University of Maine. For more information on the Maine Women Veterans Oral History Project, contact Mazie Hough or Carol Toner.

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## AMERICANISM

I was asked to speak to post 132 of the American Legion located in Richmond Maine. They asked for my personal perspective on Americanism.

What is the meaning of Americanism and does it mean the same things to the majority population as it does to Indian people. As an American Indian, a woman and a Vietnam Veteran I have a unique perspective of Americanism.

Let's look at the history between the tribe and the State. Prior to the arrival of Europeans on our shores we lived in a land where we were an integral part of the physical and the spiritual. We had our own governments and our hunting and fishing territories scattered throughout the eastern seaboard. Our numbers have been estimated to be anywhere from fifteen to thirty thousand. We hunted and fished seasonally. Our boundaries were usually rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams as well as where we could find specific animals, fish, fowl, plants, trees and herbs at certain times of year. We believed that everything from rocks to humans, to plants, and rivers even the wind had a spirit and these must be respected. We believed then...and as we believe now that our very lives depend on our treatment of this sacred environment.

When Europeans arrived on our shores they arrived with concepts and beliefs that we could not understand. They came here with one thing in mind and that was to control our lands and our resources. To give you an example of how our world changed, let me read a brief paragraph from a proclamation by Spencer Phips, the Lt. Governor of Massachusetts, written on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1755.

"...For every Male Penobscot Indian above the age of twelve years, that shall be taken within the time aforesaid and brought to Boston fifty pounds. For every scalp of a male Penobscot Indian above the age aforesaid, brought in as evidence of their being killed as aforesaid, forty pounds.

For every female Penobscot Indian taken and brought in as aforesaid and for every male Indian prisoner under the age of twelve years, taken and brought in as aforesaid. Twenty five pounds.

For every scalp of such female Indian or male Indian under the age of twelve years, that shall be killed and brought in as evidence of their being killed as aforesaid, twenty pounds.”

Simply, Indian people were treated like animals by the English. So it isn't any surprise that during the Revolutionary war when asked to fight on the American side by George Washington we agreed.

On June 21, 1775 Chief Joseph Orono, (my great, great, grandfather seven times removed.) addressed the Penobscot warriors just before they were to participate in the American Revolution with these words: “The Great Spirit gives us freely all things. Our white brothers tell us they came to Indian country to enjoy liberty and life but a Great Sagamore is coming to bind them in chains, to kill them. We must fight him for should he bind them in bonds, next he will treat us like bears. He will tear away from us Indian liberties and land. We must help his ill treated sons for they will return good for good and the law of love runs through their children... Look down the stream of time. Look up to the Great Spirit. Be kind, be valiant, be free, then are the Indians sons of Glory!” With these words the Penobscot warriors marched off to fight for right and freedom

When the war was won we made a treaty with Massachusetts and in 1818 the treaty was renewed and finally when Maine petitioned Massachusetts for separation, one of the conditions was that Maine take over its treaty obligations to the tribes. Once this was done Massachusetts agreed to pay Maine \$30,000 dollars. Maine renegotiated the 1818 treaty in 1820 with the Penobscot and 1824 with the Passamaquoddy.

After separation was granted by Massachusetts in 1833, Maine, without the consent of the Penobscot took away 95% of Penobscot land consisting of four of the Penobscot townships one of those contained the sacred Mountain Katahdin. The State established a trust fund with \$50,000 dollars for the townships. In subsequent years money from the sale of timber, hay and shore rights as well as hydropower was also placed in the trust fund. The legislature authorized leases and sale of tribal lands without their consent and sold several of the Penobscot Islands without compensation.

During this time tribal people suffered as we were no longer allowed to maintain our way of life by traveling from place to place according to the

seasons. In 1887 Louis Mitchell, Passamaquoddy representative to the state legislature described in a speech on the floor of the House the enormity of what had happened: "...Just consider today how many rich men there are in Calais, in St. Stephen, Milltown, Machias, East Machias, Columbia, Cherryfield and other lumbering towns. We see a good many of them worth thousands and even millions of dollars. We ask ourselves how they make most of their money? The answer: on lumber or timber once owned by the Passamaquoddy Indians... How many of their privileges have been broken? How many of their lands have been taken from them by authority of the state?

The Passamaquoddy fund was established in 1856 with a deposit of \$22,500 dollars. Interest on the deposits was supposed to be paid at six percent per annum for a period of one hundred and ten years. From 1859 for Passamaquoddies, and from 1860 for Penobscots until 1969, no interest was ever paid, but rather went for the annual use of the Indian agents.

The states treatment of Indians was paternalistic. We who had once lived in abundance were now impoverished and wherever we went in the larger society we faced prejudice, discrimination and injustice. They said we were lazy, yet our livelihood had been taken from us. We lived on welfare, it was said. Yet the so-called assistance given to us was in fact income from products taken from our land or income from the rent and lease of our land. What was income was made to appear as welfare.

The state courts also held no relief for us as the judges had the same oppressive views as the State. The following court cases give you a glimpse of the courts attitude towards Indians:

In a case decided by the Maine supreme court in 1842 Murch v Tomer 21 Me.535 The court said "Imbecility on their (the Indians) part, and the dictates of humanity on ours, have necessarily prescribed to them their subjection to our paternal control..."

In State V Newell, 84 Me. 465 (1892) , the court following Murch said "Though these Indians...perhaps consider themselves a tribe, they have for many years been without a tribal organization in any political sense...They are as completely subject to the State as any other inhabitants can be." Id at 468 (This at a time when Indian representatives were in the State Legislature representing tribal governments.)

One of the worst injustices to our tribes was our disenfranchisement. It was sanctioned at the highest levels of power in the state. On March 14<sup>th</sup> 1941 the Legislature requested on solemn occasion to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court the following question: "If by legislative enactment a poll tax should be imposed upon the Indians living on reservations within the state, would said poll tax be such tax as within the meaning of section 1 Article 11 of the Constitution that it would entitle Indians, subject to such tax to vote?"

The answer came on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1941:

To Honorable Senate of the State of Maine:

"The undersigned justices of the supreme court, having considered the question upon which their advisory opinions were requested by senate order March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1941 inform the honorable senate that we are of the opinion that it is not within the scope of our duty to answer this question in view of the fact that senate paper 486 entitled "An act Permitting Indians to vote in state elections", to which the interrogatory refers, not only does not conform with or justify the question submitted, but is inherently illegal and insufficient."

Although Indians were made citizens of this country in 1923 Maine Indians were not allowed to vote in US elections until 1954 and state elections until 1967.

Indian agents and treatment of Indian people:

- Forbidden to speak their own language
- Marriages and offspring kept track of non Indians  
Who married Indians referred to as paupers
- Children sent to Carlisle Indian school at Carlisle Penn. 1899-1912
- What was income was made to appear as welfare
- Self image/ suffer loss of self-respect  
Faced prejudice, discrimination and injustice

Then a light of hope... The Land Claims Settlement Act was signed into law in 1980. It is a document that presently defines our relationship with the state. The terms of the Act are as follows:

54.41 M to buy 300,000 acres (both tribes) 27.70 each. 27M in trust fund from which we could draw interest only (both tribes) 13.5 each. I receive an average quarterly payment of \$75.00. Houlton band of Maliseets \$900,000 dollars to purchase 5,000 acres

State retains certain jurisdiction.

Maine Indian Tribal State Commission was created

What did the **State** get from the Land Claims?

- A settlement of over 2/3rds of the state lands
- State did not pay one penny
- State kept majority of it's jurisdiction
- Tribes were excluded from any new Fed laws
- State is held harmless for any past injustices
- Tribes cannot sue for past abuses or stolen resources.
- State never has to say "I'm Sorry."

It is a sad history for Maine Indians from which we have never completely recovered. We have fought and died for the preservation of freedom and democracy since the inception of this country. Native Americans were made citizens in 1923 because of the great numbers of Indian people both men and women who fought during WWII. The women were not allowed to fight but they worked off the reservations in factories that contributed to the war effort. Despite past treatment Native peoples have fought and died for this country in every war including the recent war in Iraq which claimed it's first American woman to fall in combat. Lori Ann Piestewa a 23 year old Hopi Indian. She fought with courage and valor." She was the first Hopi woman and Native American woman to die in combat in defense of the United States. According to Hopi legend if a person had a good heart when they died their spirit would return to the earth in the form of moisture. On the day the Piestewa family was notified of her death an unusual event occurred in her hometown of Tuba City. Moisture fell back to earth in the pure white form of snow.

I'd like to share a poem with you that I penned over thirty years ago while stationed in Vietnam:



## Memorial Day Speech

RICHMOND

MAY 27, 2002

I would like to thank the American Legion Post Commander Geoffrey Ragsdale for inviting me to speak to you on this special occasion.

As you may know Memorial Day was originally called Decoration day, a day when People would decorate the graves of Civil war veterans.

Today is a day set aside for remembrance of those who have died in our nation's service. In wars such as the Revolutionary war, the Civil War, The Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, The Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf war, Somalia, Korsovo, Afghanistan, and all other military personnel and Civilian personnel. We remember D-Day, Pearl Harbor and September 11<sup>th</sup>. We honor the Gold star mothers and family members who have lost loved ones

and those family members who have lost loved ones in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack.

On this Memorial Day on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2002 we remember and honor those who have lost their lives in service to their Country.

Thousands maybe even millions of souls have paid the ultimate price for freedom since the Revolutionary War.

I stand before you as a Native American woman veteran. I am a Native American Veteran and a Woman Veteran. I would like to tell you something about these two veteran groups. Very little is mentioned about Native or Women Veterans and I would like to give you a glimpse of their contributions that helped make this country what it is today. A country founded on the principles of freedom and democracy and the most powerful nation in the world.

I will first speak about Women Veterans.

Women have served in combat and as combat support since the Revolutionary War when Women like Margret Corbin and Mary Hays McCauley, aka Molly Pitcher who, without official status

accompanied their husbands into battle and stepped behind cannons and continued the fight when their husbands fell.

There were also women during the Civil War who organized to form military like units and trained with weapons in order to protect their homes.

Prior to WWI the navy anticipating that women would be needed to fill their manpower needs, figured a way around a law that prohibited women from serving in the military. Over 11,000 women enlisted as yeomen.

During WWII over 250,000 women volunteered to join the enlisted ranks of the military. The idea was to free up men for combat. Women's duties consisted of secretarial duties, parachute packing, repairing guns, driving trucks, making maps and even flying supply planes. Some worked in top-secret intelligence jobs and built and used early computers. By the end of WWII women had served in every theater of the war from North Africa and Europe to China, Burma and India.

It is estimated that approximately 1,234 enlisted military women served in Vietnam and throughout the war.

Today women serve in every branch of the armed forces and continue to give their lives in the service of their country.

I am also a Native American.

Native Americans have served with honor in all of America's wars.

The members of the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Micmac and Maliseet Tribes fought to help this country gain its independence from England.

Since the early 1800's the United States government had sent missionaries to the tribes in order to help them assimilate into the larger society. Indian tribes resisted this and maintained their languages and cultures. This very resistance was to play a major role in winning a world war.

8,000 American Indians took part in WWI. Their patriotism caused congress to pass the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. Since Native

people were fighting and dying for this country Congress felt it only right to grant them citizenship.

In WWII more than 44,000 Native Americans served with distinction in both the European and Pacific Theaters. More than 40,000 others left their reservations to work in ordinance depots, factories and other war industries. At that time there were only 350,000 Native Americans in the entire United States including children.

Approximately 12% of the Native American population, or one third of all able-bodied Indian men served in WWII. This is the highest percentage of any racial group.

Several hundred Native American Women also served with the Women's Army Corp, Army Nurse Corp and the Navy.

Native people contributed to winning WWII in a unique way. The Japanese were adept at breaking our codes and because of this ability they were winning the battles. It was imperative to winning the war that we have the ability to communicate with our forces without our messages being decoded by the Japanese.

Navajo code talkers used codes derived from Navajo and other Native speech which were unintelligible to the enemy. While most codes were considered unusable after one day, Navajo codes were never broken.

**I can't help but wonder what would have happened if assimilation of all the tribes were complete and all tribes spoke English only.**

**Would we be speaking Japanese or even German today?**

More than 42,000 Native Americans, more than 90% of them volunteers, fought in Vietnam. Native Americans see duty today wherever our armed forces are stationed.

Women Veterans, Native American Veterans as well as Veterans of other races and cultures were among the many souls that lost their lives since the Revolutionary war in the service of our country, protecting our freedom and our way of life.

Freedom is not free and we continue to pay the price.

Wars have been fought in Europe and Asia in order to keep the enemy from our soil.

With the attacks of September 11, this country will never be the same. A few days after September 11, I wrote a poem

On behalf of the Penobscot Nation in honor of those who died on that tragic day.

We as native people believe that the eagle is a sacred symbol and that our ancestors see through its eyes and it signifies strength, purity, and protection.

My poem is called "Ten Thousand eagles" I would like to read it to you:

### TEN THOUSAND EAGLES

By  
Donna M Loring

Ten thousand eagles flew that day across the bright blue sky to meet the spirits on their way from fiery smoke filled tombs.

They soared above the dark, black, clouds billowing from the earth and hovered for a moment there and saw the face of doom.

Ten thousand eagles gathered and swooped down beneath the clouds.

They found the spirits one by one and plucked them from their plight.

They carried each new spirit through the black and hate filled clouds.

They gave them each a shelter wrapped in warm wings oh so tight.

They gave them strength and comfort too on their unexpected flight.

On swift wings they flew towards their final destination where each spirit knew without any hesitation there would be peace and love and harmony they would forever be wrapped within the eagles wings through all eternity.

Ten thousand eagles flew that day as all the world stood still and watched in shock and horror as the tragedy unfurled.

Now we are left here on this earth to face the billowing clouds and our eyes search for the eagles as we say our prayers out loud.

May our spirits soar on eagle's wings above the dark black clouds of hatred, murder and revenge that keep us hatred bound.

Ten thousand eagles flew that day as all the world stood still.

The eagles flew above those clouds. Perhaps some day...we will.



We face a new and different kind of war. But we face this new war united with our brothers and sisters, Regardless of our differences we are all Americans, all of us together. We are diverse, we are strong, we are creative. When we respect each others differences, these differences can be used for a greater good. United we are invincible and we will prevail.

In closing the last war that was fought on American soil was the Civil War. I leave you with a quote from President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address delivered on November 19, 1863 in Gettysburg PA.:

“...It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us-

That from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for

Which they gave the last full measure of devotion-  
That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have  
died in vain- that this  
Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom- and  
that government of the people, for the people shall not perish  
from the earth.”

Thank you

## THE OTHER WORLD

I stepped off the Freedom Bird into another world  
A world of profound beauty  
And yet a world of desolation and despair.  
Just as a new born babe comes into the world  
So came I...

Into a world I knew nothing of unto a people I knew nothing of.  
Why was I here?

I walked down the war torn streets of the village  
Not knowing the answer.

As I walked I looked down and saw the tattered remains of a  
newspaper...  
And on the front page a picture of a man holding the lifeless body of  
his infant son.

There was emptiness in his eyes as tears of a life time flowed down  
his face.

In that instant I knew the answer.  
I was here to help save this country  
This other world

And in so doing  
Save Mine...

May we never forget the price that is paid or the heroes that have died  
in order that we might experience the great privilege of being an  
American.