



The 1970s was a decade of extreme change in the Navy. Under the leadership of Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, the Navy worked to align policies and practices to the ideals set forth through the Civil Rights Movement. This included increasing opportunities for women and minorities.

Joellen Drag Oslund, seen here, was one of the first women to earn her flight wings in the Navy. Oslund and other female service members had to fight for equal opportunities within the Navy. Even after earning her wings, Oslund was not allowed to deploy with her squadron because she was a woman. In 1978, Oslund joined a class-action lawsuit against the U.S. Navy (*Owens v. Brown*), with the aim of expanding career advancement opportunities available to women.

*Image courtesy of U.S. Navy.*