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USS Lenah H. Sutcliffe Higbee

Honoring A U.S. Navy Pioneer

(DDG 123)



A Pioneering Woman

- Born in Chatham, Canada, Higbee immigrated to the United States after receiving formal schooling and entered private nursing.
- Joining the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908 as one of the first 20 members, she rose to Chief Nurse in 1909 and became the second Superintendent of the Nurse Corps in 1911.
- For her services in World War I, she became the first living woman to receive the Navy Cross.
- In 1945, the destroyer USS Higbee (DD 806) was commissioned in her honor, the first combat warship named for a female member of the Navy.



Class: Arleigh-Burke

Length: 509 feet

Speed: 30+ Knots

Crew: 329 total

USS LENA H. SUTCLIFFE HIGBEE
(DDG 123)

Class: Gearing

Length: 390 feet

Speed: 35 Knots

Crew: 367 total

USS HIGBEE (DD 806)
Commissioned 1945

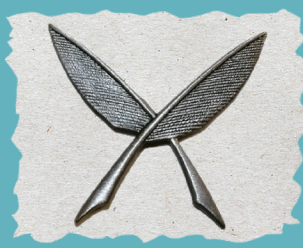
A Historic Look at Women in the U.S. Navy

1908



Women officially begin serving in the U.S. Navy with the establishment of the Nurse Corps. They were called "The Sacred Twenty" and served as the first Navy nurses.

1917



To fill severe clerical shortages caused by WWI, the U.S. Navy approved the enlistment of women in 1917. The Navy's first enlisted women, more commonly referred to as Yeomanettes, served in clerical positions, translators, draftsmen, fingerprint experts, ship camouflage designers, and recruiting agents.

1942



After a 23-year absence, women returned to general Navy service as WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) in early August 1942 for WWII.

1974



In 1974, six women earned their wings and became the first female naval aviators.

1978



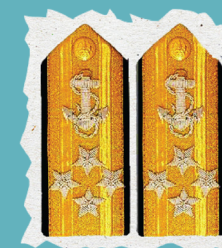
In 1978, Congress approved a change to Section 6015 of Title 10, U.S. Code, which allowed women to begin filling sea duty billets on selected non-combatant ships. Opportunities were later expanded in 1994 to include service on combatant ships and squadrons.

2012



Submarine warfare officers earn their "dolphins."

2014



The first set of 4-star shoulder boards for women are made for Vice Admiral Michelle Howard following confirmation as the first woman 4-star admiral.

2015



Enlisted women can serve on submarines.

TODAY women in our Navy constitute **18%** of the Active and Reserve forces.  More than **50,000** Enlisted Members **9,000** Officer Members