

New Hampshire Women in Military Service Memorial

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On Thursday, June 12th, 2025, at 1 pm, hundreds will gather at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH for the dedication of the Women in Military Service Memorial. They will join to celebrate the courage, sacrifice, and contributions of New Hampshire women in the military with the unveiling of this meaningful memorial.

Over three million women have served in, or with, the Armed Forces since the American Revolution and it is on June 12, 1948, that President Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act into law. On Women's Veterans Day, 2025, the NH Veteran's Cemetery will proudly unveil a monument dedicated to the women who have served our country from the great state of NH. To date, there are over 98+ monuments and benches throughout the Memorial Walkway, but none dedicated to our sisters in arms.

With heart to commemorate the above-mentioned landmark legislation to honor NH service women for their selfless courage, patriotism, and leadership, a discussion ensued with Retired General Gretchen Dunkelberger at the grand opening of the Veterans Heritage Learning Center to bring to life the vision of Brigadier General Carolyn Protzmann, former NH Deputy Adjutant General – a monument to honor women veterans.

The journey commenced in 2018, when a Blue Star mother and USN Veteran collaborated on a design and introduced it to the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire who encouraged them to move forward with their project. Thus, their research began. Though the 2019 pandemic put the project on hold, it came to fruition as the state and country re-opened: a 4' x 1' x 1" thick stainless-steel monument on a 3' x 2' x 1' granite base accompanied by a 4' wide granite bench surrounded by beautiful landscaping. The Committee Chairs presented the design concept to Shawn Buck, Cemetery Executive Director, and it was approved on March 22, 2023.

"Of all the committees I have served on or led, this group of women by far has been the most wonderful to work alongside with," said Sheila Casey, Co-Chair. "This project has spanned more than five years, a long time, and it has been sheer delight. We couldn't be happier to have been part of bringing this dream to life to ensure that all of NH military women's service is always recognized, and never forgotten."

Through generous charitable contributions, the team was able to raise the necessary funds to erect this memorial. Over \$30,000, nearly half of the cost, was raised through non-profits and clubs in the town of Salem to include the American Legion Post 63, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 63, Salem Rotary Club, Salem Area Women's Club, Greater Federation of Women's Clubs (NH), and the Derry-Salem Elks.

Save the date and join veterans, their families, and friends at this dedication for the women in service who pledged their lives to protect our life, liberty, justice, and freedom. May they always be remembered for their strength, courage, and bravery. Light snacks and beverages will be served. For more information, visit <https://www.nhvca.org/donate/womens-service-memorial>.