

A Date with Destiny

Today you make the change from peacetime pursuits to wartime tasks – from the individualism of civilian life to the anonymity of mass military life. You have given up comfortable homes, highly paid positions, leisure. You have taken off silk and put on khaki. And all for essentially the same reason - you have a debt and a date – a debt to democracy, a date with destiny."

You do not come into a corps that has an established tradition. You must make your own. But in making your own, you do have one tradition – the integrity of all the brave American women of all time who have loved their country.

As you reach into the past for your tradition, you also stretch out your hands across to all women who, in this critical present, serve their country, as you do, because you want to keep the future free.

You, as you gather here, are living history. On your shoulders will rest the military reputation and the civilian recognition of this Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. I have no fear that any woman here will fail the standards of the corps.

-Oveta Culp Hobby (1905-1995)

First Director of the Women's Army Auxilliary Corps and Women's Army Corps