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FIRST DOCUMENTARY ABOUT WOMEN'S ROLE IN MILITARY PREMIERES AT ARLINGTON'S WOMEN'S MEMORIAL IN MARCH

Women Have Served Since Revolutionary War as Spies, Soldiers, Nurses

February 2, 2009 – Media, PA. The first documentary to recount the little known legacy of women's contributions since the Revolutionary War in supporting our armed forces, **WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: WILLING, ABLE, ESSENTIAL**, will premiere at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery on March 4, 2009 to celebrate Women's History Month.

"Since America's founding days, women have been stepping forward to serve this country," said the film's Emmy-award-winning director and writer Susan Sherwood. "From uncommon soldiers who disguised themselves to fight and nurses that faced horrific wounds to those who proudly wear the uniform today, women have always contributed to our military might. This film tells their story."

The film, produced by the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum in Media, PA, features rarely seen archival war footage, dramatic re-enactments and 18th and 19th century images illustrating women's roles in war. Through poignant interviews with military women and historians, their personal accounts of self-sacrifice and dedication come to life.

Captain Vernice Armour, the first African-American woman combat pilot, recounts her reaction to the gratitude of a young soldier, "He looked at me, and said, 'Ma'am, you saved my life.'" Armour felt incredibly proud.

"This inspiring and patriotic film should be seen by all young men and women", said Brigadier General (USAF, Ret.) Wilma Vaught, President of the Women's Memorial, "They need to be aware of the contributions of women to the national defense, beginning with the American Revolution."

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Armour and Vaught will attend the premiere along with other military women and historians featured in the film. The film will be shown at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 2009 in the theatre of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the ceremonial gate at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

A preview of the film will be held at the Media Theatre at 104 East State Street in Media, PA at on February 27, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. for elected officials, military leaders and press and at 3:30 p.m. for educators and students.

For more information or for press materials, contact Patti Spaniak, at pspaniak@gmail.com or at 646-409-7775 or visit www.paveteransmuseum.org.

Open to the public on Veteran's Day 2005, the **Pennsylvania Veterans Museum** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve, promote and protect the legacy and dignity of all U.S. veterans and to educate the public, especially our youth, about the experiences and history of veterans during times of war. We strive to preserve the "living history" of our veterans through films documenting the experience of war in veterans' own voices. Our films are accompanied by accredited lesson plans designed for middle school, high school and JROTC students and are available to schools free of charge. Our films include:

- On Freedom's Wings: Bound For Glory, *The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen*
- In the Company of Heroes: 101s Airborne Screaming Eagles, *The legendary Band of Brothers*
- Their Sacrifice, Our Freedom: WWII in Europe
- Their Sacrifice, Our Freedom: Pacific
- Out-takes from Vietnam: The American Humanitarian Effort, *The untold story of humanitarian efforts during and after the Vietnam War*

To order copies of the films, visit www.paveteransmuseum.org.

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