

VICTORY GIRLS IN WORLD WAR II

Dr. Anna C. Burns will lead a discussion about the many roles played by women in winning World War II, 1941-45, and how these non-traditional jobs gave a foundation for the feminist movement of the 1960s.

There was an acute labor shortage when the military called thousands of men to training camps and overseas to fight. Workers were desperately needed for war-related jobs such as aircraft and ammunition factories, shipyards, and stateside military installations. Also needed ^{were women} for vital civilian services such as transportation, communication and construction ~~when the men~~ were called to service.

The government spread thousands of posters across the nation urging young women to become WACS, WAVES, Army nurses, Red Cross and USO workers, and "Rosie the Riveters" producing for victory.

In all these fields, Victory Girls did their part to win the war, but sadly, they were pushed back mainly to their 'proper' places when the war ended and the men returned home.

Years later, in the 1960s, the feminist movement pushed for equal opportunities for women. And only recently have the courts forced nondiscrimination between male and female workers.