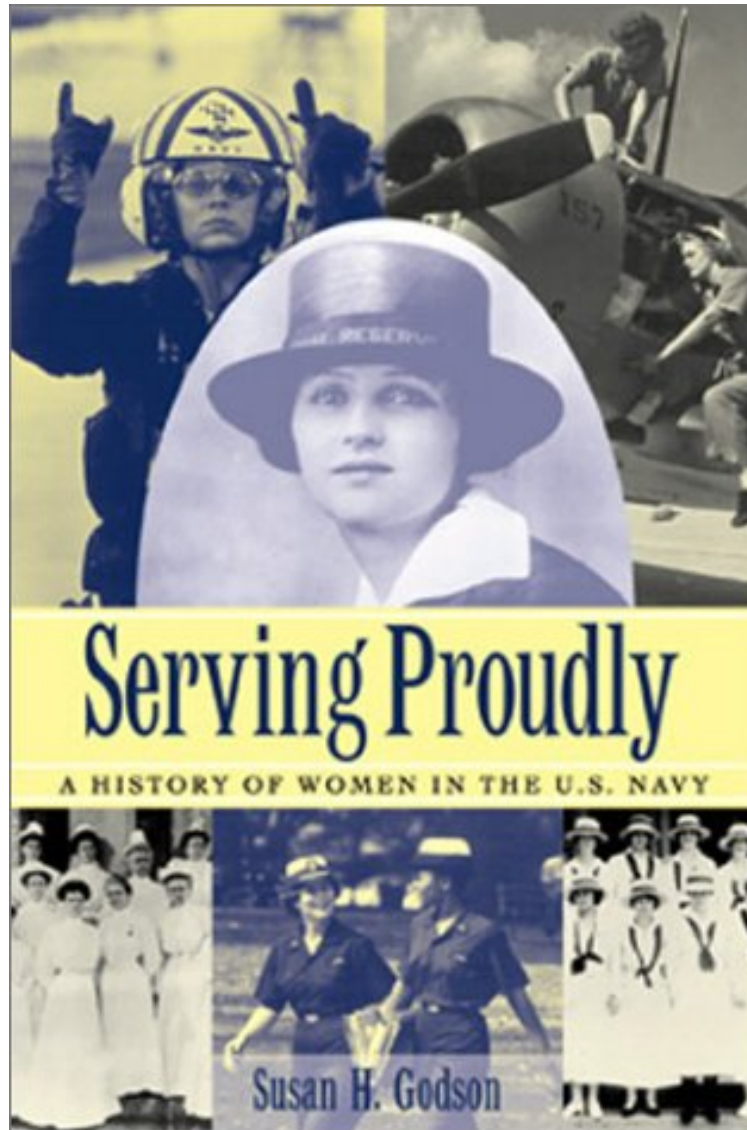


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Serving Proudly: A History of Women in the U.S. Navy

Susan H. Godson

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Susan H. Godson : *Serving Proudly: A History of Women in the U.S. Navy* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Serving Proudly: A History of Women in the U.S. Navy*:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. *Serving Proudly: A History of Women in the U.S. Navy*By Kim L. PattersonAlthough we originally purchased this book for a nursing school project as a practically sole source, the reading was so interesting we almost didn't want to put it down to write the paper. It is very thorough and not dry! I am a retired female vet and it was a great acquisition by accident for me and my aunt, an RN who served in the Pacific during WWII, and went on to lead education of nursing on the East Coast. "Serving Proudly" begins with women's

roles (gee! housekeeper, cook, laundress, caregiver) from the earliest times out of and in the US, and describes the personality expectations to be at the top of their game(read the book.) The progress made from the time of suffragettes to the key roles women play in current military Ops is unwound with grace and style as well as details. It is a history book and reference manual as well as an exciting piece of literature!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Women are awesome!By tbrahmFantastic book and real life experiences!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy medicaremamaLove any books about women in the navy!

As women go to sea and take to the skies in ever-increasing numbers in the modern U. S. Navy, the contributions of those pioneers who led the way loom larger than ever. This is the first scholarly history to cover comprehensively the full spectrum of women in the Navy, including the Navy Nurse Corps, the early Yeoman (F) program, the WAVES, and the ultimate integration of women into the operational Navy. Commissioned to write this monumental work by the Naval Historical Center, Susan Godson took full advantage of the Navy's massive documentary archives to reinforce what she learned through dozens of interviews. She recounts not only what these adventuresome women did, but why they did it. Included are the little-known exploits of the first documented Navy "nurses," Mary Allen and Mary Marshall, who in the spring of 1813 ran a British blockade in the frigate *United States*; the legendary Lucy Brewer, who served on "Old Ironsides;" and Loretta Perfectus Walsh, the first of thousands of Yeomen who served in World War I. The author paints a distressing but inspiring picture of the many obstacles faced and conquered by the women who dared to challenge not only the status quo but the formidable barriers created by the myopic, sometimes hostile, vision of their many opponents of both sexes. This timely account traces the long struggle from serving in "women's-work" jobs to command billets--a narrative of triumphs and failures, joy and frustration, service and sacrifice. From a hospital ship in the Civil War to combatants in the Cold War and beyond, women have left their mark in "this man's Navy," and this is their story.

From BooklistGodson covers the range of U.S. women's naval service, on the front lines (where some disguised themselves as men), as nurses, and as other support personnel. She also attends to the social background of each expansion and contraction of women's roles in the navy, assimilating the latest material in gender studies and arraying it for serious scholars in a formidable bibliography and footnotes. No previous book has attempted to bring all those topics together in a single study spanning two centuries. If Godson's falls short of being an ideal introduction to the subject, it is because her prose is a trifle academic and coverage of events after 1990, a period that included the Gulf War and the Tailhook scandal, is cursory because of the lack of scholarly material on them. Readers possessing some knowledge of naval and gender studies will find it coming in handy for fully appreciating Godson's contribution to the work in progress that is women's service in the U.S. Navy. Roland GreenCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "...an inspiring, timely account." -- Sea Classics, June 2002From the PublisherChoice, January 2003 Selected as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2002.