

# Women Who Kept Me Free

Acknowledgement, to the women who kept me free, I salute you one and all,  
You never looked back, you carried freedom's torch, as you answered America's call;  
Your blood spilled red, just like the men, on every battle field plagued by war,  
Please accept appreciation for a job well done, an honor held too long by far.

From the very first war ever known to history, you died by the hands of men.  
Yet you still kept raised your mighty shield, for a glad you still defend;  
And here you are today, standing proud and strong, you deserve so much respect.  
So "hat's off" to the women who kept me free, you're a force I can never neglect.

From Debra Sampson in 1778, who joined the army in disguise as a man,  
To the woman here today who did America proud, by showing her how to say, "I can."  
Two million women veterans wearing combat boots, some marching on the battle field,  
Mothers embracing death of the children they bore, trying hard not to lose their will.

Some got closer to God during war, spouting prayers they hoped would soon come true,  
Some rejected God for all the senseless death, some turned their back on the faith they knew.

Yet you served knowing well the consequence, and for your country, laid down your life,  
Came home with the scare of post traumatic stress, to a world that only dealt with strife.

WAFS, WAVES, WACs and WMs be proud that you that you have done your part,  
And thanks for the sacrifice that was made for me, if I can speak from America's heart;  
And as you stand here today, you're a testament, from the past throughout a brand new day.  
You're showing that patriotism has no gender, *you love this country*, is what I'm trying to say.

So hold your head up ladies, you're still carrying our torch, and be proud of the things you've done.  
Every war that America has ever fought, you were there when the battle was won;  
Here' one more salute for blood you shed, I want the whole wide world to see,  
And thanks again for the sacrifice all of you made, you the women who kept me free.



An Edgerton Poem