



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

10 AUG 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2017 Department of Defense Women's Equality Day Observance

The Department of Defense (DoD) is pleased to announce the observance of Women's Equality Day on August 26th, to commemorate the 1920 certification of the addition of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution – which granted women the right to vote. This milestone in our Nation's history marked an important turning point in the road to equality for women and all Americans.

Through decades of struggle and sacrifice, those who fought for women's suffrage propelled our Nation forward to grant equal voting rights to women. And it is because of the struggle, sacrifice, and continued dedication to liberty and justice demonstrated by Americans throughout the past century that we have continued to make great strides to be where we are today.

As we celebrate women's equality, let us reflect upon the progress we have made within the DoD to strengthen the Total Force through equal opportunity for all men and women. Today, we proudly acknowledge that women can serve in any capacity in the U.S. Armed Forces. Women are integral to a diverse force, and it is a diverse force that makes us a stronger force. From the picket lines to the front lines of combat, women of the past and present have served and sacrificed tremendously to pave the way for future generations of Americans to pursue and achieve their dreams.

We commemorate Women's Equality Day by honoring the many significant achievements of women throughout DoD, to include military members and civilians. We encourage all to recognize these women for their dedicated service to our great Nation and contributions to the strength and resiliency of the Total Force.

Mr. Norvel Dillard is the DoD point of contact for this observance and can be reached by telephone at (703) 614-3397, or at norvel.l.dillard.civ@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. M. Kurta".

A. M. Kurta
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

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