



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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*****MEDIA ALERT***MEDIA ALERT***MEDIA ALERT***MEDIA ALERT*****

This Week: History Center to Honor Pearl Harbor Day with Veterans Panel and Flag Ceremony

- The History Center will host a panel discussion on women in the military on Dec. 6 and a patriotic flag-folding ceremony on Dec. 7 in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day -

WHAT: The Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center will mark Pearl Harbor Day with two special events this week: A **Women in the Military panel discussion** on **Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.** and a patriotic **Flag Ceremony** on **Friday, Dec. 7 at noon.**

On Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m., ahead of Pearl Harbor Day, the History Center will partner with the Veterans Breakfast Club for a panel discussion focused on women in the United States Armed Forces and their individual stories of military service.

The panel will feature veterans from the WWII era through contemporary conflicts and will be moderated by U.S. Navy veteran Lauren DelRicci of the Veterans Breakfast Club.

Featured panelists will include:

- **Julia Parsons**, who volunteered for the Navy WAVES in 1942 after graduating from Carnegie Tech and was ordered to Washington, D.C. for top-secret duty: deciphering ENIGMA, the “unbreakable” German military code in World War II. Julia worked at the Naval Communications Annex in the SHARK section, which covered ENIGMA transmissions to and from German U-boats in the North Atlantic. After the war Julia lost her job as a cryptologist. “I never spoke about what I did for many years. Not even my husband knew what I did.”
- **Rose Ganter**, a front-line “Donut Dolly” deployed to Vietnam with the Red Cross for two years.
- **Rose McDermott**, who enlisted in the Air Force following her high school graduation in 1980, spent two years on active duty as an aircraft electrician, 12 years in the Air Force Reserves as an admin clerk for security police and in the Pa. Air National Guard as a nurse. Rose deployed in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where she was part of a Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCAT) and retired in 2005 as a major.
- **LaShaundra Hammonds**, a post-9/11 Marine Corps veteran who served two tours during her 7 years of active service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. After her service, she became the co-founder of

Hammonds Initiative, where she mentors young women in character development, leadership development, and conflict resolution. She is a public speaker who uses her voice to speak on the experiences of being an African American woman in the military and the importance of investing in our youth. She is a current recipient of The New Pittsburgh Courier 2018 Women of Excellence Award. LaShaundra is also a member of The American Legion Post 527 in Rankin, Pa., and a graduate of The Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

This program is free and open to the public but does not include admission to the History Center. Registration is encouraged at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

On Friday, Dec. 7, at noon, the History Center will host a moving and patriotic flag-folding ceremony in the museum's Great Hall in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day.

During the ceremony, visitors and local veterans will help to unfurl a giant 36-foot American flag and participate in the National Anthem and a moment of silence for those who served our country.

Flag ceremonies are included with regular museum admission and are presented as part of the History Center's **America 101** initiative, which engages and inspires the public to learn American history through public programs, educational outreach, and special exhibitions.

WHEN: **Women in the Military Panel**
Thursday, Dec. 6
7-9 p.m.

Pearl Harbor Day Flag Ceremony
Friday, Dec. 7
Noon to 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Heinz History Center
1212 Smallman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org



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