

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U.S. SENATOR TO PLAY DAILY TAPS AT THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL IN DC on MONDAY, APRIL 8th, 2024

Tribute will honor the U.S. Army's Female Telephone Operators, who are poised for Congressional Recognition

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission and the Doughboy Foundation will host U.S. Senator John Tester (D-Montana), as well as family members of the U.S. Army Hello Girls, for a special Daily Taps performance at the National World War I Memorial, in Washington, DC. This event takes place at 5pm on Monday, April 8th, 2024.

The ceremony will honor the legendary Female Telephone Operators, nicknamed the Hello Girls, of World War I. These heroes were considered the first women ever to officially serve in the U.S. Army.

In 1917, the Army needed people to to serve as Telephone Operators for the newly arriving American Expeditionary Force troops in France, so they recruited some 240 American women, for their skills in the budding telephone technology, and for their fluency in the French language. They deployed to the war from the United States in 1917 and served through the Paris Peace Conference in 1919.

These female telephone operators proved to be a great success and were highly lauded for the critical communication role they played in the war, patching through some 26 million calls. Sadly, they were denied their basic veterans rights by the U.S. Army after they returned to the United States, and for some 70 years after their service -- simply because they were women. This issue was eventually corrected by Congress in 1973, after 23 legislative attempts.

This special Daily Taps event will bring together U.S. Senator John Tester with descendants from original Hello Girls. Tester is an original co-sponsor of the Bill to award of a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War I Hello Girls. This legislative bill for the Congressional Gold Medal has the support of some 45 co-sponsors in the Senate, and 76 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives.

Daily Taps is sounded every day at 5pm, rain or shine, at the National World War I Memorial. However, this day's performance will be special, as it will be co-played by Senator Tester, who is a skilled musician, and by a female bugler, Amy McCabe, who will be dressed in the uniform of an original Hello Girl.

Like all the Daily Taps performances, this special dual-performance will be available live online, for public viewing. To learn more, and to watch the Daily Taps Ceremony, go to [Doughboy.org](https://doughboy.org)

The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission was established by Congress in 2013, to create public awareness regarding America's involvement, and sacrifice, in World War I. The Commission was also authorized by Congress to create the National World War I Memorial, in the Nation's Capital.

The Doughboy Foundation is a nonprofit partner to the Centennial Commission, with the mission to enhance the World War I Memorial experience. They do this through various ways: the performance of Daily Taps at the Memorial; expanding access to the Memorial via mobile apps; organizing signature events; and presenting Stories of Service, to encourage learning about America's pivotal role in the War that Changed the World.

For press information and to arrange interviews with key stakeholders and participants, please contact Chris Isleib at chris.isleib@worldwar1centennial.org, or at (301) 641-4060.

About the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission:
WW1CC.org

About the Doughboy Foundation:
Doughboy.org

To view Daily Taps online:
www.youtube.com/@DoughboyFoundation