During the Second World War, the United States assembled millions of new citizens, including women and minorities. The office of Women's Reserve was established on May 10, 1942. The women were known as WAVES. They served in the United States Navy, the United States Coast Guard, and the Women's Marine Corps. Many WAVES served in non-combat roles, such as clerical, administrative, and communication duties. They also served in combat roles, including nursing and medical duties. The WAVES were instrumental in supporting the war effort and helped expand the roles of women in the workforce. They were recognized for their contributions and were honored during the early 1970s with the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal. The WAVES were disbanded on November 10, 1978, and the women were given the same rights and benefits as other military veterans. The WAVES were an important part of the history of women's rights and military service.