

Woman's United States Navy Maternity Uniform Blouse and Skirt, 1999



While stationed at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, in the late 1990s, Susan Schulte Hatfield, of Kenton County, Kentucky, wore this maternity uniform. President Harry Truman signed an order in 1951 that authorized the armed forces to discharge pregnant soldiers. Growing numbers of female soldiers and sailors forced this issue to be readdressed, and in 1976, the Second District Court ruled that this was a violation of Fifth Amendment rights. By the 1980s, all branches of service had developed maternity uniforms.

Donated by Susan Hatfield, 2002.8.1

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."