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# When Janey Comes Marching Home: Portraits Of Women Combat Veterans



## Synopsis

Women are officially barred from combat in the American armed services, yet in today's wars, where there are no front lines, the ban on combat is virtually meaningless. More than in any previous conflict in our history, American women are engaging with the enemy, suffering injuries, and even sacrificing their lives in the line of duty. When Janey Comes Marching Home juxtaposes 48 photographs (see accompanying file) by Sascha Pflaeging with oral histories collected by Laura Browder to provide a dramatic portrait of women at war. Women from all five branches of the military share their stories here - stories that are by turns moving, comic, thought-provoking, and profound. Seeing their faces in stunning color portraits and reading what they have to say about loss, comradeship, conflict, and hard choices will change the ways we think about women and war. Serving in a combat zone is an all-encompassing experience that is transformative, life-defining, and difficult to leave behind. By coming face-to-face with women veterans, we who are outside that world can begin to get a sense of how the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have impacted their lives and how their stories may ripple out and influence the experiences of all American women. Laura Browder is the Tyler and Alice Haynes Professor of American Studies at the University of Richmond. She is the author of *Her Best Shot: Women and Guns in America* and is the writer and coproducer of the documentary film *Gone to Texas: The Lives of Forrest Carter*, based on her book *Slippery Characters: Ethnic Impersonators and American Identities*. Sascha Pflaeging is a freelance photographer for clients such as Getty Images, CBS, and *Us* magazine.

## Book Information

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#967 in Books > History > Military > Afghan War

## Customer Reviews

I think it's important for readers to gain greater insight into the valor and service of military women. I appreciate the book and its depiction of women combat veterans. The book now rests on my coffee table; serving as a memoir and important conversational piece. Thank you!

Maybe I was too quick to order this book, but it is not what I expected. It is more of a 'reading' book and less of a 'photo' book. There are photos, but they are studio-type posed photos, not in-the-field action photos. The articles are interesting, but I guess I just don't have time for all the reading. Anybody know of some good photo books on women military?

I bought this book because the author was speaking at the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project annual luncheon at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, NC. The book is very well done, great photographs and riveting first person stories of women's service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dr. Browder's remarks at the luncheon highlighted the stories in her book. I would highly recommend this for school and public libraries as well as for anyone interested in military history.

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