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## Discussion Guide for Teachers

This video is an interview with Mrs. Beverly Washburn, a long-time resident of Potsdam, New York, on April 15, 2011. She is an extremely intriguing woman who found her way in life and worked hard to achieve what she wanted. She went from living in a rural setting with her family to joining the Air Force. Mrs. Washburn was one of the founding members of the Women's Air Force Band in the early 1950s. The first female tuba player in an Air Force band, as well as the ensemble's assistant conductor, she pushed aside the social norms of her time to do what made her truly happy and fulfilled.

### Middle School Audience

1. Do you know what jobs are available to people who want to join the Air Force (*other than flying airplanes and being in the Air Force band*)?
2. Do you think joining the Air Force was the right thing for Mrs. Washburn to do? Why or why not?
3. How did Mrs. Washburn go against what was expected of her when she joined the Air Force?
4. Do you think Mrs. Washburn should have gotten an honorable discharge from the Air Force for becoming pregnant?
5. How is traveling around the world different now from the era when Mrs. Washburn travelled?

### High School Audience

1. Why did Mrs. Washburn want to leave and join the Air Force? (*Mother, money for college education*)
2. How was her life in high school the same or different from your own?
3. How was her struggle to get an education the same or different from what yours might be?
4. Think about how Mrs. Washburn's "friends" labeled her in high school for joining the Air Force. What do you think of people who join the military right after graduation?
5. Do you think it is fair that Mrs. Washburn needed to have an honorable discharge after she became pregnant? How is that different from the Air Force's rules today?
6. What were some of the struggles women had to face with regards to music?