



Oveta Culp Hobby: Colonel, Cabinet Member, Philanthropist (Louann Atkins Temple Women & Culture (Numbered))

Debra L. Winegarten

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Winner, Gold Medal for Biography, Military Writers Society of America, 2015

Oveta Culp Hobby (1905-1995) had a lifetime of stellar achievement. During World War II, she was asked to build a women's army from scratch—and did. Hobby became Director of the Women's Army Corps and the first Army woman to earn the rank of colonel. President Eisenhower chose her as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, making her the second woman in history to be appointed to a president's cabinet. When she wasn't serving in the government, Hobby worked with her husband, former Texas governor William P. Hobby, to lead a media empire that included the *Houston Post* newspaper and radio and TV stations. She also supported the Houston community in many ways, from advocating for civil rights for African Americans to donating generously to the Houston Symphony and the Museum of Fine Arts.

Oveta Culp Hobby is the first biography of this important woman. Written for middle school readers, it traces her life from her childhood in Killeen to her remarkable achievements in Washington, DC, and Houston. Debra Winegarten provides the background to help young adult readers understand the times in which Hobby lived and the challenges she faced as a woman in nontraditional jobs. She shows how Hobby opened doors for women to serve in the military and in other professions that still benefit women today. Most of all, *Oveta Culp Hobby* will inspire young adults to follow their own dreams and turn them into tangible reality.

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