



Photo by D. QUINCY WHITNEY

The west face of the Bell Tower features women in uniform.

Memorial Day

Celebrating 'Lady Leathernecks' 100th and women in the military

"Semper Fidelis." – Marine Corps Motto

"Semper Fidelis" – or "Semper Fi" – means "Always Faithful." Though no one knows how this famous motto came to the Marine Corps, these two words have, nevertheless, taken on the permanence of New Hampshire granite. And what is left unsaid is perhaps even more important – there are no conditions. It is not "sometimes faithful" or "usually faithful." It is not negotiable or relative. It is reliable, consistent, and absolute, something you can count on with your life – literally.

As one Marine, Cam Beck, put it, "Interestingly, the sim-



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ilarity of the phrase and the calculated neglect to specify its parameters seems to

strengthen it. Marines pride themselves on their straight-forward mission and steadfast dedication to accomplish it."

The very same can be said of the resilience, determination and flexibility of women who sacrificed their lives for their country, women for whom the bell tolls – literally – at the Women's Memorial Bell Tower at Cathedral of the Pines, in Rindge, New Hampshire.

At 4 p.m. Wednesday, the Cathedral of the Pines will host a special Memorial Day Service to honor and bless the Bell Tower in honor of all American women who gave