



Student Name:
Class Period:
Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Oveta Culp Hobby. Then, answer questions about it.

Oveta Culp Hobby 1905–1995

Oveta Culp Hobby's fascination with government began when she was a young girl, and it continued through her long and interesting life. She was born in Killeen in 1905, the daughter of state legislator Ike Culp.

Oveta Culp received her law degree in 1925 from The University of Texas at Austin. While studying, she served as the state's legislative parliamentarian. In 1931, she married former Texas Governor William P. Hobby. The Hobbys published the *Houston Post*, and had two children. But when the United States entered World War II, Oveta Hobby was asked to organize a women's support section for the Army. She agreed, and through her efforts, more than 150,000 women served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. In January 1945, Hobby was awarded the Army's Distinguished Service Medal for her work.

After the war, Hobby returned to Houston. But in 1953, President Eisenhower appointed her to lead the newly created Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, where she once again organized an entirely new agency of the federal government.

Hobby died in 1995, leaving an inspiring record of civic service. Today, her words about women and the war effort are inscribed on the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington. The inscription reads, "Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women ... This was a people's war, and everyone was in it."

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Oveta Culp Hobby. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What award did Oveta Culp Hobby receive for organizing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps during World War II?
2. Hobby became the second woman to serve as a cabinet secretary when she was appointed to lead what newly created cabinet department?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Making Inferences.** When Hobby said, "Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women..." what do you think she meant?