

# MILITARY Women's BULLETIN



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## Women in World War I

*April 17, 2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States entry into World War I. In recognition of that anniversary the following is reprinted with permission from The National Museum of American History, Smithsonian. Appropriate source references follow the article.*

Women have long been involved in the military during times of war, though not always in a capacity that we might recognize as “traditionally” military. For centuries women have followed armies, many of them soldiers’ wives, providing indispensable services such as cooking, nursing, and laundry—in fact, “armies could not have functioned as well, perhaps could not have functioned at all, without the service of women.”<sup>1</sup>

With the onset of World War I, women took on these same roles and newer ones, but their service during this conflict was significantly different from that of earlier wars. Thousands of women in the United States formed and/or joined organizations that worked to bring relief to the war-torn countries in Europe, even before official American entry into the war in April 1917. After the United States joined the Allies, women continued to join these organizations and dedicate themselves to supporting and expanding the war effort. These groups were highly organized, much like the military, which helped women garner respect from their fellow citizens and have their patriotic endeavors taken seriously.

Aside from their mass involvement in these voluntary organizations and efforts, a key difference between women’s service during World War I and that of previous wars was the class of women involved. Typically women who followed armies were from the working classes of society, but during the Great War, women from all classes served in many different capacities. Upper class women were the primary founders and members of voluntary wartime organizations, particularly because they could afford to devote so much of their time and money to these efforts. Middle- and lower-class women also participated in these organizations and drives, although they were more likely to be serving as nurses with the military or replacing men in their jobs on the home front as the men went off to war. For the first time in American history, women from every part of the class spectrum were serving in the war in some capacity.

Another significant change to women’s service during the Great War is that American civilian women donned uniforms. The uniforms allowed women to look the part and claim credibility for their services, as well as to be taken seriously by others; many women saw their wartime service as a way to claim full citizenship, and the uniforms symbolized “their credentials as citizens engaged in wartime service.”<sup>2</sup>

Other women donned uniforms because of their association with the military—World War I was the first time in American history in which women were officially attached to arms of the American military and government agencies. Yeomen (F) served with the Navy and the Marine Corps, while the Army Nurse Corps was attached to the Army. In France, 223 American women popularly known as “Hello Girls” served as long-distance switchboard operators for the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

*(References, sources and citations are on page 5)*



*Rear Adm. Victor Blue (left center) chief of the Bureau of Navigation, inspects yeomen (F) on the grounds of the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C., in 1918. (19-11386) Source: <https://www.archives.gov>*

## Don't Forget!

**Unit President Status Report DUE 1 Jun**

**State Director Status Report DUE 1 Jul**

**Volunteer Hours DUE 1 Jul**

**June Bulletin Input DUE 1 May**

**Details on all reports are in the Procedures Manual at [www.milwomen.org](http://www.milwomen.org)**

## Presidential Ponderings

by Patty Parks, National President

Recently, one of our members complained to me about the difficulty surrounding bylaw changes. I did not have a ready answer for her, so I did some research.

Bylaws are an organization's internal operating rules. They are generally concerned with the guidance of members, meetings and the election and authority of officers. So, the bylaws protect the membership by stipulating membership and meeting requirements, and by regulating the organization's elected officers.



As an IRS-approved, 501(c)(19) nonprofit veterans service organization, MWAN is required to perform and operate at standards set forth by Federal tax law. While the IRS doesn't require specific language in the bylaws, the wording must be precise, or the meaning may be open to interpretation. Loose interpretations could cause our organization to operate outside tax law boundaries which would result in the loss of our Federal nonprofit standing.

As with civic, state and national laws, organizational bylaws periodically must be modified to keep abreast of societal and technological changes. However, those modifications must be for practical reasons, and need to be thoroughly researched and precisely written. The difficulty surrounding Bylaw changes is a result of the need to protect the membership by presenting new or modified bylaws which are well-examined and succinct enough to withstand the scrutiny of the governed membership.

MWAN national Bylaw changes **ARE BEING SOLICITED NOW** for consideration at the September 2017 Board of Directors mid-term meeting. A copy of the MWAN Bylaws is available on our website: [www.milwomen.org](http://www.milwomen.org) under the "Documents" tab.

Why not take time to review our current bylaws and put into motion any changes you think need to be made. For more information about how to submit Bylaw change recommendations, or for a printed copy of our Bylaws, please contact Bylaw Chair Cathy Gerolimatos at [greekirish@hotmail.com](mailto:greekirish@hotmail.com) or 813-677-1495. Submission deadline for review at mid-term is 31 July 2017.

## Volunteer Viewpoints

by Diane Turcotte Culleton, National Representative for Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS)

I will be attending the 71<sup>st</sup> National Advisory Committee (NAC) VAVS National Conference the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2017, in Tampa, Florida. It will be an honor for me to represent MWAN as one of 20 organizations on the NAC. I will also be presenting MWAN's donation of \$200 to the James H. Parke Memorial Fund.

April is that time of year again. All VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives are required to receive their Annual Joint Review so please contact your Chief of Voluntary Services to schedule your appointment and fulfill this requirement. It's also a great opportunity to discuss the previous years' involvement and plans for the upcoming year.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to volunteer at [diane.turcotte30@gmail.com](mailto:diane.turcotte30@gmail.com) or call me at 352-410-6167 (winter telephone #) or 207-399-1696 (cell phone).

# Officer's Call

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Advice

by Gloria Wix, National 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President

Hello Ladies! I hope you all are out there doing what you can to find and sign up new members. In my last column, I gave a few tips on where to find possible new members. I follow my own advice to advertise who we are, and it works!

While at a Nashville Predators hockey game, my husband, Max, and I had on jackets with USMC and MWAN patches and pins on our hats. We passed a couple of "staff" people and one of the women gave Max a call of "Semper Fi". She had been in the Marines! I whipped out my business card and began to recruit. She's very interested in seeing what we're about and said she had been hoping to find a way to get together with other women veterans.

Recently Max and I attended the swearing in of our new mayor (a Vietnam Veteran). Our Vietnam Veterans group (VVA), was there to cheer him on. A VVA member was sitting behind us with his family and it turned out that his daughter had been in the Marines. I gave her one of my cards. We started a conversation and she is interested. She also knows several women veterans living in our area. All are potential new members!!

Stay happy and healthy, & **KEEP RECRUITING!**

## Heartspring Project

by Jeanne Hooper, National Chair

For new members & those who need a refresher, our organization has participated in the Heartspring Project for many years. We collect Boxtops for Education for Heartspring School based in Wichita, Kansas. So, what is Heartspring?

It is a very special school for children with developmental disabilities ranging from autism to hearing loss. To learn more, look them up at [www.heartspring.org](http://www.heartspring.org). This is a national project in which all units and members-at-large may participate.

Since last report, we have received more than 2,000 Boxtops and 72 Bonus Boxtops to send to Heartspring. Each Boxtop is worth 10 cents, so in real money, \$207.20 has been collected for Heartspring. Most recently, Units 52, 151 and 152 made the largest contributions with Units 9 and 94 being the most consistent contributors. Other contributors are Units 55, 70 and 74. **Thank you all!**

How can you help? Look for Boxtops on cereal, granola bars, Progresso soups, Green Giant vegetables, and many other products and Tyson labels on frozen products.



Carefully cut them out and trim as well as possible. Expired Boxtops cannot be used, but most are good for several years. Put them in a baggie or envelope and send them to me. If you REALLY want to help, you can separate them in groups of 50, as that is how I must turn them in. Thanks so much for helping with this worthwhile cause!

**National Officer & Staff contact info in on Page 10.**

## Volunteer Hours

by Kathy Desjarlais, Volunteer Hours Chair

It's been said we continue to learn as long as we're on the sunny side of the grass, and that seems truer and truer every day – or perhaps I'm just relearning things I've forgotten. Either way, as your new Volunteer Hours Chair, I thought I should not only introduce myself but also review what information is needed from each unit and member-at-large concerning your volunteer hours.

First, my name is Kathy Desjarlais. I retired after 24 wonderful years in the Navy and then worked for Corning Incorporated in upstate New York for two and a half years. After relocating to Tennessee, I ran my own business for 10 years.

Now I'm not only your new Volunteer Hours Chair but am busier than ever with all the volunteer work I do with both Veteran and non-Veteran organizations.

Let's do a quick review on what volunteering is. Many of you might be doing volunteer work but not recognize it as such. For instance, do you realize that teaching Sunday School is volunteer work? When you help your neighbor take in her groceries or drop everything to pick up a friend who was just in a car wreck, not only are you a good friend and neighbor, but you're also doing volunteer work.

MWAN divides volunteer hours into three categories:

1) Veteran Administration or "VA" Hours – This is pretty self-explanatory. Any hours clocked in at VA facilities and/or VA-sponsored functions are reported under this category.

2) Veterans Service Support – This is the time you devote to Veteran-centric activities such as Veterans Day Parade, meeting of Veterans organizations (including MWAN), and basically any activity where you assist Veterans or active/reserve personnel which is not reported through any other Veterans organization.

## Proposed Bylaw Amendments

by Cathy Gerolimatos, Bylaws Chair

Do you want to see a change to a particular sentence, paragraph, section or article of MWAN's current bylaws? Well, **NOW IS THE TIME!**

Amendment Proposals are reviewed by MWAN's Board of Directors at the Mid-Term meeting (in September 2017) and a determination is made whether the proposal should be put before the membership.

When submitting your proposal, please cite the article, section and paragraph you want amended and the reason for the change. I am your advocate at the Mid-Term meeting. In order for me to adequately speak for you, I need to know and understand the reason, purpose and intent of the proposed amendment. If there is background



3) Community Service Support – All volunteer work that doesn't fall into the first two categories is reported here. This might include making dinner for a sick friend; fundraising for non-Veteran organizations; stocking shelves at your local food bank; making blankets, hats, scarves, etc. for the homeless, a hospital or church; donating time to a thrift store; teaching that Sunday School class, and any other activity along the same lines.

How you collect and maintain your hours is up to you and/or your local unit. However the annual report (1 June 2016 – 31 May 2017) from units and MALs is due to me **NO LATER THAN 1 JULY**. Please be timely. Email submission to me: **gkd9@aol.com** is preferred, but you may also mail the forms to me: **Kathy Desjarlais, 313 Andy Drive, Drummonds TN 38023-8923**. The volunteer hours form is on page 54 of the MWAN Procedures Manual. The manual is on our website at [www.milwomen.org](http://www.milwomen.org). If you do not use a computer you may call me at 901-837-4736 and I'll be happy to mail a form to you.

information, a website, etc., that is the source of your recommendation, I will need that as well. Please include your name, unit (if applicable) and telephone number in case I have questions or need clarity.

I especially encourage our new members to offer suggestions and recommendations. Often, it is a fresh set of eyes that offers insight on how we can best improve as an organization. I want to hear from everyone with an idea.

Proposed amendments may be submitted by email (preferred) to: **greekirish@hotmail.com** or by postal mail: **Cathy Gerolimatos, 12116 Buffington Lane, Riverview FL 33579**. If your submission is handwritten, please make certain it is legible.

The current Bylaws are online at [www.milwomen.org](http://www.milwomen.org). If you do not use a computer you may call me at (813) 677-1495 and I can arrange to mail you a copy. It is that simple.

**The DEADLINE for Bylaw Amendment proposals is: 31 July 2017**



### New Supply Locker Item American Veteran Wrist Bracelet

Our latest addition is a stretch bracelet made of lightweight wooden beads and tiles which feature military and patriotic symbols.

The bracelet easily slides over your hand and since it is elastic, one size fits most! At only \$5 each, they make great gifts for veterans of any service!



## Sunshine Region VI Update

By Jouay Koppari, Region VI Representative

In January, I was guest speaker at a military women veterans, family and friends supporters meeting in Lecanto, Florida. Several Unit 55 members also attended. MWAN National VAVS Rep Diane Culleton also talked with the group about the VA's volunteer program.



MWAN members at Lecanto included (left to right): Rhonda Crawford, Jouay Koppari, Diane Culleton, Mary Atzert, Elizabeth Cereska, and Connie White

There were about twenty people there who were very enthusiastic to hear about our organization. I provided brochures and applications to those interested in joining, and pens and stickers to everyone.

On 23 February 2017 I visited Lake Country, Unit 74 of MWAN and talked with them about recruiting. I left them with brochures, posters, pens and keychain clips to help them in their recruiting efforts. I enjoyed my visit with them. They were very enthusiastic about the organization and happy the change was made so some of them (Army and Air Force members) can now officially vote, in not only the

unit but the organization. Below is a picture of me with Lake Country Unit members.



Back row: l-r: Kathleen Keely, Sue Mason, Cheri Tremarco, Jay Belch, Maryln Pease, Patricia Tremarco, Pat Getchell Front row: l-r: Bunnie Davis, Phyllis Kurtz, Pat Wright, Mary Close, Jouay Koppari

Most of my contact with region members is through email and snail mail. However, it is a daunting task when snail mail is returned with no forwarding address or an email address is simply rejected. It is very important to keep your unit, state director and National Executive Secretary informed of address, email and phone number changes. Also, Military Women's Bulletin is sent via Bulk Mail so it will not be forwarded.

I'm in the process of coordinating a celebration luncheon. We will recognize the birthday/anniversary for women in the Army, Air Force, and Navy, as well as belated recognition for the Women Marines anniversary and an early birthday for Coast Guard women.

The luncheon will be in Tampa during July. The exact date, time and location will be published within the next few weeks. For planning purposes, please let me know if you plan to attend.

I welcome any suggestions or concerns you have regarding Region VI. My email is [jouayk@verizon.net](mailto:jouayk@verizon.net) and my phone number is **813-684-1668**.

## In Memory of Ruby Homick

By Cathy Gerolimatos, Unit 55 Treasurer



Born in Toronto, Canada, 92 years ago, Ruby Homick, a 27-year member of WAVES National (WN) and Military Women Across the Nation (MWAN) died two months ago.

Within two years of joining WN in 1990, Ruby fully immersed herself in various leadership roles. She was

instrumental in forming Tampa Bay WAVES Unit 55 – and serving as Unit President from 1991-1994. She then served two terms as Region XII Representative/Florida State Director (1996-2000) followed by a two-year appointment as WN Volunteer Services Representative (2000-2002).

On the heels of that tour, Ruby was elected as WN 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice



Ruby Homick (left) and Barbara Folk

President (2002-2004) and followed on with a two-year appointment as WN Public Relations Chair. Trying her hand as Editor of the Unit 55 newsletter *The Scuttlebutt*, Ruby was without a doubt not only proud to have served in the Navy, but was personally dedicated to the success of WN and today's MWAN.

Ruby was committed to the ideal of providing assistance to women veterans. She led with passion and a steady hand, and seized every opportunity to get WN into the local newspapers. Whether screen printing T-shirts with a WAVES portrait along with "My Grandma was a WAVE"; sponsoring guide dogs for Paws for Patriots, or hosting garage sales to raise funds, Ruby worked tirelessly to keep the organization visible. One of her lasting legacies is the annual tradition of distributing poinsettias throughout the James A. Haley VA Hospital during December.

Whatever it took Ruby was there: A friend. A leader. A mentor. A strong advocate for women veterans, WN and MWAN. She will be missed.

## Signal Corps "Hello Girls" of World War I

Source: [www.signal.army.mil](http://www.signal.army.mil)

In order to release men for the front lines in November 1917, the Army recruited women telephone operators to serve overseas. The women became members of the Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit 25 – perhaps better known as the "Hello Girls." In order to operate switchboards in France and England, they needed to be fluent in both French and English.

More than 7,000 women applied – most from the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) – and 450 were selected. The women received military and Signal Corps training after which they purchased their Army regulation uniforms complete with "U.S." crests, Signal Corps crests, and "dog tags." In the spring of 1918, the first thirty-three operators were on their way to Europe where they were issued gas masks and steel helmets.



Soon unit members were operating telephone exchanges of the American Expeditionary Forces in Paris, Chaumont, and seventy-five other cities and towns in France as well as in London, Southampton, and Winchester, England.

After the Armistice, the women were denied veterans status and were considered civilians working for the Army. This perplexed the women because they had been required to wear regulation uniforms, they were sworn into service and had to follow all Army regulations.

Following more than 50 years of persistence by one of the operators, legislation was secured to award them veteran's status and in 1978 President Jimmy Carter signed the bill giving the women their deserved recognition.

### Women in World War I (Page 1, References & Citations)

The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes with sources cited:

<sup>1</sup> Barton C. Hacker, "Women and Military Institutions in Early Modern Europe: A Reconnaissance," *Signs* 6, no. 4 (Summer 1981): 644.

<sup>2</sup> Kimberly Jenson, "Volunteers, Auxiliaries, and Women's Mobilization: The First World War and Beyond (1914-1939)," in *A Companion to Women's Military History*, ed. Barton C. Hacker and Margaret Vining (Boston: Brill, 2012), 215.

Image Source: W.B. King, "Hold Up Your End," 1919, "World War I-Era Posters," Center for Military History, U.S.Army.jpg file, (accessed April 30, 2015).

[http://www.history.army.mil/art/Posters/WWI/Your\\_End.jpg](http://www.history.army.mil/art/Posters/WWI/Your_End.jpg)

Source: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/women-in-wwi/introduction>

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Send an email to [secretary@milwomen.org](mailto:secretary@milwomen.org)

Put "Go Paperless!" in the subject box  
Include your name,  
MWAN ID number & email address.

Instead of a paper copy,  
Your next newsletter will arrive by email,  
in **COLOR** on **June 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Thanks for helping us save trees & money!

For your convenience, past and current issues of  
Military Women's Bulletin are also available at  
[www.milwomen.org](http://www.milwomen.org)

*Members are responsible for keeping  
their current email addresses on file with the  
MWAN Executive Secretary.*

## Save money & help raise funds!



See the Supply Locker Order Form for

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# Sound Off!

## KEYSTONE WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #6, (PA)** - Our members have been very active. Winter has been mild and we're out and about, volunteering and taking part in various activities. Several of us attended a Veteran's Night production at the Media Theater, where all veterans & their family & friends were treated to a private reception prior to honoring a local combat veteran (Bob Dimond) on stage.

Jeanne Lemasters visited a WWI exhibit in Philadelphia, where various roles of women in the military were demonstrated.

**For meeting information, contact Ruthie Severino at 610-356-8956.**

## SAN DIEGO STARS & STRIPES

**Unit #36 (CA)** - Our February Meeting was held at VFW Post 2422 in Coronado with 13 members and one guest present. As always, all present joined in the pre-luncheon activity of neck pillow stuffing with our numbers now at about 4,892. We are also preparing about 100 pillows for the annual Wounded Warrior Paralympics.

The charter was draped in memory of two of our members - Jeannie Dicks and Clara Akers, both will be deeply missed. Several members attended the Memorial Service for Jeannie in Oceanside on 25 February.

Our meeting was a little shorter than anticipated due to absence of the guest speaker but all present were given time to speak on what they had to talk about of interest to the attendees. Information regarding the Regional Conference was discussed and updated information will be in the next unit newsletter.

Next meeting is 1 April at the MCRD Museum San Diego. **For unit information contact Roxanne Jones at 619-545-6546, 616-274-1606 or roxanne.jones@score.com.**

## SEA BREEZES

**Unit #52 (FL)** - Sea Breezes held their annual Christmas Party in December at the Grande Lagoon Yacht Club in Pensacola. We were pleased that President Patty Parks journeyed to join us, and we hope she enjoyed the party as much as we did! A regular meeting was held in January. President Laura White recently resigned as she is returning home to California. We wish her "Fair Winds and Following Seas!"

## VOLUNTEER UNIT

**UNIT #94 (TN)** - Unit 94 members try to schedule a fun activity together in the non-meeting months. We recently went to a local art painting studio where we were taught how to paint a picture using acrylics on canvas. All the pictures came out surprisingly well. We brought drinks and snacks and had a great afternoon.



Volunteer unit members (& others) show off their artwork.

## PASCO COUNTY WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #104 (FL)** - On 28 December 2016, our Unit was privileged to host MWAN President Patty Jo Parks and our Sister Unit #55 of Tampa, FL. Patty shared with us her goals for our organization and provided some suggestions for recruiting new members. We are all wearing our Female Veteran buttons when we go out in public in hopes of initiating conversations that would lead to new members. It was also great to meet all our Unit #55 Sisters, hopefully we can do some volunteer activities together in the future.



Left to Right: Carol Goodlin-Couture, Judi Barrett, Linda Roth and Patty Parks

Our unit continues to support the Baldomero Lopez VA home. We have made numerous visits to the facility, including dropping off toiletries and hygiene products. On Valentine's Day, we were invited to a luncheon at the local VFW to show appreciation for our service.

Our meetings are the third Wednesday of each month. Contact us for location. And, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1027275757293622/>

## Region IV Representative Needed

Region includes: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey & Delaware

MWAN Bylaws stipulate applicant must be a current or former Regional Representative, Alternate Regional Representative, State Director, Alternate State Director or State Organizer. A Board of Directors (BOD) waiver may be obtained if necessary. A Regional Representative may hold a State Director position concurrently.

**To apply or for more info contact: Patty Parks**  
**pattyjoparks@yahoo.com or 423-326-0839**

National Officers with a vote on the BOD are **NOT** eligible for this position.

## OCEAN STATE

**Unit #118 (RI)** - 2017 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Ocean State Unit 118 and big plans are in store for the June banquet. The Anniversary Committee met at Ginny Hanson's house on 23 January and discussed preparations while enjoying a delicious soup and salad dinner.



The Anniversary Committee met at Ginny Hanson's. Left to Right: President Ginny Hanson, Gretchen Woodard, Chaplain Lois Lepak, Treasurer Shirley Hill.

The banquet will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June at the Naval Station Newport Officer's Club. Attendees will enjoy a buffet lunch followed by the presentation of the Rhode Island Military Woman of the Year Award and speeches by the guests of honor. We hope all Unit 118 members will make plans to attend!

For meeting information please contact Margaret Pedlow Smith at 504-756-4570 or email at [mpedlowsmith@gmail.com](mailto:mpedlowsmith@gmail.com).

## MILITARY WOMEN OF TIDEWATER

**Unit #152 (VA)** – As the old year slipped into a new one, the ladies of Unit 152 spent time celebrating and remembering.

Many of the ladies braved a cold December morning laying wreaths at the graves of local veterans. The annual wreath laying ceremony at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Veterans Memorial Cemetery is a tradition that has become very special to the Unit.

ISC Frank Cheromiah and Kathy Goodall render honors to a former VFW Commander → Karen Rannings of HWS and Jo-Anne Teel help serve guests at the Wreath Laying Ceremony ↓



In January, we shared an afternoon at the home of Martha Kastler celebrating the Unit and the assistance we can continually do for local veterans. After some wonderful food, never ending homemade ice cream, (thank you Jerry Carvey), and a very heated ornament exchange game, hands were high as our auctioneers took the floor and the

# Sound Off!

bidding began. At the end of the day we celebrated that we raised over \$2,000 for future MWT 152 work.

We meet monthly, at VFW 4809, Norfolk, VA. For meeting information, contact Dassa Carvey, at [Dassa\\_2@verizon.net](mailto:Dassa_2@verizon.net), or (757) 363-3059.



Left-Right: Kathy Montgomery, Molly Bergeron-Conway, Marie Bliss, Elaine Musick, Jo Heimerl, & Betty Hand w/back to camera. 2<sup>nd</sup> photo:



Our auctioneers April Maletz (left) and Betty Hand).

## SALT RIVER MILITARY WOMEN

**Unit #155 (AZ)** - Eight members from Salt River Military Women--Sandy Engels, Lori Elander, Kathy Laurier, Barb Klinedinst, Gabe Forsberg (chairing this since 2009), Martha Alderman, Carol Culbertson, and Marion Cartland--were among the volunteers for this year's Stand-down. Over 2,000 veterans were served during the 2-day event, and it is estimated that 10% were women.

Women veterans have a separate entry into the Stand-down so they can avoid standing in lines with male vets. Eligibility, Registration & Bag Check services were also available to women vets in this secured area. When other services outside of the women's area were needed, a female escort was provided to her so that she was not alone.

Our unit meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month at the Arizona State Veterans' Home. Please visit our website at [www.srmw.org](http://www.srmw.org) for more information.

(Unit #155 Photos are on Page 8)

# Sound Off!

## SALT RIVER MILITARY WOMEN Unit #155 (AZ) (Continued)



Kathy Laurier (left) and Lori Elander ready to greet women Veterans



Gabe Forsberg and children's book author, Rodo Sfranac

## TRISTATE WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #157 (TN)** - Charter unit member Laura Holder received the unit's first Ladybug Spirit Award at the February meeting. The award, created by Unit Treasurer Patty Parks in memory of former WAVES National member *U.S. Navy Personnelman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Cheryl Corbin, 1962-2000*, recognizes the spirit of helpfulness, volunteerism and selfless support. Laura definitely exudes all of these qualities in abundance. Unit members are free to nominate any non-elected unit member for the award which will be presented annually. Awardees receive an engraved award to display, a jeweled ladybug lapel pin and a sheet of ladybug stickers.

Several unit members were among the 120+ veterans who attended the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council Awards Banquet in February at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel. Since most of the gals were sporting their "I'm

a Woman Veteran. Are You?" buttons, three potential members were located.



LadyBug Spirit Awardee Laura Holder, left, with award founder Patty Parks.



Banquet Attendees: Standing (L-R) Judith Stringfield, Mary Lambert, Laura Holder, Gigi Albi, Nettie Hudson and Bobbie Mallard. Seated (L-R) Patty Parks, Penny Manna and Renee Chisholm. Insert (L-R) Sylvia James and Deborah James

## NEW ENGLAND MILITARY WOMEN

**Unit #158 (RI)** - Unit 158 delivered afghans knitted by Gloria Perrino, during the Veterans Affairs "National Salute to Veterans" in February 2017. Pictured below Dorothy DiLullo, Unit 158's Fundraising Coordinator presents a "Thank You" letter to Gloria written by an Air Force Vietnam-Era Veteran in appreciation for Gloria's hard work.



**Camilla Morris**

**Member-at-Large, Fremont CA** - On Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, Sister Camilla Morris turned 100 years old. But perhaps it is not technically correct to say it was a once-in-a-lifetime event, because the parties went on for weeks! From the Crab Feed at St. Joseph's Parish on the 4<sup>th</sup>; to celebrations, lunches and desserts on the birthday itself and the following week; to a grand party with sisters, family and friends on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>; to the Motherhouse celebration of February birthdays and feasts on the 16<sup>th</sup>, this birthday spun out of control! And it's all for a worthy cause -- 100 years is not to be sneezed at!



February 2017

A very Happy Birthday to Sister Camilla, who has been a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family since 1952. Special "Thanks!" to Sister Carol Crater for sharing all the photos & details!



Last July, Sister Camilla's family took her to an Oakland Athletics baseball game. The "A's" were honoring Veterans and Sister Camilla threw the ceremonial first pitch (inset)!



Come join us for a day of sharing, learning, and networking among fellow active and veteran military women from all services across all decades!

Save the Date and make your room reservations now at the Handlery Hotel!

Rooms must be reserved with the hotel NLT 1 July 2017 in order to get the discounted MILWOMEN Region ONE Conference Rate of \$109/night.

Handlery Hotel  
950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 298-0511

**State Directors Needed**

Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia & Wyoming

MWAN Bylaws stipulate applicant must live in the state she represents OR be a member of a currently chartered unit in the state she represents.

To apply or for more info contact: **Patty Parks**  
[pattyjoparks@yahoo.com](mailto:pattyjoparks@yahoo.com) or **423-326-0839**



**Women Veterans participation in Million Veteran Program vital to improved care**

*By Kayla Williams, Director of VA's Center for Women Veterans*

Women have been underrepresented in much biological and medical research, leading to knowledge gaps that can result into problems including misdiagnoses and drugs that may affect men and women differently. Although this has been changing in recent years, our minority status in the Veteran population can make it much more difficult for VA researchers to recruit enough women to get statistically valid results. By volunteering to participate in VA research, women Veterans can make a big difference for other Veterans of today – and the future.

One fantastic opportunity is the Million Veteran Program (MVP). The goal of MVP is to enable genomic discoveries that can translate to improvements in the healthcare of Veterans – and the nation at large – and to create the foundation for precision medicine in VA. It aims to build one of the world's largest databases of genomic, clinical, lifestyle, and military exposure information by enrolling at least one million participants, and is over halfway there. Unfortunately, so far only 8 percent of MVP enrollees are women. The goal is to increase the number to at least 11 percent in order to have enough women involved for the results to be statistically valid. That means that we have to sign up at higher rates than men, since we represent less than 10 percent of the Veteran population.

Veterans who are users of the VA health care system at one of the enrolling sites are able to participate at this time. Additional sites will become available as the program expands. **For more information call 1-866-441-6075.**

**Military Women Across the Nation National Officers & Staff 2016 – 2018**

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**Miscellaneous Information** ❖ 1. Military Women's Bulletin is the official Newsletter for Military Women Across the Nation, Inc., a nonprofit, veteran-service organization originally chartered in California in 1979 by co-founders Jeanne Palermo, Loda Mae Dobbins and Esther Govorchin. ❖ 2. This newsletter is published six times a year: Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct. and Dec. by Coastal Printing Inc., 3 Graf Road Newburyport MA 01950. Items for publication may be submitted via email to the newsletter editor (address above) and must be received 1st of the month prior to publication. ❖ 3. National Dues: \$25.00 per calendar year - 1 Jan to 31 Dec. Unit members submit to Unit Treasurer; Members-at-Large submit directly to National Treasurer. ❖ 4. Membership cards will be issued to each NEW member directly upon payment of dues, with a copy to unit treasurers if applicable. Regular members will not be issued membership cards annually. Life members will be issued a permanent Life Membership card. ❖ 5. National conventions are biennial. ❖ 6. Submit all changes of address to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible. Returned Newsletters will NOT be re-mailed.

**ADDRESS CHANGE FORM**

**OLD Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NEW Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Effective Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Barbara Turner, Executive Secretary  
9105 Shoshone Trail, Flower Mound TX 75022-7040

Newsletters are sent via **BULK MAIL** and will NOT be forwarded by the Post Office. Please include MWAN on ALL Address Changes in order to keep receiving your Military Women's Bulletin. If possible, please send the address change 60 days before moving.  
To have your newsletter mailed **FIRST CLASS** which includes forwarding service, please send your request along with \$7.50 to our National Treasurer (listed above).

# MWAN Supply Locker

April 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (why not use a return address labels here!)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Did you circle the type/size and/or color on items?? Double Check please! \*\*Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Price per piece...X Number you want = total cost for item(s)

## PATCHES

MWAN 2 1/2" (caps) \$3 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN 3" (shirts) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN 8 1/2" (vest) \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 US Navy WAVES Veteran (circle) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Patches, Navy Flag or Services (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Women Vets Patch (arch) \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Proud to Serve (square) \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Women are Veterans Too \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 WAVES anchor patch (old style) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

## JEWELRY & PINS

MWAN Coin \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Lapel pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Charm \$7 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Earrings \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Name Puck \$3 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Coin Keychain \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original Hat Pin \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anchor&Prop Earring \$14 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anchor&Prop Charm \$7 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anchor&Prop Lapel Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Veteran Lapel Pins (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Little Lady WAVE w/Flag Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dog Tag (Women Proudly Served) Pin \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Freedom Forever Eagle Pin \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Canvas Key Chains (star or stripes) \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 USN Hat Pin (Spread Eagle w/USN) \$8 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 USN Crest Lapel Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sister Warrior Pin \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 US Navy Lapel Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 USN Patriotic Ribbon Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 DON Lapel Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Service Crest Lapel (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vietnam Era Eagle Pin \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

## \*\*Shipping Cost\*\*

Up to \$45 = \$7; \$46-\$100 = \$13; \$101 & above = \$20

Check/MO # \_\_\_\_\_

No Phone Orders. Make checks/Money Orders payable to MWAN SUPPLY LOCKER  
 Mail check with Order Form to: Linda Coffield, 95 Vernon Street, Atoka, TN 38004  
 Questions? Call: (901) 488-4153 or Email: Linda.Coffield@navy.mil

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**\*\*Support our Fundraising Committee, if you order a PopSockets and any MWAN item,  
 Get free shipping on this order!\*\***

**\*New Item:** American Veteran Wrist Bracelet, elastic band- slips right over hand, - \$5 each  
**Buy a couple for your unit members, makes a great gift!**

**Note: The POLO Shirts are running larger than the sizes indicate; I suggest you order a size smal**

## MWAN CLOTHING ITEMS

Neck Tabs, Black w/Velcro \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Garrison Caps (patch is supplied) \$23 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizes: 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26  
 MWAN Visor \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Ball Cap \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN T-Shirt \$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL  
 MWAN Polo Shirt \$30 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Gray or White) - Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL  
 MWAN Jacket \$32 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL  
 MWAN Sweatshirts \$22 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

MWAN Playing Cards \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Song Books WAVES \$8 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (WAVES Sings or Bainbridge)  
 US Navy WAVES Veteran Magnet \$3. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single-Fold Notes w/envelopes(10)\$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (MWAN logo or Military Hat (circle one))  
 MWAN Window Decal \$2 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Magnets \$2 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Car Magnet (Oval-8") \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Pencils 2/\$1 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Pens \$2 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Flags (3'x5') \$80 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Table Coverings \$120. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN PopSockets \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 for \$25. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**\*NEW American Veteran Wrist Bracelet \$5 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_**

**NAME BADGES W/MWAN PUCK:** \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Double clutch back or Magnet back (circle one)

Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname/Maiden/Other Info \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Years/From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

MWAN Unit Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

(\*\*Use back of form if you need more space\*\*)

**Subtotal:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* ADD Shipping** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Silver Taps

All served with the  
 U.S. Navy or  
 U.S. Navy Reserve

Jeanette J. Brower	006/PA
Elizabeth (Dunn) Loftus	010/DE
Elsie L. (Weber) Mulrooney	010/DE
June F. (Hansen) Walker	052/FL
Ruby E. (Raines) Homick	055/FL
Janette M. (Shaffer) Alpaugh	070/OR
Joyce L. (Bengtson) Evans	070/OR
Veronica "Ronnie" (Widuta) Johansen	104/FL
Jean A. (Laird) Schroeder	109/NH
Dorothy A. (Cole) Libby	114/AZ
Phyllis M. (Schindle) Sirheim	114/AZ
Irene M. (Nicholson) Erskine	129/KY
Gertrude "Trudy" (Michales) Quehl	144/NC

Elizabeth (Schwofer) Aschenbrener	153/WI
Helen E. (Dausch) Clement	MAL/AZ
Nancy A. (Stolpe) Holter	MAL/AZ
Nelda M. (Jones) Ashbaker	MAL/C
Winnifred (Hooper) Dunn	MAL/C
Myrtle (Smith) Calwell	MAL/C
Evelyn (Singer) Lackey *	MAL/C
Lucia (Helms) Gregg	MAL/C
Joyce V. Young	MAL/FL
Elizabeth J. (Gallant) Marston	MAL/FL
Patricia (Davis) Arnold	MAL/FL
Maria D. Rodriguez	MAL/G
Judith G. (Mack) Johnson	MAL/G
Julia (Stanton) Barrett	MAL/MI
Adeline F. (Maxson) Grossmann	MAL/MI
Dee (Thornton) Abbott *	MAL/M
Donna M. (Maxwell) Lee	MAL/O
Florence (Nusim) Greville	MAL/V
Mary A. Buerger	MAL/W
Alice (Wagner) Badgett	MAL/MI

*Gone but not forgotten*

\* Denotes Charter Member of WAVES National  
 Please submit all MWAN member Silver Taps information to Executive Secretary (address on page 10)

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please type, print  
 or use address label

(Dues period 1 January to 31 December)

Find on Military Women's  
 Bulletin Address Label

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  Check in box if unlisted *The Life Membership rate for those 90 years or older is \$30.*

National Dues for 1 year are **\$25.00** + Tax Deductible Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_ = **Total Amount:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check or money order made payable to "MWAN", and submit with this form to:

**Monica O'Hara, National Treasurer, 6383 Kimmy Ct., San Diego, CA 92114-5631**

First-time applicants must use the MWAN membership application available online at [www.milwomen.org](http://www.milwomen.org)