

# MILITARY *Women's* BULLETIN



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VOL. MMXX NO. 2

APRIL 2020

## 2020 National Convention Cancelled

For the first time in 40 years our national convention must be cancelled. Your board of directors (BOD) contemplated postponing the convention instead of cancelling it, but with the many uncertainties swirling around the COVID-19 situation, the decision was unanimous to cancel.

Many, many thanks to Region III Representative Jennifer Baun for all the work she and her convention committee put into planning what would have been a superior event.

The MWAN BOD will convene a special meeting (in person or via other communication means depending on the COVID-19 situation) to conduct necessary MWAN business. The meeting will likely be in July or August. Details will follow.

While the convention will not happen this year, there are two matters of business which must be addressed by MWAN membership. The first is election of MWAN National Officers.

In accordance with current MWAN Bylaws, the election ballot will be provided in the June 2020 issue of Military Women's Bulletin. Ballots will be mailed to an outside firm which will be responsible for counting the ballots.

Since there will not be a convention, the election results will be forwarded to Nominating Committee Chair Barb Turner at her home. Barb will then submit the results for announcement no later than September 1<sup>st</sup> on the MWAN website (milwomen.org) and Facebook page. The results will also be published in the October 2020 Military Women's Bulletin.

The second matter of business for MWAN membership is the proposed new MWAN Bylaws. At the 2018 National Convention, membership authorized the MWAN BOD to execute a complete rewrite of the organization's 40-year-old bylaws.

The proposed 2020 MWAN Bylaws will be printed IN THEIR ENTIRETY in the June 2020 issue of Military Women's Bulletin. The National Officer Election Ballot (which will ALSO be in the June issue) will include a space for membership to "Approve" or "Disapprove" the proposed bylaws IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

If the proposed bylaws rewrite is approved, the 2020 MWAN Bylaws will become effective September 1, 2020. If the rewrite is disapproved, the Current MWAN Bylaws will remain in place until the 2022 National Convention when membership will decide to amend or rewrite as desired.

The Current MWAN Bylaws are available on the MWAN Website, "milwomen.org". If you do not know how to download a document from the website, please contact MWAN Bylaws Chair Vicki Orem at "vborem2@gmail.com" and ask her to email a copy to you. If you do not use a computer, please call Vicki at (910) 363-5019 or (703)231-4440 and ask her to mail a printed copy to you.

Thank you all for your patience and flexibility during this extraordinary international situation. Please stay safe and check in on your service sisters with a phone call or email.

Respectfully yours,

MWAN National President



# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## ★ Nominee for President ★

My name is **Patricia “Patty Jo” Parks** and I am currently serving my second term as your National President. The MWAN Board of Directors has approved my bylaws waiver request allowing me to run for a third term.

I have spent my first two terms promoting the growth of MWAN and determining what our members expect. If elected to a third term as your National President, I pledge to encourage the advancement of our organization in a manner consistent with supporting all members and developing an efficient, cost-effective structure calculated to promote MWAN’s future expansion and sustainability.

MWAN/WN Experience: 2016-Present/National President; 2015-Present/Unit #157 Treasurer; 2015/Coordinated & Chartered MWAN Unit #157; 2010-2016/Tennessee State Director; 2010-2013/Unit #149 Secretary; 2006-2012/WAVES National (WN) Ship’s Store Officer; 2006-2010/Unit #149 President; 2003-2006/Unit #149 Secretary; 2002-2010/National Board of Directors; 2002-2010/Regional Representative XI; 2002-2006/Tennessee State Director; 2002-2004/WN National Executive Committee; 2001-2003/Unit #151 Secretary; 2001/Coordinated & Chartered WN Unit #151 and WN Unit #149; 1989-2001/WN Member at Large



## ★ Nominee for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ★



**Elisabeth Lewandowski:** I have been a member of the Salt River Military Women Unit #155 (Arizona) for almost two years and attended my first national convention in San Diego in 2018. I bring lunch from Starbucks to the monthly MWAN meeting in Phoenix and I try to attend most women’s military events in the Phoenix area.

I am currently serving as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve as a Unit Supply Specialist responsible for receiving and inspecting inventory, loading/unloading stores and issuing and delivery of supplies and equipment. I maintain the Automated Supply System for accounting of organizational and installation supplies and equipment. I issue and receive small arms and secure and control weapons and ammunition in security areas. I have about 10 more years before I can

retire. I’ve worked with civil affairs, signals, and went on tour with Army Entertainment in the U.S. Army Soldier Show..

I have a non-profit organization called “Veteran’s Hands in Action” and have been the Donation & Program Advisor since January 2014. I advertise and collect items for fundraisers and events and set up trips for volunteers to Balboa Naval Hospital and an orphanage in Haiti. We take part in feeding different local communities, which include after school programs, volunteers at the VA Phoenix Hospital, School of the Blind, low-income families, and many more military groups and events. I hold a License from the California Medical School, San Diego, CA (2017) and a Bachelors’ Degree in International Studies from the Central College, Pella, IA (1999). I provide CNA & In-Home Health Care (since March 2017) which includes private home care encompassing feeding, changing and activities inside and outside the location.

Although I have not yet held any unit, state or national MWAN office, I know that I can be an outstanding and open-minded 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for you. My goal is to help MWAN grow and to help provide speakers for future conventions and conferences! I hope that others will be encouraged to bring more of their skills to MWAN in the future. You can see that I have the leadership skills required to serve as your MWAN 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and I humbly ask for your vote.

## ★ Nominee for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ★



My name is **Gloria Wix** and I was born and raised in Texas. I was in the U.S. Navy for almost four years during the Vietnam War (1963-1966) and went to boot camp at the Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, Maryland. After graduating I was stationed there for most of a year, then transferred to NAS Pensacola, Florida. My final duty station was NAVSTA Long Beach, California, as a Yeoman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, processing sailors and

marines for duty in Vietnam. I was honorably discharged in June 1966. I worked in the civilian sector in administrative and secretarial positions for several years, then in the civil service for 20 years in Iwakuni, Japan, Oceanside, California and Washington DC, until my 2004 retirement.

I have been a life member of WAVES National/Military Women Across the Nation since 2007 and have been fortunate to have held several positions in both organizations: Unit 94 President (4 years), National Chaplain (4 years), National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2 years), and National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (2 years).

★★ Candidates continued on Page 3 ★★

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

★ ★ ★ Continued ★ ★ ★

## ***Gloria Wix continued:***

I am a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1004 (7 years), a dual Auxiliary member (2 years), member American Legion Post #281 (7 years), a dual Auxiliary member (2 years), and Del Webb Veterans Club (7 years), where I live. I volunteer with all of these groups when called and make and take "goody bags" (toilet items) to the patients at the York VA Hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for most holidays. I also participate in parades, make speeches to groups, and assist in collecting donations for the above groups.

I will continue to support MWAN and help to grow our organization in any way I can be of service.

## **★ Nominee for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President ★**



**GinaMarie Doherty:** I served 26 years on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1986 to 2012 culminating in my promotion to Senior Chief Petty Officer (E8). A few of my port visits and duty stations include Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Spain, Dubai, France, Washington, and Virginia. I served as ship's secretary, USS L.Y. SPEAR (AS 36); ship's office Senior Noncommissioned Officer, USS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), pre-commissioning unit and USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG 79); Master Training Specialist, Surface Warfare Specialist, Security Manager, plank owner, and plane captain A6E Intruder.

As a veteran, I hold state level officer positions in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and it's auxiliary. I am a member of the Disabled American Veterans and American Legion where I advocate for veterans' benefits. Residing in Middletown, Rhode Island, my husband Stephen and I enjoy spending time with fellow veterans and their families through community outreach and volunteering in VA hospitals. I earned a master's degree in Management and am currently a full-time student studying Gerontology, with a goal of improving elder care in nursing homes.

I was elected National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President midyear through the 2018-2020 term and am running for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President again, in order to complete a full term. I am a charter member of Unit 158 and have served our organization as Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services Rhode Island and National Recording Secretary.

## **★ Nominee for Recording Secretary★**



**Debbie Crutchfield:** I served in the Navy from Oct 16, 1969 to January 31, 1992. Retired as a Chief Personnelman (PNC) out of VP-92, NAS South Weymouth, Massachusetts, after serving a little over 22 years. I have been married for 44 years to a retired Navy Chief (AWC) who served from 1963-1992. We had a joint retirement ceremony onboard the USS CONSTITUTION in Boston. We live in Lexington,

South Carolina. We have one son and daughter-in-law who live in Greenville, South Carolina.

After retirement, I graduated from Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia, with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education. I taught pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in Georgia public school for three years until my husband got a job transfer to South Carolina. I taught pre-kindergarten at my church for 11 years before retiring in 2015, I am currently a substitute teacher at my church preschool.

I joined WAVES National (now known as MWAN) in 1982 and became a life member in 1991. I was elected as National Recording Secretary at the 1992 convention and served for two years. During that time, I also took on the position of National Executive Secretary. I have been affiliated with several units in the different duty stations I served. I was a charter member of the Channel Islands Unit 2 in Oxnard, California; member of Bay Area WAVES Unit 3 in Cupertino, California, member of Cape Cod WAVES Unit 18 in the Boston area, and Heart of Dixie Unit 22 in Birmingham, Alabama. I was also a charter member of the Cherokee Rose Unit 139 in Atlanta, Georgia. I served that unit as secretary, treasurer, vice president and president before we had to disband. I also served as Georgia State Director during the time I lived there. I am currently a member of Triangle Military Women Unit 144 in North Carolina. As a member I am also in charge of the fundraising for our Bainbridge WAVES via the Ship's Store Facebook page.

I was elected as National Recording Secretary of MWAN in 2018 and would like to serve again as your National Recording Secretary in 2020.

★ ★ Candidates continued on Page 4 ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Continued ★ ★ ★  
★ Nominee for Treasurer ★



My name is **Terry Taylor** and I'm asking for your vote for treasurer. I served in the U.S. Navy from 1975-1979 as a Cryptologic Technician (R). My tours of duty included Naval Communications Station Rota, Spain, and Naval Security Group Activity Lajes, Azores. I was also in the Naval Reserve from 1982 through 1989. I went to college on the GI Bill and graduated with a degree in

accounting from Sonoma State University in 1984, becoming a Certified Public Accountant in 1987. (I'm now a retired CPA). My career included several government and nongovernment positions in the accounting field.

My husband, Richard, and I live in Scottsdale, Arizona, where I enjoy traveling, hiking, and practicing Tai Chi. Besides my position as National Treasurer of MWAN, I am involved in various volunteer activities including coaching computer classes at the local library and ushering for The Phoenix Theater and Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. I also volunteer with Pets on Wheels visiting assisted living facilities with my dog, Stella.

I am completing my first term as National Treasurer of MWAN. I have previously held the positions of unit treasurer and unit vice president as well as the scholarship chairman for National. I am a member of American Legion Post 58 and National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our organization as your treasurer and to help ensure our future success!

***I don't know, but it may be so...***

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars.

They were told to 'go sip" some ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.'



The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus, we have the term 'gossip.'

**Redwood Empire Unit 77  
members share their stories**

Five members of Unit 77 composed the panel for "Women Veterans Then and Now: Stories of service and sacrifice" hosted by Petaluma (California) Regional Library. The March 1<sup>st</sup> event launched an area celebration of Women's History Month.

The panel members (*pictured below*) recounted their experiences in the service during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and on active duty today.

Of particular note was a very emotional, power-point presentation by Kate O'Hare Palmer, who served as a surgical nurse in Vietnam.

Unit 77 President Rose Nowak reported the event was a huge success and had a great turnout. The discussion was followed by a question/answer period and included recognition of all women veterans. The event concluded with Unit 77 members receiving several requests to speak at future area functions.

← *Mary Lou Loustalot*  
*U.S. Navy, World War II*



*Emily Sousa*  
*U.S. Navy, Korean War*



*Kate O'Hare Palmer*  
*U.S. Army, Vietnam War*



*Lisa Lim*  
*U.S. Army, Persian Gulf War*



*Bethany LaRosa*  
*U.S. Coast Guard, Active Duty*

# Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cody!

By Pam Pamperin, Unit 153 Treasurer

Cody Splitt arrived at her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party on August 13<sup>th</sup> in style, rolling up to the Appleton Yacht Club in a limousine and greeted by sister veterans with a salute.

Esther "Cody" Splitt was born in 1919; the year congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote. She grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin, raised by a single mother during the Great Depression and was one of the first women to serve during World War II in the U.S. Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

Cody was trained in the first WAVES boot-school class at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The day she joined the Navy was the turning point in her life. She was in the Navy from the day the WAVES formed in 1942 until Thanksgiving night in 1945, so she was in almost throughout the entire war.

She was assigned to Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC, where she worked on Japanese Code. She was later reassigned to personnel and managed some 600 women spread across three barracks. She was tasked with taking the women to any and every event happening in the capitol city. When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was sworn in for his fourth and final term in office, Cody was directly below him, standing on the grass (*See below article*).

She was one of the first veterans to take advantage of educational benefits provided by the GI Bill, signed into law in 1944. Without the funds provided by the benefit, Cody said she never could have afforded tuition, much less room and board. Since her youth, she had always wanted to be a lawyer. She was one of five women in her University of Wisconsin Law School class and recalled working hard to finish up her bachelor's and law degrees, which normally take five years total, in just three short years.

Cody then moved to Appleton, Wisconsin, where she opened the second woman-owned law firm in the county. Her first prospective client immediately walked out of her office after he realized "Cody Splitt" was a woman. Due to a lack of clients, she was forced to take down her shingle after only one year.

However, Cody was no quitter. She later reopened her firm and her practice began to thrive. In fact, at age 66 when many lawyers were thinking about retirement, she was still hitting her stride.



Esther "Cody" Splitt now ↑ and back then ↑

She was the first woman president of the county bar association; a former county board Woman of the Year, and she also retained a seat on the county board until she tendered her resignation at age 82. At 96 years young, she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Law Journal. She also established three scholarships for students in the Fox Valley.

As a founding member and past president of Fox Cities Unit 153, Cody has always been very active in not only civic programs but in the veteran community, as well. She proudly says, "I'm a woman veteran" and it's all about veterans helping veterans.

At her birthday party, Cody summed up her thoughts nicely: "To tell you the truth, I've just done anything I wanted to do, from the day I started 'til today. It's been a wonderful life." She added that her secret to a long, successful life is friendship. And if you are lucky enough to be her friend, you are a friend for life.



## FDR's Fourth Presidential Inauguration

The fourth inauguration of President Roosevelt (*pictured at left*) was held Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 1945. Due to austerity measures during World War II, the inauguration was held on the White House South, rather than at the Capitol. The parade and other festivities were canceled as well.

It was the only time a president has been inaugurated for a fourth term. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1951) limits to two the number of times a person can be elected president). Roosevelt died 82 days into his term.

**Source: Wikipedia**

← Cody was THERE! Can you find her in the photo???

# Sound Off!

## SAN DIEGO STARS & STRIPES

**Unit #36 (CA)** – Unit members met for a Valentine Lunch at the Coronado Naval Amphibious Base. The building was the former CPO (Chief Petty Officer) Club and has a beautiful view of the bay.

A delicious lunch was provided by the board members and enjoyed by all. Following lunch, Unit President Monica O'Hara conducted unit business regarding the upcoming elections, convention information, updates on membership and the location of our next luncheon.

Membership present voted to make Susan Farnsworth a Unit 36 Honorary Member. She has been most supportive of the unit and though she hasn't served, she is no stranger to the military because her twin sister served in the Navy.

The meeting concluded with opportunity drawings. We then encouraged the few military personnel in the building to partake of the remaining sandwiches and go-withs. They were most appreciative.

Next meeting will be April 4<sup>th</sup> at Nicolosi's Pizza. **The contact for our luncheon meetings is Roxanne Jones at (619) 479-0149.**



*Left to right (Standing): Roxanne Jones, Kay Poindexter, Carol Weiss, Monica O'Hara, Liz Osborne, Pandora Menegus & Lynne Pine (Seated) Ellen Hoaglund, Patricia Coates & Honorary Member Susan Farnsworth*

## REDWOOD EMPIRE

**Unit #77 (CA)** – We held our first meeting of the year on January 11<sup>th</sup> with 14 members present. We welcomed new member, Cristina Baggese, US Army Reserve, and guest speaker, Nancy Sandborn from the Pacific Coast Air Museum. Nancy has been instrumental in scheduling members for oral history interviews which will be saved to DVD and stored at the Library of Congress. To date, three members have completed their interviews.

Dues were collected during this meeting and reminders were sent to the absent members. We voted to adopt a wing at Yountville Veterans Home and specifically support the women veterans in that section who reside with their spouses. We will also continue supporting the women in Section H as well.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> we had a pot luck luncheon following our meeting. Guests were Joe Noriel of The History Connection, and Nancy Sandborn of the Pacific Coast Museum, both instrumental in collecting the stories of unit members.

We paused during our meeting to remember former member Morella Shannon Staggs. Morella was very active in WAVES National Unit 77, and MWAN. She passed on January 11<sup>th</sup> this year in Santa Rosa at age 97. She served as an US Coast Guard SPAR Radioman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class during WW II.

A nominating committee was formed in preparation for upcoming election of unit officers. Ushering in Women's History Month, March activities included a panel discussion featuring 6 members; our annual luncheon with our Coast Guard comrades at TRACEN Petaluma; the Women's Leadership Initiative in Alameda attended by Bethany LaRosa and Rose Nowak, and our meeting set for March 14<sup>th</sup>.



*Emily Sousa (Left), US Navy/Korean War, and Mary Lou Loustalot, US Navy/WWII, were honored for their service at the Pacific Coast Air Museum, Santa Rosa Air Show.*

## TRIANGLE WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #144 (NC)** – We were delighted to have National Bylaws Chair Vicki Orem at our December meeting and holiday party. The new officers were elected and then installed by Vicki. **Thank you, Vicki!** Pat Childers was reelected as President; Jill Blakeney was elected at 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Annette Stevenson is our Treasurer, and Adina Lev is our Secretary.



*Left to right: Pat Childers, Jill Blakeney, Adina Lev, Annette Stevenson and Vicki Orem*

We started off our new year with our March meeting themed "TWV Vision for 2020 and Beyond." Our leadership team reported to the members on several ideas they have been working on since December; meeting dates and places, logo/brand, updating the brochure, membership recruitment, newsletter, unit shirts, budget and upcoming veteran events.

## MEMPHIS BELLES

**Unit #151 (TN)** – Unit members enjoyed a very yummy breakfast potluck followed by our regular meeting held at the local Veteran's Service Office in Munford. We welcomed a new member, Sami Bolton, and briefly went around the room to reintroduce ourselves.

The Memphis Belles have been busy with several volunteer projects such as folding flags for the annual "Field of Flags"; gift wrapping for donations during Christmas time, and supporting the Memphis VA Hospital monthly with a cookie cart. We will be volunteering for Operation Stand Down to support homeless veteran's in the Memphis area and an outreach program for homeless veterans in Tipton County.



Left to right: Debra Testa, Debra Burns, Barbara Booth, Becky Dickinson, Pat Ferguson, Jean Jungkans, Mary Hardin Brown, Kathy Desjarlais, Sami Bolton and Linda Coffield.

## MILITARY WOMEN OF TIDEWATER

**Unit #152 (VA)** – The new year brought in our traditional unit holiday party and ornament exchange; always a good turnout for fun, good food and sisterly fellowship and support. Thanks to Suzanne Davis and Alexander Muhly, we enjoyed each other's company, celebrated the work of 2019 and set in motion work for 2020.



Libby Morrison (Left) with April Maletz

Festivities made for a lively and hilarious afternoon, but the highlight this year was two very special guests; member Libby Morrison, who we don't see often enough, and George Soule, recent Honor Flight Veteran. We also celebrated Maggie Cobb's retirement from Civil Service with the hope to see her more often!

# Sound Off!



Maggie Cobb (Left) with Stan Maletz



Honor Flight Veteran George Soule (Left) won the drawing the gift was Betty Hand!

We continue work on our Pillows for Patriots and made a recent - *very appreciated* - holiday donation to the local USO. Thanks to Cheri Snaza, we are able to stay abreast of the veteran needs at the Hampton VA and members are able to participate in many of their activities.

Plans are in the works for unit members to participate in the Warrior Women Run/Walk on March 14. A good healthy morning with the goal of supporting Women in Military Service to America (WIIMSA) Memorial. March will also be active with unit members visiting various commands and presenting oral histories of how roles have changed for women in the military over the years.

**We meet monthly, at VFW 4809, Norfolk, VA. For meeting information, contact Dassa Carvey, at [dassahsg@gmail.com](mailto:dassahsg@gmail.com) or (757) 363-3059.**



# Sound Off!

## FOX CITIES

**Unit #153 (WI)** - In 2019 we celebrated special birthdays: Cody Smith's 100<sup>th</sup> and Grace Gebhart's 97<sup>th</sup>. Both Grace and Cody served in the US Navy during World War II and are founding members of Fox Cities unit. They are strong inspiration for every unit member!



Cody Smith (Left) with Grace Gebhart

At our Christmas party we assembled Christmas baskets for women veterans at the Wisconsin Veteran's Home in King. The baskets were packed full with many wonderful items donated by unit members.



Left to right: Grace Gebhart, Mickey Parker, Toni Webb, Pamela Pamperin & Nancy Packett

We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from March through November at Vets & Friends in Appleton. **Contact Pamela Pamperin at [ppamperin@new.rr.com](mailto:ppamperin@new.rr.com) or (920) 954-8445.**

## NEW ENGLAND MILITARY WOMEN

**Unit #158 (RI)** - In March Unit Secretary Dora Vasquez was recognized as the Rhode Island Department of Veterans Affairs Female Veteran of the Year. What a prestigious award! The ceremony was held at the Rhode Island State Senate in Providence and was followed by a reception.

One of Dora's many achievements took place in November 2019 as the guest speaker for Waterfire Providence where the state came together to honor women veterans with a spectacular patriotic light and music concert.

The audience included local military recruits who were sworn into service, one of which was Dora's student from Westerly High School. Dora was subsequently appointed to co-chair this annual event honoring Rhode Island veterans.

Dora Vasquez pictured at right. →



## MEMBER AT LARGE (OH)

Teresa "Terry" Stamm of Clyde was honored with a Quilt of Valor made by Donna Foss and Deb Huffman of Hayes Ohio Star Quilt Guild in Fremont.

Terry served in the US Navy as a Yeoman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class during the mid to late 1950's. Her basic training was in Bainbridge, Maryland, and she served her tour of duty in Norfolk, Virginia.



Left to right: Donna Foss, Terry Stamm and Deb Hoffman

She was one of four siblings in her family of nine who served in the military. "We did good for our country," she said.

The guild annually makes a patriotic-themed quilt to bestow on a woman veteran.





# Green plastic Army women set features working dogs and handlers, Rosie the Riveter

<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2020/03/05/green-plastic-army-women-set-features-working-dogs-and-handlers-rosie-the-riveter/>

By J.D. Simkins, Military Times Writer/Editor

A toymaker who responded last year to a stern letter of complaint from a young Arkansas girl has released imagery of all-new, female variations of the classic plastic green Army figurines that have occupied toy stores since the 1930s.

Jeff Imel of BMC Toys published an update on the toy company's website, corresponding with the start of Women's History Month, which included in-process sculptures of a military working dog and handler, a nurse, and Rosie the Riveter perched atop a "We Can Do It!" pedestal.



The new toys, the product of 6-year-old Vivian Lord's request for green Army women, come in sets of 36 and are expected to be released this October. Eighty-six-piece bucket sets are also available for pre-order.

Vivian's campaign for green equality was first spurred after she noticed the only figurines targeting a girl audience were pink-colored male figurines.

"Why do you not make girl army men?" she wrote. "Some girls don't like pink, so please can you make army girls that look like women?"

BMC Toys of Scranton, Pennsylvania was one of three companies to receive letters from the flummoxed child but the only to respond.



**BMC Toys® Plastic Army Women Figures**

Imel notified the disgruntled customer that he had been kicking around the idea of manufacturing green women figurines for years. With Vivian's nudge, he subsequently launched a fundraiser in the hope of acquiring a sum equivalent to "the cost of a modest new car," he told WNEP News Channel 16 in Moosic, Pennsylvania, last September.

It didn't take long for Imel to exceed his funding goal. "We're currently at an insane \$54,289," Imel said during a December 2019 Facebook live stream. The toy-maker added that support has come even from senior citizen women who mentioned wanting similar toys during their childhoods.

"It has meant a lot to military women who have told me they just want a little bit of recognition," Imel said during the live stream.

Besides the prototypes pictured above and right, BMC Toys' Plastic Army Women set will include figurines in classic poses such as standing, running and kneeling riflemen, prone sniper, grenadier, bazooka operator, radio operator, low crawling soldier, light machine gunner, wounded soldier, combat medic, and more.



"[Women have] served a long time in a lot of roles, and sometimes they feel invisible," Imel said. "So, hopefully we can [add to] education about women in the military and how important they are. They've been, really, the main supporter base for the project. We wouldn't have gotten the project done without the military women who have supported us."

More information about the availability of this toy may be found at [bmctoys.com](http://bmctoys.com).

***This article is for information only & does NOT constitute an endorsement for the toy or its manufacturer.***



## 2018-2020 Regional Representatives

### **Region I Rep: [Martha Alderman](#), 623-810-9328**

Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico

### **Region II Rep: [Michele Batliner](#), 816-315-9229**

North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi

### **Region III Rep: [Jennifer Baun](#), 314-803-8643**

Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky

### **Region IV Rep: *Vacant (Contact National President)***

Maine, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland

### **Region V Rep: [Jill Blakeney](#), 919-932-9365**

District of Columbia, Alabama, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia

### **Region VI Rep: [Christie Parker-Wheeler](#), 352-949-4675**

Florida

## Military Women Across the Nation National Officers & Staff 2018 – 2020

### President

Patty PARKS  
6920 Sawtooth Drive  
Ooltewah TN 37363-6894  
423-326-0839  
president@milwomen.org

### 1st Vice President

Gloria WIX  
123 March Place  
Mount Juliet TN 37122-2573  
615-443-4138  
gloriawix@yahoo.com

### 2nd Vice President

GinaMarie DOHERTY  
10 Osage Drive  
Middletown RI 02842-4522  
401-500-1721  
yncsgrd@aol.com

### Recording Secretary

Debbie CRUTCHFIELD  
220 Crestridge Drive  
Lexington SC 29073-7210  
803-348-2789  
twonavychiefs@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Terry TAYLOR  
10105 E Via Linda, Ste 103-253  
Scottsdale AZ 85258-5362  
480-577-5163  
treasurer@milwomen.org

### Parliamentarian

Shirley CRAWFORD  
2244 N. Edgemere Street  
Phoenix AZ 85006-1706  
602-750-8779  
proudvetusaf@cox.net

### National Exec Committee Board Members

Michelle Batliner **NEC RRII**  
5305 NW Pennington Lane  
Blue Springs MO 64015-2379  
816-315-9229  
mbatliner@att.net

Jennifer BAUN, **NEC RRIII**  
4068 Lockwood Boulevard  
Youngstown OH 44511-3564  
314-803-8643  
jennifer.baun@att.net

### Executive Secretary

Ginger DANIELS  
PO Box 314  
Shattuck OK 73858-0314  
580-938-2310  
shuwave@pldi.net

### Bylaws Chair

Vicki OREM  
3702 Fairfield Way  
Southport NC 28461-8119  
910-363-5019  
vborem2@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

Denise DUKE  
41121 Highway 69  
Gallion AL 36742-2716  
334-289-3142  
deniseduke@wildblue.net

### Public Relations Chair VACANT

president@milwomen.org  
423-326-0839

### Chaplain

Patty KOPPARI  
708 Fairhaven St. N.E.  
Palm Bay FL 32907-3175  
321-723-1697  
Pak53@att.net

### Supply Locker Officer

Linda COFFIELD  
95 Vernon Street  
Atoka TN 38004-7771  
901-488-4153  
LindyC1951@gmail.com

### Volunteer Hours Chair

Kathy DESJARLAIS  
313 Andy Drive  
Drummonds TN 38023-8923  
901-837-4736  
gkd9@aol.com

### Scholarship Chair

**VACANT**  
MWANscholarship@  
milwomen.org  
423-326-0839

### VAWS National Rep

Diane CULLETON  
40 Brittany Drive  
Skowhegan ME 04976  
207-474-2235  
diane.turcotte30@gmail.com

### VA Medical/Health Chair

Ruth STORCK  
19079 Roadside Avenue  
Bridgeville DE 19933  
302-519-0701  
Storck19079@outlook.com

### HerStorian:

**VACANT**  
president@milwomen.org  
423-326-0839

### Heartspring Project Chair

Jeanne HOOPER  
6398 Lake Charlene Dr.  
Pensacola FL 32506-5762  
850-637-2075  
JCHooper@cox.net

### Time & Place Chair

Patty KOPPARI  
708 Fairhaven St. N.E.  
Palm Bay FL 32907-3175  
321-723-1697  
Pak53@att.net

### Webmaster

Lynne PINE  
989 Cordova Dr.  
Chula Vista CA 91910  
507-400-9111  
lynne@milwomen.org



**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 per year in February, April, June, August, October and December by Coastal Printing Inc., 3 Graf Road, Newburyport MA 01950. Items for publication may be submitted via postal or electronic mail to the newsletter editor (address above) and must be received by the 1st of the month PRIOR to publication. ❖ 3. National Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year (1 Jan-31 Dec). Unit members submit dues to Unit Treasurers; Members-at-Large submit dues directly to National Treasurer. ❖ 4. Membership cards are issued directly to NEW members upon payment of dues & \$10 Application Fee. 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 (address above) as soon as possible. Returned newsletters will NOT be re-mailed.

<b>MWAN Member ID#:</b>	<b>ADDRESS CHANGE FORM</b>	<b>PLEASE PRINT!</b>
_____		
<b>OLD Address:</b>	_____	
<b>NEW Address:</b>	_____	
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
_____	_____	_____
<b>Email:</b>	_____	
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>	_____
<p><b>Mail to:</b> Ginger Daniels, Executive Secretary P.O. Box 314, Shattuck OK 73858-0314 <b>OR Email to:</b> Secretary@milwomen.org</p>		

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.

**PLEASE CONSIDER  
RECEIVING YOUR  
NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL.**

Contact  
[Secretary@MilWomen.org](mailto:Secretary@MilWomen.org)  
for details.

# MWAN Supply Locker

APRIL 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Why not use a return address label here!)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ 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 2½" (caps) \$ 3 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN 3" (shirts) \$ 4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN 8½" (vest) \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 US Navy WAVES Veteran (circle) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Patches: Navy Flag or Services \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY)  
 American Flag Patch (3½"x2") \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Proud to Serve (square) \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Women are Veterans, Too \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 WAVES Anchor (old style) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vietnam Era Eagle \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**JEWELRY & PINS**

MWAN Coin \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Lapel pin \$ 4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Charm \$ 7 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Earrings \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Coin Keychain \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Mouse Pad \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original Hat Pin \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anchor & Prop Earrings \$14 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anchor & Prop Charm \$ 7 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anchor & Prop Lapel Pin \$ 4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Veteran Lapel Pins \$ 4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (USN, USAF, USMC, ARMY)  
 Little Lady WAVE w/Flag Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vietnam Era Pins \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dogtag Pin (Women Proudly Served) \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Freedom Forever Eagle Pin \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 US Flag & Service Flag Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (USN, USAF, USMC, ARMY)  
 USN Hat Pin (Spread Eagle w/USN) \$8 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 USN Crest Lapel Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 US Navy Lapel Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 USN Patriotic Ribbon Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 POW/MIA Lapel Pin \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department of Navy Lapel Pin \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Service Crest Lapel \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY)  
 Service Dogtag Pins \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (USN, USAF, USMC, ARMY)

**\*\*US Vet Stars/Stripes Lapel Pin \$9 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Up to \$40 = \$8; \$41-\$100 = \$15; \$101 & above = \$20  
 Check/MO #: \_\_\_\_\_

**NO PHONE ORDERS**

**MWAN CLOTHING ITEMS**

Neck Tabs, Black w/Velcro \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Garrison Caps (includes patch) \$23 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizes: 21, 22, 23, 24, 25  
 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 Sweatshirt \$22 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL  
 MWAN White Dress Shirt \$34 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL  
 Patriotic Scarf (100% Polyester) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Watch, USN WAVES \$30 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 American Veteran Bracelet \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 2016 National Convention Patch \$1 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Playing Cards \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Canvas Key Chain/Stars & Stripes \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 2016 National Convention Coin \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 US Navy WAVES Veteran Magnet \$3 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mini-Flags Set (MWAN & American) \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (flags are 6"x4" with weighted gold base)  
 MWAN Window Decal \$3 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Magnets \$2 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Car Magnet (8" Oval) \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Pencils (2 each) \$1 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Pens \$2 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 WAVES Key Chain, Rubber \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
**\*\*DD214 Alumni Decal \$6X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_**  
 MWAN Flags (3'x5') \$80 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Table Coverings \$120 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN PopSockets \$10 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 for \$20. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME BADGE W/MWAN PUCK** \$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Double clutch back **OR** Magnet back (circle one)  
 Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nickname/Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unit or Other Info: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Subtotal:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADD Shipping:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL DUE:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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: LindyC1951@gmail.com

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**\*\*NEW ITEMS \*\* Limited Supply-Order NOW**

**NOTE:** MWAN Ladies White Dress Shirt **RUN SMALL** (Ladies cut).  
 POLO Shirts are unisex, sizes run larger; I suggest you order a size smaller.



**Silver Taps Correction:** In the February 2020 Military Women’s Bulletin two members were erroneously listed in Silver Taps. We are very happy to announce that charter/life member-at-large **Gloria (Preston) Farwell** of Santa Clara, California, and Unit 56 member **Kimberly J. (Siler) Werla** of Venice, Florida, **are alive and well.**

# Silver Taps



*Gone but never forgotten*

**U.S. Navy**

Marian A. (Waincock) Bomber	006/MD	Patsy Ann (Bowman) Rowley	MAL/FL
Gladys R. (Hash) Felice	006/PA	Mary E. (Glover) Stephens	MAL/FL
Nancy L. (Morse) Baily	042/CT	Ilva P. Wilson	MAL/FL
Katherine (Gately) McNeil	056/FL	Lydia (Castillon) Wyatt	MAL/FL
Phyllis A. (Roberts) Koch	070/IL	Myrtle M. (Lynch) Van Dyke	MAL/IA
Morella (Staggs) Brooks	077/CA	Shirley E. (Pooton) Woollacott	MAL/MA
Mary E. (Weber) Scamehorn	098/NE	Marjorie J. (Gui) Payne	MAL/NM
Helen (Winter) Stauffer	098/NE		
Teresa (Entrekin) Watkins	144/NC	<b><u>U.S. Marine Corps</u></b>	
Jeanette (Lowe) Legg	157/TN	Patricia R. (Phillips) Pollard	157/GA
Miriam D. (McCormack) Bauer	MAL/FL	<b><u>U.S. Army</u></b>	
Elizabeth J. (Straub) Davis	MAL/FL	Marilyn R. (Goldstein) Balkany	055/FL
Mary (Eberman) Gall	MAL/FL		

\* 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)

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

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

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

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

**NOTE: Future newsletters will be sent via email. If you Prefer A Printed Copy, please check here**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ *Life Membership for those 90 years & older is a one-time payment of \$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:  
**Terry Taylor, National Treasurer, 10105 E Via Linda, Ste 103-253, Scottsdale AZ 85258-5362**

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