

# MILITARY Women's BULLETIN



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VOLUME MMXXII, #4

AUGUST 2022

## BGEN Wilma Vaught awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, 92, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Presented by President Biden, the medal is the nation's highest civilian award, and recognizes individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors."

The recognition captures Wilma's devotion to her country perfectly. Following her trailblazing, 29-year career in the US Air Force, she continued to serve by leading the construction and operation of the Women in Military Service to America Memorial. Now known as the Women's Military Memorial, this penultimate memorial combines current technology and a brick-&-mortar structure at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, to honor all American military women, while sharing their personal stories as well as their common history.

Wilma calls the memorial "the most important thing she has ever done," but her life-long journey began just like many of her sister servicewomen: with a patriotic desire to serve her country.

When Wilma joined the military in the 1950s, the number of women serving, job opportunities, duty station options, and career perspectives were all severely limited. When the US began ramping up for the Vietnam War, some policies were changed due to the increased need for human resources.

She was commissioned as a second Lieutenant after Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, and had several assignments between then and April 1963, including chief of the Management Analysis Division, 3974<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Group at Zaragoza Air Base in Spain.

Returning to the US, she served at McCoy Air Force Base,



Florida, where she became the first woman to deploy with a Strategic Air Command operational unit when she served at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, during Operation Arc Light.

Between 1968 and 1969, Wilma became one of the few non-medical, women to serve in-country Vietnam as part of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. (She is pictured at left during her tour in Vietnam.)



Her storied military career continued as she broke more glass ceilings and assumed increasingly challenging positions. In September 1980, while serving in Air Force Systems Command as deputy chief of staff, comptroller, Wilma was promoted to brigadier general, the first woman selected for promotion to that rank in the comptroller field.

While Wilma had personally witnessed the evolution of women serving in the military, she was concerned that the role of service women was going unnoticed. Upon her retirement from the Air Force, she doubled-down her effort to push for a memorial to military women. The rest, as they say, is history.

→→ **Don't Forget!** ←←

Unit Annual Financial Report **DUE 1 Sep**

Unit Letter of Authorization **DUE 1 Sep**

October Bulletin Input **DUE 1 Sep**

Please contact your Regional Representative listed on Page 10 of this bulletin, if you have questions.

## Presidential Ponderings

by Patty Parks, National President

It looks as if Florida is determined to charter our first new unit in more than six years! A special **Thanks!** goes to Unit 55 member Kathleen VanMiddlesworth and Region Six Representative Jouay Koppari for their diligence and perseverance! I look forward to attending the chartering ceremony, perhaps before the year's end!

We currently have fewer than 18 units nationwide, which is very sad for many reasons. After more than 40 years of service to our sisters, it's very disappointing that only 12 states can offer our membership the one thing they have repeatedly & continuously requested; camaraderie.

Nothing can surpass the joy and love which infuses a unit meeting. The knowing looks and deep sighs are evidence of the memories – good and not-so-good – we all have experienced. Laughter at the silliness we got away with during our service, and confessing the times we were caught, reminds us that no one is perfect. Being able to share the sorrow we suffer when life turns cold, helps us remember that the warmth of friendship is within an arm's reach.

While maintaining a unit takes a little bit of work, the rewards are well worth a couple of annual reports. Increasing membership is not difficult, and assistance is only a phone call away. In fact, on Page 9 of this bulletin Georganne Bickle has offered a list of proof-positive ways to enhance a unit's membership.

That phone call (or email) for assistance can be made at anytime to your regional representative. Or, if she's not available, and you need a quick answer, perhaps a staff member could help you out. Phone numbers and email addresses for all of them are listed on Page 10 of this bulletin.

The bottom line is, we're a community with a common history, and an incredible opportunity to build a sisterhood of support. It may need some fine-tuning, and periodic maintenance, but MWAN is a vehicle ready and able to take us into a blossoming future.

Please keep safe, and I look forward to seeing as many as possible in the wild, wild west.

*Yee-ha!*



# Officers' Call

## Fiscal Findings

by Terry Taylor, Vice President for Finance

In addition to paying their annual dues, many of our members make donations to Military Women Across the Nation. We are very grateful for their generosity and acknowledge them annually in our bulletin. *Donations to MWAN are tax deductible.* The following members and units made donations during the last fiscal year:

Helen Baj, MAL	Gayla Isaacson, MAL
Ellen Caspers, MAL	Frances Loring, MAL
Merle Clark, MAL	Eva Nolan, MAL
Anna Clark, MAL	Barbara Sheehan, MAL
Gina Coke, MAL	JoAnne Smith, MAL
Debra Crutchfield, Unit 44	Judith Sokolowski, MAL
Susan D'Ambrosio, MAL	Teresa Stamm, MAL
Gloria Drenzek, MAL	Myrna Vanmeter, MAL
Carol Hoyt, MAL	Heart of America Unit 9
Ruth Irwin, Unit 10	San Fernando Valley Unit 86

## Volunteer Viewpoints

by Denise Duke, National Representative for VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (VACDCE)

Between farm and family, this time of year is extremely busy. In April, the National Advisory Committee met in Denver, Colorado. I did not attend due to a prior commitment, but a review of the agenda indicated it was a jump-start in-person meetings again after the two-year pause due to COVID.

COVID continues to be a hot topic with many VA facilities continuing to limit volunteer participation due to variant breakouts. My guidance at this point would be to stay in contact with the VAMC staff, and provide whatever support they need. They still need volunteers!

I hope to see everyone at the convention in September. It's been a long four years!

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**Consider Receiving Your Bulletin via Email.** Contact [Secretary@MilWomen.org](mailto:Secretary@MilWomen.org) for details.

**PLEASE PRINT!**

**ADDRESS CHANGE FORM**

**PLEASE PRINT!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MWAN ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** MWAN Secretary Ginger Daniels, P.O. Box 314, Shattuck OK 73858-0314

**OR send via E-mail to:** [secretary@milwomen.org](mailto:secretary@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 Harbor Printing Inc., 3 Graf Road, Newburyport MA 01950. ❖ 3. Items for publication may be submitted via electronic mail to [editor@milwomen.org](mailto:editor@milwomen.org) and must be received by the 1st of the month PRIOR to publication. ❖ 4. Submit all changes of address as soon as possible. ❖ 5. Returned newsletters will NOT be re-mailed.



# LIMITED TIME OFFER

## PROMOTIONAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR MILITARY WOMEN SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Maiden Last

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Personal E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # or MAL \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Rank/Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Basic & Training Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Duty Station: \_\_\_\_\_

College/special talents: \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_



This **MEMBERSHIP** application is for women who are **CURRENTLY SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY** in the U.S. Armed Forces, both regular and reserve components to include the National Guard. Membership includes a free T-shirt and an E-MAIL subscription to *Military Women's Bulletin* published six times per year.

“I certify that I meet the eligibility requirements of MWAN and I can produce a copy of my Active-duty military identification, orders or other military service documentation upon request.”

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$20 for one year OR \$50 for five years**

This offer is valid from 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2027

Current and former MWAN or WAVES National members are NOT ELIGIBLE for this promotion.

Please select preferred Unisex T-Shirt size: **S**  **M**  **L**  **XL**  **2X**  **3X**

**New members** joining through a local unit, make check payable to the local unit. The local unit treasurer will submit the payment and application to the MWAN Vice President for Finance.

**New members-at-large** make check payable to “MWAN” and mail with this completed and **SIGNED** application to: Terry Taylor, MWAN Vice President for Finance  
10105 E Via Linda, Ste 103-253, Scottsdale AZ 85258.

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS APPLICATION FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR UNIT.

*A tax-deductible donation to MWAN in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is included in the attached check.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**(For office use only)** \_\_\_\_\_ MWAN National ID



# Sound Off!

## KEYSTONE WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #6 (PA)** – On Memorial Day, we participated in our local Media parade. Ruthie Severino was, again, honored to be seated with 96-year-old Tuskegee Airman Eugene Richardson, during the post ceremony. The special guest speaker was U.S. Army veteran, Patrick Creed, who had just returned home from volunteering with the Ukrainian Foreign Legion.

With great sadness, I report the passing of long-time member and Unit Chaplain Gladys Martin (pictured at right), just a week before her 100th birthday. Her funeral was held on her birthday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, with military honors. Our unit also participated in the service, with Ruthie doing the reading, and then all rendered the Final Farewell Salute. The next day, instead of a 100th birthday celebration, we enjoyed a Celebration of Life. What wonderful memories!



Ruthie and her husband, Sal, went on the Honor Flight Philadelphia in June. The day started at 5 a.m. at St. Simon and Jude Church, where they were provided with coffee, drinks, and pastries before boarding four buses to Washington, DC. The first stop was at the Tomb of the Unknowns for the changing of the guards. What pride to see a military woman guard on duty. After a full day visiting the war memorials, they were greeted back into Pennsylvania by more than 500 Rolling Thunder motorcyclists, who escorted them back to the church, where they were served dinner before heading home. Another great memory!

**For more information about our unit, please contact Ruthie Severino at 610-356-8956.**

## SEA BREEZES

**Unit #52 (FL)** – Three Sea Breezes members attended Memorial Day ceremonies at Barrancas National Cemetery on NAS Pensacola.

Patricia H. "Pat" (Conklin) Gilbert (pictured in uniform at right), WWII US Coast Guard veteran and life member of Unit 52 passed away in March at age 98.



On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 unit members and "supporting friend" Karen Aggerton held a quarterly meeting/social at the Oar House. Guest speaker CTC Nancy Bullock-Prevot, USN (Ret.) shared her story of how she became inspired to create the HER Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to helping women veterans in northwest Florida. HER is on the verge of opening a beautiful 10-bed home and shelter for homeless women veterans in Pensacola. Several members visited the home a few days later, and were amazed by what Nancy has accomplished, as well as her dedication to making the lives of women veterans better. The visiting members presented Nancy with a \$500 check to be used

for emergency purposes. Our next quarterly social will be at the Oar House in Pensacola at 1100 on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

## MILITARY WOMEN OF TAMPA BAY

**Unit #55 (FL)** – Our unit has made modifications to the monthly meeting to afford more flexibility and convenience for members with a long distance to travel. One change includes holding the meeting nearer to the James A. Haley VA Hospital once a quarter. February 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first meeting and was held at Chili's Bar and Grill in Tampa. Several future meetings will also be held near the VA hospital. Hopefully, this will make it easier for members living near the hospital to attend meetings. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, we met at Beef O'Brady's in Brandon.



A unit lunch meeting at Chili's Bar & Grill. Pictured (L to R) Jouay Koppari, Kathleen VanMiddlesworth, Lee Martin, photographer Cathy Gerolimatos (in the mirror), Pattie Duvall & Roberta Troxell.

The John Donaldson, Jr. Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Colonists, Regent Cynthia Zanne presented our unit with the Medal of Award for exemplary service to Tampa Bay-area veterans.

The proclamation, accepted by the unit's President, Jouay Koppari, cited unit efforts to host Wreaths Across America at Veterans' Memorial Park; participation in the presentation of the Military Women's Memorial Living Legend award to a WWII US Army Nurse Corps veteran; ensuring the interment of an MWAN member in a veteran cemetery; and supporting VA activities such as annual Veterans' Day events, donating gift cards for Make-a-Difference Day and distributing poinsettias throughout the VA hospital.



Unit members receiving NSDAC award. Pictured left to right: Denise Finlay, Pattie Duvall, Jouay Koppari, DAC Regent Cynthia Zanne, Roberta Jordan, Caroline Bosbyshell, Nathalie Tomczak & Roberta Troxell. Not pictured is photographer Cathy Gerolimatos.



## Military Women of Tampa Bay, Unit #55 (Continued)

The following weekend, unit members attended the annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans program at Veterans' Memorial Park sponsored by the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America. Pictured below adjacent to the Vietnam Memorial are (left to right): Jouay Koppari, Roberta Troxell, Cathy Gerolimatos, Cookie, Soldier Girl & Pattie Duvall



On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Team Cheerios & Friends participated in the first in-person Southeastern Guide Dogs Walkathon since COVID19 restrictions were put in place. The team consisted of Cathy, Barbara and Mary Gerolimatos and Cookie (Cathy & Cookie pictured at right). This is the group's principal fundraising event, though donations continue to be accepted year-round.



OUR DOGS ARE  
SUPER HEROES

Our unit also decided to hold meetings at Veterans' Memorial Park in order to attend and participate in the quarterly Field of Honor (FOH) ceremony. The ceremony honors and remembers military and first responders who lost their lives during the previous three months. In addition, FOH recognizes repatriated remains of WWII, Korean and Vietnam Wars. These are opportunities to increase our unit's visibility at local veteran-related events and to bring the meeting to those members who have a longer distance to drive.



On April 30<sup>th</sup> 1975, Saigon, Vietnam, (now known as Ho Chi Minh City) fell to the People's Army of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (aka the Viet Cong). The US military was forced to abandon its embassy in the city and evacuate more than 7,000 US citizens and

# Sound Off!

South Vietnamese by helicopter. In commemoration of the event, the Vietnamese Community of Tampa Bay, with the support of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, conducted a "Black April" wreath-laying ceremony in the footprint of the Vietnam War Memorial at Veterans' Memorial Park. The guest speaker and other dignitaries addressed those in attendance in both Vietnamese and English. Unit 55 was represented by Roberta Troxell, Cathy Gerolimatos, Cookie & Jouay Koppari (pictured, left to right, near the bottom of the previous column).



Pattie Duvall spreads the word about Military Women Across the Nation, with a slight prejudice for Unit 55.

US Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Florida's 12<sup>th</sup> District, hosted his 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Resource Fair May 21<sup>st</sup> in New Port Richey. Veterans and their families were encouraged to attend to learn more about available resources in the community including: healthcare, education, benefits, employment services, mental health treatments, housing and other social services. Unit 55 members, along with multiple other military and civic organizations as well as local businesses, provided information to attendees.

## REDWOOD EMPIRE MILITARY WOMEN

**Unit #77 (CA)** – We celebrated Military Women's History Month at our March meeting with a special cake for the occasion. In April we welcomed Elaine Leeder, Dean Emerita/Professor Emerita of Sociology from Sonoma State University. She shared personal stories of the holocaust and other genocides. This was followed by discussion and Rose Nowak (a first generation American of Ukrainian descent) shared the history of the first genocide in Ukraine known as HOLODOMOR, the Great Famine of 1932-33. Rose also brought her Ukrainian Pysanky (Easter Eggs) to





# Sound Off!

## Redwood Empire Military Women Unit #77 (Continued)

share her Ukrainian heritage.

This year's Memorial Day remembrance was held in conjunction with other veteran service organizations as in the past. The Flag Day commemoration was conducted June 11<sup>th</sup> immediately following our monthly meeting. As a member of American Legion Post 28, Rose Nowak chaired the event which included a flag retirement ceremony.

## TRIANGLE WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #144 (NC)** – Unit member Ann Lewis said she arose before daybreak on April 27<sup>th</sup> to prepare for her trip on the Triad Honor Flight. The flight was an engrossing and fascinating experience, she said, allowing older veterans to visit the veteran memorials around Washington, DC.

Ann had never visited the memorials but had always wanted to. Her group included two WWII members, twenty-three Korean War, and the rest, including Ann, were Vietnam Era veterans. They visited the Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Air Force Memorial, the Korean Memorial and, finally, the Vietnam Memorial.

"We live in safety every day because they are ready, willing, and able to defend us," Ann said, adding, "I was proud to be one of them when I served in the US Navy from 1961 - 1965." Thank you for your service, Ann.

In May, MWAN National President Patty Parks made a stop in Cary to have lunch with our unit members, and it was a wonderful time. Lots of good discussion on what is going on with MWAN, particularly with the upcoming election of officers and the convention. Many unit members attended and it was a great time of comradery and story sharing.



Back Row (l-r): Patty Parks, Brenda Brubaker & Shelley Kirk; Front Row (l-r): Adina Lev, Christine Milam, Linnea Sommer-Weddington & Debbie Crutchfield.

Unit President Adina Lev participated in the "Carry the Load" walk, meeting up at Raleigh National Cemetery on May 12<sup>th</sup> to walk and remember, honor and preserve the legacy of those who paid the ultimate price. The nonprofit organization provides an active way to connect Americans to the sacrifices made daily by our military, veterans, first responders and their families, and promotes patriotism in our youth. The walk included 50 VA National Cemeteries as participants completed a 20,000-mile trek along five separate routes covering 48 states. Raleigh National Cemetery was included in the route which started in Annapolis, MD, dipped down through Florida and on to Texas.



Marchers carried signs, banners and flags honoring a fallen service member, veteran or first responder. Adina and her service dog Boomer (pictured above) walked about 5 miles in 90 minutes and raised \$90. She added that 93.14% of the funds raised go directly toward the organization's three programs of Awareness, Continuum of Care and Education. For more information visit <https://www.carrytheload.org/>.

As part of our Memorial Day observance, unit members Adina Lev & Boomer, Paulette Haizlip and Linnea Sommer-Weddington (pictured below, left to right) joined American Legion Post 67 members in placing American flags on the graves of veterans at Hillcrest Cemetery in Cary.





## TRIANGLE WOMEN VETERANS Unit #144 (Continued)

We had our quarterly meeting June 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a hybrid meeting with an in-person meeting in Cary and Zoom attendees as well. We've had five new members join our unit since March and they were formerly welcomed. After the meeting we held our annual fundraising auction. This year's theme was "patriotic" and we successfully raised \$692 to put towards unit funds.

## MEMPHIS BELLES

**Unit #151 (TN)** – We celebrated International Women's History Day at the Tipton County Museum where retired Navy Chief, and long-time MWAN Supply Locker Officer, Linda Coffield, was honored as the Tipton County March 2022 Veteran of the Month. Among other accomplishments in her 26 years of both active and reserve duties, she was one of the first women assigned to a combat ship and subsequently served onboard three aircraft carriers.

In addition to her shipboard deployments, she traveled the world as part of her duties with the "Golden Hawks" of Naval Air Reserve Patrol Squadron VP-67. As well as managing the MWAN Supply Locker for the past ten years, Linda volunteers to assist with the Tipton County Veterans Service Office service projects by building fences, ramps, and porches for local Veterans. She also volunteers with the Memphis VA Medical Center food drive each year, collecting and packing food boxes for veterans and their families. She is the proud mom of two sons, both of whom are firefighters.



Unit members celebrating Linda's recognition (l-r): Sherry Onorati, Deb Testa, Maribeth Patton, Linda Coffield, Debra Burns, Becky Dickinson, Kathy Desjarlais, Anne Day & Marie Porter.

We also held a bake sale fundraiser in conjunction with the Keep Tipton Beautiful Earth Day Festival. It was a beautiful day, and everyone enjoyed just talking and getting reconnected in the natural setting outside the Tipton County Museum.



Bake sale attendees (l-r): Kathy Desjarlais, Maribeth Patton, Becky Dickinson, Deb Testa, Linda Coffield, Anne Day & Deb Burns

Kathy Desjarlais was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year for the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce for

# Sound Off!

her work with the Memphis VA Hospital and with various Veterans organizations. She received the award during the Chamber's annual awards night dinner in April.



Kathy Desjarlais (left) and Anne Day at Chamber awards dinner.

## MILITARY WOMEN OF TIDEWATER

**Unit #152 (VA)** – Unit members gathered at the VA Beach Veterans' Memorial on Memorial Day to honor all veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. We had the honor of placing a wreath at the Veterans' Memorial.



Memorial Day participants, left to right: (front row) Sheila Jessen, Jo Heimerl, Pat Brown, Dassa Carvey, & Suzanne Davis. (back row) Alesia Thornton-White, Pam Gregory, Jennifer Sherman, April Maletz & Betty Hand.

Martha Kastler has volunteered to be our Representative for the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (formerly VAVS) at the Hampton VA Medical Center. We value her expertise and willingness to continue serving the veteran community.

We held our Pillows for Patriots Stitch and Stuff gathering in July, making more neck pillows for veterans going on the next honor flight, and for those passing through the USO at Norfolk International Airport.

Members will gather later this month for our Summer Bash where we will have a pot luck lunch. We also hold an auction to replenish our treasury so we can assist other veterans and share the camaraderie of our military sisters.



# Sound Off!

## Military Women of Tidewater, Unit #152 (Continued)

Unit member Jo Heimerl participated in the Old Dominion Honor Flight on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. After reading about her experience below, you may want to rush out immediately and sign up for the next available flight! Thanks for sharing your story, Jo!

*"What can I say? The trip was exciting, great, interesting, full of surprises, impressive. There was camaraderie; the sharing of stories; meeting a Medal of Honor winner; tears in the eyes; lots of greetings; welcomes; handshakes; and picture taking, and proper recognition for the heroes who went to Vietnam. There were feel-good feelings and mail call (letters from family, friends and school children). The trip was heartwarming and fulfilling. Well done by the staff. A lot of emotions in one day but it was well-worth the trip. Upon return, I wanted to go right down to the recruiting center and sign up for another stint in the Navy."*

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

guest speaker was Major General James H. Adams, a Marine aviator who flew combat missions in both Iraq and Afghanistan. MGEN Adams took a moment to meet unit member and Marine veteran Rita Waller (pictured at right).



And, May would not be complete without a Memorial Day remembrance. Several unit members attended a service at Chattanooga National Cemetery where unit members Jo Schendel and Beth Wingfield carried our unit flags in the official parading of the colors.



Memorial Day service attendees (l-r) Patty Parks, Beth Wingfield, Jo Schendel, Sheila Billings, Sarah Hill & Deborah Kendrick, who, along with being an Army veteran unit member, is also the director of Chattanooga National Cemetery.



The mission of **Honor Flight Network** is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at national memorials in Washington, DC. Flight coordination hubs are located across the country. To find one near you, please visit <https://www.honorflight.org/> or call the national headquarters in Arlington, VA, at 937-521-2400.

## NEW ENGLAND

**Unit #158 (RI)** – The unit's two newest officers were recently installed. Pictured below are Unit President Sylvia Weber (left) and Vice President Michele Diamond. Louie the beagle was on-hand to maintain protocol as the master-at-arms.



## TRISTATE WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #157 (TN)** – Unit members had a very busy May which began with marching in the Chattanooga Armed Forces Day Parade. Chattanooga has celebrated Armed Forces Day with a parade continuously since it was first observed in 1950. The parade is followed by a luncheon where this year's



Parade participants pictured (l-r) are Shannon Woodard, Teena Gravitt, Beth Wingfield, Carla Bell, Renee Chisholm, Sarah Hill (seated in the car & waving the flag) Debbie James, Patty Parks, Zaida Ringheimer & Cathy Brown.

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE, FLORIDA

Greetings from Lakeland, Florida. We are an up-and-coming unit of extraordinary military women veterans located in the heart of Central Florida. Our Bylaws have been submitted for approval and we are two meetings away



## Members-at-large, Florida (continued)

from Chartership! Lakeland is located between Tampa and Orlando, Florida. Meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of the month at 1100 hours at American Legion Post 4, 1375 Ariana Street, Lakeland, FL 33803. If you know anyone that may be interested in joining our Unit in the Central Florida area, please have them contact Kathleen at MilitaryWomenLakeland@gmail.com or (863) 738-4487.



# Sound Off!

Pictured at left, Kathleen VanMiddlesworth has signed & submitted bylaws for MWAN's prospective new unit, Lakeland Royal Swans.



Pictured above are attendees at the prospective-Lakeland Royal Swans' second official meeting in June were (l-r): Karen Warren, currently a member-at-large (MAL) holding the national staff position of Volunteer Hours Chair; Jouay Koppari who is dual-hatted as Region 6 Representative and unit president for Military Women of Tampa Bay #55; Linda Osborn, MAL; Kathleen VanMiddlesworth, currently a member of Unit #55; Caroline Grimsley, MAL; Gwen Pipkin, MAL, & Lorraine Peasley, MAL.

## Recruiting For MWAN? How much have you done lately?

*"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn." Harriet Beecher Stowe*

By **Georganne Bickle**

At first glance, recruiting can seem like a daunting task. The reality is, it can be as simple as saying "Hello" to another woman veteran in a checkout line at the store, and completing the mission by simply handing her a card with your unit or MWAN's contact information.

It amazes me that I still run into military women who have never heard of MWAN and were unaware there are many sisterhood organizations available where they can meet and join in with other military women.

Of deep concern, is that over the past five years, our membership numbers have drastically dropped. Not too long ago, we had 34 units nationwide. Now we have fewer than 18, and some of them are barely hanging on.

The reality is, MWAN will either grow, or go. I, personally, would prefer to see us grow. But, the task of growing becomes an impossible goal if left up to only a few.

In order to succeed, EVERY member, including members-at-large, must reach out to other military women of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds. We must make our activities meaningful, fun, inspiring, and supportive. Activity is key.

In Salt River Military Women Unit #155, we currently have 41 members. How did we attain this number? Here are a few of the practices we have implemented. Hopefully, they will inspire other units.

- ♦ Attend as many veteran events in your area as possible and set up a table with information and a sign-up list.
- ♦ Communicate regularly with eligible women on your email

guest contact list.

- ♦ Post MWAN Flyers with contact information at VA offices, Medical Centers, Vet Centers, VFW Posts, American Legion Posts and DVS Offices in your area.
- ♦ Offer all unit members MWAN flyers and unit information
- ♦ Give out MWAN Flyers to local military bases as well as guard and reserve facilities.
- ♦ Provide meeting details to local newspapers and publications for their calendar of events, and ask about them writing a story.
- ♦ Post MWAN flyers in local libraries, community colleges, universities, and coffee shops.

*Good Hunting! See you all at Convention in September!*



**Recapturing what it was like to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, while staying connected with our military sisters...**



# MWAN National Officers & Staff 2020-2022

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[herstory@milwomen.org](mailto:herstory@milwomen.org)

## 2020-2022 Regional Representatives

REGION 1: California, Hawaii, Nevada

Representative: **Lynne Pine**, 507-400-9111/CA  
[RR1@milwomen.org](mailto:RR1@milwomen.org)

REGION 2: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Representative: **Caren McCurdy**, 503-679-7429/WA  
[RR2@milwomen.org](mailto:RR2@milwomen.org)

REGION 3: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

Representative: **Martha Alderman**, 623-810-9328/AZ  
[RR3@milwomen.org](mailto:RR3@milwomen.org)

REGION 4: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming

Representative: **Annette Dunseth**, 701-509-5412/ND  
[RR4@milwomen.org](mailto:RR4@milwomen.org)

REGION 5: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Representative: **Michele Batliner**, 816-315-9229/MO  
[RR5@milwomen.org](mailto:RR5@milwomen.org)

REGION 6: Florida

Representative: **Jouay Koppari**, 813-684-1668/FL  
[RR6@milwomen.org](mailto:RR6@milwomen.org)

REGION 7: Oklahoma, Texas

Representative: **Sue Gunnell**, 281-712-1984/TX  
[RR7@milwomen.org](mailto:RR7@milwomen.org)

REGION 8: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi

Representative: **Michele Batliner**, 816-315-9229/MO  
[RR8@milwomen.org](mailto:RR8@milwomen.org)

REGION 9: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Representative: **Michele Batliner**, 816-315-9229/MO  
[RR9@milwomen.org](mailto:RR9@milwomen.org)

REGION 10: Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Representative: **Beth Wingfield**, 706-508-5612/GA  
[RR10@milwomen.org](mailto:RR10@milwomen.org)

REGION 11: Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia

Representative: **Jennifer Baun**, 314-803-8643/OH  
[RR11@milwomen.org](mailto:RR11@milwomen.org)

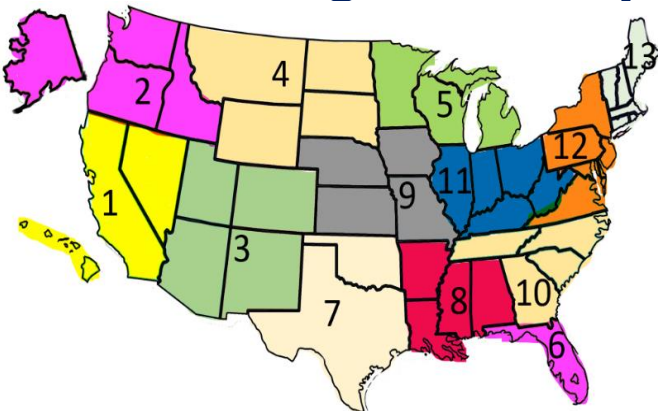
REGION 12: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland,

New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia  
Representative: **Hortense Toliaferro**, 215-327-7384/NJ  
[RR12@milwomen.org](mailto:RR12@milwomen.org)

REGION 13: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Representative: **Michele Diamond**, 401-824-6786/RI  
[RR13@milwomen.org](mailto:RR13@milwomen.org)

## MWAN Regional Map



Contact information for each Regional Representative is provided in the chart to the right.



**ONLY USE CURRENT ORDER FORM**

**MWAN Supply Locker**

**AUGUST 2022**

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)
- Honor-Courage-Sacrifice Veterans Pin \$5 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, USCG, VETERANS)
- US Vet Stars/Stripes Lapel Pin \$9 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Honoring Women Veterans Pin \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**★ SHIPPING COST ★**

Up to \$40 = \$9; \$41-\$100 = \$17; \$101 & above = \$20  
Check/MO #: \_\_\_\_\_ **No Phone Orders**

**MWAN CLOTHING ITEMS**

- Neck Tabs, Black w/Velcro \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Garrison Caps (includes patch) \$24 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizes: 21, 22, 24, 25
- MWAN Visor \$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Ball Cap \$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN T-Shirt \$17 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
- MWAN Polo Shirt \$32 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gray or White** Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
- MWAN Jacket \$33 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- MWAN Sweatshirt \$24 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**

- American Veteran Bracelet \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2016 Convention Pin \$2 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 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 (4 each) \$4 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:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**❖ New Supply Locker Officer Needed ~ Contact Linda Coffield (info below) for details ❖**

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

**NOTE:** MWAN Ladies White Dress Shirt **RUN SMALL** (Ladies cut).  
POLO Shirts (Unisex) **RUN LARGE**; Suggest ordering a size smaller



[www.milwomen.org](http://www.milwomen.org)

# Silver Taps

## U.S. Navy

Kathleen (Watson) Willcutt*	077/CA
Margaret "Peggy" (Centerwall) Randle	146/NV
Catherine L. (Hand) McGraw	MAL/CA
Margaret (Klein) Curry	MAL/IL
Mary J. Buzolich	MAL/IN
Nadine (Watson) Evans	MAL/OK
Norma R. (Johnson) Henneman	MAL/UT
Alice (Lynd) Bennett	MAL/VT
Phyllis A. (Price) Russell	MAL/WA

## U.S. Coast Guard

Lois C. (Guenette) Bouton	MAL/AR
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*Gone,  
but never forgotten*

MAL = Member at large \* Denotes Charter Member of WAVES National  
Submit all MWAN member Silver Taps info to Ginger Daniels, P.O. Box 314, Shattuck OK 73858-0314 or [secretary@milwomen.org](mailto:secretary@milwomen.org)

### MEMBER-AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

(Dues period 1 January to 31 December)

*Please type, print  
or use address label*

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, VP for Finance, 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)