

# MILITARY *Women's* BULLETIN



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VOLUME MMXXI, #2

APRIL 2021

## MWAN Scholarship Application Deadline Extended to May 17, 2021

by Jeanne Hooper  
MWAN Scholarship Chair

It has been an unusual year for all of us, from senior citizens to pre-school kids. This is traditionally the time of year we process applications and essays so we can award the MWAN Scholarship to a high school senior or college undergraduate.

Historically, we have mostly relied on word of mouth from our members to inform potential applicants. Though the number of applicants has diminished in recent years, this year we have received ZERO applications to date!

Since some of the application shortage may be due to COVID19 and its associated circumstances, we are extending the deadline for application and essay submission to Monday, **17 May 2021**.

How can you help spread the word? Tell your high school senior and/or college undergraduate relatives about the scholarship. If you don't have any senior or college undergraduate relatives in your family, then let your veteran friends – men and women – know about the opportunity in case they have qualifying relatives. Also, if you are a member of a veteran's organization (American Legion, VFW, AMVETS, etc.) tell your local chapter about the scholarship and ask them to pass the word. If you live near a military facility, reserve or national guard base, inquire about posting a copy of this page to let women on active duty or serving in the reserve know their relatives are



eligible to apply. And, finally, contact the college or senior advisor at local high schools. They will be very glad to share the information and application with students.

The MWAN Scholarship is worth \$1000, and as any student or parent paying for college knows, every dollar helps! The scholarship application, including detailed instructions, is printed in this bulletin on Pages 4 & 5. The application is also available online at [milwomen.org](http://milwomen.org) under the "News" tab.

## Volunteers Needed Now for Nomination Committee

The five-member MWAN Nominating Committee is responsible for conducting the election of national officers and regional representatives. The term of the committee is through the 2022 MWAN National Convention.

The committee would normally have been selected at the 2020 convention which was cancelled due to COVID19. Due to the unusual situation, the first five volunteers will form the committee. To maintain geographical diversity, the first volunteer from any region will be the only committee member permitted from that region.

Details of the committee's duties may be found in the MWAN 2020 Bylaws at [milwomen.org](http://milwomen.org) under the "Governing Docs & Forms" tab.

If you would like to volunteer for the committee, please contact National President Patty Parks **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** at [president@milwomen.org](mailto:president@milwomen.org) or (423)326-0839.

→→ Don't Forget! ←←

**June Bulletin Input DUE 1 May**  
**Unit President Status Report DUE 1 Jun**  
**Volunteer Hours DUE 1 July**

*The MWAN Procedures Manual is currently being updated to reflect the 2020 MWAN Bylaws. Please direct procedural questions to your Regional Representative listed on Page 10 of this bulletin.*

## Presidential Ponderings

by Patty Parks, National President

As a rule, I do not repeat topics here that show up elsewhere in our bulletin, but this month there are three items which bear repeating because of their inherent importance to each of you and to our organization.

First, please join me in thanking the members of Military Women of Tampa Bay Unit 55 for going above and beyond the call of duty in caring for one of our service sisters (Story on Page 8). One of the lessons learned from this experience is that veterans may apply for a "pre-need" determination of eligibility to be buried in a National Cemetery. Details of the application process are on Page 9. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones by submitting this request.

Second: Even with the challenges presented by COVID19, we have continued to provide our scholarship to the relatives of military women. However, at this point we have not received any applications for this year's \$1000. While you may not have any children or grandchildren headed for or in college, please share the information with others in your community. Spreading the word about this scholarship is a way to meet other military women and help young people realize just how many women veterans are out there! Please review the suggestions on Page 1 about how you can help spread the word in your community.

Finally, we need a nomination committee for the 2022 MWAN Election. The committee would normally have been formed at the national convention, but due to the convention's cancellation, no committee was formed. All national officer and regional representative positions need nominees. In many cases, the incumbent may be interested in running for the position again, but she still must be nominated.

If you are willing to contact members who may be interested in running for a national or regional office, please contact me - [president@milwomen.org](mailto:president@milwomen.org) or (423)326-0839 - at your earliest convenience so work may begin.

I cannot thank you all enough for your service to our country and for continuing to serve by supporting our military sisters through this organization.

Please keep safe.

# Officers' Call

## Volunteer Viewpoints

by Denise Duke, National Representative for Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS)

Greetings Women Veterans! Happy Easter!! I know the pandemic has shut down many activities but I want to reach out to everyone regarding the future of our VA involvement.

Do you have a VA facility near you? If so, have you ever visited? Do you get medical services from the VA? If so, have you ever thought about volunteering to help? If not, have you ever thought about volunteering to help?

My defining moment was the day I decided to pull into our local VA and visit the Volunteer Service Officer (VSO). When I say local; the VA I use is an hour and a half drive from my house. I don't mind the drive because of the infinite rewards.

While many VA facilities are still shut down and do not allow volunteers, I encourage you to call your local Veterans Service Officer (VSO) and ask, "How can I help when we are allowed back into the facility to participate?"

I promise, you won't regret it! I've been doing all my VA meetings online. They are not the same as in person, but we are able to share information. I am looking forward to the day when I can get back into the clinic and help the nursing staff process our brother and sister veterans getting health care.

Another thing I'd like to throw out there is finding the VSO in your community. Ours is located in our county seat. I get many questions from veterans regarding benefits and I don't always have the answer. However, I know to direct them to the VSO for current and correct assistance.

There's so much we can do now to prepare for the time when we can, again, reach out to one another face to face. If you have any questions regarding my requests please don't hesitate to write or give me a call. I'm always happy to help a Veteran!!

Military Women's Bulletins are sent **BULK MAIL** and will NOT be forwarded by the Post Office. Please include MWAN on ALL Address Changes in order to keep receiving your bulletin. Please send the address change 60 days before moving.

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

**PLEASE PRINT!**

### ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

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 Email 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. Items for publication may be submitted via postal or electronic mail to the Bulletin Editor 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 Vice President for Finance. ❖ 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 Secretary as soon as possible. Returned newsletters will NOT be re-mailed.

## Region 3 Reflections

by Martha Alderman, Region 3 Representative

In my capacity as an American Legion Post Service Officer, I recently had the singular privilege of helping a 102-year-old World War II Navy WAVE apply for VA healthcare and a pension benefit. This was necessary because she had engaged an older woman and her son to be her caregivers and instead of caring for her, they preyed upon her trusting nature and diminished capacity, and swindled her out of two cars, all her savings and were even able to have her change her will naming the son as her beneficiary. They did not pay her bills or provide her with food or any "care" essentially leaving her to die alone in her home.

Fortunately, this wonderful woman has two caring and concerned nephews (she never had children) who became aware of this and have stepped up to truly care for her. The nephew who lives nearby alerted Adult Protective Services (APS) as well as local police. He is also taking on the task of becoming her legal guardian.

Unfortunately, there is little the police can do as there is no "proof" that the pair took advantage of this vulnerable woman but the APS has filed a charge of criminal neglect and possibly abuse so the son MAY be punished; his mother meanwhile has died.

I am relaying this sad story to alert you to this unfortunately NOT uncommon scenario. If you hire a caregiver for yourself or a relative, use a reputable agency to find one. Many States do NOT require licensing or any type of vetting. Keep in touch with older relatives and ask questions, even if they are resistant to answer, as you may save a life or protect their assets from being stolen. If you suspect anything is wrong, alert your state's APS and local police.

*The following APS phone numbers were obtained from the internet for each state. Most are toll-free and answered 24/7. If the number for your state is not a direct line to APS, it should at least get you to senior or social services.*

State	Phone #	State	Phone #
Alabama	800-458-7214	Nebraska	800-652-1999
Alaska	907-269-3666	Nevada	888-729-0571
Arizona	877-767-2385	New Hampshire	800-949-0470
Arkansas	800-482-8049	New Jersey	609-588-6501
California	833-401-0832	New Mexico	866-654-3219
Colorado/Denver	833-401-0832	New York	844-697-3505
Connecticut	888-385-4225	North Carolina	910-798-3500
Delaware	800-223-9074	North Dakota	855-462-5465
Florida	800-962-2873	Ohio	855-644-6277
Georgia	888-774-0152	Oklahoma	800-522-3511
Hawaii/Oahu	808-832-5115	Oregon	855-503-7233
Idaho	800-926-2588	Pennsylvania	800-490-8505
Illinois	866-800-1409	Rhode Island	401-462-3000
Indiana	800-992-6978	South Carolina	888-227-3487
Iowa	800-362-2178	South Dakota	833-663-9673
Kansas	800-922-5330	Tennessee	888-277-8366
Kentucky	877-597-2331	Texas	800-252-5400
Louisiana	800-898-4910	Utah	800-371-7897
Maine	800-624-8404	Vermont	800-564-1612
Maryland	800-332-6347	Virginia	888-832-3858
Massachusetts	800-922-2275	Washington	866-363-4276
Michigan	855-444-3911	Washington DC	202-541-3950
Minnesota	844-880-1574	West Virginia	800-352-6513
Mississippi	844-437-6282	Wisconsin/Madison	608-255-6067
Missouri	800-392-0210	Wyoming	307-777-7564
Montana	844-277-9300		

## Region 6 Reflections

by Jouay Koppari, Region 6 Representative

A great BIG shoutout to Region 6 centenarians who turned 100+ in 2020, such a great milestone to achieve. Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Billie D'Entremont, Anne Cliff and Hope Kirkendall. Stay safe and healthy and may you have many more birthdays to come.

In the past six years, I've sent birthday and Christmas cards to all members-at-large, not only to bring seasonal greetings, but to try and keep the Region 6 database current with contact information. Most MALs are life members, so they have no reason to routinely contact the national finance officer or secretary.

Therefore, when they move to a new location or change phone numbers, MWAN is not notified. Newsletters are sent via bulk mail and will not be forwarded or returned to the sender, so there is no way for MWAN to find these gals.

I have been unable to contact a few MALs and would appreciate your help in locating them. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following ladies, please let the national secretary, or me, know so we can contact them: Minnie M. Shimp, Helen C. Ceppa, Doris K. Munzing, Martha J. Hamilton, Jeanne D. Strauss, and Eva P. Downs.

On a different subject, arrangements for end-of-life is not a fun topic. I've been remiss in taking action along these lines, and I am sure others are the same. My sister-in-law has been on me to do something, but I would say, "Yeah, yeah..." and not do anything.

Going through this pandemic and recently managing the affairs of a Region 6 member who died leaving no relatives to claim her remains has made me realize it's time to address this topic; no matter how uncomfortable.

MWAN member June Wilber passed away June 8<sup>th</sup> last year. Her death notice was published online and that is how we found out her remains were "unclaimed",

It was an uphill battle to obtain her VA burial benefit, because the VA had no record of her and the only details we had were her name, enlistment & discharge dates and what service she was in.

Through the diligence of Military Women of Tampa Bay Unit 55 members and assistance from several area veteran groups, June has been laid to rest (*See Sound Off!* on page 6).

To make certain YOUR VA burial benefits are known, please complete an Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery (Form 40-10007); especially if you are single and/or have no relatives nearby.

The form can be filled out online or downloaded and printed out so you can mail/fax it to the VA along with your proof of service (DD214, Discharge Certificate, etc.)

Once your eligibility has been determined, you will be mailed a certification letter and a folder to keep with your end-of-life papers. If you need this form or help in getting the form let me know. More information about this topic can be found on Page 8.

Have a Healthy and Safe 2021.





# Military Women Across the Nation College Scholarship Rules & Application



This \$1,000 scholarship is available to a relative - male or female - of a military woman.

The 2021 essay topic is

**“Should women be required to register for the draft?”**

**APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT ADHERE TO ALL INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

## **Applicant Eligibility**

1. May be female or male but must be a civilian relative of a Military Woman who has served or is serving honorably in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard or their Guard or Reserve components. The relationship may be by birth, legal adoption or marriage.
2. Must have a 3.2 or better Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale.
3. Must be a high school senior or undergraduate college student.
4. Entries must be submitted by **17 MAY 2021: NO EXCEPTIONS.**
5. Military women and veterans may **NOT APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP.**

**NEW EXTENDED  
DEADLINE**  
*Due to Pandemic Situation*

## **Application Package MUST INCLUDE the following:**

1. Completed Application.
2. Copy of all transcripts pertaining to current course of study to include academic standing.
3. **Documented Proof of the military woman relative's honorable military service.** Application packages without this proof **WILL NOT be considered.** **Documented Proof** is a legible copy of the military woman's Standard Form DD-214, discharge certificate **OR** a Statement of Service on letterhead from the military woman's current command.  
**NOTE: To protect personal information applicants are directed to mark out all references to social security and/or service numbers on the DD-214 and high school or college transcripts.**
4. An essay of 1,000 to 1,500 words in length written on the above topic. The essay must be the applicant's own work; be submitted in .doc or .docx format, and include documented evidence (including a bibliography) of both research and an interview with at least one military woman. (The interviewee does not need to be the qualifying relative.) Applicants are encouraged to contact military women in recruiting offices, at military bases, reserve units, etc. to enhance the research.
5. The entire Application Package shall be submitted in one email to include **separate attachments** for the following:
  - (1) Completed Application
  - (2) Transcripts (must be legible)
  - (3) Military Woman Relative Proof of Eligibility
  - (4) Applicant's essay (in .doc or .docx format)

Each attached file must include the applicant's last name and first initial as part of the file name and ALL correspondence must include the applicant's name in the subject line.

6. Email the Application Package and/or any questions to the Scholarship Chair at:

**MWANScholarship@milwomen.org**

**NEW** Application Package Submission **DEADLINE** is **17 MAY 2021.**

Applicants will be notified in July 2021 of the results.

The scholarship will be paid jointly to the scholarship recipient AND his/her college.

The application is available for download at [www.milwomen.org](http://www.milwomen.org) (See documents page)

# Military Women Across the Nation College Scholarship Rules & Application

PRINT or TYPE ALL INFORMATION

## Applicant

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Maiden (if applicable)

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

Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Current GPA (4.0 scale): \_\_\_\_\_ Class Ranking: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Test Scores: SAT Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ SAT Math \_\_\_\_\_ ACT Comp \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Name of School Currently Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City County State Zip Country

School Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ School Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School you plan to attend (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City County State Zip Country

School Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ School Website: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of School you are attending/plan to attend (Select as appropriate)

\_\_\_ 4-Year/Undergraduate College or University      \_\_\_ Trade/Technical School  
\_\_\_ 2-Year/Undergraduate College or University      \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
**Civic Clubs:** List memberships and offices (if applicable). Include school, civic, community service, honorary and religious organizations for each active membership: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Work/Employment:** List your volunteer and/or employment experience: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hobbies/Talents:** List your hobbies, talents and/or interests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Course of Study:** List your major or the field you plan to study: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your career objective?** \_\_\_\_\_

(Continue answers on separate pages as necessary.)

## Qualifying Military Woman Relative

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Maiden (if applicable)

Relationship to applicant (Mother, Aunt, Cousin, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Service Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Military Status (Veteran, Retired, Active, Reserve, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Military Service Proof included (REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_



### Application Package Submission

**NEW EXTENDED DEADLINE is 17 May 2021.**



Questions? Contact Scholarship Chair at [MWANScholarship@milwomen.org](mailto:MWANScholarship@milwomen.org)

# Sound Off!

## THREE RIVERS

**Unit #28 (PA)** – We are very sad to report unit members of Three Rivers #28 of Pittsburgh have voted to disestablish their unit. Unit members donated their remaining funds to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum in Pittsburgh (*vintage postcard image below*) which provided meeting space and refreshments for unit meetings.



## MILITARY WOMEN OF TAMPA BAY

**Unit #55 (FL)** – Please see Page 8 for details of this unit's most recent and extremely significant contribution to one of our military sisters.

## REDWOOD EMPIRE

**Unit #77 (CA)** – At this writing, Unit 77 has not as yet had a meeting in 2021 and it's been a full year since we gathered as a group. Several members have had both vaccinations, and continue to follow the rules. Unfortunately, the county buildings where we usually hold our meetings have not reopened. We are hoping that we will be able, in conjunction with the other veteran organizations, to participate in a Memorial Day program which is usually held outdoors.

The following photos are from a March 2020 panel discussion when several members shared stories of their military service. Photos are courtesy of Bethany LaRosa.



Unit members (Left-right):Cristina Baggese, Lisa Lim, Paula Molnar, Kate O'Hare Palmer, Mary Lou Loustalot, Bethany La Rosa, Leanna Evans, Leslie Fuller, Rose Nowak, Maura Mooney



Panelists (Left-right): Paula Molnar, Lisa Lim, Bethany La Rosa

## MEMPHIS BELLES

**Unit #151 (TN)** – The Tipton County Veterans Council recently recognized Debra Burns - one of our unit's newest members – for her work assisting veterans during the pandemic. Debra, who is Chief of Culinary Service at the Memphis VA Medical Center (MVAMC) was presented with a flag flown in her honor and a letter of appreciation.



Routinely, Debra is assisted by a small staff and a large number of volunteers who assist with almost every aspect of collecting, sorting, and distributing donations ranging from toothbrushes to clothing and furniture. However, COVID19 changed everything; not only what she could do it. On top of that, volunteers weren't allowed to come to work!

Not to be deterred and knowing many veterans needed help more than ever before, Debra put on her thinking cap, and took full advantage of conference calls and virtual meetings to ensure that no one who needed clothing or winter outer wear was turned away. As her letter of appreciation states, her coordination "with veteran organizations, your volunteers, and numerous corporate sponsors to provide almost two weeks of food items for veterans in need during December was just the icing on an exceptionally large cake of accomplishments and highlighted your remarkable leadership and coordination abilities."

Due to COVID restrictions, the MVAMC director, David Dunning, presented her flag and letter during a small ceremony at the VA. As stated in her letter, "You are an example that others can only hope to emulate. The Memphis Veterans Administration Medical Center and the veterans who use it are incredibly lucky to have you!"

Memphis Belles Unit 151 is also lucky to have her!

## MILITARY WOMEN OF TIDEWATER

**Unit #152 (VA)** – While unit members continue to support fellow veterans, during the past couple months we have come to recognize the joy that one special gal brings to our unit members.

Chances are, most of us recall the excitement generated by two simple words, "Mail Call"! Whether deployed on land or at sea, a letter from home usually made our day, and spurred us on to keep going. Ever since she accepted the unit position of "Sunshine Lady", and especially over the past year, with Covid-19 keeping us distanced, Unit 152 member Geraldine Rivera has been keeping us closer than ever. With her entourage of "not your ordinary cards" (both paper and e-cards), Geraldine finds just the right day to send a greeting.



# Sound Off!

Of course, Geraldine is known and loved for her cards that touch the patriotic blood in each of us - cards that celebrate Independence Day, Flag Day, Bill of Rights Day, Veterans Day - the list is endless. Then there are the cards that bring an unsuspecting chuckle or smile – Lighthouse Day, Coca-Cola Day, Chocolate Cupcake Day, Pie Day, Be Humble Day, National Button Day... Who knew?!

Especially fond memories include the card sent to a unit member's relative to celebrate an Eagle Scout award, and the one that arrived on "one of the hardest days of my life as a leader in my Navy career", said one member. Another member shared, "Oh the joy I feel when I find the cards in my mailbox!" And another shared that, "most times her cards are the only personal mail I receive."



When asked which card was her favorite, one sister shared that out of the 128 cards she had received - and kept - it was simply too hard to pick "just one."

Geraldine's gift as our Sunshine Lady continues to show how we can support and bless our fellow veterans in this time where we are too far apart. Unit 152 is **Very Thankful** Geraldine (pictured at right) shares her blessings of encouragement with us.

**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.**

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE (TX)



Retired Navy Master Chief Janet Michaud reported that she has recently volunteered with the Temple VFW Post 1820, continuing a relationship she established in 2016 when she moved to the area.

She serves as the Post Adjutant, taking care of meeting minutes and other administrative matters. A 14-year member of MWAN, she previously volunteered at the local VA hospital in Temple.

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE (OK)

Joyce Stotler will celebrate 35 years this year as a member of MWAN. Originally a member of Sooner WAVES Unit 30, she attended the 1988 National Convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where she was one of only five in attendance who had joined the Navy AFTER 1955!

Joyce served in the Navy from 1959 until 1961 as an Aviation Storekeeper. She was married to her "soulmate" for 54 years (until his passing in 2016) and had four children. However, there was more military service in her future.

While attending college in 1975 she met a female Army recruiter and learned she was eligible to join the Air National Guard (ANG). She and her husband signed up part-time, but lobbied for full-time positions when they found there was still time to earn a retirement!

They both got full-time positions and spent more than 20 years at Will Rogers Air National Guard base in Oklahoma City. During that time Joyce got to visit 18 different countries.

She joined WAVES National (now MWAN) in 1986 and held all Unit #30 offices several times through the years. Though she never held any offices, Joyce established the Oklahoma Mariners Unit #89 in Tulsa. She was a member of both units until they eventually folded. She's been a member-at-large ever since then.

When Joyce retired from the Oklahoma ANG in 1997, she took up quilting which has been her hobby of choice and a great source of personal support.

"This (photo of Joyce at right) was taken several months ago. This was a Quilt of Valor I made out of fabric that was left for me under my machine at a church," she said.



"I sew {at church} with friends on Monday's," she explained, adding, "I have no idea who gave {the fabric} to me. But, apparently, who ever gave it to me knew I made quilts to give away so I was able to make two Quilts of Valor out of {the material} in the sack."

Joyce said the quilt pictured was presented to a local veteran in December along with a half dozen other Quilts of Valor made by other members of her local quilt guild.

While she was diagnosed with two different kinds of cancer in 2018, both were caught early.

"I was blessed in that my quilting buddies have been great about taking me to my treatments," she said, adding that even though it has taken a lot of the "P--- & Vinegar" out of her and she uses a walker to get around, she still keeps busy.

Between the cancer and COVID19, Joyce has been pretty much on my own lately, but she says; "They {the cancer treatments} are finished and I got my second shot on Feb 27 so hopefully I will be about to get out and about more soon."

Joyce sends "Oceans of Love" to her service sisters!



## Navy Master Chief June Wilbur, 1927-2020, Fair Winds & Following Seas

**Florida** – Stories similar to the following, sadly, happen all too often. Sometimes, family members don't know where the veteran's important papers are located. Perhaps the veteran is homeless. Maybe, the veteran outlived all family members, including his/her children. Or, the only surviving family member is a great-grandchild who does not even know this great-grandparent is a veteran or does not know anything about VA benefits. The reasons are endless.



This is the story of June Wilbur (pictured at left in 2001), our military sister who died alone in a hospice facility and was determined to be indigent by the county in which she lived.

Unfortunately, those who knew her well had passed away or no longer lived nearby. Tragically, some of us who had met and interacted with her over the years, discovered how little we knew about her until she was gone.

About mid-November last year, Region 6

Representative Jouay Koppari was notified that June P. Wilbur, 92, of Palm Harbor had passed away on June 8, 2020, and that no family had come forward to claim her. Jouay was notified because the name and age matched an MWAN Life Member-at-Large with a Florida address.

MWAN records indicated June had served in the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1986 and retired as a Master Chief Photographer's Mate. June was a former member of Suncoast WAVES Unit #15 in Clearwater. With the unit's dissolution she became a member-at-large of MWAN. She had previously served as the Deputy VA Volunteer Services Representative for MWAN at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center (aka Bay Pines VA Hospital) in St. Petersburg. June was remembered as always smiling and as a very approachable individual. When Suncoast WAVES Unit #15 was still chartered, she was very involved in unit activities including serving as unit president.



In the journey to ensure June was properly interred, it was discovered that prior to her Navy enlistment, she had attended the New York Institute of Photography (at left) where she was also the school photographer.

Unfortunately, there was no documentation available to "officially" verify June's military service.

June died in Pinellas County, but members of Military Women of Tampa Bay Unit #55 (MWTB55) in Hillsborough County were quick to take on the responsibility of making certain June was properly laid to rest.

After a month of working with Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 8 and failing to find June listed anywhere within the VA system, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) of St Petersburg was contacted to see if they could provide assistance and advice on getting June properly interred in Bay Pines National Cemetery in St. Petersburg. Among its many charitable undertakings, CVMA provides motorcycle escorts for deceased veterans.

Research showed Pinellas County had paid Life Tribute Funeral Care of Largo to cremate June, but Life Tribute was

required to reimburse the county if the cremains were claimed, so there was a \$1835 fee to be paid. MWTB55 members voted to pay the fee, though it would deplete unit funds, but they also sent an email explaining the circumstances to the Veterans Council of Hillsborough County (VCHC) which is composed of various local veteran organizations. CVMA was able to negotiate the fee down to \$1000 and several VCHC organizations offered donations.

However, a member of VCHC who was employed at a local funeral home which often provided services for indigent veterans of Hillsborough County asked permission to make some inquiries. Within a few days, MWTB55 member Cathy Gerolimatos received a telephone call from Life Tribute offering to release June's cremains at "no charge".

In the interim, a request for a copy of her death certificate was made to Florida Department of Health. The certificate would be required, along with evidence of service, to apply to the VA for approval to bury June in a national cemetery.

On January 26 Jouay and Cathy took possession of June's cremains while CVMA and other organizations pursued proof of service/eligibility and approval for burial. The VA accepted June's retiree records as proof of eligibility.

Navy Master Chief Photographer's Mate June Wilbur was interred at 2 p.m. Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Bay Pines National Cemetery, St Petersburg. It was a dual ceremony for June and Army Captain Mulkey who served in Vietnam as a Green Beret. MWTB55 member Cathy Gerolimatos (Below with back to camera) accepted the American Flag from the U.S. Navy all-woman honor guard, a Certificate of Remembrance and three bullet casings provided by Marine Corps League Detachment #54 Honor Guard.



The journey from Veterans Funeral Care of Clearwater to the cemetery was under escort of CVMA and Special Warfare Motorcycle Club. Father Bob Swick led opening and closing prayers. June's ceremony was conducted first and included a three-volley rifle salute, the playing of Taps, a final piping ashore Bosun's call and folding the flag.

At conclusion of the ceremony, the cremains of both veterans were immediately placed in their respective columbaria niches. A bouquet of flowers was placed proximally for June by Jouay and a WAVES National Challenge Coin was provided to the cemetery staff for placement inside the niche.

Without a doubt, this day was possible because of the dedication and efforts of many individuals of several veteran service organizations and MWTB55 is deeply appreciative of their diligence and persistence.

Along with Cathy and Jouay, Master Chief Wilbur was honored and all women veterans were represented by other Unit 55 members Connie White, Pattie Duvall and Barbara J. McGuire. Representing Tampa Bay Chief Petty Officers was Melissa Augustine.

Rest in Peace, June.





## Eligibility for burial in a National Cemetery may be predetermined.

An estimated 1% of all cremation cases in the United States result in unclaimed cremated remains. To put that into perspective, the Cremation Association of North America reported the cremation rate was 53.1% for the 2,839,205 reported U.S. deaths in 2018. That means more than 15,000 sets of cremated human remains were never picked up by families, friends or loved ones in 2018 alone. As sad as this statistic is, this should never happen to a veteran.

While space at a specific National Cemetery cannot be reserved, all veterans are encouraged to complete and submit an "Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery (VA Form 40-10007)." Even if the veteran is not planning to be buried in a National Cemetery, the VA will issue a certificate to

eligible veterans, and record the pre-need claim form, supporting documentation, and decision letter in a recallable system to expedite burial arrangements at the time of need. The form is available online at: <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>

If you do not use the internet, please contact your Regional Representative (listed on Page 10), and she can print and mail you a copy of the form. This form may be used for those planning either cremation or full-body burial.

There is no requirement to be enrolled in the VA healthcare system. This form is related only to the veteran's burial benefit and memorial eligibility. Above all, ensure your family and/or friends know your wishes and have the necessary information to carry them out.

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## Meet your National Staff!

This feature will be presented as bulletin space is available. The mini biographies (presented in random order) were written by each staff member. If you see where your military or travel path may have crossed with one of these gals, don't hesitate to reach out and get to know each other!

The biographies are in random order. Also, keep in mind these are not "career" positions. Please consider stepping up to one of these jobs in the future. Also, all of the MWAN positions are volunteer, with some travel reimbursement available for elected officers who are expected to attend annual board meetings.

### Ginger Daniels is MWAN Secretary and lives in Oklahoma.

I spent my three-year tour in the Navy at Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, 205 miles from the barracks to my home, and loved almost every minute of my Navy experience. Discharged in November 1967 as a Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, I returned to school where I completed my bachelor's in Secondary Education and began a master's in Education program. About half way through, I married a career, enlisted soldier whom I had known since he was 13.



I became a life member of WAVES National/MWAN in 2006 but have never been a unit member. I've served as a State Director, Regional Representative and am currently serving as the National Secretary (formerly called Executive Secretary).

I'm the mother of a son and two daughters. One daughter was in the Coast Guard and the other was in the Army. I was widowed when my husband died as a result of complications from Agent Orange.

I retired from civil service with the Department of the Army, the state of Oklahoma, and the Census Bureau. When not working on MWAN projects I volunteer at the Shattuck Windmill Museum and Park.

### Jeanne Hooper is our Scholarship Chair and lives in Florida.

My itchy foot developed early, as I grew up moving around the country, but still call Colorado my "home state." When a high school friend told me her Navy experiences, I headed to the recruiter, and there was no looking back! Ten days after turning 18, I was off to boot camp in Bainbridge, Maryland.



Later, I married a sailor, got pregnant and was (involuntarily) discharged before my first enlistment was up. Nine months after my first son was born, I joined the Navy Reserve and remained in the reserve until retiring as a Senior Chief Aviation Electronics Technician in 2003.

In 1972, I became the first female Aviation Fire Control Technician in the fleet, and subsequently served in all four avionics specialties, depending on the needs of the Navy. I worked on various types of aircraft, with P-3s being my favorite, and spent a year of active duty on board the USS John F Kennedy. My favorite thing about the Navy was visiting other countries and experiencing other cultures!

After a divorce, I married another sailor, Dick (a P-3 guy). Our blended family includes four kids - Teri, Scott, Nathan and Sara - and we'll soon celebrate 35 years together. After living in all four corners of the country, we now call Pensacola home. We have eight unique grandkids, and in May 2020 became great-grandparents for the first time.

I joined our organization about 20 years ago, and have served Sea Breezes Unit 52 as president and treasurer. MWAN is a wonderful way to honor those women who have blazed trails and made history before us!



# MWAN National Officers & Staff 2020-2022

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## Time & Place Chair

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time.place@milwomen.org

## HerStory:

Call or write  
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Ooltewah TN  
herstory@milwomen.org

## 2020-2022 Regional Representatives

REGION I: California, Hawaii, Nevada

Representative: **Donna Lee**, 702-595-1879/NV  
RR1@milwomen.org

REGION II: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Representative: **Caren McCurdy**, 503-679-7429/WA  
RR2@milwomen.org

REGION III: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

Representative: **Martha Alderman**, 623-810-9328/AZ  
RR3@milwomen.org

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

Representative: **Annette Dunseth**, 701-509-5412/ND  
RR4@milwomen.org

REGION V: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Representative: **\*VACANT\*** (Contact VP for Membership)  
RR5@milwomen.org

REGION VI: Florida

Representative: **Jouay Koppari**, 813-684-1668/FL  
RR6@milwomen.org

REGION VII: Oklahoma, Texas

Representative: **Sue Gunnell**, 281-712-1984/TX  
RR7@milwomen.org

REGION VIII: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi

Representative: **\*VACANT\*** (Contact VP for Membership)  
RR8@milwomen.org

REGION IX: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Representative: **Michele Batliner**, 816-315-9229/MO  
RR9@milwomen.org

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

Representative: **Beth Wingfield**, 706-508-5612/GA  
RR10@milwomen.org

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

Representative: **Jennifer Baun**, 314-803-8643/OH  
RR11@milwomen.org

REGION XII: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland,  
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia

Representative: **Hortense Toliaferro**, 215-327-7384/NJ  
RR12@milwomen.org

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

Representative: **Michele Diamond**, 401-824-6786/RI  
RR13@milwomen.org

## MWAN Regional Map



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

# MWAN Supply Locker

APRIL 2021

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 (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**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
- 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**

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 (5) \$4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- WAVES Key Chain, Rubber \$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- DD214 Alumni Decal \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- 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:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Up to \$40 = \$8; \$41-\$100 = \$15; \$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: supplies@milwomen.org

**\*\*Special of the Month- Orders over \$30, get a free MWAN Lapel Pin (\$4 offer)**

**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

## U.S. Navy

- |                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Louisa (Davidson) Thayer         | 21/OH  |
| Lil (Cormier) Sanders            | 36/CA  |
| Betty L. Young                   | 36/CA  |
| Charlotte E. (Pittaway) Larson   | 151/MO |
| Mary (Holmes) McCombs            | MAL/CA |
| C. Valentine (Lavila) Rich       | MAL/FL |
| Marion E. (Hutchinson) McNiece   | MAL/FL |
| Ethel Mae (Stonecipher) Grasmuck | MAL/ME |
| Marian L. (Behling) Demers       | MAL/WI |



*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

<b>MEMBER-AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM</b> (Dues period 1 January to 31 December)	<i>Please type, print          or use address label</i>
Name: _____	Member ID #: _____
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Email Address: _____	
<b>NOTE: Future newsletters will be sent via email. If you Prefer A Printed Copy, please check here</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
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:	
<b>Terry Taylor, VP for Finance, 10105 E Via Linda, Ste 103-253, Scottsdale AZ 85258-5362</b>	
First-time applicants must use the MWAN membership application available online at <a href="http://www.milwomen.org">www.milwomen.org</a>	