

# MILITARY Women's BULLETIN



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VOLUME MMXXIII, #4

AUGUST 2023

## 2023 MWAN Scholarship awarded to Trenton McMillen

*This year's MWAN Scholarship recipient is Trenton James McMillen of Suffolk, VA, pictured at right with his mom, US Navy Public Affairs Lieutenant Commander Tia Nichole McMillen. Trenton plans to attend the University of Virginia College of Wise, VA. MWAN members wish Trenton success in all of his future endeavors.*

**Essays are printed as written and have not been edited by the Bulletin Editor.**

### “What were the challenges faced by military women who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War?”

*by Trenton James A. McMillen*

Pride. Honor. Adventure. Courage. Commitment.

These themes resonated across rank, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, and duty station for the three women I interviewed for this essay. Their stories and backgrounds are unique—and the reasons they served are compelling:

*“I loved traveling and just knew joining the military would solve that problem...”*

*“My father was the lead designer of the B24 bomber during World War II. I was very proud of him and I wanted to make a difference as well...”*

*“I heard my uncles' stories coming back from Vietnam and wanted to become a Navy communicator to bridge the gap between our Armed Forces and American citizens so that war heroes came home to a population that better understood them...”*

The people I interviewed served on the periphery of the Vietnam War, though their actions directly contributed to the nearly 2.7 million Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs who served in country—nearly 10% of my grandparents' generation (History.com, 2021). According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (2021), “During the Vietnam War, more than 265,000 American women served the military and 11,000 women served in Vietnam, with 90% working as volunteer nurses.” Other women worked as physicians, air traffic controllers, intelligence officers, clerks, and in other positions in the Women's Army Corps, U.S. Navy, Air Force, Marines, and the Army Medical Specialist Corps (History.com, 2021). In addition to warzone stressors and combat fire, these women processed other stressors including poor living and working conditions, sexual assault, drug and alcohol-related dependencies, and the natural consequences of war.

One interviewee, Dorothy Parker, worked in administration and personnel during the Vietnam War and was stationed at U.S. European Command; another, Sheri Carrington, was in charge of a Mobile Army Support



Hospital as a Medical Service Corps Officer and was stationed in San Diego. In addition to meeting and interviewing Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Carrington, I researched hours of interviews with Vietnam women veterans to hear their stories and determine some overarching challenges.

**Believing Women.** Nearly every interviewee mentioned that women had to be twice as good and work twice as hard in their careers to be listened to by men. Sheri Carrington said, “Unfortunately, the general sentiment was that women were not welcome in the military unless they performed the duties of a secretary. To qualify for an officer, a man only needed a high school education, but a woman needed a minimum of a 2-year college degree.”

**“Essay” is continued on Page 8.**

→→ **Don't Forget!** ←←

**Unit Annual Finance 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 GinaMarie Doherty, National President

Super Shout Out to Northeast Ohio Women Veterans Unit 21 for its generous donation to replenish our National Convention Seed Money. Unit 21 members have demonstrated their genuine dedication to MILWOMEN. I believe Unit 21 has enabled MILWOMEN to continue its purpose and objective: to encourage patriotism, loyalty, and devotion to God, country and family, for each member to be of actual assistance; and to keep up each other's morale.

Thank you to all Unit Presidents, Regional Representatives, National Elected Officers and National Staff Members who turned in reports for the Midterm Convention. I believe these reports reflect MILWOMEN's mission to keep all military women, past and present, informed of current benefits associated with their military service; keep female veterans connected while preserving our common history, and provide opportunities for women in tomorrow's armed forces through networking, socialization, and service with other female veterans.

As I approach the end of my first year in office as your National President, I would like to thank Past National Presidents Dassa Carvey, Patty Parks, and Barbara Turner for their unrelenting guidance and support. The decisions required from this office call for extreme democracy and delicate conversation that can only be learned with guidance and support.

I am grateful to all of you for your service and dedication to MILWOMEN.

## Membership Message

by Debbie Crutchfield, Vice President for Membership

I hope this finds you all doing well. I would like to encourage every member to keep a couple of copies of our membership application handy to pass out to any female veterans you meet. We really need to grow our organization, if we want to see it continue into the future.

If you belong to a unit, invite women veteran friends to visit a meeting with you. If you don't belong to a unit, please consider starting one. Read the articles in the "Sound Off" section to see what other units are doing.

I have been a member of many units around the country since I joined this organization in 1982. I have always enjoyed being a unit member. We have no units in South

# Officers' Call

Carolina, where I live, but I found Triangle Women Veterans, Unit 144 in North Carolina.

It is a very active unit and I have been a member for almost five years. We meet every three months and I have made many new friends. I drive about four hours to attend meetings, but my husband goes along as my chauffeur, and we make a day of it.

Believe me, you will enjoy being a unit member. As I have said before, our members are our best advertisement. So please recruit, Recruit, RECRUIT! Wishing you a wonderful summer."

## Supply Snapshot & Special

by Linda Coffield, Supply Locker Officer

Shop NOW for Veterans' Day! Why not consider the service-specific, dogtag-style, lapel pins pictured below?

At about 1" x 1/2", with a detachable chain, they're perfect for your collar, purse or hat. Only \$5 each! AND, if you buy any five (mix or match), you'll get free shipping!



Above (left-right): Navy, Air Force, Marines

Below (left-right): Army, Coast Guard, Veteran

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**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.

# Sound Off!

## FIRST STATE MILITARY WOMEN WARRIORS

**Unit #10 (DE)** – MWAN President GinaMarie Doherty and her husband, Steve, traveled from Rhode Island to Delaware to help us celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of unit co-founder and World War II veteran, Helen (Wendt) Knapp.

Helen received many tributes and honors from Delaware dignitaries, a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, and individual birthday cards from people around the world.

Helen (pictured at right) was also awarded a Quilt of Valor (QOV) by Dana Mason, a Delaware State Coordinator for QOV. To make the presentation even more special, Dana personally made the beautiful quilt.



The party also included a birthday cake, and the showing of a video which commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).



(Left to right) MWAN President GinaMarie Doherty, birthday gal Helen, & Sherri Leslie, Past State Commander for VFW Department of Delaware.

## STARS & STRIPES

**Unit #36 (CA)** – Unit members celebrated an early 81<sup>st</sup> Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES) Birthday in July, while concurrently welcoming Hitomi McAbee, the new Center Operations Supervisor for the San Diego Lindbergh Field USO.



The international airport is being completely renovated with the razing of Terminal One and its parking facility, so the USO located at Terminal Two is extremely busy.

Our unit delivers 25 neck pillows weekly to the USO, sustaining the West Coast Pillow Project, and helping military travelers get a touch of hand-made comfort for their journeys. The USO will be closed next month, as it, too, will benefit from a facelift, as well as other airport facilities.



Pictured above standing (left to right) are Hitomi McAbee, Susan Farnsworth, Liz Osborne & Pandora Menegus; seated are Lynne Pine, Roxanne Jones & Carol Weiss.

## REDWOOD EMPIRE MILITARY WOMEN

**Unit #77 (CA)** – On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we completed our usual monthly meeting, and co-sponsored an art event with Life on Earth Art of Petaluma. It was a huge success, with woman veterans from Sonoma County and Yountville Veterans Home participating. The hearts we created (pictured below) will be featured in the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Veterans Art Show in Petaluma.



Unit President Trisha Almond submitted a request to the cities in the county to read a Women Veterans Day Proclamation, which was read at city council meetings in Cotati on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Petaluma on June 5<sup>th</sup>, Santa Rosa on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and Sonoma on June 24<sup>th</sup>. We were warmly welcomed and acknowledged for our service at each reading, and pictures were taken with the mayors and council members.

**Redwood Empire #77 continued on Page 4.**

# Sound Off!

## REDWOOD EMPIRE #77 – Continued



Above (center four, left to right) Kate O'Hare Palmer, Rose Nowak, Cotati Mayor Susan Harvey & Trisha Almond with Cotati City Council members.



Above (center two, left to right) Kate O'Hare Palmer & Rose Nowak with members of the Santa Rose City Council.



Above (left to right) Trisha Almond, Sonoma Mayor Sandra Lowe, Rose Nowak, Maura Mooney & Leslie Fuller.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, several members visited our sisters at the Yountville Veterans Home. We brought snacks and beverages to share, and had a wonderful time getting acquainted with these fabulous women while sharing experiences. It was so successful, we plan a repeat performance in the very near future, as well as several other upcoming events this summer.



Above (left to right) Maura Mooney, Bethany LaRosa, Rose Nowak, five Yountville residents, Trisha Almond, Leslie Fuller & another Yountville resident at far right.

## OCEAN STATE

**Unit #118 (RI)** – Our unit has not reported for a while, but we have been active. We laid a wreath at the Women's Service Memorial Statue at the Veteran's Cemetery in Exeter on Veterans' Day in 2022, and, again, on Memorial Day this year.

Although contact restrictions continued in place until 2023, Unit #118 members performed their annual Christmas giving activities including: making donations to Holly Charette House (a shelter for women veterans), Lucy's Hearth (a family homeless shelter), and Newport Women's Resources (which provides support for battered women); and providing gifts for women veterans at the Bristol Soldiers Home.

Unit #118 member Audrey Macleod Pfeiffer joined members from MWAN New England Unit #158 in attending social activities at the state Veterans' Home.

More recently, unit members Jeannie Vachon (*below left*) and Ginny Hanson (*below right*) participated in the East Providence Elks Lodge Expo on May 20<sup>th</sup>. A good time was had by all.



Our newly elected unit officers are pictured below (*left to right*): President Jeannie Vachon, Vice President Gretchen Vierling-Cutlip, Treasurer/Historian Ginny Hanson, and Secretary Sharron Zapor. May they have a rewarding and successful experience as officers during the upcoming year.



Unit members would like to thank outgoing unit president Pat Denny for her leadership over the past few years, especially thru the Covid 19 pandemic.

**Ocean State #118 continued on Page 5.**

## OCEAN STATE #118 – Continued

While we were unable to have monthly, in-person meetings until 2023, Pat kept us engaged in Mwan communications with meaningful newsletters. She assured members were kept informed on unit and national matters, updated on veterans' benefits, and provided reminders to submit volunteer hours and membership forms. Thanks, again, Pat, for a job well done.

## TRIANGLE WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #144 (NC)** – Our Memorial Day flag event was soggy, but TWV was there! We have established a legacy for Memorial Day flag placement by including the Cary First Christian Cemetery, an historic black cemetery in Cary. Church Historian Barbara Ingram said they were delighted to have their veterans, some from World War I, honored and remembered. Unit member Yoneka Moore Trent absolutely rocked in her handling of the event!

Unit members Adina Lev (*below left*) and Nelly Ornate (*below right*) represented TWV in the 'Carry the Load' walk. They raised \$350 dollars toward supporting programs for veterans and first responders.



Our unit sponsored Women Veterans Morning with the Mustangs hosted by member Jill Blakeney's Mustangs & Patriots Project. More than 20 women veterans attended and enjoyed camaraderie, manicures, fairy hair, drumming, belly dancing, Mustang time, good food and fun. Attendees demanded another get-together in the fall.



Unit member Shelley Kirk gets a ride on Lil' Missy Mustang.

# Sound Off!

Thanks, and congratulations to unit member Brenda Brubaker and her team! After years of hard work, they achieved the monumental task of getting Women Veteran's Day, June 12<sup>th</sup>, signed into proclamation by Governor Cooper.

Gary Cuhna, Durham VAMC Suicide Prevention Coordinator, gave a class to interested members in June. Also in attendance was the Cary Police Department Crisis Intervention Trainer. Members obtained tools for their toolkit in helping prevent veteran suicides.

Our June meeting, and auction, were a great success. Members attended (either in person or via Zoom) and raised more than \$900. Members voted to support the Women Veterans Memorial Square Foot Society by making a \$330 donation.



June meeting in-person attendees (*standing, left to right*) were Carolyn Comfort, April Maggart, Bernie Donato, Brenda Brubaker, Debbie Crutchfield, Adina Lev, Linnea Sommer-Weddington & Ann Lewis; *Seated* are Kim Kochis (*left*) & Yoneka Moore Trent

## MEMPHIS BELLES

**Unit #151 (TN)** – In April, Unit President Kathy Desjarlais, was named one of two Volunteers of the Year at the Lieutenant Colonel Luke Weathers, Jr., VAMC in Memphis. VAMC Director Joseph Vaughn presented plaques to Priscilla Tucker from Soldier's Angels and Kathy during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Kathy has accumulated more than 38,000 volunteer hours. In addition to 'Coffee Call', she is the CDCE coordinator for Operation Baby Basket, and works various special events in addition to routine day-to-day operations.



Priscilla Tucker (*left*) and Kathy Desjarlais (*right*) receive plaques of recognition from Memphis VAMC Director Vaughn as Volunteers of the Year.

**Memphis Belles #151 continued on Page 6.**

# Sound Off!

## MEMPHIS BELLES #151 – Continued

Unit members were very involved in May's annual Tipton County Memorial Day Service honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Kathy was the overall coordinator, while Sami Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Anne Day closed the program by playing Taps.

In June we participated in Millington's Field of Honor event for the second year. Kathy was one of four guest speakers which included representatives from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and a veteran candidate for elected office.



Representing our unit at Field of Honor are (left to right) Linda Coffield, Kathy Desjarlais, Becky Dickinson, Sami Phillips, & Anne Day.

## MILITARY WOMEN OF TIDEWATER

### Unit #152 (VA) – Old Dominion Honor Flight Mission #4 Ice



Cream Social took place on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The socials are usually held a month after each honor flight. Veterans, their spouses, and guardians are invited to reminisce about their personal experiences on the honor flight. Unit #152 is honored to sponsor this event and we always have a wonderful time.

At left, Jo Heimerl is ready to serve up a chilly treat!

Unit member, Maggie Cobb (pictured at right) attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 50th Anniversary, Vietnam War Commemoration Welcome Home in Washington, DC. She was a part of this amazing event in honor and remembrance of the Vietnam War. After the anniversary ceremonies, Maggie volunteered again with the USO at Ft. Belvoir to support the Lt. Dan Band concert put on by the Gary Sinise Foundation.



DoD Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) member, Octavia Harris, CMDCM (Ret.), was recently in town for official DACOWITS business supporting the Sailors of Naval Air Station, Oceana. In addition, she was able to visit with unit member Suz Whitman, Pacific Fleet Command Master Chief (Ret.).

Several members of our unit attended the Tidewater Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, 29 May, at the Virginia Beach Memorial. This is an annual event sponsored by the City of Virginia Beach and the Mayor's Veterans Committee. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the ceremony was moved inside to the Convention Center. That did not stop the amazing and emotional wreath laying ceremony from continuing with more than 50 different organizations supporting fallen military service men and women.



Unit 152 wreath-laying attendees (left to right): Suzanne Davis, Leslie Carpenter, Betty Hand, Alesia Thornton-White, April Maletz & Jo Heimerl.

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

## TRISTATE WOMEN VETERANS

Unit #157 (TN) – Summers are always busy in Tennessee. May blasted off early with the Armed Forces Parade. Clear, spring weather greeted unit members who participated in the parade, followed by a community luncheon.

In mid-month, unit members Renee Chisholm and Patty Parks drove to south Alabama for a visit with our unit's "senior service sister" Lurline Almond Person. Lurline, who served in the Army during the 1950's, moved to her hometown a couple years ago to be closer to family.

We closed out May by carrying our unit flags on Memorial Day in the Parade of Colors at Chattanooga National Cemetery.

*TriState Women #157 continued on Page 7.*

## TRISTATE WOMEN #157 – Continued



Armed Forces Parade participants (left to right): Gloria Gray, Zaida Ringheimer, Carla Bell, Renee Chisholm, Judith Stringfellow, Patty Parks & Cathy Brown.

Many unit members gathered to celebrate Women Veterans Day on June 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of constructive conversation with new ideas & community projects discussed.

We tried a new venue for our June meeting; the Disabled American Veterans Hall. It was very nice, so we shall meet there in the future.

Sales of our unit T-shirt were so popular; we had all four available colors modeled by unit members!



Our precious Lurline Person



Unit 157 'super models' (left to right): Diane Howard, Diana Rand, Debbie James & Patty Parks.

## NEW ENGLAND

**Unit #158 (RI)** – We held our unit meeting at the Rhode Island Veterans Home after hosting bingo with the residents.



Pictured (left to right) family member Mary Lee Westbrook, Unit members Erika Westbrook & Connie Rix, & family member Nancy Tierney.

# Sound Off!



Erika Westbrook (with ball cap on) displays the MWAN flag with the help of other residents, staff and family members. (Names unavailable.)



Pictured above, Unit Secretary GinaMarie Doherty (left) and Region 13 Representative Alicia Rodriguez attended the Veterans Resource Fair hosted by the East Providence Elks Lodge 2337 at Pierce Field.

Although rain hindered attendance, we met many veterans and through networking gained valuable resources which are available throughout the state.

## LAKELAND ROYAL SWANS

**Unit #159 (FL)** – Greetings from Lakeland Royal Swans! Our very young unit is now 14 members strong and growing! With the stifling, summertime heat of Central Florida, our outdoor activities have really taken a backseat these past couple of months.

We had really good attendance at our May and June meetings. However, due to involvement with other organizational events, we neglected to take our group picture, and missed out on our monthly luncheon together.

**Lakeland Royal #159 continued on Page 8.**

# Sound Off!

## LAKELAND ROYAL #159 - Continued

In early May, we helped set up tables and chairs for the Women's Resource Health Fair at the James A. Haley VA Center in Tampa. Once the event was set up, our volunteers had the opportunity to walk around and garnish all sorts of material to take back to our sisters.

A myriad of information was available pertaining to National Cemeteries, finance counselors, THRIVE/Whole Health Care, and other VA-related programs.



Our June meeting attendees (left to right) were: Kay Shelby, Karen Warren, Gwen Pipkin, Linda Osborn, Kathleen VanMiddlesworth, Grace Tate and Lorraine Peaslee.

In July, we volunteered at the JAHVA Women's Center Drive Through Baby Shower, and donated baby wash for the event. We're looking forward to the fall when it's cooler and can be more active.

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. If you know any sister veterans in central Florida who may be interested in joining our unit, please have them contact Kathleen VanMiddlesworth at (863) 738-4487 or send an email to [MilitaryWomenLakeland@gmail.com](mailto:MilitaryWomenLakeland@gmail.com). We're also on Facebook at [facebook.com/LRSofMWAN/](https://facebook.com/LRSofMWAN/).

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE, MISSOURI

Ann Puck (pictured below) recently took time to distribute support items to women veterans from the Kansas City VA.



She also attended a presentation in Liberty on Medal of Honor recipient Vicent R. Capodanno who was killed in action on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1967, in Vietnam.

## ESSAY – Continued from Page 1

Dorothy Parker said, "I believe we were scrutinized fairly closely and with some hesitation as many did not like the idea of a woman in their male domain. I also believe some thought that having women taking over their desk jobs meant they were more likely to go to a combat zone." Many were not believed and told stories of the long-term effects this had on their psyches. In a 2015 video from the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, Chief Warrant Officer Three Doris "Lucki" Allen, a retired U.S. Army intelligence specialist who served in and during Vietnam, said, "I called the Tet Offensive 30 days ahead of time. I said, 'better watch out—this is gonna happen', and they didn't do it. Maybe 20,000 people are on that wall in Washington, D.C. because they didn't listen and the reason they didn't listen, I still believe it today, was because I was Black, whack...and innocent. If I was a man, they would have listened." She ended her story by stating, "Even though they didn't believe me, I believe me."

**Bounty on Nurses.** Two separate interviews mentioned that women nurses were not allowed to leave base or post because the Viet Cong set bounties on nurses. Anne Darby Reynolds, a Navy nurse in Vietnam said, "The nurses in Vietnam were in constant danger. The Viet Cong knew that American medical resources were limited. There was a bounty on our heads, and at one point I narrowly escaped a kidnapping attempt. There was really no frontline; our lives were at risk everywhere we went," (Bricker, 2021). In a video by the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, U.S. Army nurse Donna Rowe laughed during her interview when asked about the bounties the Viet Cong placed on nurses. "Oh," she said, "I would just hop on a helo to go base-to-base and be back in time for my shift. Looking back, I had no idea how much danger I was putting myself or others in—but it also kept me sane" (2019). In an article by *Inkstick*, Edward Salo amplifies this statement, saying, "The news of the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese offering bounties on U.S. forces appeared early in the conflict. As early as 1964, the Central Intelligence Agency warned that the Viet Cong was offering bounties equivalent to \$250 (approximately \$2,067 in 2020 dollars) for each American killed" (Salo, 2020).

**Reintegration.** Reintegration from a combat zone back to the United States did not look then as it does today. Upon return, women, too, faced hostile treatment like their male counterparts. Many of those deployed did not have access to news sources, so they left 1950s America and came back during one of the most tumultuous and divisive decades in world history, marked by the civil rights movement, antiwar protests, countercultural movements, and political assassinations. They did not recognize their own country after serving for it honorably.

Dorothy Parker shared her story: "The War protesters became very vocal in the USA but, again, those stationed overseas had no idea of the extent of the protesting. My one experience was when I flew back to my home with my fiancé and we had to switch planes at O'Hara Airport in Chicago. Even though we were traveling at our own expense we were active duty and had to wear our Class A uniforms. As we switched terminals there was a huge commotion outside the doors with airport police on the inside and massive gathering of demonstrators outside trying to get in and carrying huge signs protesting the War... Unfortunately, the veterans from Vietnam came home to people spitting and cussing at them, and people protesting them—that was our homecoming."

"Essay" continued on Page 9.



## ESSAY – Continued from Page 8

U.S. Army nurse Donna Rowe suddenly paused in her interview when asked about reintegration (2019). “We landed in San Francisco in our fatigues,” she said, describing her arrival with her husband, who also served on the same post in Vietnam. “People with nasty signs, yelling bad stuff...” she explained. “I remember saying to my husband, ‘Are we in the United States? And what are these people complaining about? Why are they taking it out on us?’” she posited. “The Vietnam generation is different because we know that you can hate war but you must love the American war hero. I didn’t struggle at all in my hometown—they welcomed us. But when you landed in a big city in fatigues...” she stopped, then started again.

“They stopped us from letting us wear our fatigues to travel.” She took a long pause, remembering. “When Bush declared war, it was Vietnam vets on overpasses with buntings waving the flag for these young veterans—our children and grandchildren, because we will always remember what it was like,” she finished.

**Family Planning.** Dorothy Parker amplified one lesser-known issue I thought important to include. She said, “One of the biggest challenges of being a woman in the military was pregnancy. The Army said that if the Army wanted you to have a wife, it would have issued one. The Air Force was more accommodating to married people but if the wife was on active duty and got pregnant, she was discharged within a week or two. Same with a single woman who was on active duty and her supervisor discovered the pregnancy.

She was off base fast and left with no resources, health insurance, or place to live. I always thought that was so unfair. I met my husband (of 52 years) in Germany and extended my tour of duty to stay with him until his tour of duty was over. We knew we wanted children eventually so when he rotated back to the U.S. I put in papers and was discharged. I also knew that I had no desire to be a mom on active duty. But it did not seem fair to not have that choice. Now, we have many women who are moms and on active duty, too, and the world has not fallen apart!”

This is not unlike a 2022 article by Stephanie Erwin. Findings noted that “the complex and challenging intersections of family and work they encountered over the course of their military careers. As in other professions, military women bear disproportionate familial burdens compared with their male counterparts, and challenges pertaining to marriage and children regularly affect their professional careers. However, the military presents heightened professional demands on family planning, including marital status, marital partners’ professions, pregnancy, maternity, and parenthood. These additional challenges women in the military face regarding family planning often run counter to organizational efforts to encourage women’s participation, promotion, and retention in the military.” A study by the Vietnam Women’s Memorial Project and the VA National Center for PTSD, VA Boston Healthcare System, and Boston University School of Medicine, found that both military and civilian women who served in Vietnam, regardless of whether they continued to make the military their career, were less likely to have married or have had children than women from the general population (2017).

**Access to Healthcare.** Vietnam-era women veterans face poorer health-related quality of life because of some military experiences including sexual assault and discrimination, warfare-related exposures, and resulting mental health situations.

**Agent Orange.** Many sought and seek care for health complications from Agent Orange. Agent Orange causes

ischemic heart disease and failure, lung cancer, kidney failure, and COPD-related disorders (Littig, n.d.). According to the VA (2023), Agent Orange was a tactical herbicide the U.S. military used to clear leaves and vegetation for military operations mainly during the Vietnam War. The new bipartisan PACT Act legislation adds two new presumptive conditions, in addition to the five already covered, a win for America’s veterans.

**Sexual Assault.** While sexual assault was not mentioned in any interviews, it is prominent in myriad studies. In an article co-authored by Dr. Brian Smith (2019), a research psychologist in the Women’s Health Sciences Division, National Center for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at VA Boston Healthcare System and assistant professor of psychiatry, explains findings from a study that analyzes Vietnam women’s healthcare long after the war. The robust link between sexual harassment while in the service and later health problems is perhaps not surprising. Studies of post-9/11 veterans have documented the effects of sexual harassment and assault on both female and male service members’ mental and physical health, says Smith. “These experiences are disproportionately faced by women, which makes it especially important to consider their effects on healthy aging and quality of life over the long term.” A study by Fontana et. al (1997), found that war trauma and sexual trauma made equal contributions to the probability of developing chronic PTSD. While sexual trauma was less reported than war trauma, it was equally as influential in PTSD diagnoses.

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.** PTSD was and is incredibly prevalent for women Vietnam veterans. Smith et. al (2017) found, “Our findings support continued emphasis upon PTSD as an important adverse health outcome for military veterans and highlight the potential long-term effects of military service on these aging women veterans of the Vietnam era. It was also noteworthy that exposure to sexual discrimination and harassment while deployed was a consistent risk factor for poor long-term health functioning and increased disability.” In addition to the earlier military conditions linked to poorer late-life functioning, PTSD was linked to all of the study’s indicators of functioning and disability, and major depression was the strongest risk factor for worse disability and mental health functioning, followed by PTSD. This suggests that it’s important to consider the risk and impact of depression as well as PTSD for older women veterans, notes Smith (Smith, 2019).

Being believed, bounties on nurses, reintegration, family planning and healthcare concerns were just a few of the issues that military women serving in Vietnam faced. I was not prepared for what this research brought to light. First, I had no idea just how many people served during Vietnam—from drafters to Red Cross volunteers to women running hospitals on the front line—the Vietnam War permeated an entire generation. I didn’t listen to a single story, read a single email, or watch a single interview without crying. While my goals are to run for office and change policy—there’s a part of me who now wants to see what serving is all about.

These women are some of the strongest people I have ever had the pleasure of researching. After careers of service, these women transitioned to civilian careers of service: working for the Red Cross, serving as the chief nurse for a major hospital, and retiring onto the board for Habitat for Humanity. While their stories are different, their pride in serving their nation, the honor they felt by serving, the adventures they sought, the courage required to meet the mission, and their commitment to serving their nation are at the root of each women’s story. I am grateful to have the opportunity to learn from them and to be encouraged by them.

★ ★ ★

# MWAN National Officers & Staff 2022-2024

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## 2020-2022 Regional Representatives

REGION 1: California, Hawaii, Nevada

Representative: **Lynne Pine**, 507-400-9111/CA  
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REGION 2: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Representative: **Lynne Pine**, 507-400-9111/CA  
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REGION 3: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

Representative: **Martha Alderman**, 623-810-9328/AZ  
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REGION 4: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming

Representative: **Annette Dunseth**, 701-509-5412/ND  
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REGION 5: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Representative: **Jennifer Baun**, 314-803-8643/OH  
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REGION 6: Florida

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REGION 7: Oklahoma, Texas

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REGION 8: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi

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REGION 9: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

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

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

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REGION 12: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland,  
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Representative: **Dassa Carvey**, 757-363-3059/VA  
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REGION 13: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New  
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## 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 2023**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- USN Women Veteran \$ 6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Patches: Navy Flag or Services (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY) \$ 4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- American Flag Patch (3½"x2") \$ 4 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 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Veteran American Flag Pin \$ 5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Freedom Forever Eagle Pin \$ 5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- US Flag & Service Flag Pin \$ 4 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ (USN, USAF, USMC)
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Poppy Flower Lapel Pin \$ 5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**MWAN CLOTHING ITEMS**

- Neck Tabs, Black w/Velcro \$12 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Garrison Caps (includes patch) \$24 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizes: 25
- MWAN Visor \$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Ball Cap \$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN T-Shirt \$18 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
- MWAN Polo Shirt \$36 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gray or White** Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
- MWAN Jacket \$36 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- MWAN Sweatshirt \$28 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 \$ 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\*\*)

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

Up to \$40 = \$9; \$41-\$100 = \$17; \$101 & above = \$20  
 Check/MO #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Make checks 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

**ORDER EARLY FOR YOUR VETERANS DAY NEEDS!**

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



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

# Silver Taps

## U.S. Navy

Mary J. (Phillips) Smith 118/ME  
Joy (Lemmon) Casino MAL/FL  
Shirley (Woodworth) Korn MAL/FL  
Marjorie C. (Thatcher) Sears MAL/MA



*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 PRINT**

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:

**Maura Mooney, VP for Finance, 228 Goldman Lane, Petaluma CA 94952-3682**

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