

# MILITARY Women's BULLETIN



*In this issue...*

- Officers Call . . . . . 2-3
- VAVS NAC Conference . . . . . 3
- Online Exchange open to Vets . 5
- Sound Off . . . . . 6-9
- DFAS Address Change . . . . . 9
- Contact Details . . . . . 10
- Supply Locker Order Form . . 11

VOL. MMXVII NO. 3

JUNE 2017

## The “First” Military Women

By James Clark



Above is a sampling of vintage recruiting posters designed to encourage women to join the military services.

Women have sworn oaths of military service for more than two centuries. Here are the first to do so for each branch. American servicewomen have served their country and fought and died on the battlefield for more than two centuries. Nearly 200 died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and numerous others have been acknowledged for their heroism and bravery under fire.

Since the armed services were founded, young Americans from across the country have taken oaths of service and enlistment to their respective branches. Women are no exception to this. Before women were allowed to officially serve in uniform, some went to extreme lengths, hiding their gender in order to risk life and limb alongside their male countrymen.

Women have served in the U.S. military from the air, land, and sea; in active and reserve capacities; and from the front lines, and they've been doing it for years. Here are the first women to join the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard.

James Clark is a staff writer for Task & Purpose. He is a former Marine combat correspondent and a veteran of the War in Afghanistan. This story was first published at taskandpurpose.com on January 21, 2016 under the title of "Here are the women who first joined each branch of the military."

### U.S. Army: Deborah Sampson



While the oldest military service does not officially state who the first woman to join its ranks was, most historians agree that it was Deborah Sampson.

An indentured servant, Sampson joined the Continental Army in May 1781 - though some reports place the year at 1782 - and because women were not permitted to serve in the military, she disguised herself as a man by the name of Robert Shurtleff. Sampson was injured multiple times, sustaining a sabre wound to her head and a gunshot wound to her thigh that she treated herself for fear that her secret would be discovered if she sought medical attention.

According to a 1975 Army Times story, after Sampson fell gravely ill, her attending physician, Dr. Binney,

discovered her sex, but kept it a secret. However, her ruse would be short-lived. The doctor's niece became enamored with the battle-tested young soldier, and not wanting to lead her on, Sampson wrote a revealing letter, which the woman's uncle showed to the unit's commanding officer.

Gen. George Washington authorized her honorable discharge from the Army and she returned to her home in Massachusetts in 1784. *(Continued on page 4)*

**Don't Forget!**

**State Director Status Report DUE 1 July**

**Volunteer Hours DUE 1 July**

**August Bulletin Input DUE 1 July**

**ByLaw Amendment Proposals DUE 31 July**

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

## Presidential Ponderings

by Patty Parks, National President

As I travel the country meeting members, I am simply astonished at some of the "rules" these gals think they must follow! For instance, uniforms. While we all wore a very disciplined uniform during our military service, our organization does not have a specific, required uniform.

In the past, many members wore a dark blue vest with "WAVES National" emblazoned on the back, along with a blue garrison or "overseas" cap which was, and still is, available through our Supply Locker (see Page 11). But there is nothing "ordering" members to wear such a uniform.

At the other extreme, a member recently mentioned she was told no uniforms were allowed... Now, there are government directives which dictate when a **military uniform** may or may not be worn by a veteran or retiree, but as for Military Women members, you're welcome to select and wear whatever is comfortable and works for you.

Some like ball caps, some like visors and some prefer a garrison while others like sunhats or nothing at all. Vests? Jackets? Shirts or sashes with patches? I've seen quite a variety. The bottom line is:

### **LET THE WORLD KNOW YOU ARE A MILITARY WOMAN!**

The photo at right is me 15 years (& 15 pounds) ago. Along with wearing our new logo, I walk the walk and talk the talk. Within a couple minutes of meeting me, any new acquaintance will know I am a military woman.

Uniformity in attire? It is completely up to you! Gathering as a group or unit? Everyone could wear the same color shirt so your group stands out. Add a hat, vest, jacket or sash if you like.

I look forward to meeting more of our members as my travel continues. When I show up, make certain I know who the Military Women are!



## Volunteer Viewpoints

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

As your NAC VAVS National Representative I attended the 71<sup>st</sup> NAC VAVS National Conference held 19-21 April 2017 in Tampa, Florida. It will be an honor for me to represent MWAN as one of 20 organizations on the Executive Board. I also presented MWAN's donation of \$200 to the James H. Parke Memorial Fund during the Parke Scholarship Awards Program.

April was the time of year when all VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives are required to receive their Annual Joint Review. If you have not done so please contact your Chief of Voluntary Services to schedule your appointment to fulfill this requirement. This is a terrific opportunity for you to discuss the previous years' involvement and plans for the upcoming year.

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

# Officers' Call

## Treasurer's Tidbits

by Monica O'Hara, National Treasurer

**Monica O'Hara** - Donations are acknowledged annually in the Bulletin. We are truly grateful to those listed below for their generous donations to Military Women Across the Nation. *All donations made to MWAN are tax-deductible.*

### General Fund Donations:

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Ash, MAL       | Jan Roy, MAL              |
| Merle Clark, MAL     | Linda Schoonmaker, MAL    |
| Sherrie DeLong, MAL  | Imogene Smith, MAL        |
| Barbara Eastman, MAL | Bernice Spinney, MAL      |
| Cidney Engberg, MAL  | Teresa Stamm, MAL         |
| Mildred Forsyth, MAL | Michele Batliner, Unit 9  |
| Sandra Gander, MAL   | Cheryl Foster, Unit 158   |
| Dorothy Harnish, MAL | Sylvia Weber, Unit 158    |
| Gayla Isaacson, MAL  | Kathryn Hare, Unit 94     |
| Sarah Post, MAL      | Marian Lever, Unit 114    |
| Virginia Roos, MAL   | Ruthie Ratchford, Unit 52 |

Jean Sharp in memory of Dorothy Budacki  
Dennis Kelln (Son) in memory of Ann Kelln  
Former WN Region XI  
Former Anchoresses WN Unit 2  
Friends and family of Ruth Gaerig in her memory  
Heart of America Unit 9 in memory of Katharine Magee  
Columbia River Ripples Unit 70 in memory of  
Janette Alpaugh and Joyce Evans

### Scholarship Fund Donations:

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Charlene Carroll, MAL | Ethel McGinn, MAL |
| Doris Dixon, MAL      | Karen Sawyer, MAL |

Military Women of Tampa Bay Unit 55 in memory of  
Elizabeth Kelly

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

**Go Paperless!** Get your newsletter **Quicker** & in **COLOR** via email!

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

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

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

## Newsletter Notes

by Judy Faries, National Editor

We have so many new members providing input for the newsletter that I thought this would be a wonderful time to provide some guidance. Even though electronic submission in the below formats is preferred, we'll accept and try to work with whatever you send. Here are some of the basic format preferences:

- Please use Arial font, 10 pitch, single space and with only one space between sentences.
- Do not use any spaces between paragraphs and only indent two spaces.
- Don't worry about putting your information in columns. I'll take care of that depending on where your article fits in.
- Keep the photos coming! You're all doing a wonderful job of sharing your happenings. Please submit pictures via email (or by postal mail if necessary), but do not direct me to a website as I am not always able to download pictures that way.
- Please **IDENTIFY EVERYONE** possible in the pictures and identify the activity/occasion.

The input submission deadline for the next newsletter is always on the front page of the current newsletter. Please do not rely on the reminders I usually send out, because life sometimes gets away from me and I don't get them sent.

We really enjoy seeing what's going on across the nation and many members get ideas from others for events, socials and volunteer opportunities. And of course EVERYONE loves to see her picture and/or name in print!

Please try to submit something for each issue. We have 30+ units and more than 800 Members-at-Large, but we're only hearing from a few folks.

Anyone can send in personal stories and/or pictures. If you see a published article or information which may be of interest to other military women, please send us a copy. If your submission comes from a published source (magazine, newspaper, website, etc., please include the name and date of the source).

Thank you all so much for your wonderful support and inputs. My contact information is included on page 10 under the Military Women Across the Nation National Officers & Staff page.

### Region IV Representative Needed

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

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

**To apply or for more info contact:**

**Patty Parks**

**pattyjoparks@yahoo.com or 423-326-0839**

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

## VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

Submitted by Cathy Gerolimos, Unit 55

The 71st VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee (NAC) Meeting and Conference was held at The Hilton Hampton Downtown Tampa FL April 19-21, 2017.

MWAN National VAVS Representative, Diane Culleton, was among the twenty Veteran organizations that are part of the 2017 VAVS NAC Executive Committee.

This year, Unit 55 member Connie White was able to attend her first Executive Committee Meeting and I was able to attend and participate in all the activities of the first day of the conference.



The conference was hosted by James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa, FL, with assistance from the Bay Pines VA Healthcare Systems. In addition, New Representative/Deputy Representative and New VAVS Staff Training was offered along with attendees learning about new initiatives from the Office of Patient Center Care and Cultural Transformation (Whole Health), VHA Homeless Program and Hospice and Palliative Care. We were also introduced to successes from the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP) Comedy Boot Camp.

The General Meeting included discussions on Center for Women Veterans Update, Veterans Experience Office Update, My VA, Improving Population Health and VAVS Award Presentations. The conference included educational workshops on General Post Fun, Gifts: The Nuts and Bolts; Conducting Due Diligence on Potential Partners; Makeovers & Marketing: Acquiring the Right Volunteer; and Volunteer Leadership: What's Your Why?

The most significant part of the conference included the presentation of the \$20,000 Scholarship to Sarai Simmons at the Parke Luncheon. In addition, Diane Culleton presented a \$200.00 check to the Parke Scholarship program on behalf of Military Women Across the Nation.

The entire conference ended with a banquet on Friday night. Overall, the conference was a success and, for the first time in the NAC history, the annual conference will be held in the same city two years in a row. So, set aside the month of April 2018 for the 72nd Annual National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference in Tampa, FL, again. Looking forward to next year.

**Save money & help raise funds!**

See the Supply Locker  
Order Form for

*Special Savings*



“Any honorably discharged veteran will be allowed to shop online for discounted military exchange products starting November 11, Veterans Day, under a policy change announced by the Department of Defense. As many as 16 million veterans stand to benefit.

Several million veterans are already eligible to shop in exchanges – on base or online – because they are active or reserve component retirees, 100 percent disabled from service connected injuries or ailments, or Medal of Honor recipients. Thomas Shull, chief executive officer of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), led a three-year effort to expand online exchange shopping to all honorably discharged veterans. One reason was to reward their service with exchange product savings that, on average, will be near 20 percent versus commercial department store prices when military exemptions from state and local sales tax are also considered.

The online benefit does not extend to dependents, though spouses and family members could use an authorized customer’s login credentials. With the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) verifying shopper identities electronically, the department will not have to produce special ID cards. DMDC estimates that 13 percent of eligible veterans, primarily those who served before 1981, might not be in its database. Guidance will be issued before November for veterans to verify their access eligibility. **{Enrollment guidance is NOW available at [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com)}**

The business case for expanding the online benefit calls it “a low-risk, low-cost opportunity” to better fund Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs and quality of life activities. It also notes that smaller percentages of recently discharged veterans are serving until retirement to qualify for base shopping, yet a higher proportion of them probably had multiple deployments.”

### The “First” Military Women (Continued from page 1)



#### **U.S. Navy: The Sacred Twenty**

The first women to serve in the Navy belonged to the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, which was established on May 13, 1908. The first 20 nurses earned the nickname “the sacred twenty,” and were assigned to duty at a naval hospital in Washington, D.C. There, Esther Hasson, the superintendent, Lenah Higbee the chief nurse, and 18 other women rented a room - the Navy wouldn’t cover living expenses - and worked side by side tending to the wounded. By the end of World War I, the ranks of the Navy Nurse Corps had increased to 1,386.

#### **U.S. Marine Corps: Opha Mae Johnson**



Ask any devil dog who the first female Marine was and he or she will immediately bark out the words “Opha Mae Johnson. 1918!”

In 1918, Josephus Daniels, the Secretary of the Navy, opened the Marine Corps Reserves to women for service in clerical roles, so battle-ready male Marines could be sent overseas.

By luck of the draw, Johnson was the first in line, among 300 other women, and became the first female Marine on August 13, 1918.

#### **U.S. Air Force: Esther Blake**

Staff Sgt. Esther Blake was the first woman in the Air Force. Already a veteran of the Army Air Forces, Esther Blake was the first woman to enlist for regular Air Force duty when service within the newly founded branch was authorized for women on July 8, 1948.

Blake first enlisted in 1944 when the Air Force’s predecessor was still part of the Army, and once the Air Force became an independent branch, she remained on active duty until 1954.



#### **U.S. Coast Guard: Twin sisters Genevieve & Lucille Baker, and Myrtle Hazard**

Twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker transferred from the Naval Coastal Defense Reserve to the Coast Guard during World War I and may have been the first women to serve in the service. While women served the Coast Guard as far back as the 1830s as civilian lighthouse keepers, it wasn’t until World War I that they would wear the uniform of their service.

There’s some debate between historians as to whether or not the 19-year-old twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker were the first women to join the Coast Guard, or if it was Myrtle R. Hazard (no photo available), who became the service’s first female electrician on Jan. 21, 1918.

That same year, the Baker sisters came over to the Coast Guard from the Naval Coastal Defense Reserves, where they were previously serving. However, Hazard is the first woman to officially take the oath of enlistment for her service.

Ultimately, all three women are trailblazers, and whether or not one party is first over another due to a technicality should matter little.





*Military Women Across the Nation (MILWOMEN)*



**Region ONE Conference**

0730-1600, Tuesday, 22 August 2017

Handlery Resort Hotel

940 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Add-on:**

You are invited to join us at an informal San Diego Bay Dinner Cruise at 1930, Monday, 21 August!  
Boarding is 1900, and we are consolidating into carpools. Dress casual but bring a light jacket.

|  |  |           |                         |
|--|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| Name:  |  |           |                         |
| Address:   |  |           |                         |
| City:  |  |           |                         |
| State:   |  | Zip Code: |                         |
| Cell Phone:  |  |           |                         |
| eMail Address:   |  |           |                         |
| MWAN Mbr #:  | Unit #:  |           | Position Held (or MAL): |
| <b>REGISTRATION INFORMATION</b>                                | Registration Fee (\$35.00):  |           | \$35.00                 |
|  | Box Lunch (Flaky croissant sandwich, fruit, potato chips, cookie, beverage) is included in registration fee.<br>Please circle your choice of sandwich: TURKEY   HAM   ROAST BEEF   GRILLED VEGGIES |           |                         |
|  | Dinner Cruise Monday, 8/21/2017 (\$55.00):   |           |                         |
|  | <i>Dinner Cruise ENTRÉE (please circle one):</i> BEEF   CHICKEN   FISH   VEGETERIAN  |           |                         |
|  | <i>Dinner Cruise: Do you need a ride? (YES / NO)</i>   |           |                         |
|  | <i>Dinner Cruise: If you are driving, can you transport pax (if so, how many?):</i>  |           |                         |
|  | ANY ALLERGIES or SPECIAL NEEDS WE SHOULD KNOW?   |           |                         |
| TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Registration, Dinner Cruise, Donation): |  |           | \$                      |

REGISTRATION FEE: \$35 (payable to MWAN Region One)  
Mail this registration form and your check to:  
Lynne Pine  
989 Cordova Drive  
Chula Vista, CA 91910  
eMail: [Lynne@MILWOMEN.org](mailto:Lynne@MILWOMEN.org) or  
[BSebring62@MSN.com](mailto:BSebring62@MSN.com)

Rooms must be reserved directly with the Handlery Hotel (1-800-676-6567)  
**No Later Than 1 July 2017**  
to get the discounted MILWOMEN  
Conference Rate of  
\$109 single/double!

# Sound Off!

## FIRST STATE MILITARY WOMEN WARRIORS

**Unit #10 (DE)** - In recognition of Military Women's Month, *Patty Parks*, National President of MWAN and FSMWW Unit 10 honored Carobelle Sutton Hanssmann, USN on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 at the Country House, in Greenville, Delaware. Ms Hanssmann turned 102 years young on 31 March 2017.



A native of Wilmington, DE, in December 1942, she was among the first to enlist in the newly created military support agency **Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service** (commonly known as WAVES) which had begun on 30 July 1942. Following her enlistment, she attended Boot Camp at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, IA.

She was assigned as a Medical Technician at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA, where she met her future husband Charles Oscar Hanssmann. Carol served honorably in the Navy until her discharge in August 1945. She continues to be a source of inspiration and an example to the women in FSMWW.

## SAN DIEGO STARS & STRIPES

**Unit #36 (CA)** – Our April Meeting was held at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Command Museum San Diego with 11 members and one guest present. A catered lunch was enjoyed by all prior to the meeting.

Evelyn Coy was part of Women's History Month at the Veteran's Museum of San Diego along with two ladies telling about the beginnings of women in the military, and an Afghanistan vet who talked about how she is coping with PTSD. Evelyn was interviewed by Channel 8 for the news.

Unit members along with USO personnel presented a certificate along with the 5,000<sup>th</sup> pillow to a fortunate military member (CDR Martin Fajardo) who happened to stop by on his travel from Hawaii to his next assignment at the Naval Academy. He also received a little swag bag of snack



Left to right: Thelma Fernando-Palomo, Carol Weiss, Shirley Ferrill, CDR Fajardo, Monica O'Hara and Barbara Ellis for the presentation of the 5000th Pillow for Patriots.

goodies and an MWAN coin. The local Channel 8 news was present to record the occasion for the news.

Updates on the Conference in August and the 2018 Convention were discussed. The Board recommended having the August Unit meeting at the Handlery Hotel to encourage conference attendance and the fact that the majority of the Unit will already be there.

After the close of business, all were given a tour of the Museum and a look see at the recently opened room of Women Marine items and memorabilia.

MWAN National President Patty Jo Parks met with several unit members on 14 May at her hotel.

**Next meeting is 3 June at the Mangia Italiana Restaurant in Chula Vista. For unit information contact, Roxanne Jones at [roxanne.jones@score.com](mailto:roxanne.jones@score.com) or 619-545-6546.**

## PASCO COUNTY WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #104 (FL)** - Lots of activities going on with Unit #104 members this quarter, including our President Linda Roth's work with the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. Judi Barrett's work with the Toymakers (pictured below) is a year-round effort to bring smiles to the faces of sick children in the hospital in addition to the joy of finding a special toy at Christmas.



Unit #104 continues to support the Baldomero Lopez VA home. We have made numerous visits to the facility, including dropping off toiletries and hygiene products. We are also making plans to be part of this year's Memorial Day services at the VA home.

**Our meetings are the third Wednesday of each month. Contact us for location and please visit our Facebook page**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1027275757293622/>

## MEMPHIS BELLES

**Unit #151 (TN)** - We held an off-schedule election in February to regroup and revitalize our unit. In March, we assisted the Tipton County Veterans Council with their spring pancake breakfast; then quickly headed off to the Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial, and Nature Center where we conducted a Women's History Month program. Presentations were made by members from WWII Veteran Navy Corpsman Charlotte Larson to recently retired Navy Chief Marie Porter and was well received by the small but enthusiastic audience.



Becky Dickinson, Vietnam Era Veteran, with her daughter, granddaughter, and 2 great-grandchildren



Charlotte Larson, WWII Navy Corpsman showing her WWII Victory Medal that she finally received about 5 years ago.

# Sound Off!

April found us working a yard sale fundraiser to provide the money needed to assist hospitalized Veterans and adopt a Veteran/family during the holidays. The yard sale was successful and we got to reconnect with some members that we hadn't seen for quite a while. We've secured our State Representative, Debra Moody, as the speaker for our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in August.

We'd like to congratulate Theresia Lockett for receiving her 100-hour pin at the VA Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on 26 April. Way to go Theresia; we're proud of what you do to help our Veterans!

During a recent trip to Washington, DC, to speak with Congressmen concerning various military issues, our unit secretary, Kathy Desjarlais, was honored to meet and get her photo made with Mrs. Elizabeth Dole. Mrs. Dole was receiving an award on behalf of her foundation for its work in support of military families.



Kathy Desjarlais and Mrs. Elizabeth Dole

**Our meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the quarter at 5:30 PM at Old Timers Restaurant in Millington, TN. Contact Becky Dickinson at 901-837-4630 for more information.**

### **State Directors Needed**

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

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

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

# Sound Off!

## MILITARY WOMEN OF TIDEWATER

**Unit #152 (VA)** – Celebrating Women’s History Month in March, members represented the unit at multiple events.

Many attended the Women in the Navy Centennial Event, hosted by the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, at Naval Station Norfolk. Martha Kastler and Cathy Schweitzer took an active part in panel discussions, that highlighted past and present opportunities and challenges women have faced in their sea service.



Pictured left to right: April Maletz, Martha Kastler, Cathy Schweitzer, Charity Haney & Dassa Carvey represent the unit at the Navy Centennial Event.

Dassa Carvey and Jo-Anne Teel represented the unit at the "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business", hosted by the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) on board Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story.

Fleet Master Chief Suz Whitman, Libby Morrison, Kathy Montgomery, and Dassa Carvey joined with Jo Ortloff, Fleet Master Chief (AW/SW), USN Ret., at the Celebration of the First Enlisted Woman in the Navy, held at WIMSA in Arlington, VA.



Pictured left to right: Fleet Master Chief Suz Whitman, Pacific Fleet, Libby Morrison, Kathy Montgomery, Dassa Carvey, & Jo Ortloff, Fleet Master Chief (AW/SW) USN, Ret.

Betty Hand and Cathy Schweitzer finished out the month onboard USS Gonzalez (DDG-66), at their Honoring Trailblazing Women event, sharing their experiences, and the positive changes for women in the Navy that they have seen over the last few decades.



Betty Hand & Cathy Schweitzer discuss the positive changes for women in the Navy with DDG-66 crew member



Member Maggie Cobb, pictured above with the USO Easter Bunny, continued her work with the USO by participating in their Easter Egg Roll at NSWC Dahlgren Navy Base.

Other members of the unit teamed up to stitch and stuff Pillows for Patriots, and provided 90 pillows for the Honor Flight in April. Thanks to the generosity of Fleet Reserve Association 99 of Virginia Beach, we hosted our first Open House in late March, welcoming two new members into the Unit.

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

*Got an idea for organizational improvement? Submit your Bylaw change proposal NOW to Cathy Gerolimos ~ Contact info on Page 10*

## SALT RIVER MILITARY WOMEN

**Unit #155 (AZ)** - The Salt River Military Women celebrated Women's History Month by sponsoring an event open to the public in lieu of our March meeting. Colonel Wanda Wright, USAF (retired), Director of AZ Dept. of Veteran Services, was the guest speaker. A total of 16 veteran and community organizations participated with tables providing information about their organizations. A silent auction and 50/50 raffle upped the fun factor!

This event gave our unit recognition in the community, and as a result, we had four new members join Salt River Mil Women!

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

## TRISTATE WOMEN VETERANS

**Unit #157 (TN)** – Unit President Rita Waller tendered her resignation due to family obligations. Vice President Cathy Brown was elected President and Shelly Galloway was elected as our new Vice President.

**Our unit meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of even months (February, April, June, August, October and December). Please contact Patty Parks at (423) 326-0839 or [pattyjoparks@yahoo.com](mailto:pattyjoparks@yahoo.com) for meeting times and directions.**



Left to right: Unit Vice President Shelly Galloway, President Cathy Brown & Immediate Past President Rita Waller.

# Sound Off!

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE

**Wasilla (AK)** – Mollybee Welkin, who served in the U.S. Navy WAVES from 1952-1955, participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, DC, on April 22.

"What an experience!" Mollybee exclaimed in her letter to MWAN Editor Judy Faries. "I came away thinking every veteran has a story to tell. American History has been, is and will be told by the Veterans till history is put back into the classroom full time."

Wearing a "Korea Veteran" hat and a red, white and blue scarf, Mollybee's visit to the nation's capital included visiting many memorials; most of which she had never seen.

"Some were so sobering," she said, "they caused one to pause, to remember and to ponder for the women who served."

The Honor Flight was featured on the front page of the Alaska Dispatch News including the below photo taken by ADN photographer Eric Hill.



Alaska Air National Guard pilot Major Anna Fischer (left) talks about her C-17 aircraft with Mollybee while waiting to board the Honor Flight.



## Defense Finance and Accounting Service Address for Retirees, Annuitants Changed May 1, 2017

INDIANAPOLIS– Military retirees and annuitants corresponding with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) need to use a new address beginning May 1.

The old addresses in London, KY, have been used for years but are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis to help speed up receipt and customer service. New mailing addresses are:

### Retired Pay correspondence:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

### Annuitant Pay correspondence:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

Mail received at the old mailing addresses will be forwarded to the new address which may add three to five days of processing time. Current phone and fax numbers are not changing. Military retirees and annuitants can use the mailing address to submit any of the following information:

- ◆ Written requests for 1099R Forms (Retiree tax statement)
- ◆ Change Survivor benefit Plan information
- ◆ Correct a 1099R (Retiree Tax Statement)
- ◆ Establish a Retired Pay account
- ◆ Manage Arrears of Pay (AOP) Beneficiary designation
- ◆ Start/change Direct Deposit
- ◆ Manage allotments
- ◆ Report a retiree's death
- ◆ Report a Survivor Benefit Plan beneficiary's death
- ◆ Submit a retiree or annuitant change of address
- ◆ Start international Direct Deposit enrollment

The DFAS website provides information and links to other paperwork that may need to be submitted. The website also provides additional ways to contact Retired and Annuitant Pay including self-service options or by phone, 1-800-321-1080.

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

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>President</b><br>Patty PARKS<br>6920 Sawtooth Drive<br>Ooltewah TN 37363-6894<br>(423) 326-0839<br>president@milwomen.org              | <b>Parliamentarian:</b><br>Diane CULLETON<br>40 Brittany Drive<br>Skowhegan ME 04976<br>(307) 474-2235<br>diane.turcotte30@gmail.com                                 | <b>VA Medical/Health:</b><br>Ruth STORCK<br>19079 Roadside Avenue<br>Bridgeville DE 19933<br>(302) 519-0701<br>Storck19079@outlook.com        | <b>Public Relations</b><br><br>Vacant  |
| <b>1st Vice President:</b><br>Venetta CHARLES<br>1909 Lido Court<br>Chesapeake VA 23323-6676<br>(757) 663-1495<br>veetif@yahoo.com        | <b>National Executive Committee Board Members</b><br>Jan ROY (NEC RR3)<br>2917 Porter Court SW<br>Grandville MI 49418-1178<br>(616) 530-0142<br>jroy4743@comcast.net | <b>Volunteer Hours:</b><br>Kathy DESJARLAIS<br>313 Andy Drive<br>Drummonds TN 38023-8923<br>(901) 837-4736<br>gkd9@aol.com                    | <b>Chaplain:</b><br>Patty KOPPARI<br>708 Fairhaven St. N.E.<br>Palm Bay FL 32907-3175<br>(321) 723-1697<br>Pak53@att.net                     |
| <b>2nd Vice President:</b><br>Gloria WIX<br>123 March Place<br>Mount Juliet TN 37122-2573<br>(615) 443-4138<br>gloriawix@yahoo.com        | Barb SEBRING (NEC RR1)<br>38940 Rivera Regal Ave<br>North Las Vegas NV 89081<br>(415) 419-7978<br>bsebring62@msn.com   | <b>Historian:</b><br>Michele BATLINER<br>5828 E. 12 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Kansas City MO 64126<br>(816) 315-9229<br>mbatliner@att.net       | <b>Time &amp; Place:</b><br>Patty KOPPARI<br>708 Fairhaven St. N.E.<br>Palm Bay FL 32907-3175<br>(321) 723-1697<br>Pak53@att.net             |
| <b>Recording Secretary:</b><br>Ginamarie DOHERTY<br>10 Osage Drive<br>Middletown RI 02842<br>(401) 500-1721<br>Ginamarie.doherty@navy.mil | <b>Bylaws:</b><br>Cathy GEROLIMATOS<br>12116 Buffington Ln.<br>Riverview FL 33579<br>(813) 677-1495<br>greekirish@hotmail.com  | <b>Heartspring Project:</b><br>Jeanne HOOPER<br>6398 Lake Charlene Dr.<br>Pensacola FL 32506-5762<br>(850) 458-0440<br>JCHooper@cox.net       | <b>Executive Secretary:</b><br>Barb TURNER<br>9105 Shoshone Trail<br>Flower Mound TX 75022-7040<br>(817) 491-4555<br>turners_5@sbcglobal.net |
| <b>Treasurer:</b><br>Monica O'HARA<br>6383 Kimmy Ct.<br>San Diego CA 92114<br>(619) 262-1047<br>plainsman9@cox.net                        | <b>Supply Locker Officer:</b><br>Linda COFFIELD<br>95 Vernon Street<br>Atoka TN 38004-7771<br>(901) 488-4153<br>Linda.Coffield@navy.mil                              | <b>Scholarship:</b><br>Rita WALLER<br>4014 Highwood Drive<br>Chattanooga TN 37415<br>(423) 877-2711<br>rwall59@comcast.net                    | <b>Newsletter Editor:</b><br>Judy FARIES<br>6201 US Hwy 41 N, Lot 2203<br>Palmetto FL 34221<br>(301) 904-4585<br>Mizjudy97@gmail.com         |
| <b>Immediate Past President:</b><br>Dassa CARVEY<br>948 Ewell Road<br>Virginia Beach VA 23455<br>(757)363-3059<br>dassahsg@gmail.com      | <b>VAVS National Rep:</b><br>Diane CULLETON<br>40 Brittany Drive<br>Skowhegan ME 04976<br>(307) 474-2235<br>diane.turcotte30@gmail.com                               | <b>Stained Glass Window:</b><br>Barbara J. MCGUIRE<br>2156 Smoaks Street<br>The Villages FL 32162<br>(813) 784-4041<br>bdogwood.bjm@gmail.com | <b>Webmaster:</b><br>Lynne PINE<br>989 Cordova Dr.<br>Chula Vista CA 91910<br>(619) 737-5651<br>lynne.pine@yahoo.com                         |

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

**MWAN Member ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_ *ADDRESS CHANGE FORM*

**PLEASE PRINT!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To have your newsletter mailed **FIRST CLASS** which includes forwarding service, please send your request along with \$7.50 to our National Treasurer (listed above).

# MWAN Supply Locker

June 2017

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

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

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

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

**PATCHES**

- MWAN 2 1/2" (caps) \$3. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN 3" (shirts) \$4. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN 8 1/2" (vest) \$10. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- US Navy WAVES Veteran (circle) \$4. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Patches, Navy Flag or Services (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY) \$4. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Women Vets Patch (arch) \$5. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Proud to Serve (square) \$5. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Women are Veterans Too \$5. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- WAVES anchor patch (old style) \$4. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Vietnam Era Eagle Patch \$6. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- American Flag Patch \$4. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**JEWELRY & PINS**

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

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

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

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

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

=====

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

Having a recruiting function? Order MWAN pens and pencils with our logo and the web address.  
 Bulk prices are available in 20, 50 or 100 units: Give me a call for prices.

**NOTE:** The POLO Shirts are running larger than the sizes indicate; I suggest you order a size smaller.

**MWAN CLOTHING ITEMS**

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

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- American Veteran Wrist Bracelet \$5. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2016 National Convention Patch \$2. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Playing Cards \$10. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- Song Books WAVES \$8. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (WAVES Sings or Bainbridge)
- US Navy WAVES Veteran Magnet \$3. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Single-Fold Notes w/envelopes \$10. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (MWAN logo or Military Hat (circle one))
- MWAN Window Decal \$2. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Magnets \$2. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Car Magnet (Oval-8") \$5. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Pencils 2/\$1. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Pens \$2. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Flags (3'x5') \$80. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN Table Coverings \$120. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- MWAN PopSockets \$10. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 for \$25. X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

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

Double clutch back or Magnet back (circle one)  
 Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nickname/Maiden/Other Info \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Years/From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MWAN Unit Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\*\*Use back of form if you need more space\*\*)

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

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

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



# Silver Taps

*Gone but not  
 forgotten*

*All served with the  
 U.S. Navy*

|                                     |               |                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Eleanor M. Masters</i>           | <i>036/CA</i> | <i>Rosemarie Pitz</i>               | <i>153/WI</i> |
| <i>Adelaide (Pferdehirt) Nugent</i> | <i>055/FL</i> | <i>Ida F. (Hertzberg) Breazeale</i> | <i>MAL/AZ</i> |
| <i>B. June (Parks) Stone</i>        | <i>068/NJ</i> | <i>Nancy A. (Stolpe) Holter</i>     | <i>MAL/AZ</i> |
| <i>Bettie L. (Austin) Crandall</i>  | <i>077/CA</i> | <i>Rhoda (St. Germain) Antos</i>    | <i>MAL/CA</i> |
| <i>Marie (Gandrud) Sienkiewicz</i>  | <i>081/MA</i> | <i>Helen (Stewart) Monnier</i>      | <i>MAL/CA</i> |
| <i>Gertrude M. (Cahill) Carney</i>  | <i>081/MA</i> | <i>Margaret L. Wagenaar-Fabreth</i> | <i>MAL/CA</i> |
| <i>Doris B. (Duxbury) Mansur</i>    | <i>081/MA</i> | <i>Kathryn (Stewart) Williams</i>   | <i>MAL/CA</i> |
| <i>Carolyn H. (Chunglo) Zawacki</i> | <i>081/MA</i> | <i>Evangeline C. (Sheda) Cook</i>   | <i>MAL/HI</i> |
| <i>Vola (Thompson) Pennington</i>   | <i>081/MA</i> | <i>Alice L. (Heywood) Stanley *</i> | <i>MAL/HI</i> |
| <i>Luisa M. (Costagliola) White</i> | <i>118/RI</i> | <i>Joan L. (Janecek) Trapp</i>      | <i>MAL/ID</i> |

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

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

*Please type, print  
 or use address label*

**(Dues period 1 January to 31 December)**

*Find on Military Women's  
 Bulletin Address Label*

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

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Phone #:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  *Check in box if unlisted*

*The Life Membership rate for  
 those 90 years or older is \$30.*

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

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

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

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