

MILITARY Women's BULLETIN



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VOL. MMXX NO. 5

OCTOBER 2020

Another "First" for Military Women



Commander Dawley

On April 21st of this year, as the novel coronavirus stole world-wide headlines, a 300-word press release from the U.S. Navy marked an extraordinary event in the sphere of military women's history. On that date, Navy Commander Kathryn J. Dawley assumed command of the guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) making Dawley the first woman to command one of only two Navy warships named after military women.

During the change of command ceremony, Dawley was quoted as saying, "Hopper has been my dream since I [was] commissioned. As a role model, Rear Admiral Grace Hopper {the ship's namesake} embodied the qualities of a naval officer that I strive to be; strong, confident, and fearless."

Of course, Grace Hopper (1906-1992) spent her life accomplishing "firsts" as a computer scientist not only in the military but in the civilian community as well.

Hopper earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Yale University and was a professor of mathematics at Vassar College. She attempted to join the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) during World War II but was rejected because she did not weigh enough. A little over a year later she was admitted and received a Naval Reserve commission which began her 42-year career with the Navy and her life-long connection with computers.

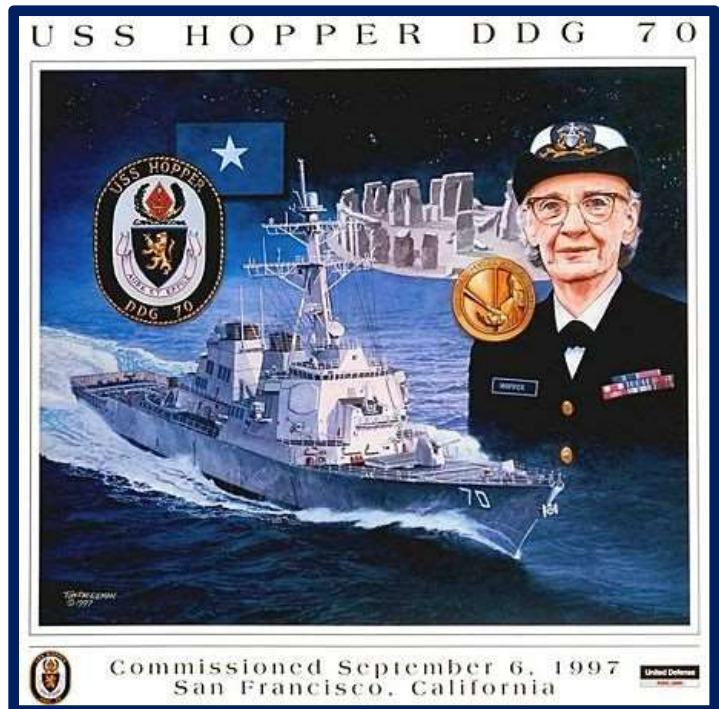
Hopper was a pioneer in computer programming and was instrumental in the development of COBOL, an early high-level programming language still in use today.

Hopper briefly retired from the Navy in 1966 but was called back to active duty a year later to standardize COBOL for the Navy's use. At the time, she told her Vassar students,

Our direct connection to the USS Hopper

Eugenia Woodward, a 32-year member of MWAN (formerly WAVES National/WN), was one of about 200 WN members in attendance at the USS Hopper commissioning ceremony 23 years ago in San Francisco. WN members were praised by the speakers, not only for their military service, but because they had raised more than \$7,000 to help pay for the ceremony.

However, Eugenia, now 96 years young, has another USS Hopper memory that supersedes the commissioning. **Story "Hopper Connection" continued on Page 2**



Copy of poster from 1997 commissioning of USS Hopper (DDG 70)

"This is only the beginning of the computer age; we are only beginning to know what to do with computers."

Eventually attaining the rank of admiral, Hopper served in the Navy until 1986, retiring as the oldest active-duty Naval officer. Along with having a Navy warship named after her, Hopper was awarded 40 honorary degrees during her lifetime from universities across the world; a college at Yale University was named after her; she received the National Medal of Technology, and she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Information compiled from various internet sources.

→→ Don't Forget! ←←
December Bulletin Input DUE 1 Nov
National Dues are DUE 1 Jan

**All report details are in the MWAN
 Procedures Manual available at
www.milwomen.org**

2020-2022 MWAN Election Results



President Patty Parks

VP for Membership Elisabeth Lewandowski

VP for Unit Liaison GinaMarie Doherty

VP for Finance Terry Taylor

Revised MWAN Bylaws were Approved

Presidential Ponderings

by Patty Parks, National President

Thank you to all who submitted votes in the MWAN National Election. There are many changes to explore as we make our way forward. Approval of the revised bylaws including the redistribution of regions tells me you're up for the challenge.

Regional representatives are needed for all of our regions. Several members have stepped up but there are a few spots still available. If you are interested in helping lead and grow our organization, please see details on Page 3.

If you're a member-at-large (MAL) and your region has a regional representative assigned (see Page 3), please reach out to her. While we are somewhat restricted from gathering right now, hopefully, you and other sister service women will soon be able to meet, greet & participate in community events reminding everyone that *Women are Veterans too!*

If you're a unit president, again, please reach out to your regional representative. Many of our representatives are new to MWAN and some have never been unit members. Your corporate knowledge will be invaluable to them. Remember: We are ALL volunteers! Let's help each other!

The MWAN Bylaws (printed in the June bulletin) more accurately reflect MWAN's actual operation. The next step is for each unit to update its bylaws to bring them in compliance. Bylaws Chair Vicki Orem is ready to assist.

Here's hoping our December bulletin will be back up to 12 pages and full of the creative ways each of you has managed to continue fulfilling our mission!

Membership Message

by Gloria Wix, Outgoing National 1st Vice President

Since 2008 when I became a member/Life Member of WAVES National and then MWAN, I've enjoyed every minute of my time with all of the great women I have had contact with. It has been an honor to help lead this organization for some 12 years. I appreciate everyone who had the confidence to elect me to several leadership positions.

Our membership numbers and unit numbers continue to decline. At one time we had 100 units. But now, many of our members are - like me - over 70. Now, more than ever, it is important for younger women to step up and help keep MWAN going into the future. You have started by electing a new Vice President for Membership. Elisabeth is young and will be a great asset to MWAN.

However, each of you needs to keep recruiting new members, especially the young military women of today. They are out there just waiting to be found and told of the great organization we have. My pet phrase is still "START A CONVERSATION". Try it. It works.

Officers' Call

Unit Upkeep

by GinaMarie Doherty, Vice President for Unit Liaison

I hope and pray you are ALL well along with your families. Thank you to all members for voting in this year's military women election. A special THANK YOU to Patty Parks for running for President for the third term. We are grateful for her continued dedication to our organization.

This year in August we celebrated the 100th year of women's right to vote. We owe it to those women warriors who fought for our right to vote. Please exercise your right to vote in the 2020 U.S. General Election on November 3rd.

As most of you know, our unit officer election transmittals are due this year. Request ALL units submit a current election transmittal in accordance with MWAN guidelines. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Some units are meeting via zoom or telephone. I applaud all efforts to keep your unit active. Thank you very much.

Hopper Connection (continued from Page 1)

When the USS Hopper relocated to her current homeport at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Eugenia and seven other members of Na Nalu O'Hawaii Unit #131 were invited to cruise on the USS Hopper! What a ride!

Eugenia, 96, served in the Navy WAVES as a 2nd Class Photography Specialist for two years from 1944-1946. Since 1988, she has served MWAN/WN as Unit #131 President, Hawaii State Director and as convention chair for the 1998 WN Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii.

A very accomplished quilter and pianist, Eugenia stays active, though due to the pandemic, she doesn't get out and about as much as she would like.



Eugenia now ↑ & Eugenia in 1945 →



100 years ago our fore-mothers

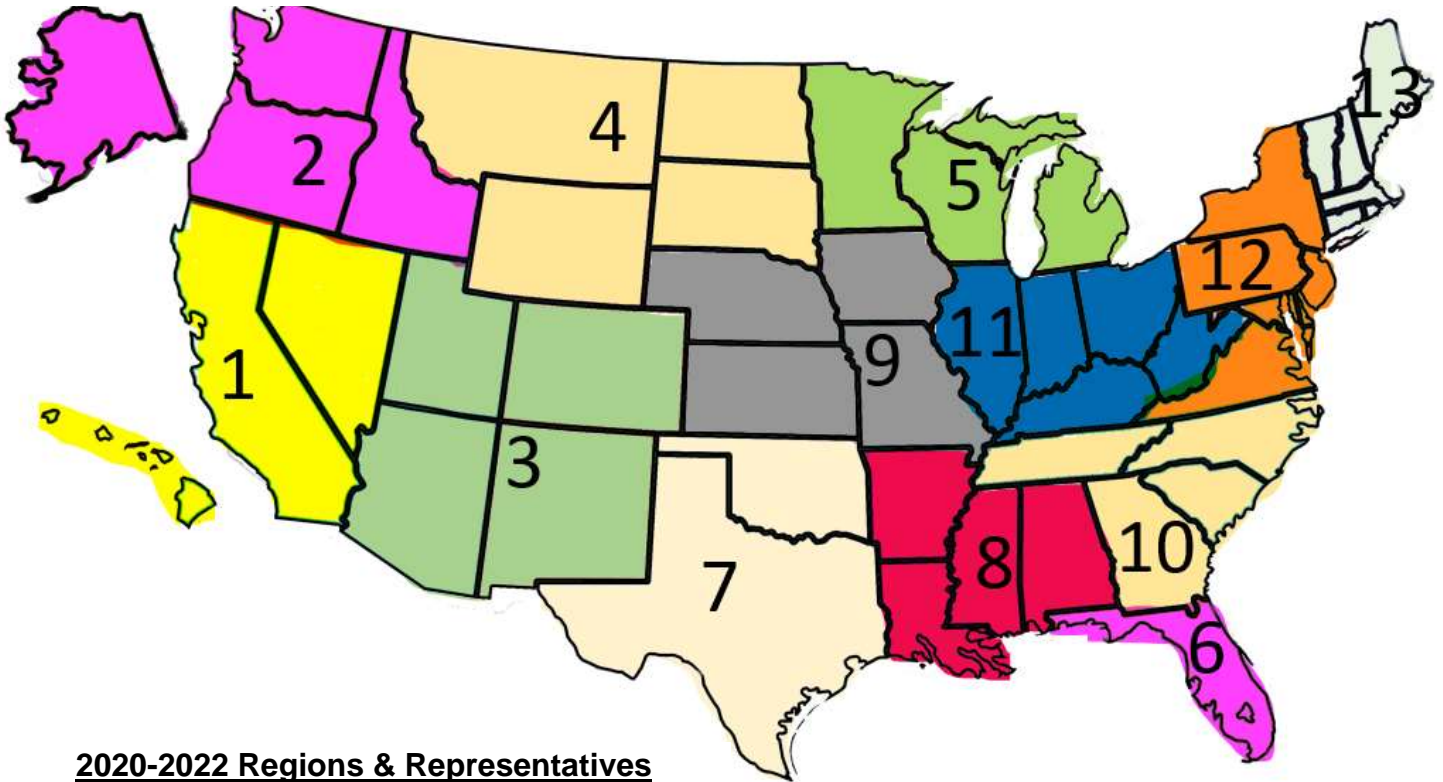
FOUGHT for & **WON** the

RIGHT TO VOTE.

Don't let them down.

★★★ **VOTE!** ★★★

MWAN's New 13-Region Configuration



2020-2022 Regions & Representatives

REGION I: California, Hawaii, Nevada

Representative: Donna Lee, 702-595-1879/NV

REGION II: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Representative: Caren McCurdy, 503-679-7429/WA

REGION III: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

Representative: Martha Alderman, 623-810-9328/AZ

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

Representative: **VACANT** (Contact National President)

REGION V: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Representative: **VACANT** (Contact National President)

REGION VI: Florida

Representative: Jouay Koppari, 352-949-4675/FL

REGION VII: Oklahoma, Texas

Representative: Sue Gunnell, 281-712-1984/TX

REGION VIII: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi

Representative: **VACANT** (Contact National President)

REGION IX: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Representative: Michele Batliner, 816-315-9229/MO

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

Representative: M. Beth Wingfield, 706-508-5612/GA

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

Representative: Jennifer Baun, 314-803-8643/OH

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

Representative: Hortense Toliaferro, 215-327-7384/NJ

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

Representative: **VACANT** (Contact National President)

Regional Leaders Needed

The 2020 MWAN national election is history and membership has approved a streamlined set of bylaws and redistribution of regions. NOW we need leaders for each of those regions. Many, MANY Thanks! to the gals who have already stepped up, but we still need a few more.

Being a regional representative is not difficult, nor does it take a lot of time. However, it does take an interest in helping our sister service women learn about the camaraderie, support and just plain fun that membership in MWAN can provide as well as extending that same friendship to those who are already members!

Currently, the focus of regional representatives should be to (1) make regular contact with the units within the region, (2) contact (by letter, phone or email) EACH Member-at-Large in the region at least annually, and (3) find other military women in the region and recruit new members. An estimate of five to 10 hours monthly may be needed to complete these duties.

The states encompassed by each region are color-coded on the map above as well as listed in the chart to the left. The chart also indicates the regions that need a representative.

Regional representatives MUST have the ability to communicate via email and each representative, or her alternate, is expected to attend National Conventions (in even years) and MidTerm meetings (in odd years).

This is an opportunity for you to contribute to the future of our organization as well as provide leadership for your sister service women. Contact MWAN President Patty Parks at 423-326-0839 or president@milwomen.org for specific details or to apply for a position.

Sound Off!

SAN DIEGO STARS & STRIPES

Unit #36 (CA) – On August 8th unit members enjoyed an outdoor luncheon meeting at American Legion Post 434 in Chula Vista. There were eight members present and an honored guest: 90-year-old Navy retiree Chief Hill who is the father of Navy retiree Chief Warrant Officer Sherry Hill. Business was conducted and members shared lunch and camaraderie.

Shirley Ferrill reported the Neck Pillow Project is still going strong although the USO is still somewhat closed. The current donation is at 9098 and a ready supply awaits the USO when fully operational. Our next meeting is planned for October 3rd.

Unit Point of Contact is Unit 1st Vice Roxanne Jones at 619-479-0149, 619-274-1606 or roxanne6885@gmail.com,



Names were not provided with the photos.



MILITARY WOMEN OF TAMPA BAY

Unit #55 (FL) - For the first time in 63 years, the annual Brandon Fourth of July Parade, considered the best & largest parade in Florida, was cancelled as a result of COVID19. Given this parade is a major community event, the president of the Community Roundtable proposed a way to still conduct a parade on a smaller scale.

In lieu of a traditional parade the Community Roundtable created three different car caravans totaling 55 vehicles with the mission to visit five assisted living facilities to bring Independence Day to the residents who have been in lockdown since March. Each caravan was escorted by local police officers who ensured safety and provided traffic control. All three caravans came together at the conclusion of their respective processions. At this point some vehicles departed and the remaining vehicles came together to journey through two area subdivisions.

Military Women of Tampa Bay Unit #55's member, Dawn Marshall (*pictured at right*), rode in



the lead vehicle of the parade as the 2020 Honorary Mayor of Brandon. Traditionally, the Honorary Mayor fundraises for local charities. Dawn will be raising money for Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.



Jouay Koppari driving parade vehicle with passengers Connie White and, in back, Cathy Gerolimatos.

REDWOOD EMPIRE

Unit #77 (CA) – We continue to move forward although we have not met personally since February. As if the pandemic hasn't caused enough upheaval, we have been suffering the effects of the recent firestorms, and the after affects from the smoke which is ongoing.

Member Kate O'Hare Palmer recently posted a press release dealing with the sexual assault and murder of Vanessa Guillen, US Army. This was posted in the Vietnam Veterans of America weekly email newsletter and has since been posted on our Facebook page as well as the Facebook page of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women (SoCo CSW).

Our member, Trisha Almond, chairs SoCo CSW and has connected us with Verity, which is a Sonoma County organization that strives to eliminate all forms of violence with a special focus on sexual assault and abuse; providing counseling, advocacy, intervention and education in our community.

Working together, we will offer services to our members as well as other women veterans in the area. Member, Leslie Fuller will serve as our liaison in this endeavor.

Regrettably, in July our coordinator at Yountville Veterans Home, Gwen Robinson and her husband lost their lives to COVID19. In honoring her memory and all her good works for our women veterans residing there, we are continuing to support them.

We received donations from AMVETS (member Leslie Fuller) and SoCo CSW (Trisha Almond) which will allow us to purchase gift cards this holiday season for our sisters at Yountville, as this year's fundraising has been negligible.

Rose Nowak was selected as the Sonoma County Veteran of the Year. Normally this honor would include participation in various countywide celebrations and parades. We are proud to have our member recognized by her peers. We said goodbye to our member and secretary, Leanna Evans, USCG, as she has deployed to the Netherlands for three years. A small group, keeping with COVID19 guidelines, gathered to bid her farewell and

presented her with an MWAN coin, a WIMSA calendar and a group picture of Unit 77 members with "Coasties" taken at TRACEN Petaluma. She remains a member of our unit. As we enter September, we look for the day we can gather together again. Congratulations to our recently elected national officers.



Left to right: Rose Nowak, Kate O'Hare Palmer, Leslie Fuller, Trisha Almond, Maura Mooney, Leanna Evans

FLATWATER WAVES

Unit #98 (NE) - Due to the pandemic we haven't met this year. Our 10 members are currently supporting unit member Carol Tschampi-Diesing's husband, Roger, with a unit donation to "Ride for Roger". Roger had a stroke and needs a reliable wheelchair van to get to appointments other than the VA. He served with honor and valor in the US Army for 27 years. More information is available at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/aaw5k-ride-for-roger>.

We are all staying safe and well!

OCEAN STATE

Unit #118 (RI) - On Friday, July 3rd, the installation of newly elected #118 officers was held at the home of Sue Roberts in Warwick. Patricia Denny was reinstated as President and Estelle O'Connell continued as Secretary. Sue Roberts is the new Treasurer and Audrey Macleod-Pfeiffer is the new Historian.



Left to right: Historian Audrey Macleod-Pfeiffer, Secretary Estelle O'Connell, President Pat Denny & Treasurer Sue Roberts

MILITARY WOMEN OF TIDEWATER

Unit #152 (VA) - While unable to participate in regular activities, members have been interacting and making the best of the situation. Many have made a point of staying in contact and supporting members through this challenging time.

Our newly elected officers are President Betty Hand, Vice President April Maletz, Secretary Suzanne Davis, and Treasurer Gaby Morrison. Thank you all for stepping up to the challenge. We look forward to a great year.

Many unit members have stayed busy making masks, and supporting other veterans. Monetary and mask donations have been gifted to the Hampton VA Medical Center, as well as the Horton Wreath Society. We were also able to send a "goody box" to shipmates stationed in Bahrain.

Sound Off!

Highlighting our summer, three of our members were recognized locally and on a national level. Suz Whitman was appointed to DACOWITS, and selected as the new Vice Chair, Venetta Charles was appointed to the City of Chesapeake's Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs. April Maletz was the recipient of the 2020 Department of Defense Spirit of Hope Award.

"The Spirit of Hope Award was established in 1997 under the Clinton administration. It was first granted to entertainer Bob Hope by the U.S. Congress and is awarded in his honor. The basis for the award was to recognize Hope's commitment to entertaining military service members over many decades, both within and outside of combat zones. Originally commissioned by the USO, the bas-relief sculpture was created by St. Louis sculptor Don F. Wiegand and co-creator Mr. Michael Fagin. Michael Fagin, president of The International Group, Inc., says the piece was inspired by Bob Hope's dedication to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. (Other recipients have been Gary Sinise and Toby Keith)"

A hardy Bravo Zulu to April, Suz, and Venetta!

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

FOX CITIES

Unit #153 (WI) -

In October 2019 our three Vietnam-Era members took an Honor Flight to Washington, DC. It was an amazing time, as it has been for other unit members. This year all Honor



Vietnam-Era veterans (left to right) Toni Webb, Pamela Pamperin & Carleen Smith

Flights and events have been cancelled including a special flight to Korea for Northeast Wisconsin veterans who served in Korea.

Our three senior members (left to right in photo at right) all celebrated August birthdays: Maureen Radke, 87, Cody Splitt, 101 and Grace Gebhart, 98. These women are incredible and continue to be very active in our unit. Unfortunately, there were no parties this year.



We have been unable to meet this year as our regular meeting place has been closed due to COVID19. We're seeking another place where we could meet safely while practicing social distancing & wearing masks.

We normally meet the 3rd Saturday of the month from March-November in Appleton. Contact Pamela Pamperin at ppamperin@new.rr.com or (920) 954-8445.

Sound Off!

SALT RIVER MILITARY WOMEN

Unit #155 (AZ) - We have not had an in-person meeting since February but have still kept busy. In June a cat rescue group closed its doors and donated to us five large bags of new stuffed toys. We promptly donated them to MOMs Program (for new mothers & their babies) at the Phoenix VAMC.

Unit Member Kathy Laurier is still running that program and she was delighted with the gifts as she will pass them along to her gals. Several members gathered on June 19th to remember and share stories of our recently departed sister, Barbara Klinedinst. It would have been Barbara's 83rd birthday.

July 3rd was member Lori Elander's 87th birthday so we had a small luncheon at Red Lobster – Lori's favorite place!

Our oldest member, Kitty Bickle, is well and going strong after turning 94 on August 30th. We plan to celebrate with her later in September when Kitty's 'spring chicken' daughter, Unit Treasurer Georganne Bickle, turns 63.



Four Unit #155 "plankowners" gathered August 26th to celebrate the Unit's 10th anniversary. A "plankowner" is a nautical term referring to the first, original members of a ship, squadron or command. Pictured above (left to right) are Lori Elander, Martha Alderman, Kathy Laurier and Beth Anne Whiting.

As of now, we have tentative plans to celebrate the Navy's 245th Birthday with a small gathering as there will be no Navy Ball this year due to COVID. Unit President Shirley Crawford hosted unit meetings in June and September via Zoom. The meetings were modest but had enthusiastic attendance. We plan to continue this method until we can meet – and HUG – in person.

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

OR Email to: 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.



Silver Taps

U.S. Navy

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Dorothy (McCarthy) Scholten | MAL/CA |
| Jeanne L. (Sohm) Thyberg | MAL/IA |
| Letitia L. Angelone | MAL/MA |
| Anne E. (McAndrews) Ciuk | MAL/MA |
| Lois A. Simons | MAL/MN |
| Irene M. Vrabel, M.D. | MAL/NV |
| Patricia R. (Starr) Kingsbury | MAL/WA |

U.S. Navy/Former WN/MWAN Members

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Mary (Carhart) Kanze | 003/CA |
| Ruth E. (Flanders) Morrison | 113/VT |
| Ida (Zezeles) Aho | MAL/PA |
| Vasa (Stathopoulos) Simpson | MAL/PA |



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

| | |
|--|--|
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| (Dues period 1 January to 31 December) | |
| Name: _____ | Member ID #: _____ |
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| Email Address: _____ | |
| <u>NOTE:</u> Future newsletters will be sent via email. If you Prefer A Printed Copy, please check here <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Phone: _____ <i>Life Membership for those 90 years & older is a one-time payment of \$30.</i> | |
| National Dues for 1 year are \$25.00 + Tax Deductible Donation \$ _____ = Total Amount: \$ _____ | |
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| Terry Taylor, VP for Finance, 10105 E Via Linda, Ste 103-253, Scottsdale AZ 85258-5362 | |
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