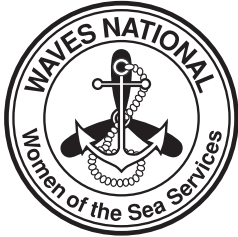


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MEMBER-AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

(Dues period 1 January to 31 December)

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Check # _____ Dues for 1 year are **\$15.00** Check Amount: _____

Please enclose a check or money order for **\$15.00** for dues for one year, made payable to WAVES National, and submit with this form to the **National Treasurer, Lou Ann Huskisson, 10410 W. Diana Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345-7421**

New members use WN membership application only.

The Life Membership rates are as follows:

25/under yrs. - \$400	36-40 years - \$322	51-55 years - \$244	66-70 years - \$166	81-85 years - \$88
26-30 years - \$375	41-45 years - \$296	56-60 years - \$218	71-75 years - \$140	86-89 years - \$60
31-35 years - \$348	46-50 years - \$270	61-65 years - \$192	76-80 years - \$114	90/over yrs. - Free



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White

CAPS

The Newsletter for WAVES National

VOL. XXX NO.3

JUNE 2009

THE WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

Legislation to Prepare VA for Rapidly Growing Number of Women Veterans

Legislation will address unique needs of women veterans, provide improved care for Military Sexual Trauma, and explore the effects service in Iraq and Afghanistan has had on female veterans

(Washington, D.C.) – March 16, 2009 - U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), a senior member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced major bi-partisan legislation to prepare the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the influx of women veterans who will access care there in the coming years. Senator Murray's bill, the Women Veter-

ans Health Improvement Act of 2009, will address many of the unique needs of female veterans, particularly those women who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) is the lead co-sponsor of the legislation and has also played a vocal role in ensuring the VA meets the unique needs of female veterans.

"Women have stepped up to serve at unprecedented levels," said **Senator Murray**. "Which means the VA is now faced with unprecedented challenges in caring for them as they return home. This bill addresses the unique challenges women face by providing specialized care for the visible and invisible wounds of war: As more women begin to transition

(Continued on page 2)

The President's Message



Boy! Summer is here and we haven't even gotten to the official start of it! Those of us in Virginia have not even had a Spring! It's gone from near freezing temps to

the high 80's and into the 90's. I don't mind the heat, but the humidity really does a number on me! Guess that goes along with being a red head.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage each and every one of you to send Denise Duke photos of your activities, whether of a unit activity or one you, as an individual, are participating in to support WN. This is what helps keep our history documented and without your support we would not have those wonderful history books Denise has so painstakingly assembled.

The scholarship winners and their essays are in this issue, as well. I am very impressed with the winning essays.

Thanks go to Ronda Walker, Scholarship Chairman, and her team for a job well done!

In reviewing some of the past White Caps, I found where we tried to get a new

column started and I think it is still a wonderful idea even though it didn't get off the ground previously. We would like to hear from our active duty and reservist members – I know you are out there, as I have several in my own unit – and tell us some "sea" stories about your experiences! If you are an active duty or a reservist member, please write an article about your military life and mail or email it to both Ronda Walker and myself. If you know someone who is on active duty or is a reservist, ask them to write about their experiences. We will publish them in a column for "Sea Stories from the Modern Navy/Coast Guard/Marines."

As I mentioned in my April column, I attended conferences in Regions I and III. I met many wonderful ladies and also renewed friendships with those I'd met before but don't get to see very often. Both conferences were very successful. My

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Health Care Improvement Act...

(Continued from page 1)

home, and step back into lives as mothers, wives, and citizens, the VA must be there for them."

"Women serving in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and performing dangerous missions throughout the world make up an important and growing segment of our veteran population. The number of women veterans receiving care through the VA is expected to double in less than five years," said **Senator Hutchison**. "Our bill will help improve access to quality health care services for women who have bravely served in our armed forces."

"Generations of women have served honorably in all of this country's major conflicts. These women have earned the right to expect the same high quality health care services and benefits as their male counterparts," said **Dave Gorman, Executive Director of Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**. "While significant progress has been made in recent years to remove institutional barriers that often discourage women veterans from seeking assistance at VA facilities, more needs to be done. The Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act will help ensure these women have equal access to VA benefits and services. DAV is proud to have worked on this legislation with Senator Murray,

who has proven herself time and again to be a steadfast and effective champion for all of American veterans."

Among other things, the legislation introduced will:

- Require the VA to implement a program to train, educate, and certify VA mental health professionals to care for women with sexual trauma
- Require the VA Secretary to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the barriers women are facing in accessing care at the VA.
- Authorize a report to Congress on the effects the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have had on the physical, mental, and reproductive health of women who have served there.
- Require the VA to begin a pilot program that provides child care to women veterans that seek mental health care services at the VA.
- Require the VA to begin a pilot program that provides readjustment counseling to women veterans in group retreat settings.

Senators Murray and Hutchison introduced similar legislation last year in the 110th Congress which **passed the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee** before the Senate session ended.

For Detailed Information on the Women Veterans Health Improvement Act of 2009 visit: <http://murray.senate.gov/veterans/women-vets-2009.pdf>

President's Message...

(Continued from page 1)

plans are to also attend conferences in Regions XI and XII. I am looking forward to both of these conferences and know the ladies are working hard to get everything organized so everyone will have a great time. Region IX is also planning a conference, but details are not available right now. Stay tuned and I hope members will take the opportunity to attend these conferences even though you are not a member of that region. The conferences are open to all members.

I am currently working with the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, VA, regarding an interpretive program on women in the Navy during WW II and Korean War. I met with the docent who will be doing the interpretation and have scheduled interviews with two of our WW II members so she can get the flavor of those having served during those times. I have obtained some uniforms from my eBay efforts for those periods and she will be using them in her program. The program will be presented at the Museum as well as at individual locations, depending upon requests and schedules.

Washington State 2009 Women Veterans Summit "Celebrating Women Veterans Legacy of Service"

Attention all Washington State WAVES National members.

Save the date: September 12, 2009.

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, Women Veterans Advisory Committee is hosting a Women Veterans Summit, at the Tacoma Convention and Trade Center, Tacoma Washington.

This Summit will provide comprehensive information regarding opportunities and challenges women veterans face today, information on benefits and services you might be entitled to and the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and form new ones.

WAVES National will be there. We will have an informational table set up to recruit new members, make contact with current members, and to talk about starting a new WAVES National unit in Western Washington. For more information contact:

Diana Parkison, WAVES National Recording Secretary (360-402-6177 or email: dianaparkison@comcast.net indicate WN Women Veterans Summit in subject line)

This conference is free, but you must register by 20 August 2009.

It is not too early to be thinking about running for national office. Before we know it, election time will be upon us once again. If you are not happy with the current leadership, instead of complaining about it, step up to the plate and submit your name as a candidate.

Please keep our troops in your prayers. God bless you all and our country

Always Navy,

Dassa

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WAVES National Ship's Store

Women of the Sea Services ~ Still Something Special

June 2009

Golf Shirt \$25 Navy or White w/WN Logo SM-MED-LG-XL-2X-3X-4X	Sweatshirt \$20 Navy w/WN Logo SM, MED, LG, XL	Cardigan \$25 Navy button-up w/WN Logo (Sweatshirt fabric-One size)	T-Shirt \$10 Navy w/White screened Logo SM-MED-LG-XL-2X-3X
Jacket \$25 Navy Blue w/WN Logo SM, MED, LG, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X	Apron \$10 Bib-style, Navy w/White Logo Adjustable neck-One Size	Necktie \$8 Women's USN - Black w/Velcro closure-One Size	Ballcap <i>New Lower Price!</i> \$10 Navy w/Embroidered Logo Soft style - Adjustable
Waist Bag \$10 "Fanny Pack"-style bag of cotton canvas w/Embroidered WN logo; 2 zippers; belt adjusts 30" to 47"	Small Patch \$4 SPECIFY: Navy OR Marine OR Coast Guard OR Army OR Air Force OR WN Logo Sizes Vary 2½"-3"	Large Patch \$10 WN Logo patch; May be ironed/sewn on back of jacket or vest. Size 8 ½ " diameter	Teddy Bear \$7 W/Service Patch on Belly SPECIFY: Navy OR Marine OR Army OR Coast Guard OR Air Force
"Original" Hat Pin \$10 WAVES w/Anchor & Prop	USN Hat Pin \$4 Spread eagle w/USN	Earrings \$12 Pierced w/Enamel WN Logo (½")	Charm \$7 w/Enamel WN Logo (½")
Logo Lapel Pin \$4 SPECIFY: WN Logo OR Navy OR Marine OR Coast Guard OR Army OR Air Force	Dogtag Lapel Pin \$7 Dog-tag shape, ¾", silver-color pin w/ chain says: "Women Proudly Served"	Songbook \$8 SPECIFY: "Songs WAVES Sing" OR "Bainbridge Bootcamp Songs"	Letterhead OR Notes \$5 SPECIFY: 20 Sheets WN Letterhead OR 10 Single-fold notes w/envelopes
Magnet \$1 Flat, 2 ½ " Circle White w/Navy WN Logo	Luggage Tag \$2 White plastic w/Navy WN Logo	License Frame \$2 Top: WAVES National Bottom: Women of the Sea Services	Decal <i>New Lower Price!</i> \$1 WN Logo for cars, etc SPECIFY: Blue/White OR Blue/Yellow
Portfolio \$15 Soft Vinyl Black w/Silver Trim; Dark Blue WN Logo (on silver) 9 3/4" wide x 12 1/4"	Pen <i>New Lower Price!</i> \$2 Bright Blue color w/WN Logo & WEB address printed in white Blue Ink; Retractable; Nice Weight	Sewing Kit \$2 Blue Case w/WN Logo & WEB address printed in white; 2"x3¼"x¼" Needles/threader/scissors/pins, etc.	WN Bumper Sticker \$1 Two-tone blue WN emblem and dark blue letters on white; glossy paper; Approx 3" x 10
Garrison Cap \$15 Ladies' Style, Dark Blue, Unlined w/WN Patch on Left Front; 55% Polyester/45% Wool Sizes 20-25 in ½" increments Dry Clean Only	Anchor Earrings \$14 Small version of Original Hat Pin Gold & Silver metal Approximately ¾"x¾" Pierced (Clip-on by special request)	Anchor Charm \$7 Small version of Original Hat Pin Gold & Silver metal Approximately ¾"x¾"	Coin OR Medallion OR Keychain \$10 Front: WN logo in gold, silver & blue Back: three raised images; Coin has gold, diamond cut edge; Medallion (on blue ribbon) & Keychain with ring have smooth silver edge ~ Approximately 1½" diameter
Name Badge OR Specialty Badge w/WN Logo \$12 Brushed Gold Plastic w/Bold, Black Letters, Double Clutch back (Magnet back On Request) Name: _____ (Nickname/Maiden/Other Info) _____ USN USCG USMC Years/From: _____ To: _____ WN Unit Name & Number: _____		Outgoing Officer Pin w/WN Logo \$9 Brushed Gold Plastic w/Bold, Black Letters, Double Clutch back Name: _____ Office Held: _____ Years in Office: From _____ To _____ WN Unit Number: _____	

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

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 Mail with order form to: **Patty Jo Parks, 6920 Sawtooth Drive, Ooltewah TN 37363-6894**
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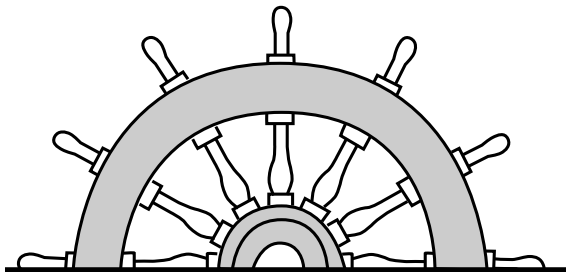
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Miscellaneous Information:

1. **Conventions are biennial.**
2. WHITE CAPS is published six times a year: Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., and Dec. **Items for publication must be received by the 1st of the month before publication.**
3. **National Dues: \$15.00 for the calendar year - 1 January to 31 December, submitted to the National Treasurer. Unit members submit to Unit Treasurer; Members-at-Large, submit directly to the National Treasurer.**
4. **When dues have been paid by new members,** membership cards will be issued to Unit Treasurers and individually to Members-at-Large. Current members who pay dues will not be issued another membership card. LIFE members will be issued a permanent LIFE membership card.
5. All changes of address must be forwarded to the Exec. Secretary sixty days before moving, if possible. There will be no re-mailing of WHITE CAPS unless the member forwards \$7.50 to Lou Ann Huskisson, Treasurer.
6. You may submit your White Caps articles via e-mail to Ronda Walker, rondavous@twlakes.net and a copy to Dassa Garvey, Dassa@att.net

<u>Submit Date</u>	<u>Publish Date</u>	<u>Issue</u>
1 July 2009	August 2009	Aug
1 September 2009	October 2009	Oct
1 November 2009	December 2009	Dec
1 January 2010	February 2010	Feb
1 March 2010	April 2010	Apr
1 May 2010	June 2010	Jun



FROM THE BRIDGE

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Gloria Galati



Dear WN Members: I hope this issue finds every member in good health and filled with much happiness. In this issue I would like to talk about membership and how important it is for **EVERY** member to take responsibility to recruit as many members as they can for WAVES National. At the Ohio Women's Veterans' Council, which I attended in April, I was still amazed, after all these years of being associated with WAVES National, at the number of women veterans, including WWII ladies, who had never heard of WAVES National. Our organization was established back in 1979. That's a long time ago! We must all step up to the plate and tell the world about WAVES National! With our membership decreasing in numbers, it is so relevant to get the word out! When out and about, advertise by wearing veteran's apparel. You will be surprised by the number of ladies who will come up to you and ask about your veteran's status or WAVES National! And always have a few applications with you to recruit. Or get their name and phone number to send information on our organization and follow up on the application. You can also direct them to a national officer and we will be glad to assist them. If every member recruited just one person, our membership would increase significantly! Just a few suggestions for such a critical issue!

I thank every member for their continued support of WAVES National and hope you will continue to do your part! Until next time as always!

Anchors Aweigh! Gloria

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Jo Adamson



Greetings Shipmates: Need I say how much all of my wonderful fellow shipmates mean to me right now? You were so wonderful and supportive at my time of grief after I lost my husband. I received hundreds of cards and

e-mails and I wish to thank you so very much. I have a long road to go as I will be relocating in the very near future. I probably will reside in Central Florida as they do so much for retired veterans like me. I know one of our main jobs in WAVES National is to help our fellow veterans and I certainly was blessed with all you wonderful women.

Barbara McGuire, Chairman of Stain Glass Window, and I traveled to RTC Great Lakes to meet with the Chaplain and Senior Chief to select the placement of the WAVES National Stain Glass Window. BJ will give you a report in the next issue of White Caps.

Lydia Wyatt, Region VII Representative, and I, as the State Organizer, would like to hold a Regional Conference in the GL area at the time of the dedication of the SGW. If any of our WN members in the Great Lake areas would consider hosting a Regional Conference at that time, please contact either of us and we will see if we can't set up a Region VII Conference.

I looked forward to the trip as the last time I was at RTC was in 1997 when I was on temporary duty to help with the transitioning to a Navy Coed Boot Camp. I said it wouldn't work then; however, it's still coed, so who am I to judge. Ha!

I am happy to report that we may have some new units starting as I have received several requests for Starter Kits. The potential new units are located in Reading, PA; Phoenix AZ; and Louisville, KY. As soon as I have acquired all the contact names, I will pass on the information for MALs who are located in those regions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Barb Turner



I mailed unit rosters on April 16, 2009 to all unit treasurers (UT) and regional representatives (RR). In the cover letter, I asked that the UT verify the rosters and let me know of any changes. These rosters were as accurate as Lou Ann Huskisson (WN Treasurer) and I knew as of April 1, 2009. I also asked for the UT to verify the current unit officers with the term dates.

I stated in the accompanying letter: (Quote) "In order for a member to be reinstated as a member in good standing, she will need to pay \$7.50 for 2008 dues and \$15.00 for 2009 dues on the national level". (Unquote) **THIS IS NOT TRUE and I apologize for upsetting our members.** No excuses here!

If a member wants to come back after being a non-member for a year or more, she simply has to pay the national dues of \$15.00 to her unit treasurer. MALs can mail dues directly to the WN Treasurer, using the renewal form on the last page of each White Caps.

The Procedures Manual (PM) was put on a CD in August 2006 and mailed to all Unit Presidents, State Directors, Regional Representatives and all WN Board of Directors prior to our 2006 convention. If you are a unit president reading this, do you know where that CD is? Did you have a copy printed off for your use? If you are a unit member and have no idea what I am talking about, I suggest that you contact the former unit president and ask her about the CD. The PM contains all FORMS like the unit dues transmittal form and the officer elected transmittal form. Please use these forms. You may e-mail the information as well.

I have been sending all NEW members and all NEW LIFE members a personal letter "signed" by our WN President, Dassa Carvey along with her membership card and a current White Caps. If the new member is a unit member, the letter, membership card and White Caps are mailed to the respective unit treasurer. MALs receive the same letter, membership card and White Caps mailed directly to them. This is a nice touch for a new member to receive a personal letter from our President and it makes them feel special. I have had good reports back on this and I will continue this practice.

Members who have reached age 90 and above are now considered LIFE MEMBERS and will receive a LM card and personal letter from WN President Carvey as such. This is automatic and any dues for 2009 will be refunded.

I appreciate all of the phone calls, snail mail and e-mail with regard to the

unit rosters and have updated the WN membership database accordingly.

Thanks for all of your hard work.

RECORDING SECRETARY



Diana Parkison

Ladies, I hope this finds you all well and that you are keeping busy.

And I must tell you for some reason I did not get my article to the White Caps editor and you have not heard from me for a few months. I am really sorry. I had an article ready for the April issue and forgot to send it to the editor. I will just call it "a senior moment. So to recap here goes...

As with a lot of the US, Washington State had more than its share of bad weather. In December we had a "White Christmas", which is always nice to have, but that was followed up in January with way too much rain and a lot of Western Washington was under water. Therefore, I spent all of January and into February volunteering with the Red Cross. It just amazes me each time I go to someone's house where the flood waters have gone in the front door and out the back door and literally taken everything they own out the door with the water. And these people are still up beat and carrying on. I think my time with the Red Cross is one of the more rewarding things I do. And ladies, I know what we suffered here in Washington State is not nearly as bad as other parts of the country.

Well, enough of that. Let's get on to the good stuff. I want to address the WAVES National Newsletter Contest. As you saw in a prior issue, at convention, I awarded 22 WAVES National units ribbons for their unit newsletters. I am reminding you that the newsletter contest is an on-going endeavor. However, at this time only 17 units have submitted newsletters. Ladies, I really believe more of you have some form of a newsletter. It doesn't matter how your newsletter is produced. Do you use a computer? Do you cut and paste it together? Do you use a typewriter? Or do you really do it "old school" and hand write? It doesn't matter what the format is, just send them to me. I really want to see them. I want to give out a lot more awards at WN Convention 2010. "Make my day!" - give me more newsletters than I can read. *The judges are waiting.* And when you send your newsletter please

send a note with the name, address and phone number of the editor and unit president. I may need to contact them at a later date.

And last on my mind is the upcoming Washington State Dept of Veterans Affairs "Women Veterans Summit". I will be mailing out a letter to all Western Washington WAVES National members with a flyer and registration form to attend the summit. The summit is a FREE one-day event for all women veterans. I will have a table with information on WAVES National and am hoping that I will be able to recruit new members for WN and to talk with current members about starting a *NEW WAVES NATIONAL UNIT IN WESTERN WASHINGTON.*

All Western Washington WN members will be receiving a letter from me on this event. I hope to see you there. Save the date September 12, 2009.

SHIP'S STORE



Patty Jo Parks

Summer is sizzling and here is a small "stimulus" for WN members: Look over this month's order form and you will find three items which have been reduced in price! They are small cuts, but cuts none the less AND there are NO INCREASES!

Don't forget to include the "size" when ordering the Dark Blue Garrison/Overseas Cap (now listed on the order form). To determine your size, measure the circumference of your head just above your eyebrows and ears. Make certain your hair is arranged the way you will wear it with the cap BEFORE you measure! Round UP the measurement to the nearest 1/2 inch.

"Quantity discounts" are STILL available for ANY COMBINATION of WN Coins, Medallions and/or Key rings: 5 for \$45; 10 for \$80 or 20 for \$140.

All this and you STILL want a FINE PRINT SPECIAL? Here ya go:

- With the purchase of an Anchor charm you will receive a WN logo charm FREE. (Limit of one free charm per customer.)

- Orders **MUST** 1) Include payment for one (or more) Anchor Charm(s); 2) Specify "CHARMING" somewhere on the order form; and 3) **MUST** be received by August 1, 2009.

Sea Ya! Patty Jo

HISTORIAN



Denise Duke

Ahoy ladies!! The lazy days of summer have begun, at least for some of us. Storms have been hitting around the country along with raging fires. Our prayers are with those of our friends who affected by these events.

On a lighter note, with the good weather come picnics and gatherings, make sure you take your cameras and send me some photos. One or two photos are plenty; make sure you identify who is in the photo on a separate sheet of paper. How about Memorial Day activities? Did you unit participate in any? Were there any articles in the local papers identifying WAVS National as participants? Send them in! I know you're busy out there.

I also wanted to let everyone know I've started volunteering at the VA in Tuscaloosa, AL. I love it! If you get the opportunity, visit one. There are three Air Force ladies in the unit that I visit every week. Tidewater Tidal WAVES inspired me to start making lap blankets so with the spare yarn I gathered from my mom's house, I've been making lap blankets for the veterans in Tuscaloosa. I never would've guessed how much I would get back by giving so little.

Don't forget Flag Day June 14th. The symbol of our country and patriotism!

Always Navy, Denise

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Barbara Sebring

Greetings Ladies.

We now have a new COLOR, "Sea" What We Are All About, brochure.

For those of you on email we have sent this out to you. I urge you to make several copies to hand out at the different events that your unit participates in. You can also take it to different public places like Libraries, Colleges, Veterans Hospitals, and Senior Centers, just to name a few. We have left a place for you to leave your name and Unit information on the inside of the brochure. If you do not have email and would like a copy please drop me a line and I'll gladly send you a copy by regular mail. If you have an email address and have not received it please email me at bsebring62@msn.com and I'll



Please send all WN member Silver Taps information to Executive Secretary, Barb Turner (address on page 14)

WN MEMBERS

Pearl S. Morrell
USN, Unit 6 (PA)

Mary A. Bishop
USN, Unit 15 (FL)

Frances E. (Hennessey) Anderson
USN, Unit 17 (MA)

Mary Jane (Jones) Grubb
USN, Unit 21 (OH)

Emma L. (Nation) Neal
USN, Unit 27 (FL)

Stephanie M. (Lichon) Burt
USN, Unit 31 (CA)

Florence Mae Gaus
USN, Unit 32 (MI)

Florence C. (Morey) Scranton
USN, Unit 42 (CT)

Eunice (McConnell) McDermott
USN, Unit 57 (VA)

Mary J. McCabe, USN
Unit 84 (IA)

Carolyn "Yippy" (Haas) Stamos
USN, Unit 101 (AZ)

Velma R. Baker
USN, Unit 103 (TX)

Marjorie C. Adams
USN, Unit 123 (FL)

Mary Eileen "Lee" Boyle
USN, Unit 126 (CA)

Naomi J. (Draeger) Ekdahl
USN, Unit 137 (MI)

Iris E. (Herring) Bufflap
USN, MAL (NC)

WN FORMER MEMBERS

Jean D. Hurst
USN, Unit 1 (AR)

Betty J. Phillips
USN, Unit 26 (NY)

Agnes J. Elish
USN, Unit 28 (PA)

Dorothy M. Graves
USN, Unit 32 (MI)

Grace S. Rutherford
USN, Unit 32 (MI)

Renata A. Luttrupp
USN, Unit 39 (WI)

Mary "Pinkie" Gruettes-Colagiovanni
USN, Unit 79

Harriett Ruth Crabbs
USN, Unit 84 (HI)

Louise G. Miller
USN, Unit 84, (IA)

Dessie M. Sorensen
USN, Unit 84 (IA)

Ilene F. Warren
USN, Unit 84 (IA)

Jane (Way) Norman
USN, Unit 109 (VT)

(FL) Lucille (Lonergan) O'Bryan
USN, Unit 113 (VT)

Patricia W. Malone
USN, Unit 139 (GA)

Gone, but not forgotten!

Ohio Women Veterans Conference held in Columbus

by Gloria Galati

The great state of Ohio and The Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on women veterans sponsored its 3rd Annual Ohio Women Veterans Conference in Columbus, Ohio, 4 April 2009.

Ohio women veterans who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the Air Force during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq attended. The annual conference was established to bring awareness of veteran benefits to women veterans and to continue to increase the Ohio state database of women veterans.

Tables from various veterans' organizations, including WAVES National Unit 21, North Coast WAVES, were set up with materials arranging from audio and visual to stimulate the woman veterans' senses to bring about

education, camaraderie and a bonding experience of veterans' organizations. Unit 21 members, including members Ellen Leidy and Elva Pounders, who are Ohio Veteran Hall Of Fame winners, were in attendance and sponsored a table for women who served in the Marine Corps.

Approximately 650 Ohio women veterans attended. The next conference may include the states of Indiana and Kentucky. Guest speakers were Governor Ted Strickland who conveyed the message that he wants to make Ohio the most veteran friendly state in the country.

Vernice Armour, Captain, USMC, the first African American pilot, was guest speaker. The Department of Defense also recognized Capt. Armour as the first African American combat pilot. Before leaving the military, Capt. Armour

completed two tours in Iraq. She is the founder of VAI Consulting and Training, LLC, and, through her seminars and workshops, conveys her message of "Zero through Breakthrough". She has been featured on Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, Tavis Smiley, NPR, and others. Her powerful presentation with visual and audio tools will educate, entertain and inspire you for a breakthrough life! She has received many awards including being a pioneering pilot, the first African American on the Nashville Police Dept.'s motorcycle squad, Camp Pendleton's 2001 Female Athlete of the Year and a running back for the San Diego Sunfire women's professional football team. Kudos to Capt. Armour for her many accomplishments and to raising the bar for all women who have served and are now serving the in the military!

FOAM OFF THE WAVES

COAST GUARD CUTTERS

Unit #92 (CA) - The only unit with all Coast Guard women has been around for a long time and has been very active. We meet at least four times a year, usually with a luncheon first, then business. At this time, our President is Ruby Chenard, Vice President is Pat Kelly and Laura Rokey is the Treasurer. **Contact Mary Weis, 2615 Canada Blvd #107, Glendale CA 91208 for meeting information.**

FLATWATER WAVES

Unit #98 (NE) - We met at Chance's Restaurant in York in April. Elaine Rottmeyer and her guest, Pat Lampman, a former Army nurse, told of their trip last fall to Washington, D.C., with Honor Flight. Elaine shared her scrapbooks of the event with us. Two other members, Ruby Hauptman and Kathy Howe, went on the final two flights of April. Lyla Woodworth, along with her daughter and son-in-law, went as well. Pat Hunsche attended the Honor Flight Party as a guest of Lois Carlsen and daughters who performed musical tributes at the Holiday Inn in Omaha. Over 1,500 WW II veterans have gone on the flight. The next meeting will be in Lincoln in June. **Contact Pat Hunsche at 402-426-2013, phunsche@huntel.net for meeting information.**



Flatwater WAVES, Back row, (l-r): Marjorie Neill, Pat Hunsche, Helen Stauffer, Jeannie Bixby, Linda Delgado, Margaret Nehring, Janet Sullivan, Elaine Rottmeier, Pat Lampman. Front row, (l-r): Ruby Hauptman, Mabel Stampler, Lyla Woodworth, Mary Scamehorn, and Kathy Howe.

PASCO WAVES

Unit #104 (FL) - The son and daughter of one of our members, Veronica "Ronnie" Johansen, invited all of Unit 104 to Ronnie's special surprise birthday luncheon -- she just turned 90! We had delicious food and cake, and the fellowship of

family and guests was full of warmth and happiness. Members are still in contact with the Director of the James A. Haley VA Medical Center regarding our attempts to get more and expanded health care and transportation benefits for our veterans in Pasco County. We're making small, but significant, progress. Our meeting place for May has been changed, by unanimous vote, to the Country Pizza Inn, 6205 U.S. 19 North, in New Port Richey. Let's treasure our veterans by doing everything we can to support them in our individual communities! **For meeting information call 727-863-1928, 727-943-0265, or 727-846-9238.**

GREEN MOUNTAIN GIRLS

Unit #113 (VT) - Because of Vermont's long winter, our unit met for the first time this year on 25 April with a 36% membership turnout. The treasurer announced we have five members who are over 90 years old who will no longer have to pay WN dues. Plans were discussed to attend the New England Regional Conference in Newport, RI, in September. Members attended the 17th Servicewomen's Luncheon in Arlington, VT, 16 May.

TIDEWATER TIDAL WAVES

Unit #152 (VA) - Member ITC Suzanne Davis has arrived safely in Iraq, near Baghdad. A shower of letters and goody boxes were sent to her. Three members spoke at three different bases in honor of **Women's History Month**. Members baked cookies for the VAMC County Fair in Hampton on 13 May. Libby Morrison, Dassa Carvey and Bobbie Williams, sharp in her chief's uniform, handed the cookies out to the delighted patients. Memorial Day found us at Virginia Beach in the annual laying of the **Memorial Day Wreath** ceremony. The unit collected clothing and donated \$200 to the VAMC to benefit women veterans. Exciting plans are under way for the 2010 WN Convention! **We meet the 3rd Monday of the month at Piccadilly Cafeteria on Military Hwy, 1830. Contact Judy, 757-545-1988, for meeting information.**

NOTE FROM A MAL

Following is a note written to Denise Duke, WN Historian, from Bernice Rosenberg, and shows one example of how MALs can also support our shipmates.

I was a WAVE Disbursing Officer from 1944 to 1951. (Don't think many of us are still around.) Because of the rules in effect at that time, I was required to submit my resignation and commission (Lieut., SC) from the Navy since I had married and had a child. You girls did not face such discrimination, today.

I have been living in a Senior Independent and Assisted Living Residence in Farmington, CT. I joined a knitting group there. Reading about a project sponsored by a WN unit that was sending knitted lap robes to their local Veterans Home (think it was NJ, my home state), I suggested the project to our ladies. We have since delivered to the CT Veterans Home in Newington about 70 hand knit lap robes, for which they were very grateful. We even had a reporter from *The Hartford Courant* visit us and take some pictures. Her article was published the following week. Since I no longer drive (learned to do so on a Navy pick up truck at NAS Lakehurst, NJ), I am not able to attend any meetings so have changed my registration to MAL. I was able to attend (with 3 other WAVES), the dedication of the WIMSA Memorial for the 4-day celebration, my last real WAVE experience. It was great. GO NAVY!

Editor's Note: Unit submitting information on donating lap robes to the VA Medical Center was actually in VA. Bernice: Keep up the good work and don't forget to submit your volunteer hours to Connie Kwicwien so they can be counted in National's total.

forward it to you. We plan on publishing this for all to see in the August White Caps.

This was a priority for me and my two assistants and it turned out to be a real labor of love! Remember to keep me updated with your Unit's activities and any other ideas on where to post the new brochure.

In Navy friendship, Barb

HEARTSPRING PROJECT



Jeanne Hooper

Activity has been fairly slow in the Boxtops for Education/Heartspring world lately, though I did receive one batch of boxtops from Heart of America, Unit 9. The next mailing deadline is in October, so that gives everyone quite a few months to bank your boxtops! In addition to sending the boxtops, Roberta Kolterman (our former Heartspring Chairman) passed on some information on increasing the number of boxtops going to Heartspring.

For each person that logs on to "Boxtops4education.com/Passion" and registers for Heartspring, the school will receive 5 extra boxtops. I am no computer guru (believe me!!!) and had very little

trouble figuring out the sign up. I will warn you, however, by signing up, you are agreeing to receive the Boxtops newsletter, so if you don't want any additional e-mail, you may not want to register.

One of the best things about this job is the nice notes I receive from many of the ladies sending boxtops. They can really make my day, so thank you all for your newsy notes, thoughts and cheer! Hope you'll have a great summer!

STAINED GLASS WINDOW CHAIRWOMAN



Barbara J. McGuire

I have definitely made some progress since I last wrote to you. I made contact with Chaplain Conroe and MUC Charity Mahannah in Great Lakes and with artists in the area. A visit to GL took place 5-8 May. I will have more news in the next issue. I, Jo Adamson and Cathy Gerolimatos from my unit met with Chaplain Conroe to discuss the project and selected a site for the SGW. We are attending recruit graduation on the morning of 8 May. I was able to get reserved seats for us and we watched the

ceremonies from the review stand. Watch for some great photos in the next issue. In addition, we met with three artists in the area to see their work and talk about the SGW. I had been in contact with each of them and had provided them a picture of the window WN installed at the Coast Guard RTC, Cape May, NJ.

Take good care for now and peace to all.

Navy Cheers, Barbara J. McGuire

WHITE CAPS EDITOR



Ronda Walker

Just a couple of things... When you submit an article for WHITE CAPS, please do the following:

1. For FOAM OFF THE WAVES, on the SUBJECT line please name your unit, its number and your state.
2. For ARTICLES, please list your name and position.
3. Please use black font color.

Thanks so much for your attention to these details. It will help considerably.

Deadline for next issue is 1 July 2009.

Navy Always, Ronda.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Regional Conferences are open to all WAVES National members wherever they reside. These smaller versions of conventions make it possible to have more informal and friendly gatherings and to meet new people. The year 2009 has several good ones from New England to Florida to California. And there is even an Alaskan cruise. Choose one of these special occasions to meet new members, keep up with Veterans news and WAVES National doings. The hosts spend a lot of time preparing for these meetings and deserve a good attendance.

Region VIII – New England

Newport, RI - September 24-27, 2009.

Ocean State Unit #118, is hosting Region VIII's conference. Rooms are at The Marriott and are \$299 with 2 double beds or King bed for 1 or 2 (\$167.97 per room mate), \$15 registration fee before July 1. Many freebies are included, i.e., evening entertainment Thursday and Friday; continental breakfast Friday and Saturday; bus tour of Newport on Friday; Memorial Service at Naval Base on Saturday followed by a tour of Naval War Col-

lege Museum and Coast Guard Ship. WN Members (Unit #118 members excluded) registered for the conference, staying at the Marriott Hotel for three nights during the conference will have a chance on a ticket to be drawn with the lucky winner receiving one paid weekend, including hotel, registration fee, parking of their vehicle, lunch at the Ocean Cliff Mansion, and the banquet. Contact Co-Chairpersons Ginny Hanson 401-846-6932, fganson@aol.com or Tina McNeil 401-232-2666 for further information.

Region XI – Southeast

Huntsville, AL - July 10 – 12, 2009

Country Inn & Suites has a 2-room suite available for up to 6 people at \$84 a night plus tax. For reservations: 800-456-4000 (Specify: WAVES National). For more details contact: Patty Jo Parks at 423-326-0839 or pattyjoparks@yahoo.com

Region XII – Sunshine

Buena Vista, FL - Sept. 24-27, 2009

Region XII has joined with the All Navy Women's National Alliance in hosting the

conference this year. Convention Packages include: PORT PACKAGE - \$70 – Includes Registration Fee, Main Banquet, and Sunday Brunch. STARBOARD PACKAGE - \$55 – Includes Registration Fee and Main Banquet. GEDUNK PACKAGE - \$25 – Includes Registration Fee and Sunday Brunch. GUESTS OF REGISTERED ATTENDEES: Banquet only - \$50. Brunch only - \$17. GOLF PACKAGE: \$55. AL CAPONE DINNER AND SHOW - \$45.

Rooms will be available three days before, during and three days after the conference at the Lake Buena Vista Best Western for \$70 plus tax with both valet and free parking. On Friday evening, Presidents Sharon Breece and Betsy Waddell will host a party-mixer for all attendees. The National Alliance will be setting up their museum for a tour. Disney Downtown is just a stroll away and buses are available to nearby theme parks. For information call 800-348-3765, stating that you are with WAVES National. Contact Betsey Waddell, 863-382-0419 or wavenavy@hotmail.com.

2009 WAVES National Scholarship Recipients and their Essays

There were only twelve applicants for the scholarships this year, and one student applied for both, writing two essays. Six essays were on the Navy Yeomanettes and four were on the Women Marines. Two of the judges are affiliated with Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN. The third has been a home-school teacher for her children for the past 10 years and now works as a paralegal with a local law firm.

The recipient of the 2009 Anne Marie Bianchi –Gagnon Scholarship “Navy Yeomanettes – The Forerunners to Sea Service Women Present and Future” is Andrew Woodruff of Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Andrew’s grandmother, Dolly A. Voytilla Dwyer, Yeoman 2nd class, served in the U.S. Navy during WW II. She has been serving in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for the past 15 years.

Andrew plans to pursue studies in Music, History, Philosophy, English, Drama, Language Arts, Business, Management and Psychology. His special talents are in Music and Track. He is currently a member of a Jazz/Rock Band at George School, a Jazz piano composer, and also a member of the Varsity Cross Country Team. He plans to pursue a career in Music Business and Management. *WAVES National wishes Andrew success in his pursuits. This chairman was impressed with his complete presentation, especially the inclusion of a photo of his grandmother taken during her WW II service, and chose to include it in this article.*



Navy Yeomanettes – The Forerunners to Sea Service Women Present and Future

By: Andrew Woodruff



The story of the Yeomanette's began accidentally, emanating from a fortunate loophole in the 1916 Naval Reserve Act that omitted the mention of gender as a condition for service in the U.S. Navy. Realizing that the Navy would be short-handed, and wanting to avoid the need for congressional approval, Secretary of the navy Josephus Daniels pointed out that the text in the Act referred to "Yeoman" instead of "man" and therefore did not specifically prohibit women from joining (Department of the Navy). The Act

instead called for the induction of "all persons who may be capable of performing special useful service for coastal defense." With this, the enlistment of females into the U.S. Navy began, and within six weeks 600 Yeoman (F), or Yeomanettes, had enrolled (Albion 1943).

Although women had been serving an important role in the U.S. Navy since the Nurse Corps was established in 1908, Secretary Daniels officially opened the doors for women who wished to serve. The first large scale recruitment of women began in March 1917, four weeks before America entered World War I. Most Yeomanette's served as clerks or secretaries, while others worked as mechanics, cryptographers, and munitions makers (Patch 2006). These frontier women overcame obstacles that their male counterparts did not have. Women could not live on the male-only bases and no alternative military housing was provided. Most had to make their own living arrangements, as they were assigned posts far from home. Mrs. Henry Butler recalls in her publication I was a

Yeoman (F) that "the Navy had offered no attempts at any special indoctrination for its girls; it provided no barracks, allowing us to live wherever we pleased." (Butler 1967). Also, at the start of the recruitment period, the Navy had made no provision for women's uniforms. In 1917, it was still considered improper for women to wear pants, therefore rendering useless the standard male uniform. The Navy set guidelines for the female regulation dress code, and the Yeomen (F) were provided additional funds to purchase or make what they needed. Eventually, due to uniform variance, the navy set stricter standards in regards to color and skirt hem length (Naval History & Heritage Command).

Armistice Day came on November 11, 1918, at which point more than 11,000 women were enrolled as Yeomanettes (Department of the Navy). Because the Armistice came sooner than expected, hundreds of women were discharged with only a day's notice and many lacked the money to get home (Albion 1943). Proud of their involvement, the Yeomanettes

FOAM OFF THE WAVES

SAND DOLLAR

Unit #60 (FL) - The April meeting was the last regular meeting held until September. The May meeting was a luncheon at the American Legion Post 273, Madeira Beach, FL. Plans were made to visit the Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo, FL, and present a donation. Our unit also voted to donate \$50 to Southeastern Guide Dogs and \$50 to the Bay Pines VA Nursing Home patients' fund. For Easter, we delivered a carnation arrangement in a bud vase to twenty women patients at Bay Pines VA Nursing Home. Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month (September - May) at VA Medical Center Bay Pines. **For meeting information, contact Betty Blair, 727-391-2362, EBlair5043@aol.com**

JERSEY SHORE WAVES

Unit #68 (NJ) - We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of our unit, on 2 May, aboard the Riverlady, a paddle river boat in Toms River, NJ. There were many charter members, also called "plank owners"...Most of our members have been around since the very inception of the unit, and our membership is over 90% WW II era. That's quite an accomplishment!

We always have 20-30 members at every meeting, and our unity, dedication and pride prevail...as our credo says... **STILL SOMETHING SPECIAL... indeed!**

ORANGE BLOSSOM

Unit #69 (FL) - Several members attended "A Passionate Pursuit, The WASP-Women Airforce Service Pilots", at Fantasy of Flight, in honor of Women's History Month. There were exhibits and panel discussions about the WASPs, along with artifacts and photographs. The various aircrafts flown by the WASPs were on exhibit. Four WASPs in attendance, Betty Blake, Beatrice Haydu, Helen Snapp, and Barry Smith, shared their tales of being the first women to fly for the U.S. military. We were able to meet these four ladies and received autographs and took photos with them. An enjoyable day was had by

all. Join us if you are in Orlando the 2nd Saturday of the month. **Contact Connie, 407-739-5687, or navywave76@earthlink.net, for meeting information.**



WASPs (Front row, l-r): Bernice F. Haydu, Helen W. Snapp, Betty T. Blake, and Barry V. Smith, related their war stories to Orange Blossom members (Back row, l-r): Julie Zamarocy, Tubby Evans, Alice Hyson, Connie Kwiecien, Joan Hallinan, and Susan Ghrist.

COLUMBIA RIVER RIPPLES

Unit #70 (OR) - Not too much activity to report at this time. At the moment plans for the coming months are being discussed: our combined lunch with Oregon units in Salem at the end of the month and making plans for our fun picnic in August at a new park. Hope all our health problems will be solved by then. We were notified that the wonderful ceremony Honoring American Heroes held at our local high school may be cancelled because of the economy. It is an emotional tribute to veterans of all wars and attended by hundreds. It will be missed. Our treasurer proudly announced all our dues have been paid. Happy safe summer to all.

SPACE COAST WAVES

Unit #75 (FL) - Spring has sprung - I hope everything is blossoming in your neck of the woods too! We are busy preparing for our new slate of officers to be installed in May at which time will have our annual bell ceremony honoring Anna Westrick Hartrup and Anne Langlacher Barton for whom the bells tolled this past year. This was at least the eighth year unit members supported the Standdown for Homeless Veterans, sponsored by Brevard Veterans Council. Volunteers worked two days to see that our service comrades received not only clothing and food but, also, hot showers, haircuts, and counseling from VA and Patrick AFB representatives regarding available benefits. Many veterans even

won bicycles! Summer hiatus follows our June indoor picnic, and we are looking forward to 2009-2010 under the leadership of Bernadette Farina, Francene Intille, Jeanne Perry Benedict and Alice Wheeler. **Meeting information may be obtained from Francene Intille, 321-773-3967, mfitexas@aol.com.**



ANNUAL STANDDOWN FOR HOMELESS VETERANS sponsored by Brevard Veterans Council. Space Coast WAVES (l-r), Donna Powers, Michele Sauson, Joyce Batti, Wynne Seitz, Marilyn Trapnell, and Bernadette Farina. Not pictured, but participating, were Toni DiRocco, Doris Lindsey, Donna Painter and Starlyn Furci (granddaughter of member Terry Giordano).



New Life Member, ninety-two year old Betty Yaroch, of the Space Coast WAVES. Betty was very pleased with the letter she received from WN President Dassa Carvey in honor of her reaching Life Member status.

REDWOOD EMPIRE WAVES

Unit #77 (CA) - Our unit co-sponsored the Region I Conference in Oakland in March, which went off well and was enjoyed by those who attended. A Sunday tour of the USS Hornet, a WW II aircraft carrier which is now a museum and open to the public, was a highlight of the conference. Several had visited the ship in 1998 when it was dedicated as a museum. We are looking forward to July when we will celebrate Redwood Empire WAVES 20th anniversary. Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of the month at 1100 at the Veterans Bldg., Room B, Petaluma Blvd., South, Petaluma, CA, followed by a potluck lunch. **Contact Bettie Crandall, 8099 B. Street, Windsor CA 95492-9320 or 707-838-4035 for meeting information.**

FOAM OFF THE WAVES

GATEWAY WAVES

Unit #5 (MO) - Mary Ellen Tayon was honored, with 3 other women, as "a living charter member" of American Legion, St. Louis Service Women's Post 404, on February 22, 2009. She has "63" years of continuous service in the American Legion, is a WW II WAVE, and has been a member of Gateway WAVES, St. Louis, for nearly 30 years. Congratulations Mary Ellen. Our unit meets on the 4th Saturday each month, except November and December. **Contact Shirley Walz (President), 314-822-4249, sjwalz2002@yahoo.com, for meeting information.**

SUNCOAST WAVES

Unit #15 (FL) - Welcome aboard to new members Marion and Pamela, who were WRENS during WW II. Another member, an RAF's daughter, taped a video of Peggy Riley's life and the DVD will be in the Manchester Archives and Local Studies Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester. What an honor for a female veteran who served in the Royal Air Force and also received a gold "D" Day Medal for her service on that day! The unit still holds auctions at their meetings to support the state project PAWS FOR PATRIOTS, and more than \$100 has been donated since last year. We meet the 4th Saturday of the month at Kally K's Restaurant in Dunedin, at 1130, except in May when we have a Memorial Service for all deceased sea service women. We do not meet in July or August. **Contact Berenice, 727-447-0865, for meeting information.**

GARDEN STATE WAVES

Unit #16 (NJ) - Several members attended an annual Prayer Breakfast honoring our military. At the conclusion of the breakfast, members met with a Marine Mom who is part of a Military Support Group. This group has grown into a large and very active group of ladies, who send "CARE" packages and other items to our deployed troops from

the area. We will be making plans at our next meeting to help with the collection of some of these items. This is such a great way to let our troops know

we care and they are not forgotten. **We meet the 1st Wednesday of every month (except July & August).**

THREE RIVERS

Unit #28 (PA) - Our luncheon meeting was held at D'Imperios Restaurant on 21 March. Twenty-five members were present. Three guests were introduced. There are 43 members in our unit. Some of our members were welcomed back after various health problems during the winter. Violet Byrer, volunteer chairman, reminded us to submit our volunteer hours to her. We are not to count the hours we use for transportation. A bake sale was held to benefit the Women's Fund for indigent veterans. The full amount of the 50/50 drawing at our meeting will be given to the same fund. **Contact Lois Williams, 412-373-9348, for meeting information.**

BADGER

Unit #39 (WI) - Our unit participated in a Wellness Fair for women veterans at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. The fair provided information about women's health and wellness, veteran's benefits, unemployment and other resources.

It was also an opportunity to recruit new members for our unit as it attracted women veterans from across the State. Our next meeting is 19 September, 1030, at the New Berlin Regency. **Contact Claire, at 262-782-6215, or peach@wi.rr.com for meeting information.**

CONNECTICUT YANKEES

Unit #42 (CT) - Our Regional Representative Ginny Hanson attended our May meeting. Ginny's Rhode Island Unit 118 is hosting the Regional Conference so we were interested in hearing more about it. Nine members participated in the funeral of Flo Scranton on a lovely sunny day at the State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown, CT. Some members took part in their local Memorial Day events. We will be meeting at the State Veterans Home in Rocky Hill on 6 June in the Commissioner's Conference

Room and then we are on a summer break until September.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WAVES

Unit #52 (FL) - It was the well-deserved turn of two more of our WW II vets, Berma Albright and Elaine King (with her honorary member husband Clint), to be flown to DC by the Emerald Coast Honor Flight to visit the WW II Memorial. They were each overwhelmed by the experience from start to finish. Members went on two field trips recently. The first was to the Naval Operational Medicine Institute (NOMI), which provides operational medical and survival training. At their pool, we observed aviators undergoing refresher training in escape methods. We exchanged challenge coins with the Commanding Officer. The second field trip was to the VA's new and expansive Joint Ambulatory Care Center, in Pensacola. The staff and facility were impressive. Happily, some members' administrative issues were satisfactorily resolved while we were there. Certificates, WN coins and invitations to our annual luncheon "SALUTE!" were presented to the female winners of the local NJROTC leadership awards. Hopefully, they will consider the sea services when they ultimately select a career.

GULF COAST DOLPHINS

Unit #56 (FL) - Our unit has been very busy this winter. We have found a new home for our meetings at the Elks Club in Englewood. Two members attended the All Women's Veterans Luncheon in Orlando in March. The unit voted to contribute a total of \$600 to 3 local organizations: "The Paws for Patriots" program of the SE Guide Dog Association; The Douglas Jacobson VA Nursing Home, Activities Dept., Pt. Charlotte; and, The Haley House, in Brandon, which houses and comforts families of returning wounded soldiers. Members have been doing community outreach speaking at local women's groups. The unit mourns the loss of Lin Spinal this year. She was very active in our unit and as a National Volunteer Chairmen for many years.

successfully lobbied for honorable, rather than general, discharges. The National Yeoman (F) Association began in 1926 allowing the organization to be officially sanctioned by the U.S. government (Vinch 2001).

In August 1942 Mildred McAfee was sworn in as the first female commissioned officer in U.S. Navy history. She held the rank of Naval Reserve Lieutenant Commander and became the first Director of WAVES, or "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" (Department of the Navy). Once again, it seemed like there was a negative feeling about women being part of general service in the Navy. The implication being that women would only be around during war and only if there was a military emergency that warranted their involvement. Despite these sentiments, the development had lasting significance, eliciting a tremendous response from interested American women. A large scale recruiting plan had to be undertaken, training establishments had to be set up, and uniforms had to be designed. Within a year 27,000 women wore the WAVES uniform, and held a much wider range of occupations than their Yeomen (F) predecessors had (Department of the Navy).

In 1948 the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was signed, making it possible for women to enter the Navy in regular or reserve status, (Skaine 1998) finally including women in the ranks for more than just emergencies. Just two years later, the United States military once again found itself facing a war for which it was unprepared. The start of the Korean War found a rush to recruit personnel and just as in previous conflicts, the military turned to American women to meet their needs and number requirements. Overseas service opportunities expanded for Navy women during the war. During World War II, the only overseas orders to which navy women were assigned were Hawaii and Alaska. After the war, these opportunities were withdrawn and Navy women's overseas assignments were limited to a small number of bases in Europe that had available housing for women (The Women's Memorial Foundation).

When the Vietnam War began in 1960, although many women enlisted in the

Navy, very few were called to serve. Almost all Navy women served stateside, but some served overseas, mostly in Europe (Ebbert 1993). In 1972, The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by the U.S. Congress; thus, opening the Recruit Officer Training Command to women. In August of the same year, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt announced policy revisions for the assignment of women in the Navy. One of the changes was to begin a pilot program where a number of officer and enlisted women were assigned to the crew of the hospital ship USS Sanctuary. The enlisted women were to work on the ship's deck, in the supply department, and in the operations departments. These women were now the U.S. Navy's first sea-going women, expected to perform the same duties as their male shipmates (Norman 1990). This decision, made three years prior to the end of the Vietnam War, finally put women aboard ships, starting them on a journey that the first Yeomanette's began: women in the Navy were moving from the sidelines of Navy life directly onto the playing field.

During the next fourteen years of peace, women in the Navy flourished in regular and reserve duty, taking overseas and shipboard assignments. Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm saw the largest deployment of military women in the history of the U.S. More than 40,000 women were deployed, 3700 of whom were in the U.S. Navy (Skaine 1998). These Operations established new frontiers for women in combat, although federal law still prohibited them from direct combat.

The drive to integrate women into every area of the military, creating an ungendered vision, has caused a dramatic increase in the number of women serving in the armed forces. Today, there are over 54,000 service women in the United States Navy, about 15 percent of the total force. Of these, over 8,000 are officers, 2,500 are Chief Petty Officers, and 43,500 are enlisted service members. One in seven of our troops in Iraq are women (United States Navy). Officially, women are still not permitted to be involved in direct combat, yet with the unconventional nature of the Iraq insurgency, with no

discernible front lines or rear area, the rule is invalid because women are in fact in combat everyday (Vinch 2008). With both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars waging simultaneously, the women of the armed forces have become a necessary contingent of the military.

Navy women are continuing to advance every day. In December, 2006, Captain Margaret D. Klein became the 82nd Commandant of Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy. The Commandant of Midshipmen is responsible for training, discipline and moral development of the Academy's 4,300 midshipmen. Klein was the first woman to ever hold this position. In June, 2008, she was selected for promotion to Rear Admiral and assigned as Operations Officer, Naval Network Warfare Command, Norfolk, Virginia (The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation). Recently, another hurdle has been overcome with a change in Navy policy regarding the manning of nuclear submarines. Women have been kept out of submarines in part because the Navy has maintained that designing and maintaining co-ed submarines would be too expensive. Finally, women will have the chance to join one of the service's most traditional fraternities, as the Navy plans to allow women in submarines by making two U.S. Virginia class subs consist of an all-female crew and officers. This plan is to be implemented by December 2009 (Handley 2008).

The Yeomanettes of World War I, with their pioneering spirit, made it possible for women like Rear Admiral Klein to succeed. They broke new ground, ironed out problems, and led the way for today's women in the Navy. But, those forerunners have not been forgotten. Charlotte Louise Berry Winters, the last known Navy Yeoman (F) and female veteran of World War I, passed away at the age of 109 on March 27, 2007. At her burial she received full military honors, including a squad of seven sailors firing three rifle volleys (Hevesi 2007). The success of the Yeoman (F) is unprecedented. Not only did they provide exceptional service during World War I, they set a standard of excellence and paved a road toward equality for all future women of the United States Navy.

2009 WAVES National Scholarship Recipients and their Essays

The recipient of the 2009 Ruth Chaney Streeter (USMC) Scholarship "The Role of Women in the Marine Corps" is Stephanie Robinson of Casselberry, Florida. Stephanie's grandmother, Corrine Marie Raap Robinson, served as a CORPSWAVE, in the U.S. Navy from 1953-1955.

Stephanie plans to pursue a major in International Law with studies in Business, International Affairs and Chinese. She loves travel and music. She volunteered on a church mission trip to Mexico last year and she currently sings with her school choir, plays the oboe and is interested in photography.

WAVES National wishes Stephanie success in all her pursuits.

The Role of Women in the Marine Corps

By: Stephanie Robinson



"Free a Man to Fight!" This was the call for the more than 20,000 women who joined the Marine Corps during World War II to fill home front clerical positions so more men could be armed to satisfy the United States army's desperate need for men in the Asian and European theatres (Alfonso). However, the "fairer sex's" contribution to the Marine Corp did not start in 1943. Opha Mae Johnson became the first women to join the Marine Corps Reserve on August 13, 1918, along with 304 other women (Women). They primarily worked as clerical billets and staff at recruitment centers. However, the war ended in November of the same year, and the women division was separated from the male division and ended in January of 1919, as it was considered of little point to keep a standing female force when the men were back home (Women).

Perception of female-uselessness in the Marine Corps came to an end in 1943, when the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established by General Thomas Holcombe (Stiner). These women served clerical position like their forbearers, but their roles were also greatly expanded: they filled any and every position that men

on the front lines left vacant, from mechanic to parachute rigger. By mid-1944, women made up two-thirds of all the marine personnel in the US and Hawaii (Fisher). Roughly 23,445 women served in the Corps, a vast increase from their involvement in the last war; their service was not unnoticed. According to general Vandegrift, he felt that the women could feel responsible for putting the 6th Marine Division in the field; for without the women filling jobs throughout the Marine Corps, there would not have been sufficient men available to form that Division." (Fisher). However, the role of women in the military improved with the passing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act; women were now a regular part of the Marine Corps, in theory equal to male marines (Fisher).

Women have made astounding gains I the marine corps ever since World War II. Colonel Margaret A. Brewer became the first female general officer in 1961, women were first assigned as embassy guards beginning in 1979, Colonel Gail M. Reals became the first woman promoted to brigadier general in 1985, Brigadier General Carol A. Mutter became the first woman to command a fleet force at flag level in 1992, Second lieutenant Sarah Deale was the first woman to do naval air training in 1993, and in 1996 General mutter became the first woman marine and only second in the entire military to hold three stars (Women). This is a far cry from the 1940's, when women couldn't hold a rank above lieutenant colonel (Sturkey).

In 1948, women were only allowed to make up a maximum of two percent of the corp. Now they make up more than six percent (Women).

Women's advancement in the Marine Corps has paralleled the larger trend in society. In 1950, near the dawn of full-time female involvement in the Corps, only one in three civilian women was in the workforce. In 1998, forty-five percent of the labor force consisted of women compared to fifty-percent being male. A decade later, the difference was only four percentage points (forty eight percent women and fifty two percent men) (Heathfield). According to the United States Labor Department, in 2005, nearly two-thirds of women who were old enough to work were in the work force (Employment). Also, the percent of the number of women entering the work force has been increasing more than me in recent years: from 1995 to 2005, the percent increase of white women in the workforce was 9.4 percent, compared to 9.1 for white men, and the percent of increase for black women was 18.1 percent, compared to 11.3 percent for black men (Employment). It is unsurprising that as more women enter and thrive in the civilian workforce, the same trend would occur in the Marine Corp.

The traditional military stereotype has been a strong man working tirelessly in a uniform. However, according to one study, women are the happiest group in the military. A study done by the American Sociological Review studied over 30,000

active duty personnel in the military and suggested that a social hierarchy based solely on rank nullified social or gender distinctions in the military that would otherwise be present (Kliff). The military's efforts to increase racial equality in the ranks have spilled over to the aim for gender equality. In fact, ask many marine women, and they believe the military opens more doors than the civilian work force. According to ConnollyMcDowell, a previous commander of a convoy in Iraq, women neither receive nor want special treatment. "There isn't a rear area anymore....When I went to boot camp, the drill instructors always told us, 'Don't expect to be treated any differently than

male Marines.' They were right. When I was enlisted, I went to field operations and deployed just as frequently as any male. It wasn't about who was male or female; it was about being Marines." In many respects, women marines feel they have become one of the boys (in a good way). "Women in the Marine Corps have stepped up and taken the lead by volunteering for billets and being much more aggressive than in the past," says 1st Sgt. Suzie M. Hollings, the company first sergeant for A Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion at the Marine Corps Base at Camp Butler. "When I was a lance corporal, they weren't asking for female Marines to be stationed with division or

(force service support group) units. It was not our role to deploy. Today, a female lance corporal is no different from a male lance corporal. I've seen some amazing things from female Marines, and it's only going to get better with time." (Alfonso).

Women in the marines have made massive strides in developing their role in the US Marine Corp. In World War I and World War II, female marines were largely perceived as useful because they allowed men to do the 'real' fighting. Now, women are fighting and living alongside the men, and are enjoying every minute of it, grateful for the foundation their forbearers had laid for them so they could get the full recognition they deserve.

Veteran's Charities Receive Grades

You may want to consider the following records when considering making donations to groups just because they ask. Philip Rucker, Washington Post Staff Writer reports that Americans gave millions of dollars in the past year to veterans charities designed to help troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, but several of the groups spent relatively little money on the wounded.

The American Institute of Philanthropy, a leading charity watchdog, issued a report card in March for 29 veterans and military charities. Letter grades were based largely on the charities fundraising costs and the percentage of money raised that was spent on charitable activities.

- Air Force Aid Society (A+)
- American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation (F)
- American Veterans Coalition (F)
- American Veterans Relief Foundation (F)
- AMVETS National Service Foundation (F)
- Armed Services YMCA of the USA (A)
- Army Emergency Relief (A+)
- Blinded Veterans Association (D)
- Disabled American Veterans (D)

- Disabled Veterans Association (F)
- Fisher House Foundation (A+)
- Freedom Alliance (F)
- Help Hospitalized Veterans/Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (F)
- Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (A+)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation (F)
- National Military Family Association (A)
- National Veteran Services Fund (F)
- National Vietnam Veterans Committee (D)
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (A+)
- NCOA National Defense Foundation (F)
- Paralyzed Veterans of America (F)
- Soldiers' Angels (D)
- United Spinal Association's Wounded Warrior Project (D)
- USO (United Service Organization) (C+)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars and Foundation (C-)
- Veterans of the Vietnam War and the Veterans Coalition (D)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (D)
- VietNow National Headquarters (F)
- World War II Veterans Committee (D)

Assistance Sought for Multi-month Musical Venture

WANTED - Five methodically assiduous volunteers interested in preserving the music of America's military women. In fact, the goal of this project is to reinsert these historical melodies into today's culture!

Position Criteria & Required Skills:

- 1) Music background including composition, theory and ability to read music
- 2) Windows-based PC available for personal use AND ability to use it
- 3) Willing and able to self-learn music composition software
- 4) Comfortable using the internet for research
- 5) Excruciating attention to detail
- 6) Time to work on this project (12-20 hours per month)

Capable & Curious? Write to Patty Jo at waves.shipstore@yahoo.com for an application and detailed specifics.

<http://www.oefoif.va.gov/>

Check out this new web site (sponsored by VA) for our returning wounded.

Deadline for submitting proposed Bylaw Amendments is 1 July. Send to Jan Roy, Bylaws Chairwoman. Jan's address in on page 14.

New Arizona Unit Underway

A new unit is being formed in Paradise Valley, Phoenix, AZ. Finding potential members is a challenge but the monthly lunches and programs have been delightful. Meetings are at an assisted living facility which provides lunch. Programs have included the author of "Baby of Bataan" author Joe Johnson, who lied about his age to join the army; Betty Blake, one of two surviving pilots of the first

graduating class of WASP/Women Air Force Service Pilots. The next program will be presented by Ms. Senior Arizona 2008 Marilyn O'Connell, age 81 and a singer, artist and athlete. They meet the third Wednesday of every month. Contact Vida Flayter, member of Cactus WAVES soon to transfer out and become Vice President of this new unit, at 6870 W. El Cortez Place, Peoria, AZ 85383-7097