

WMA'NOUNCEMENTS

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Winter 2005

Serving our members since 1969

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The 2004-2006 National Board



Front row (l-r): Doris Bell, Jeanne Botwright, Lori Cousins, Lucille Teixeira, Carol Mutter, Paula Sarlls and Pam Bloustine. Back row (l-r): June Worden, Rhonda Lebrescu-Amtower, Pat Bond McLane, Betty Jean Cannon, Mary Ellen Stone, Judy Anderson, Shirley Heckerd, Zelda Barrows and Denne Howard. Missing from photo are Carole Hawkins and the Area 7 Director. (Sondra)

**Convention
2004**
Our coverage
begins on
page 10

In Remembrance: Sarah N. Thornton

SgtMaj Sarah N. Thornton, USMC, Retired, charter and life member of WMA and the 12th Past National President, passed away on 12 October 2004.

Sarah was originally from Macon, GA, having joined the Marine Corps Women Reserves in Atlanta on 11 December 1943 and was ordered to recruit training at Camp Lejeune, NC, on 8 February 1944. She was integrated into the regular Marine Corps in November 1948.

Sarah served as a drill instructor for women Marine recruits during WWII and was posted at bases across the United States, including Camp Lejeune, Parris Island, 29 Palms, Camp Pendleton, and also on Okinawa during the Vietnam War. Sarah had an illustrious career, serving 30 1/2 years, retiring from 29 Palms on 31 July 1974.

"Always a Marine" reads the license plate on her car..."I've always believed in the Marine Corps. It is where you



Sarah N. Thornton
Past National President, 1992 - 1994

can be somebody - do anything or become anything you want to be and make a difference."

Sarah was a past president of the Edith Macias Vann Southern

California Chapter and served on various committees. She was treasurer of the Sergeants Major Association and very supportive of the Toys for Tots campaign they held each December.

Her dedication to WMA was extraordinary. Until the time of her death, she served on four committees: WMA Headquarters; Life Membership Fund Review Board; Plans & Policies and the Convention Coordinating 2004. Sarah received WMA's highest award, The National Service Award, at the 2004 23rd Biennial National Convention in San Diego.

Sarah is survived by two brothers, two sisters, nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Following the funeral service held at the Marine Memorial Base Chapel, Camp Pendleton, Sarah was buried with full military honors at Eternal Hills, Oceanside, CA.

Thank you, Sarah, for a "job well done."

Semper Fidelis.

"61 years of proud service to country and Corps"



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Publisher's Statement

This form contains the Publisher's Statement for WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS'. It includes fields for the publisher's name, address, and contact information, as well as a section for the publisher's statement regarding the publication's content and distribution.

This form is used for address changes. It includes fields for the subscriber's name, address, and contact information, as well as a section for the subscriber's statement regarding the change.

Address Change

The address to send applications and change of address has changed effective this issue. Please note this change on the application and change of address form. More on this in the spring issue.

WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS'

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From the President



First I want to say 'THANK YOU' to CA-7 for a magnificent 23rd Biennial Convention. There were other chapters and other individuals who always step up to the plate and assist when asked or when they saw a need, and to all of you, I say THANK YOU MARINES and LOYAL ESCORTS.

To the Past National Presidents who are always ready to support and be counted on. There were five in attendance, Helen H. Campbell, Olga Bullock, Sue Sousa, Nita Bob Warner and Sarah Thornton whose mode of transportation was an ambulance for the three days she was able to attend. For those PNPs who could not attend, we salute you also.

The convention was dedicated to our World War II ladies and they were evident everywhere in the hotel, some with canes, walkers, scooters and wheelchairs. We salute you for making the effort to join us.

One of the most delightful sights for hundreds of pairs of older eyes was the new breed of female Marines whose attendance and participation was evident. These young ladies were not hesitant about showing their pride and gratitude for those who went before them, while at the same time encouraging those their age and not yet members to join right there on the spot.

To the 2004-2006 Board, you're awesome. Just what a board should be – charged, involved, actively participating in their first board meeting in discussions on issues, letting it be known they are ready to undertake any challenge that will Honor the Past and Challenge the Future. NOW THE WORK CONTINUES.

Past National President Carol Mutter's continuing enthusiasm and help was evident in all the events and especially when she was joined by Retired Sgt Maj. Grace Carle at MCRD where they were Parade Reviewing Officers.

All of us who were fortunate to attend salute all who made the effort to convene in San Diego for the convention. To the rest of our members unable to participate in San Diego, start planning to join us in Louisville in 2006. Semper Fi,

Lou Teixeira

Public Relations Officer (PRO)

As we start another year for WMA it is with great hopes that your PRO committee will be able to help you get your chapters and events more recognized in your area. We have taken this bull by the horns and will succeed in making WMA as well known as VFW, DAV and the other service organizations. We can not do this alone. We need your help and your input.

Members of your committee are Violet Hobbs, Cpl Tara Smith, me and all area directors. Together we will accomplish the task of getting new public service announcements (PSA) out. Working with everyone we hope to enlighten all about WMA, what we do, what we stand for and most of all being part of this wonderful association.

We encourage all members, whether you belong to a chapter or are a member-at-large, to contact us on ways we can help you publicize your event, write press releases and where to send them. You can help WMA by letting us help you. Shortly PR kits will be supplied to the area directors that they will share with the chapters/MALs that have ideas on how to start an event or work with another organization.

Feel free to contact us at anytime as we are here to serve you and build a great PR foundation for WMA.

Mary Ann Merritt

Mary's Words

To all members of WMA,

Most of you know about the problems I've had with my knee in the past two years. I have spent a good deal of time in the hospital and rehab center. At present, I am living in an assisted living home, where I expect to be indefinitely.

Depending on how soon you get this copy of *'Nouncements'*, I may have, by that time, had another operation to rebuild my knee and give me much more mobility, as well as the ability to walk without a walker, as I have to do now. Possibly without a cane or four-pronged walker. This may come about as soon as Thanksgiving or soon after.

I want this message to serve as a Christmas card to all of you as well as to give you my new address: Mary G. Knapp, Beehive Homes, 1821 Ambush St., Pahrump, NV 89048.

I am in this small town because it is near where my daughter lives and because it is an excellent assisted care facility. I am well taken care of. The ratio of caregivers to "clients" is about 1-1. You can't beat that!

Thank you, Semper Fi, and have a wonderful holiday.

Mary Knapp
Past National President

New Area 7 Director

For personal reasons, Christie Collins decided to resign as Area 7 Director. Debbie Brown is the wonderful member who stepped in to take her place. Check Page 2 for her information.

Her bio (and hopefully a photo) will be in the next issue.

Welcome aboard, Debbie!

Please send all materials for *'Nouncements'* to the Editor:

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From the First Vice President



Happy Thanksgiving to all WMA members! We have a lot to be thankful for this year with our many freedoms and blessings in this great country. We also have a lot to continue to pray for: safe return of our members and all Marines involved in this ongoing war on terror and elsewhere in harm's way; for freedom to prevail over oppression and terror; and for a divine hedge of protection for all Marines serving around the world.

The mission we face is so important, and the stakes so high, we must prevail.

I am very proud to serve as your 1st VP in these exciting times of high technology and easy electronic communications, and the need for smarter networking as we share our proud common heritage as women Marines - to stay connected and supportive of each other as we grow and improve as a national association. Remember, there is strength in numbers!

A few priority goals I have for my term of service, is to help to establish new State Chapters-at-Large, and Interest-specific CALs (i.e. female pilots 'chapter', Molly Marine award recipients 'chapter', Deployed WMA AD/Iraq chapter, etc.) across our association to better include, communicate, & activate our many talented and experienced WMA Members-at-Large (MALs) and common interest groups in the most practical and effective ways. The board will be discussing this possibility and how best to structure the new

MAL chapters in a way that encourages the same networking, support and involvement as our traditional geographical chapters benefit from. This goal will not hinder or interfere with our current city/region based chapter structure, since the personal touch and socializing in a local community chapter will continue to be encouraged and needed for camaraderie, support, and local community service benefits; but we have a growing number of MAL's and active duty members who are not located conveniently next to each other or an established chapter near a big city/base. It is a step in the right direction to fully support our growing MAL and active duty population who don't settle near to existing WMA centers but still want to stay connected in a more tangible way to WMA national/state levels.

Please let me know if you have some good ideas to share on this matter...we'll make it happen!

Another important goal I have is to upgrade our webpage as soon as possible to include a web application form, and the option of secure site electronic payments of dues for the convenience of our members, and to simplify and streamline the membership process. The Membership Committee has already met to discuss ways to implement this goal, and we'll keep this as a priority in the new year. Stay tuned for updates on this improvement to our membership process! All good.

Please know that I am at your service and am committed to making a positive contribution to our national association during the next two years. Let me know what we can do to be more relevant to you! (202) 772-5879; home email: BronsonLC@juno.com. Semper Fidelis...

Lori B. Cousins

Photo Gallery



Above: West Virginia Governor Bob Wise presents the first WVA Women Veterans state license plate to WMA's Dottie Alderman in October.



Above: Marines honoring 229 years of our Corps in a palace in Baghdad. OORAH!

Right: 2dLt Samantha M. Kronschnabel, a platoon commander with Charlie Company, Combat Service Support Battalion 1, applies an armbar on Sgt Linda J. Tang, a communications chief with CSSB-1, during a female detaining, searching and escorting class at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. The training stems from the battalion commander's guidance, which is based on lessons learned from earlier phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Kronschnabel is a 23-year-old native of St. Paul, Minn., and Tang is a 25-year-old native of Jackson Heights, N.Y.

Photo by Sgt Luis R. Agostini



Right: (L-R) Marines LCpl Leanne Bohach, Cpl Liza Nicholas, Sgt GERALYN Rolon, and LCpl Elizabeth Quinones, 6th Communication Battalion, Brooklyn, NY, prepare for an upcoming color



guard presentation. The four make up the first all-female Marine color guard the battalion has ever had. They perform at events all over New York as an all-female Marine color guard. Photo by Cpl Beth Zimmerman

TX-2 Takes Second Consecutive Broe Award

Sue Sousa presents the Ruth & Dick Broe perpetual plaque and Dan Christenson presents the streamer to Judy Anderson, president of Gulf Coast Chapter, TX-2, for being the most outstanding chapter in WMA for the second time in a row. (Sheryl)



Female Marine wins Division in Marathon

Quantico Marine and veteran All Marine runner, Capt Mary Kate Bailey, became the first Marine to win the women's division of the 29th Annual Marine Corps Marathon since 1stLt Joanna Martin accomplished the feat in 1979.

Bailey, a Long Island, N.Y., native currently serving as assistant inspector at the base's Office of the Inspector, pulled away from her competition to run the final 12 miles of the marathon unchallenged with a time of 2 hours, 48 minutes and 31 seconds. LtCmdr Kimberly Fagan, of San Diego, placed second at 2:51:17, and Suzanne Clemmer, of Gastonia, N.C., finished third in 2:59:11. Clemmer entered via the lottery system and made the most of her first Marine Corps Marathon.

Capt Bailey, a Naval Academy Class of '98 graduate, took the lead Sunday from fellow Marine and early leader Jennifer Ledford, 24, near the 15-mile mark and rolled to the finish, a personal best by 14 minutes. Ledford, succumbing to the warm conditions and her fast start, struggled to finish 11th.

Capt Bailey will receive, along with her first place prize, a complimentary WMA.



Right: Capt Mary Kate Bailey (center) stands with Kimberly Fagen (left) and Suzanne Clemmer (right). Photo by Cpl J. Agg

Various sources

Photo Guide to the 2004 Convention

We just seem to get more and more photographers at the convention!

The photo coverage for this conventon boils down to five photographers, four of which are generously sharing their work. Instead of putting their name with their photos, I am listing them now and just putting their first names on the actual picture. They are:



June Dempsey, USA-3
WMD-1



Sheryl Hobden,
GA-1



Mary Ann Merritt,
MI-2



Sondra Metzger,
OK-2



Lona Turner, MI-2

Ladies, thank you so much! You really added to this issue... Say, what are you doing in 2006??

Sondra Metzger

Chaplain's Corner

This was handed to me at the convention by Shirley Seip of MA-2. It is a prayer written by Capt Fulton B. Grant in 1943. I cannot find that it has ever been published.

Rev Bev Short

*O God, my mother's God
Whose name I've barely known,
O Power, Force or Truth or Love or Word
Stand by me now.
For now; I fight alone.
I pray you let my simple cry be heard.
I cannot speak in false humility,
And babble words of meaning all obscure.
I can't pretend that I believe humanity,
By singing hymns can make your word endure.
Nor have I learned the phrases, old or new,
That make some people's voices drip with unction.
At church I hardly knew just what to do
And kneeling isn't quite my function.
I have heard much theory as to what you are.
Some call you King upon a cloud-borne throne;
And some say cosmic forces from a star
Compose you. Others think you're flesh and bone.
But as for me I wouldn't know or care;
(I've no need for all those explanations)
But I believe there is something there...somewhere,
Which must surpass my puny connotations.
O God, I curse, I scoff, I take your name in vain
In many ways I know I'm just a sinner.
And probably I'll sin much more again
Being just human. But I've got an inner
Kind of me that's more or less apart
From all that, and while I haven't got religion
This inner me (let's call it just my heart)
Has come just now to make a big decision:
All my life long
I've assumed I was strong
And brave. But I'm weak.
I've decided to seek
Your hand and your aid.
I admit I'm afraid.
Quiet my fear
Be present here
With me tonight,
In this my first fight.
Lead, Kindly Light.*

TAPS

August - October 2004

LIFE MEMBERS

Connolly, Alice #1103 (CA-7) died 19 September 2004
Connolly, Bridget V. #2213 (MA-1) died 9 August 2004
Dockham, Ruth (Bullock) #1497 (DC-1) died 21 August 2004
Dowling, Elsie (Futterman) #20 (SC) died 2002
Franks, Anna (Mann) #1790 (OH-1) died 24 March 2004
McClelland, Wilda (McConkey) #503 (CA-7) died 4 August 2004
McGowan, Marjorie #1164 (VA-1) died 2004
Olsen, Sara (Martin/Kelsey) #1144 (CA-5) died November 2003
Thornton, Sarah N. #500 (CA-7) died 12 October 2004
Young, Arla (Oxenreiter) #1057 (GA-1) died 9 August 2004
Zeman, Annette #1101 (OH-1) died 9 January 2004

TERM MEMBERS

Rowberg, Helen E. (Taylor) (CA) died 15 August 2004

ESCORTS

Scanlon, Bridget Ellen d. 2004

OTHER MARINES

O'Donnell, Elizabeth Jane (Rothmeyer) died 10 June 2004 (WWII)

Searching For:

- WR buddy **Catherine Drabbs** from Miles City, Montana. If she is married, name is unknown. We were Co.K, 1943 in Camp Lejeune. ~ Shirley (Marks) Kornegay, corgiluvr@adelphia.net
- **Mary Jane Marcella**, served 1953-56 on Oahu, HI, born 1925-28, E-4 Sgt, Hdqtrs HMS Battalion, FMFPAC ~ Linda Luther, luff21@juno.com
- **Patricia Orsino**, retired officer who worked with her at MAG 49 in the late 90's is looking ~ Jim Crimmins, jimcrimmins@earthlink.net
- A resident in the nursing home where I work says she was the first woman in the Marine Corp. Doing a newsletter on women and work, I am searching for more information on her - **Margot Duggan**. She joined the Marines in 1940s. We know from her that there were no uniforms for women at that time. These types of facts as they affected her life are of interest. Margot is now elderly and we wish to expand on her experience. Can you provide any information? Thank you. ~ Shelley Hearing, Goddard House, 201 S. Huntington Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, 617-522-3080 x 230, shelleyhearing@earthlink.net
- **LtCol Nancy Marie Keale**, last known address was Jacksonville, NC, but heard she moved home to NJ. She helped me through rough times on Okinawa and before that when we were stationed at NAS Memphis. Any help would be appreciated. ~ Myles Blazi (Sgt) 1971-75, 717.361.0034, Mylo53@paonline.com
- **LtCol Jacqueline Campbell**, USMC Ret. I went through WOCS with her in 1967, in Quantico and later served with her at MCAS El Toro. ~ Amy Schifffrin, aschiff36@yahoo.com
- My father, Albert E. Puckett, was a prisoner of war of the Japanese for 3 1/2 years. He is trying to locate the 1st female Marine he met after his return to the US Naval Hospital at Oakland, CA. Her name at that time was **Sergeant Jewell E. Reed** of St. Louis, MO. He has a picture taken with her and he is 83 years old and would love to locate her and exchange letters. The picture with her is one of his most prized possessions and this would mean a lot to him. Thank you in advance for any information you may be able to give him on this matter. It would be best if you could respond by correspondence to my father: Albert E. Puckett, 5304 Hwy 224, Wellington, MO 64097. ~ Trudy Utt

"We Are Marines" Designated 2006 Convention Fundraiser

"*We Are Marines*" is one of the official fundraisers for the 2006 Convention to be held in Louisville, KY from 1-5 September 2006.

The book contains the stories of our Marines in their own words from our WWI Marines to our active duty. Volume II is now in the works. Send your story via email to robinl@gibraltar.net or snail mail to Linda Lacy at PO Box 2196, Swansboro, NC 28584 or send to Mary Sabourin at the address listed below.

"*We Are Marines*" has been offered as one of the readers' choices by the *Leatherneck Magazine*. It was also reviewed by Sgt. Christine C. Odom of the *RotoVue newspaper* at the Marine Corps Air Station New River who hopes every female, who is a Marine, reads this book because they are not alone.

Other reviews include:

Tideland News -- Jamie Cameron tells us, "The next time the buses from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune roll through town on the way to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, look at the faces of the warriors on their way to deployment in Iraq or Afghanistan. Chances are a few of the proud countenances behind the lightly tinted windows will be those of women, serving shoulder to shoulder with men. There is no doubt women have earned the

right to fight for their country. The situation hasn't always been so equitable."

The Marine Corps Times states, "If you're a female Leatherneck and have an interesting story about your time in the Corps, somebody wants to hear it."

A. Kerry Strong, Director of the Marine Corps University Research Archives thanks us for donating a copy of "*We Are Marines*." "We will add it to our Women Marines Collection under your name. It is with items such as these that current and future generations of Marines, especially women, learn about their history."

The Daily News article by Cyndi Brown states, "The dates and places are important. But it's the personal stories that bring history to life."

Col. W. A. Meier, Chief of Staff, Camp Lejeune writes, "I have thoroughly enjoyed reviewing your book. I commend you and your fellow Marines for having undertaken this project. What a remarkable and truly informative addition to the body of our Marine Corps history. I am confident that "*We Are Marines*" will attract considerable interest and attention within the Camp Lejeune community, the current generation of Marines, as well as those who have gone before us. Please accept my very best wishes for the success of your fall fundraising drive and the WMA 2006 Convention."



Carol Mutter, retired LtGen and past president of WMA writes, "The book is much more than just a series of personal stories/oral histories. I really appreciate the bulletized lists of data/information. It will be one I keep and refer to frequently. I hope Mary Ann (Merritt's) pushing of your next book will yield more stories from more recent history! And I'll try to contribute as well. Thanks for a quality job!"

For a donation of only \$25 plus \$4 S/H, you can own your very own copy of the book. Contact Mary Sabourin at 110 Bryan Court, Jacksonville, NC 28540. Make your check out to NC-1 Tarheel Chapter.

New Merchandise

Noteworthy Note Pads

Colorado Columbine Chapter, CO-1, is selling 3 X 5" notepads with a green border and the WMA logo shaded (watermark) in the center. The picture doesn't do it justice. They're just the right size for those quick notes to someone, like the ones you put in with your newsletter submissions. I hope I start seeing some! There are three pads to a pack for \$3.50. Check our Merchandise page (page 38) for more information under "Cards/Stationery".



These next two items are 2006 convention fundraisers.

Convention 2006 Tote Bags

Motor City Chapter, MI-2, is selling tote bags. The canvas bags are larger than the ones we get at conventions, have a snap at the top to close it as well as the 2006 convention "logo" on the front below the WMA logo. If you love tote bags, this one's a keeper! Well made and sturdy. Price is \$25, which includes postage.



Celebrate Our Rich History

The Tarheel Chapter, NC-1, is selling the book "*We Are Marines*" by Linda Lacy (see article and reviews above). This book is chock full of memories-turned-stories that you won't find in any history book about Marines, women Marines, or the different wars. It's laid out by decade and in such a way that you don't have to read it continuously. I don't have much time to read, so being able to

pick it up and go from, say the 1940s to the 1960s and save the 1950s for a different time has been great. This item is also \$25.

There is also an article on the next convention that has all the purchase information for these two items.

I bought both at this convention, and I definitely don't regret it.

Sondra Metzger

From the Loyal Escorts President

Whew! We made it through the convention with flying colors. We had more Loyal Escort (LEs) members at a business meeting than we have had in the last ten years, so I am told. Below are the newly elected officers for 2004-2006. I also would like to mention that we had many LEs step up to the plate and volunteer to accept appointed positions. They are: Russ Dolbear, parliamentarian; Nancy Luebben, chaplain; and Mary Sousa, WMA Liaison. Don Cannon has also volunteered to get involved with the Louisville Convention as a liaison. Many thanks to all of you.

The Hospitality Room which was hosted by the LEs and The Boeing Company was a great success and fun was had by all who attended. We have a few projects we will continue to be working on and a few more new ones which we will work through the next few years.

LE membership eligibility cannot be changed to include all who have a WMA sponsor and wants to join until the WMA changes its guidelines. John Holvoet and Jeanne Cantrell will be updating and creating a modern data-



Loyal Escort Officers, back row (l-r): Director Tabitha Cunningham and Secretary/Treasurer Jeanne Cantrell. Front row (l-r): Director John Holvoet, President Paul Dossin, Vice President Ken Cross, and Immediate Past President Dan Christenson. (Lona)

base to track our members. We will have Loyal Escort Sashes for all attendees at the next convention to identify ourselves as LEs to the WMAers. We will also continue to volunteer for "Escort Duty" when needed by the WMA. I think we looked marvelous this year escorting the beautiful ladies we were assigned. Thank you, ladies, and thank you LE volunteers.

In closing, there will be more information on other projects and activities

of the LEs and as always, any and all suggestions/comments are always welcome.

Finally, thank you, ladies from CA-7 and especially that special president of yours, Lil Cross. You all did yourself proud, and on behalf of all the Loyal Escorts I would like to publicly thank you and commend you for a job well done. "Semper Fi"

Paul Dossin

A Word From the Vice President

Hello there, this is Ken, husband of one of the CA-7 Co-Chairs (Lillian) and your Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter VP.

I've got to tell you, I had a blast for the full week we were at the Westin Hotel working at this event. Yes, I'm still checking ID cards. A good share of you got those drinks under the age of 21, but I'll catch you in Kentucky. I hope on behalf of all the Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter you had a good time in the Hospitality Room, and the bouncers were not too hard on you. Even some of you women that were on top of the tables, looking for that dollar bill. We had plenty of music, eats, time and booze. Sorry about that delay one night for Irish whisky and scotch, but we took care of that in a hurry. I might add our bartenders did a superb job for us too. Live guitar music was provided by Tom Boyer. Eventually he was relieved by the new WMA President, Lou Teixeira. She could pic, too! Maybe next time she'll give us more of her time at a discount rate.

We had about 40 Loyal Escorts



Ken and Lillian Cross (June)

working one job or another. The LE President-elect Paul Dossin kept us all busy and we are pleased he stepped up to the plate and gave Dan Christenson a chance to breathe for a couple years before he gets re-elected to office again in 2010!

The very best to all of you and Merry Christmas.

Ken Cross

Another Year

*Another year has passed
and we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter
and winter seems much colder.*

*There was a time not long ago
when life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
about "Living in the Past"*

*We used to go to weddings,
football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes,
and after-funeral brunches.*

*We used to have hangovers,
from parties that were gay.
Now we suffer body aches
and while the night away.*

*We used to go out dining,
and couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
come home and take a pill.*

*We used to often travel
to places near and far.
Now we get sore bottoms
from riding in the car.*

*We used to go to nightclubs
and drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
and watch the evening news.*

*That, my friend is how life is,
and now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up...
before you're too damned old!*

Unknown



Jacque B Loraine, Jr. at our convention
(Sheryl)

USPS Distinguished Marine Stamps

As previously reported, the United States Postal Service (USPS) announced the 2005 U.S. stamp program at the August American Philatelic Society Stamp Show in Sacramento, CA. Key to the 2005 program for all Marines is the long-awaited debut of a Distinguished Marines block of stamps, which will be issued on 21 May 2005.

The Distinguished Marines stamps honor four Marine icons: Gen John A. Lejeune, LtGen Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, SgtMaj Dan Daly and GySgt John "Manila John" Basilone. The stamps will be printed only once and will be available for one year after being issued.

At the closing banquet of this convention, Carol Mutter recognized Jacques B. Loraine, Jr., as being the man responsible for the movement to create the stamps.



Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter

Application for Membership

(Please Print)

Check applicable box ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Reinstated
☐ Regular ☐ Life-Sponsor must be
a WMA Life Member

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Sponsor Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (zip + 4)

Telephone: _____

DOB: _____ SSN: _____
Day / Month / Year (Necessary for machine accounting)

Sponsor's Chapter Code: _____

Your Relationship to Sponsor: _____

Enclosed Dues Amt: \$_____ Dues include 'Nouncements if not already
received in household.

☐ 2 Yrs.....\$25.00

Life Membership

(Fee pro-rated by age)

(Sponsor must be a WMA Life member)

Sponsor's WMA Life Membership # _____

☐ 40 & under ...\$375.00 ☐ 41 to 45 ...\$145.00 ☐ 46 to 60 ...\$125.00

☐ 61 to 70 ...\$100.00 ☐ 71 to 80 ...\$75.00 ☐ 81 & Over ...\$50.00

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter is an organization of close relatives of WMA members. Persons related within two degrees of kinship; i.e., spouse, sister, brother, parents, grandparents, children & grandchildren. Non-relatives who are current members may remain as members as long as their dues are current, but cannot vote or hold office.

A LOYAL ESCORTS OF THE GREEN GARTER MEMBER MUST BE SPONSORED BY A WMA MEMBER
Make check payable to Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter.

Mail to: Jeanne Cantrell, Treasurer, Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter, 3407 Meredith Avenue, Dallas, TX., 75211.

VAVS Seeking "Best Friends"

VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) has come up with a new idea of recruiting new volunteers. How about a 'Best Friends' Campaign? That's right, a 'Best Friends' Campaign. You as representatives, deputies, and volunteers could invite your best friend to attend the VA facility with you and let them see how rewarding the experience can be. You can have them enroll and donate their hours to WMA. This could be fun for all concerned and it would help Voluntary Services with recruitment of new volunteers.

Service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with serious injuries are being treated at Walter Reed Hospital, Bethesda, MD, and are then transferred and treated at your local VA Medical Center. They are utilizing the Veterans Health Administration for recovery and rehabilitation. Some of these men and women don't have family members close by. They are in need of items that your local Voluntary Services are providing, but could use your help in doing so. Please check with your local VA Voluntary Services representative and see how you and/or your chapter can contribute.

Please keep in mind those men and women serving in harm's way in support of the war on terrorism.

Brenda Blair

A Day of Nostalgia

Whereas Friday was pre-registration day, I thought those who came in early might like to attend Morning Colors at MCRD, San Diego. I made a request through the G-3 office asking if we could do this and they responded with, "why not, and why not have them see a recruit graduation?" It took off from there and what a morning they gave us.

Forty-four former, retired, active duty women Marines and reservists, Loyal Escorts and guests boarded the very Marine VIP bus from MCRD at 0700 at the Westin Horton Plaza for a day that was filled with memories.

Prior to Morning Colors we were serenaded by the MCRD Band, and the colors were presented by the MCRD Color Guard. We had special seating and special recognition by the Commanding General, BGen John C. Paxton, Jr. Following colors, we were hosted by General and Mrs. Paxton at their quarters to a breakfast in the gardens, which was spectacular.

President Carol Mutter (LtGen, Ret) and Grace Amy Carle (SgtMaj, Ret – the last SgtMaj of Women Marines) were the reviewing officers for Fox Company from which 447 recruits graduated. While Carol was aboard the base, the 3-star flag flew over the Headquarters Building and was also raised dur-

ing the review at which she received honors.

That afternoon we went to the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation at MCAS Miramar where again the red carpet was rolled out for us. B.G. Butcher (MajGen, Ret), Chairman, Board of Directors, and Jay Bibler (LtCol, Ret), Vice President, Board of Directors, saw to it that we had the "docent" guided tour of the Historical Foundation which included vintage planes and the museum that houses the History of Women Marines from WWI to the present with uniforms and memorabilia.

We closed the day with a guided bus tour of Miramar and the flight line narrated by Sgt. R. Kelluck, Joint Public Affairs Office, Miramar. His knowledge of Miramar, the aircraft and the squadrons that flew them was exceptional.

Then the tone changed. We stopped, Sgt. Kelluck got off the bus and walked our group, very slowly, through this awesome and overwhelming sight with aircraft that brought Marines home on one side, and family and friends greeting them on the other. We could see them from inside, they could not see us, but they certainly heard us with the clapping, cheering and singing the "Marines' Hymn". How fortunate for us to share this homecoming, this Esprit de Corps, and the title "United States Marines".

Ellie Judge



Breakfast at the Commanding General's house (June)



The MCRD VIP bus sitting in front of the Westin Horton Plaza. (Sondra)



(l-r) Lillian Cross, Ellie Judge, Carol Mutter and Grace Carle at the review. (June)

Down to Business

A convention isn't all fun and games. There are those moments when we must conduct the business of the association. The following is a brief rundown of what happened. If it seems short, keep in mind that I'm not including all the discussions that occurred.

With 255 of the 356 registered members present, the first meeting got underway with the announcement of two changes to the elected officers. Maria Crowley, for personal reasons, resigned as Area 6 Director-Elect; Judy Anderson, TX-2, volunteered to fill the position. Kathy Sutphen resigned as Area 5 Director-Elect because she and her family are moving to Florida; Mary Ellen Stone, MO-2, volunteered for that position.

While two chapters were granted charters (CA-29, 29 Palms and CO-2, Pike's Peak Mutter Chapter), ME-1 turned in theirs, which the board regret-

fully accepted during the first board meeting.

In old business, the board looked at factors to come up with a formula to make the budgets for area directors more balanced where areas with more chapters would receive more money and smaller areas would receive less. The board could not come up with appropriate numbers and asked the area directors to provide justification for the amount of money they need and will provide funds when they are available. The committee charged with researching this issue was discharged.

Under new business, a technical correction to Standing Rule 6(B) was voted on at the second business meeting. The original change was voted on at the last convention, but was worded incorrectly. The requested change is to when the convention committee gets funding for the next convention. Previously, it's July of the odd year. Members present voted to change it to October of the con-

vention year.

Standing Rule 1, Standing Committees, added the Ways & Means Committee. The change passed.

Due to the newsletter not reaching the membership 45 days prior to the convention, the members present could not vote on the proposed bylaw changes. However, President Mutter requested, and received, a non-binding vote of support for all three of the proposed changes. The proposed amendment for Article 7, Section 5 (2), electronic voting/communication, was revised to include committees and not just the board. Ballots will be mailed to each member to vote on these proposed changes.

At the end of both meetings, there were TONS of door prizes to distribute. Thank you to all chapters who contributed door prizes.

Sondra Metzger

First Timer's Meeting

Right: The First Timers.
(June)



The drive back to Oregon is complete, suitcases are emptied, and photos have been developed. Now memories of my first WMA convention will be shared with other chapter members.

To those who could not be in San Diego, I send this message: "SAVE YOUR PENNIES"!!! Make every effort to attend the 2006 convention in Louisville, KY. It is a gift you owe yourself as a woman Marine!

Honor - Courage - Commitment. These are words that define who we are as Marines and I saw examples of each displayed at this convention.

Honor: I saw it in the eyes of the younger Marines as they met and talked with the older women who had paved the way for them. I heard the pride in the voices of the older women as they marveled at the accomplishments of today's

female Marines.

Courage: I witnessed the dedication and courage it took for California chapter CA-7 to host and present this convention. I salute you!! I saw courage in many women Marines who traveled from every part of the country, some in wheelchairs or with walkers, enduring the hardship, but nonetheless, they came!!

Commitment: I experienced being part of a group of women who share my belief in the importance of our association; who are ready and willing to do what it takes to keep us strong and help us grow.

There were moments of nostalgia that brought tears. Attending a graduation ceremony at MCRD and standing colors for the first time in 40 years was overwhelming. Those memories of feeling

like you couldn't stand ANY taller came rushing back as though my own boot camp graduation was just yesterday.

And there were lighter moments full of laughter when meeting old friends and catching up on years of happenings. The First Timer's meeting was a fun and relaxing time for all us "newbies". It was a great ice breaker that allowed us to meet and mingle plus win some great door prizes donated by the chapters.

It was heartwarming to meet so many other women Marines. It made me aware that I am part of an extraordinary group of women who have carved a place in history and with whom I am fortunate enough to share a "sisterhood".

See you all in Louisville in '06!!!

Karen L. Reeves
President, OR-3

The Power of a Panel

On the schedule it was identified as a panel discussion, nothing more, nothing less, but curiosity led me to drop by and stick my head in. Arranged by BGen MaryAnn Krusa-Dossin, the panel was made up of seven active duty women Marines. The audience, probably less than 45 in total, was composed of a number of active duty/reserve women and a sprinkling of curious women like me. It took less than five minutes and I couldn't have extracted myself from that room if I had tried.

What I heard these women talk about came from their hearts. They spoke of their careers; their successes; their failures; their disappointments. They shared advice with the women in uniform today about career, marriage, family and finding time for themselves.

LtCol Denise Williams offered an open door to any woman Marine who just needed to talk to someone who'd been down the same road. She said, "I'm here to help you avoid the pit. I know where the pit is." SgtMaj Shanda Elkins, who will be retiring in November, spoke of her tour as a recruiter where in a 36 month period she signed 99 contracts, of which only three were women. She also spent two tours at Parris Island as a drill

instructor and became the first female Regimental Drill Master. GySgt Rosenthal was currently a DI at MCRD San Diego. She teaches Marine

Corps history to the male recruits. Finally, SSgt Caputi, who had been born in Venezuela and become a naturalized citizen, spoke of her dream as a young girl to make the US her country so she would not have to live in fear. After she finished she had the room in tears and standing on their feet applauding. There wasn't a dry eye in the room or on the panel.

After a short intermission, everyone came back for a Q&A session. The first question came from a WWII vet, "Are there any open billets for an 81 year-old?" and sent a wave of laughter through the room.

I thought to myself as I sat there that I wish I had sought out women like these to be role models/mentors during my career and perhaps become one myself. It was an empowering atmosphere and I



The panel consisted of (l-r): Col Ana Smythe, Col Renee Renner, LtCol Denise Williams, SgtMaj Shanda Elkins, MSgt Anna Brown, GySgt Rosenthal and SSgt Jacqueline Caputi. (Sheryl)

believe everyone walked out of there with an increased sense of pride in being a woman who earned the title "Marine".

Sheryl Hobden



Near the end of the panel discussion, SSgt Caputi realized that GySgt Rosenthal had been her DI. (Sheryl)

Faithful Roses

(The following are remarks by SSgt Jacqueline Caputi from the panel discussion held at the convention. These remarks are the ones that had everyone in the room in tears. Her written words, though good, do not do justice to her actual presentation. In other words, you had to be there to feel the depth of her emotions. ~ Editor)

Good morning, ladies. Before I start please let me tell you how I got here. I mean here to the 23rd Biennial Convention.

I guess it must have been a few months ago that I was looking for a rose. My MSgt, whom I looked to as a mentor, was ending over twenty years of service to our country. What more appropriate than The Rose. The worldwide web search for our rose, believe it or not, somehow lead me to a lady by the name of SgtMaj Ellie Judge. The rest, as you can imagine, is history.

So here I stand before you as a member of the 2004 Biennial Convention, and I look to my fellow Marines. I mentally store the experiences that each of you here have shared; those experiences and triumphs that make you the leaders you are today. I nervously think, what can I possibly say about why I am here and what I have accomplished?

My name is Jacqueline Caputi; I am a SSgt from MCAS Miramar. There is a memory that I have from my childhood that might help me express why I am here.

It was a city called Abadon in Iran. I'll never forget that it was there that I can truly recall feeling fear for the first time. My sense of innocence was touched by the reality that there was something terribly wrong as my family and I were leaving the country. At the international airport, my father was separated from my mother, my sister and I. He was told that he could go but since we were not US citizens, we would have to stay.

"Mama when I grow up I want to have a diplomatic passport so that I can travel wherever I want to go. With no borders" – Those were my words.

As I stand before you today, I see so much history that in no other way could be expressed as our FREEDOM, and I have to ask, "Ladies, how much do you



SSgt Jacqueline Caputi

want this?" How much do I want this? In the nine years that I have served, I too have made my share of mistakes. But I believe that we all live in glass houses. And I ask myself how much do I want this?

“... Find those pillars in your life... so that you may continue serving as you have, as faithful roses of our country”

Three years ago I became a United States citizen. The gratitude that I have for my country and my flag allowing me to serve, has yet to find words to express my honor. I recall walking down the streets of San Jose, Costa Rica, were my father eventually retired from the oil business. As I passed the American Embassy I felt no shame standing still and pledging allegiance to the flag. I wanted for that flag to be mine.

The Marine Corps years later offered me the opportunity to make some positive changes in my life. Needless to say my father passed away in 1998, and somehow I never felt that I was ever

able to show him that the boarding schools, the religious background and his efforts made a difference in my life. You see, I got pregnant when I was 21 and all the dreams that my parents ever had for me flew out of their reach. My shame and lack of courage forced me to flee to Canada, the only country where I could obtain a Visa. I worked as a nanny until two weeks before her birth.

"How much do I want this". Naomi now is thirteen and has been my pillar of strength. In the past years of my career her understanding of my choices in life many times found her sleeping in the car while I ran my PFT. Why? Because, ladies, in my mind's eye there was not a person in the world that could take better care of my baby than her mama. Regarding the time that we spend away from our children, I can only answer that with, it's not the quantity of time. It's the quality of time that we can devote to our children, that reassure them that family comes first.

The Marine Corps was also another place that made me aware that I was different. But as I look at my fellow Marines here today, I know we are different and feel unique but we have one reason for being here. For our flag and love for our country. That, ladies, makes us the same. My flag doesn't care about the color of my skin or what my religious beliefs are. My flag is only concerned that I honor her.

And though my life has been one of ups and downs, I can say that the best mistake I ever made was my husband. He has been my support, my strength and my best friend. I have no shame in asking him to roll my sleeves for work. He'll ask, "When are you going to do this on your own?" To which I respond – "but I get so much pleasure from seeing how perfect you roll sleeves".

I am a culmination of my experiences. Would I change anything? I wouldn't. This is how much I want this. Ladies, find those pillars in your life, make them your source of support so that you may continue serving the way that you have, as faithful roses of our country.

SSgt Jacqueline Caputi

Installation Brunch

Instead of writing a long winded article about the installation and what was said by whom, we're going to take a photographic tour of it.

But, before we go, let me say two things: (1) Carol looked way too happy installing someone else as National President; and (2) Lou said a lot in her speech; in a condensed form, hold onto your pumps, ladies...I think we're going for quite a ride!

Now onto the tour.



The Loyal Escorts were installed by BGen Mary Ann Krusa-Dossin, who managed to get her husband, Loyal Escort President Paul Dossin, to say "I do" again! (Sheryl)



The board, minus Carole Hawkins and the Area 7 Director (Sondra)



Standing to the left of Paul is Ken Cross, Jeanne Cantrell, John Holvoet and Tabitha Cunningham. (Sheryl)



Paul giving his inaugural speech. (Sondra)



Carol turns over the "Big Rig" to Lou along with the gavel. (Sondra)



Right: Taking the oath (Sondra)



Sgt Joyce Howard, Cpl Maria Quiles-Sherman and Sgt Tanya Smith served as pages for the installation. (Sheryl)

Convention 2004 Photos: Awards, Presentations



Carol presents the charter and flag set to GySgt Christine Miller-Lane (left) and GySgt Debi Mangan, CA-29, 29 Palms Chapter. (Sheryl)



Carol presents the charter and flag set to Anjoleen Baca, CO-2, Pike's Peak Muttter Chapter. (Sondra)



Lou Teixeira presented Mary Ann Merritt with the Recruiting Award for getting eight new members in one year. (Sondra)



Couldn't resist this picture of Nita Bob Warner wearing a t-shirt that says "Born In America (a long long time ago)" (Sondra)

We Remember

We gathered quietly in the somewhat darkened ballroom, as we have at other conventions. When everyone is in place, the hour like no other begins.

Abendroth, Ace, Albert...and so do the memories.

Alexander, Allen, Benson...so many names, like shining stars, now gone from our lives.

Borkowski, Brooks, Brown...the roll call of friends continues, and the room fills with the memories of days gone by. Days in boot camp, liberty, the barracks Christmas party, the last convention.

Bryden, Burke, Burkhead...each one rolls by. Not a sound is heard, only the names. The air in the ballroom now thick with memories sprinkled with tears of loss. You fight it; you try to keep that stiff upper lip for their sake, but it quivers.

Bevilaqua, Bialis, Bishop...oops, there's one of mine now. Yes, Kay, I'm here. I've never gone to the memorial service because it's too emotional for

me. I'm starting to know more members, which makes this very hard. But you're one of the reasons I'm here today.

Froyen, Galliard, Glasrud...with somber tones and somber faces, Marines place a flag as each name is read, honoring not only the service, but also the life of each Marine.

Svare, Tautenhahn, Tibbetts...and there's Gert. She was a funeral director, you know. Told me at the last convention that her business card had BBBG on it – Beautiful Bodies By Gert. She had a great sense of humor.

Tonelli, Ward, Young...oh, Arla...you're the other reason.

They were daughters, sisters, wives, mothers, grandmothers, neighbors, bunkies, and friends. They were proud Marines, and we are all the better for having had the honor to know them, to have them touch our lives.

Now all the names are read, and you breathe a sigh of relief that you made it through.

And then comes "Taps".

Sondra Metzger



Denne Howard (left) played "Taps" to end the service conducted by the National Chaplain, Reverend Bev Short (right).
(Sondra)



A flag for every name, every life. (Sondra)

Harbor Cruise

On a glorious Tuesday evening 118 members, Loyal Escorts and guests boarded three tour busses for the short ride to the B Street pier on San Diego Bay. At the pier to greet us was the captain and crew of the Lord Hornblower, our cruise ship for the evening. We boarded the ship and were handed a flute of champagne to toast the evening ahead. We were then shown to the dining room. Dinner was not to be served for about an hour so we took advantage of the time to check out our surroundings.

We had a great view of the city and the bay area as we left the dock and headed out into the bay. Nearby was the WWII carrier Midway, and across the bay at North Island were two more carriers, one being the USS Ronald Reagan, the newest carrier in the fleet. The sun was quickly going down and there was none of the chill in the air we thought we would run into as we headed north toward Point Loma. This cruise is usually narrated to highlight all the points of interest as you sail, but this night it wasn't because of a reception being held on the deck below us. Weren't they surprised to have 118 Marines at their festivities! Dinner was served as we headed up the bay. We enjoyed salad, chicken stuffed with spinach, rice, and mixed vegetables.

We ended the meal with a delicious cheesecake served with raspberry sauce. Everyone seemed to enjoy the meal. There was much visiting back and forth, lots of talking and laughter, many pictures being taken of old friends and, of course, the marvelous views we were seeing as we cruised along.

We had reached Point Loma and were now headed back down the bay. We sailed under the Coronado Bridge. Now that is a sight to behold. It is every bit as impressive going

under it as it was going over it. One of the crewmen told us it had a height of 212 feet, and was 2.2 miles from beginning to end. We continued south and were able to see the lights of Tijuana eight miles away. As we turned back we sailed past the Navy base and headed back along the city to the pier. The view of the city after dark with all its interestingly shaped buildings all lit up with many different colors in many different geometric patterns was just breathtaking.

It was a lovely evening, enjoyed by all who attended.

Kay Carpenter



(Cruise Photos by Mary Ann)



Honoring the Past, Challenging the Future

The luncheon to honor our WWII Women Reserves (WRs) was a fun filled celebration for all present. Young and old were seated at tables exchanging stories of the past and present events of their lives in the Corps. The saying, "the more things change the more they stay the same" was quite evident in the conversations. These were women sharing a common bond that made them Marines, whether they started their life as a Marine on 13 February sixty-one years ago or 13 February seven months ago.

Ellie Judge served as emcee and began the program by asking those WRs to stand who were part of the 722 that attended the first class at Hunter College on 26 March 1943. Among these ladies were Ester Martin Malley, Pat Goss and Marian Yancey Landry. She then asked the rest of the WRs to stand, and there were over 150 present and accounted for out of the 23,145 that had volunteered to "Free a Man to Fight" between February 1943 and July 1946. As Ellie said, these were the women that left the footsteps for the rest of us to follow. After a well deserved applause, the stage and the microphone were turned over to one of WMA's favorite and most entertaining commentators, Nita Bob Warner.

Nita Bob narrated the pageant of uniforms of women Marines from WWI to the present. Some of the uniforms were provided by the Command Museum, MCRD, and modeled by female Marines from H&S Bn.

The fashion extravaganza started off with Sgt Taylor wearing the WWI Service "A" uniform. There were only 305 WMRs between 12 August 1918 and 30 July 1919 to wear this uniform. PFC Whitehurst wore her blue armband from her time working for Col Ruth Cheney Streeter, the first director of the Women Marines Reserve. There were no uniforms when women first joined the Marine Corps during WWII, so they wore civilian attire and a blue armband that read "US Marines". Next in the fashion show was our own special WR model, PFC Deem. She was the poster girl for the Women Reserve recruiting posters and she's still a knockout and still making us proud today.

The uniforms of WWII, starting off with Cpl Irwin in the seersucker uni-

form from 1943. Sgt Taylor-Ridley was in the famous "peanut suit", the fashion of the day for PT and garden parties. Sgt Miller was in the green farmerette overalls complete with the "Lil' Abner" boots. Cpl Palacios wore the summer dress whites, which were known to steal the show in Philly. PFC Maninang graced the stage in winter service "A" uniform, complete with the 4-in-1 man's knot tie, one of the few differences in the winter service "A" uniform of today. SgtMaj Noble was looking as fit and trim as ever in her 1950's dress blues that she wore during her 25 year career from 1943 to 1968. She was one of the less than 100 women retained after WWII, and the dress blues she wore were phased out in the early 80s.

Sgt Ruiz wore the green sateens of the Korean and Vietnam era. The sateen's were an Army design. Because we're NOT Army, along came the camouflage utilities. Cpl Williams wore the Desert Storm/Desert Shield cammies complete with helmet and new non-polish boots. LCpl. Moccassin wore the newest of our utility uniforms, the digital camouflage utilities, which have the Marine Corps emblem in the camouflage pattern within every 6 inches of material. GySgt Rosenthal's command presence was up next as she came onto the floor in summer "C" uniform with the campaign cover implemented for female drill instructors in 1996. The show came to a conclusion with SgtMaj Elkins in her evening dress uniform, which though admired by all can only be worn by officers and staff NCOs.

The lunch was a chicken breast steak, summer squash and wild rice, and for dessert we were served a Mexican flaut. Letters followed the lunch from Col Barbara Bishop and Col Julia Hamblet to congratulate us on our convention. Col Hamblet stated that the WRs started out with one colonel and four lieutenant colonels, and they were the women Marines that taught men there was a place for women in the Corps.

Ellie called the luncheon to order to



The fashion extravaganza (Sondra)

salute the WWII male Marines at the luncheon, the active duty Marines and finally the female Marine pilots. She then asked Sgt Vaughn to speak on her tour in Iraq and Kuwait. She made us realize that we are part of a chain that is linked from generation to generation. She won the applause of the WWII WRs with her finishing statement that as much as the duty requirements of women Marines might have changed since WWII, the women she met today were "more than enough to lace up their boots and run with the pack."

The luncheon ended with the Sometimes Singers singing a medley of songs from the WWII era. This was a bonus treat. The first song was, "Don't Fence Me In". Then Bonnie Medin read a poem and sang, "I'll Be Seeing You", which brought a tear to all eyes as we remembered the friends that have passed on to their final duty station. Then to change our sorrow to laughter there was, "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" and "Either too Young or too Old". They ended the show with "Goodnight Sweetheart" and the luncheon ended with all present singing the "Women Marines Hymn". The luncheon was more than just a tribute to WWII WRs...it was a fun filled event and learning experience for all women Marines and proof that "We are Family".

Marti Raney

Was it me, or did we
all kind of "snap to"
when GySgt
Rosenthal walked
in???
(Sondra)



2004 Recognition and Awards Winners



Sheryl Hobden with first place for GA-1's two-volume, 23 lb. history book. (Sondra)

History Book

1st-GA-1, Dogwood of Atlanta
2nd-MI-2, Motor City
3rd-FL-8, Spaceport
Honorable Mention-OK-2, Heartland

Newsletter

1st-OR-1, Lady Marine Rose
2nd-GA-1, Dogwood of Atlanta
3rd-TN-1, Rocky Top
Honorable Mention-TX-2, Texas Gulf Coast

Chapter Achievement – Category A

Class 1

1st-TN-1
2nd-PA-3
3rd-VA-2

Class 2

1st-TX-2
2nd-MI-2

Class 3

1st-CA-7

Chapter Achievement – Category B

Class 1

1st-TN-1
2nd-VA-2
3rd-CA-15

Class 2

1st-TX-2
2nd-MI-2
3rd-MI-1

Class 3

1st-MA-1

Chapter Achievement – Category C

Class 1

1st-TN-1
2nd-VA-2

Class 2

1st-MI-2
2nd-TX-2

Class 3

1st-MA-1



Everyone's a winner, but here are the few who actually showed up for pictures after the luncheon. (Sondra)



(l-r) Joan Willauer, OK-2 Marge Collins, FL-8, and Lona Turner, MI-2, with their awards in the history book category. (Sondra)



Judy Anderson, TX-2 (left) and Golda Fabian, OR-1, with their awards in the newsletter category. (Sondra)

2006 Convention Luncheon

Rations of feed had been consumed. At the gate the horses were restless and the crowd wondered in a hushed silence what the outcome would be. It looked like a close race. The race is still in a dead heat and it looks like the winners will be all who attend the 2006 convention in Louisville.

Galloping "ponies" presented the history and events planned in Louisville. The Galt House will be where the winners will reside for a few days of camaraderie and business associated with a WMA convention.

The only hotel on the waterfront, the 25-story Galt House is also the only hotel to offer magnificent views of the Ohio River and downtown Louisville. It has been undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation, and is the best location in the city. You're within walking distance of many downtown attractions.

The Galt House is just two blocks from the Kentucky International Convention Center (KICC). And equally, you're close to Actors Theatre, Riverfront parks, Louisville Slugger Museum, Louisville Science Center, Kentucky International Convention Center, Kentucky Center for the Arts, Glassworks, Slugger Field and more. Find out why the legendary Galt House has been a cornerstone of Southern hospitality since 1835.

We heard of the great attractions amid the hoofs and neighing. The Louisville Slugger Museum where Louisville Slugger baseball bats are made is close by as is Churchill Downs, the world's most famous racetrack, is a popular destination - and the primary destination for tens of thousands of visitors and race fans on the first Saturday in May, the day of the Kentucky Derby.



Our "galloping ponies" who presented the history of Louisville (l-r): Shanda Elkins, Eileen Scanlon, Muriel Underwood, Ellen Leidy, Linda Lacy, June Worden and Kay Carpenter. (Lona)



2006 Convention Chair Mary Sabourin (Sondra)

The 2006 convention committee is comprised of Mary Sabourin, Doris Keene and Betty Jean Cannon, Area 4 Director. All chapters will be involved in making this an event to remember.

All funds realized from this event will go into the National General Fund. We thank all who will help (and you will help) and volunteer to make sure that all members and guests get to know what southern hospitality can be like first hand.

Special thanks to the Sometimes Singers for their help and singing, and to the Motor City Chapter who helped get our luncheon off the ground.

We hope to see all of you in Louisville in 2006. You can check out the Galt House on the web at <http://www.galt-house.com/index.html>.

Mary Ann Merritt

Closing Banquet: Ceremonies, Songs

After an exhausting week, it was time to dress up in our banquet finest and party this convention out the door. The convention committee gave us a great convention in a wonderful location, and I don't think there was anyone who didn't have a good time.

The evening began with members of the Loyal Escorts escorting our Past National Presidents in to the banquet. After introductions of outgoing board members and Loyal Escort board members, we wined and dined. BGen Paxton was the guest speaker, volunteering to fill in for LtGen Jan Huly who was

called to Washington, DC at the last minute. Then the introductions of the incoming boards and the awarding of the Ruth & Dick Broe award (congratulations, TX-2!).

The last item on the list was the pin ceremony. Carol's comment when she removed the National President's Pin was that she was more worried about losing that pin than anything else the whole time she was president because there is only ONE National President's Pin, and it is passed on to the incoming president. Cameras everywhere were flashing to catch the moment. Next it

was Lou's turn to pin the Past National President's pin on Carol. And there wasn't a camera in sight, except for Sheryl Hobden, who caught the moment as Carol said, "I see how important I am now!"

So the evening ended with the sounds of laughter, songs from the Sometimes Singers, the benediction by Rev. Bev Short, and Carol Mutter ending her "career" as WMA National President by adjourning the convention.

Oh, and two convention co-chairs jumping up and down for joy.

Sondra Metzger



While Loyal Escort Ken Cross escorts his wife and convention co-chair, Lil, into the banquet...(Sondra)



...Jim Judge escorts his sister and other convention co-chair, Ellie. (Sondra)



Carol pins the National President's Pin on Lou. (Sondra)



Our unimportant new past president gets her pin. (Sheryl)



Dan and Maude Christenson are going to enjoy the easy life now that he doesn't have the responsibilities of president of the Loyal Escorts. (Sheryl)



Lil Cross has been smiling all week, but nothing like this smile at the END of the convention! Way to go, ladies. Excellent job! (Sheryl)

Post Convention Report

The convention went great. We have received many nice cards and letters from those that attended. On Friday, 3 September, **BGen Paxton, CG of MCRD San Diego** invited us to Morning Colors in front of Bldg 31 followed by breakfast at his quarters. We were treated like royalty. We were transported in the big Marine recruiting bus, the one with the pictures of the Marines in blues painted all over the outside. That was a treat in itself. BGen Paxton recognized and welcomed the ladies in his address at Morning Colors and the band played for us. A buffet style breakfast was held in the garden area of his quarters. Mrs. Debbie Paxton was absolutely charming and allowed us to see the inside of her home. All this was coor-

minated by member **Col Ana Smythe, CO, H&SBn, MCRD.**

Hats off to all the ladies that worked the convention. We picked a really good team and they worked well together. Registration went extremely well under the leadership of **Patricia Singer** and **Helen Hannah Campbell.**

Eighty-eight people attended the First Timers meeting chaired by **Lorry Vaca** and **Jeanne Botwright.**

Boards met, the 1stVP/Chapter Presidents/Area Directors meetings were held, and the Boutique opened. The flag rehearsal and Opening Ceremony were conducted by **Valorie Lephart** and members of **CA-5.** They had made all the flower arrangement centerpieces, potted red roses. As it turned out, those centerpieces were

used again at the 2006 Promotion Luncheon and the Closing Banquet. **BGen Paxton** brought greetings followed by an address by the **15th SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj John L. Estrada.** Hundreds of pictures were taken that night. **Sarah Thornton** and **Mary Ann Merritt** received the National Service Award for outstanding service to WMA. Yes, Sarah was there with a grin going from ear to ear. She was in a wheelchair attended by a nurse and escorted by her brother **Loyal Escort John Thornton** who flew into San Diego from Atlanta just for the occasion. What an evening that was. Unfortunately Sarah passed away on 12 October but we will remember that smile when she received the award.



The MCRD bus (June)



The MCRD band (June)



Part of the garden at BGen Paxton's home (June)



(l-r) Carol Mutter, BGen Paxton, Mrs Paxton, Lillian Cross and Ellie Judge (missing from picture, Col Ana Smythe and Grace Carle) (June)



Helen Hannah Campbell getting registration ready (June)



Getting the ditty bags ready to go. (June)

Valorie Lephart getting the show on the road at the Opening Banquet. (Sondra)





Betty Noble (SgtMaj, Ret) carries in the flag for CA-2 (Sondra)



The Boutique, the commerce center of the convention. (Sheryl)



Carol presents BGen Paxton with a certificate and garter making him an honorary Loyal Escort (and no, he did not wear the garter, in uniform, all night!) (Sondra)

Sunday saw an ecumenical service held in the hotel this year. We received many positive comments on that. We also had the 2006 convention promotion luncheon. The next convention will be held in Louisville, KY, home of the Kentucky Derby.

The hospitality room opened for its first night of business, spearheaded by **Loyal Escort Ken Cross** and sponsored by **The Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter**. Ken had the bar very well stocked. Live music was provided by guitarist **Tom Boyer** of El Cajon.

On Monday we held the Memorial Service and remembered all those who have passed, especially those that passed within the previous two years. At the Recognition and Awards luncheon, awards were given for Chapter Achievement, History Book (the winner was a 23 lb. book!!), Chapter Newsletter, and other awards. Great work ladies. WMA business meetings and Loyal Escort business meetings were held in the afternoon. A DJ provided the music for the Sing Along and Dance in the evening. The ladies might

be getting older but they haven't forgotten how to cut a rug! When that closed they went over to the Hospitality Room and continued to party there and took over when Tom Boyer's time ended. We discovered that our new WMA president is a guitar picker! Lots of singing and dancing this night. The Movie Room also debuted next door for those that wanted to see an old movie "Tell It to The Marines", a silent film.



Our four pilots took the opportunity for a photo op with the SgtMaj of the Marine Corps (l-r): Capt Amy Bertas, Capt Melissa Pratt, SgtMaj Estrada, Capt Christine Rabaja and Capt Jenifer Nothelfer (Sondra)



Sarah Thornton and her brother John after Sarah received the National Service Award. (Sondra)



The "jockeys" let everyone know what there is in Louisville at the 2006 Convention (Sheryl)



Happy times were found in the Hospitality Room! (Sheryl)

Tuesday morning saw our Panel Discussions primarily for our active duty ladies, but at which everyone was welcome to attend. It went extremely well and was very informative. The luncheon honoring our WWII ladies was well attended. Again, **Col Smythe** played a big roll in coordinating the uniform pageant, featuring uniforms from WWI to the present. **Nita Bob Warner, FL-2**, narrated the program. Business meetings were held in the afternoon. In the evening about half of the attendees went on the Harbor Cruise on San Diego Bay. The Movie Room did not open as **Karen Kelly** was called back to Florida because of the hurricane blowing through there at the time. The hospitality room picked up the slack and closed on a happy note.



There was so much happy timing that it spilled out into the foyer! (Sheryl)



Everyone had an opportunity to look over all the entries for Recognition and Awards. (Sondra)



Loyal Escort President Paul Dossin and VP Ken Cross at the Hospitality Room. (Sheryl)



SgtMaj of the Marine Corps SgtMaj John Estrada updates us on the health of the Corps at the Opening Banquet. (Sheryl)



The Marines who placed the flags as each name was read at the Memorial Service, (l-r): Sgt Joyce Howard, MSgt Ann Brown and Sgt Courtney Holsten. (Sondra)



Time to let loose! (Sheryl)



Shake it, ladies! (Sheryl)

Wednesday saw the Headquarters Briefing for the active duty, Installation Brunch, final Boutique, board meetings, and the Grand Banquet. Our guest speaker was to be the **Commandant of the Marine Corps, General M. W. Hagee**. He sent regrets just before programs were printed. **LtGen Jan Huly**, Deputy Commandant for Plans and Policy was tapped to come. He arrived and was

called back to Washington, DC, on Monday, leaving us without a speaker. **BGen Paxton** graciously accepted for a return appearance and was very warmly welcomed. And, I found out why **Col Smythe** was beaming with joy--she accepted a ring and proposal of marriage from her long time boyfriend, **LtCol Reese Hines**. What a rock! Congratulations, Colonels, and best wishes for a happy life together.

Over 500 attended. Many, many thanks go to our convention planners **Betsy McHenry** and **Vivian Magnuson of EvCon**, and management and staff of **The Westin Hotel Horton Plaza**. It took four years of planning to pull this off. Thanks to all that worked the convention and to all those that came. We had a ball.

Lillian Cross and Ellie Judge



Female Marines lined up to have their picture taken with Annie Grimes (fifth from right) after the panel discussion. (Sheryl)



The convention planners from Evcon were Vivian Magnuson (left) and Betsy McHenry. (June)



No, this isn't a picture from WWII. Connie Allord (left) and Marge Collins wore their original uniforms to the luncheon honoring our WWII WRs. (Sondra)

National Service Award Recommendations

Mary Ann Merritt

Mary Ann Merritt is most deserving of the Women Marines Association National Service Award. Mary Ann joined WMA in 1978, two years after leaving the Marine Corps, and is now a Life Member. In addition to serving in many ways in her chapter, she has done great things to help WMA at the National level. Her initiative is particularly noteworthy and has resulted in many new ideas as well as new members.

Mary Ann volunteered to help out with the web site in 2000 and has managed the e-list since then. The minimum expected in this position would be to purge the list when email addresses have errors, help answer emails sent to the WMA email and pass along to the list-serv information she is provided. Mary Ann has gone above and beyond. She constantly searches web sites (e.g., Veterans Administration and American Forces Press Service) and electronic newsletters for information of interest to our members and sends it out. When she gets error messages on email addresses, she publishes them in various ways and researches to try to find the person's new email address. She even forwarded to all an excellent list of "ideas on increasing membership or recruiting" she had received from the Marine Corps League that is directly applicable to WMA.

She has also searched the web for references to women who have served in the Marine Corps and then contacted them to let them know about WMA. She provides potential members with appli-



Mary Ann Merritt receives the National Service Award from Carol Mutter. (Sondra)

cations and simultaneously provides to area directors lists of names and addresses of these former women Marines she has found and researched through the Internet. She has personally signed up at least seven new members in the last year, sponsoring some of them herself when they don't have the funds to join. Through our web site which she is instrumental in monitoring, another ten new members have been signed up in the last year alone. She has also brought worthy projects to the attention of our members like the Marine Comfort Quilt project, the need for mail by those deployed in hazardous duty zones, and food coupon program. She's actively involved with Toys for Tots, Marine for Life, and "Stamp Out Hunger" program with the US Post office, among others.

Active in almost every local veterans event, she always takes flyers for WMA with her and lots of WMA business cards that she produces herself on her computer.

Mary Ann also quickly accepted the challenge of putting together a Chapter Information Kit for the 60th Anniversary year. She had already provided several helpful ideas with implementing instructions to assist chapters and individuals in getting the word out about WMA.

She did everything from developing the special 60th Anniversary logo to providing a sample Proclamation and Post Office Ceremony Request along with a post card design and the actual cards that were used at post office cancellation ceremonies across the country. Additional items developed by Mary Ann and included in the kits were press releases, networking and promoting guide, event ideas, and a Promotion Items Order Form. Mary Ann personally mailed the kits out to all chapter presidents, area directors and other board members.

Mary Ann Merritt has done more than any other member in the last several years to get the word out on WMA, as well as to find and sign up new members. She's truly had a nation-wide impact!

Change of Address

Complete this form and mail it to the
Women Marines Association
P.O. Box 8405 • Falls Church, VA 22041-8405

☐ **Women Marines Association**

☐ **Loyal Escorts**

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Effective Date: _____



Sarah N. Thornton

Although I have known of Sarah Thornton all of my Marine Corps life (over 30 years), it has only been the past 8 years that I have considered myself a friend of Sarah's. So I have asked others who have been around her in her past WMA years for their assistance and their recollections of some of Sarah's accomplishments, and have combined them here with my own personal recollections.

- She served on the Ad Hoc Committee that created the Matching Funds Committee and was then the chairperson of that committee for four years.
- She suggested, and the suggestion was accepted, to use "form letter" post cards in the Scholarship Program requesting information from applicants. Not only did this save much time in typing a letter to each applicant, it also saved WMA money for postage.
- Sarah also had a hand in developing the design on the application brochure for WMA.
- Sarah was elected President of WMA in 1992 and served in that office for two years. As each election goes by, it becomes increasingly clear how difficult and challenging it is to serve in that position.

I mention the above to show her many, varied contributions to WMA. However, her most recent and most important accomplishment, in my opinion, has been to set up and run WMA's National Headquarters. It appears from records in my files, that this Headquarters was established in August of 1993, during Sarah's term as President. Sarah spoke with MajGen Donald Lynch, then Commanding General of Camp Pendleton, and requested space aboard the base, which was eventually granted. Sarah coordinated the move of Headquarters from Quantico to Camp Pendleton, and became Headquarters Chair after her term as National President, and has continued in that position for the past 10 years. She procured ("scrounged") office furniture, enlisted the help of fellow Marines and turned the office into a nice looking space suitable for workers and visitors alike.

She procured display cases for memorabilia and history books, and collected old uniforms to be put on display. She procured filing cabinets for the proper storage of Headquarters papers and has organized and filed all documents.



Sarah N. Thornton receives the National Service Award from Pam Bloustine. (Sondra)

This office is our second location at Camp Pendleton, according to my files, so she apparently also had to arrange a move from one location on the base to another, which appears to have taken place in 1999. For those of us who have been there, from the paint and pictures on the walls to the decorations on the desks and display cases, Sarah Thornton's touch is visible everywhere. She took pride in that office and worked to maintain it at a minimal expense to WMA, many times having her own handy man do the work.

Besides the establishment of the current WMA Headquarters, I would also like it noted that during the years since its inception, the role of Office Manager of the Headquarters has been evolving, and Sarah's duties have evolved as well. Besides maintaining the office, ordering WMA letterhead and other supplies as needed, she sent out new member packets faithfully (when her health prevented her, she still made sure the job got done by having others step in and help her), and mailed out extra copies of 'Nouncements and copies of the Resource Manual & Directory (RM&D) when requested by others.

Throughout the sometimes "not very smooth" transitions from Financial Secretary to Financial Secretary over the years, which caused Sarah to have to do mass mailings of 75-100 new packets at a time, rather than spread out as they should have been so they wouldn't be so burdensome, Sarah did not quit. When it appeared that hundreds of the RM&Ds

were defective and would have to be individually reviewed before mailing, Sarah did not quit. She did not resign her position when her health became poor, but accepted the responsibility she had undertaken and vowed to complete her term, with the help of her friends, until her health would prevent her from continuing.

In paragraph #1 of the Criteria for the National Service Award as listed in WMA's *How To Book*, it states, "Awards should not be authorized simply for performance of duties expected". It further states, "An exception might be made for dedication above and beyond the call of duty". I truly believe that Sarah Thornton's dedication to the WMA Headquarters and her duties as Office Manager there went above and beyond the call of duty. Although she was not blessed with perfect health after her long and glorious Marine Corps career, her can-do attitude, her attention to detail, her willingness to go that extra mile to get the mission accomplished, and her amazing fortitude in serving in that position for 10 years when others barely serve their committed two years, all adds up to dedication above and beyond the call of duty in my book.

Authorization of the WMA National Service Award was granted to procure appropriate recognition for individuals making significant contributions. I believe that Sarah Thornton has made a significant contribution to WMA for her work at the WMA National Headquarters, and it is with great pride and pleasure that I nominate her for the National Service Award.



Sarah insisted on standing to participate in singing the "March of the Women Marines". (l-r) 1stLt Sally Falco, Sarah and her brother John Thornton.

Chapter Clippings



CA-2 San Diego County

Members of our chapter attending the National Convention in San Diego really enjoyed the affair hosted by the Edith Macias Vann Southern California Chapter. The convention was really great and enjoyed by all. CA-2 members assisted in the operation of the convention under the direction of two great Co-Chairladies, Ellie Judge and Lillian Cross.

On 9 November several members of CA-2 assisted in the Marine Corps Birthday celebration at the VA Hospital. As always our chapter cuts the beautifully decorated cake served to guests and patients of the VA Hospital.

Our annual November business meeting was held on the 13th at the Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside on Harbor Drive. A delightful lunch was served prior to the meeting and followed by presentations from our two honored guests, Col Anna Smythe, Commanding Officer of H&S Battalion, MCRD San Diego, and her administrative chief, GySgt Melissa Busby. Both talked about the Marine Corps of today, speaking from the officer and enlisted side of our Corps. Kay Miller, Vice President of CA-2, spoke of a project which we will undertake to furnish necessities and goodies to our women serving overseas in areas of conflict. It will be a great project for our chapter and others to undertake.

Again, CA-2, as always, assisted in decorating Christmas trees at the VA Hospital on 1 December. Of course we will help in taking down the trees on 5 January 2005. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

Betty Noble



CA-2 at the convention. Back row, (l-r): Ruth Gallivan, Randy Tidmore, Barbara Komlenic, Frances Hubert. Front row, (l-r): Kay Miller, Betty Noble, Evelyn Montgomery, Alice Guidish, Olga Bullock.



CA-3 Greater San Francisco Bay Area

Well, our convention is over until 2006 and for those of you who couldn't make it, you really missed a good time. Thanks to CA-7 for a job well done.

The graduation ceremonies at MCRD brought back a lot of memories and every back bone was as straight as the recruits who were graduating. OORAH!

At our October meeting/luncheon we discussed our plans on who could go shopping for toys for our Toys for Tots program. There were two volunteers to go and to spend \$500 that was donated by the Lions Club in memory of Norman Stamm, who was a strong and loyal supporter of the program. On 11 December we went to San Jose to deliver the toys that were purchased and to see the Toys for Tots Train that rolls into the park.

Our lunch was hosted by Corney Schmid who gave all that attended a ceramic doll for Halloween.

Mary Louise Berry told us of her volunteering at the Shriners Children's Hospital. She makes the trip with another volunteer to Sacramento twice a month which is approximately 200 miles round trip. She said she enjoys this and of course needs all the help they can get for this worthwhile program.

Alice Gunnerson collected items for "Make a Difference Day" and delivered them to the Veterans Administration in Santa Clara to be shipped to our troops in Iraq. Items requested included soaps, toothbrushes, razors, toothpaste etc. CA-3 donated 25 pounds of items. Thanks to all who brought items. Louise Tamayo, Marine Mom, also collected items, books, and individually wrapped candy was given to her to be sent to our troops.

Junamay Coffey attended a Marine Corps Birthday lunch at the Palo Alto Elks Club. A former Marine (who is a sheriff) sponsors the lunch every year. Guests included three wounded hospitalized Marines from the Veterans Hospital. They had been wounded in Iraq and had very serious wounds. One had lost an eye, one had a head wound and had to wear a helmet to protect his wound until further surgery is completed. Palo Alto Veterans Hospital is one of the four best hospitals for head wounds in the United States. She said it was very interesting listening to them but also very sad.

Alice, Maggie, Betty, Corney and Laverne attended the All Women Veterans Luncheon that was held in San Jose by the Bay Area Waves. We saw a lot of familiar faces and a good time was had by all.

Our Christmas party was held in December at a local restaurant and plans are in the making for our anniversary luncheon in February.

Finally, I would like to thank every chapter who brought or sent gifts for door prizes to the convention. Thank you and Semper Fi.

LaVerne Marts



CA-5 Orange County

We all had a fantastic time at the San Diego convention in September. Thanks to the committee who did an excellent job.

On 16 October we had a general meeting and luncheon at the Marriott in Santa Ana. Vanda Bresnan spoke to us about her collection of handkerchiefs. We learned all about the history of them and loved looking through her beautiful accumulation of these pieces of history.

November 14th we are participating in the Tustin Veterans Day parade followed by a picnic in the park.

Our Christmas party was held on 12 December at the Claim Jumper in Huntington Beach where we collected toys for Toys for Tots and exchanged gifts.

We hope everyone has a great holiday season and 2005 is filled with all good things!

Valorie Lephart

WMA CA-7 E. M. Vann Southern California



Convention Co-Chairs Ellie Judge and Lillian Cross during the luncheon honoring our WWII WRs. (Sondra)

I am sorry to report that our chapter has lost three members since August: Wilda McClelland in August, Alice Connolly in September, and WMA Past National President Sarah Thornton in October. We will miss you, ladies, and keep you in our prayers.

This piece of information may be a little outdated but still important to report. We were pleased to have Lou Teixeira, WMA President-elect, perform the installation of our new chapter officers at our May meeting. Our new officers for the 2004-2006 term are: Lillian Cross, president; Isela Talamantes, vice president; Eleanor Judge, secretary; and Marie Proulx, treasurer. Congratulations, ladies, upon your installation, and thank you, Lou, for being the installing officer.

Seven chapter members and two Loyal Escorts attended the annual Veterans' Day ceremonies at the Oceanside Elks Lodge. They were Marie Proulx, Ellie Judge, Anne Johnson, Lil Cross, Alyce Jones, Ruth Osborn, Rosemary Tyrrell, Wayne Renneker and Ken Cross. CA-7 is a member of the Combined Veterans and Fraternal Organizations of North County that sponsors this event.

CA-7 is proud to announce another women's first for the Marine Corps: member SSgt Jacqueline Caputi is the first woman Marine to be a Certified Prevention Counselor for Drug and Alcohol Abuse. SSgt Caputi spoke at our November meeting on the work that she does. For our December meeting we have invited SSgt Amy Forsythe to speak of her "adventures" in Afghanistan. She recently returned after a two-year deployment.

We are also planning our Women Reserves Anniversary party at the SNCO Club on Camp Pendleton for 12 February. If you are in the area and would like to attend, please let us know. We are also planning a trip to Pala Indian Casino for March or April for lunch and to visit the museum there. Of course a little time spent in the casino is included.

Denne Howard, Area 10 Director, has volunteered to coordinate and compile a list of WMA members or spouses who are "active" ham radio operators. In times of emergency, ham radio operators are sometimes the only ones that can get information in and out. Denne asks for the following information: Call sign; name, address, phone number, chapter affiliation or MAL, and operating bands availability. Please contact her at 70819 Jasmine Lane, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270-2318, (760) 770-4457 or Denne10WMA@aol.com.

Again, we want to thank all those that came to the convention in San Diego. From the time we volunteered to take on the convention in Washington, DC to the closing gavel, it was a ball. We look forward to seeing you all again in Louisville.

Lillian Cross

WMA CA-8 Palms to Pines

Several members of CA-8 attended a well presented program at the Jerry Pettis VA Hospital in Loma Linda on 21 October. The program was titled "Women Veterans, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow", and advised us of the benefits available to us through the VA Hospital. Women veterans sometimes are not aware that they receive all the benefits the men receive and are sometimes lost in the shuffle.

Health Care services that were offered onsite included blood pressure, bone density examination and information on female specific health care services. The program also included a video presentation on the history of women in the military and several facts were presented about our women pioneer veterans that I'm sure few of us knew.

Among the guest speakers was a young woman pilot from the Air National Guard who jockeys those huge "Big Birds" from March AFB. During the program, a group of guest singers sang all of the military songs and naturally when the "Marines' Hymn" was presented we all stood proud! It was a great day and we are hoping that the program next year is just as inspirational.

Mary Cowell

WMA CA-9 Redwoods

JUNE – We visited the di Rosa Preserve on the 19th, a collection of modern art arranged in a natural setting with a large lake. It is housed in two galleries plus a former residence, now a gallery, plus a lovely meadow "planted" with modern sculptures. From the hands-on "smoke ring" device and the elaborately jewel-encrusted auto and wagon in the first gallery to the other equally adorned galleries – with paintings and all kinds of art – we were entertained, bemused, astonished, disgruntled, amazed and so forth. The di Rosa is a treat not to be missed, and it inspired lively discussion over lunch at Jonesy's at the Napa Valley Airport.

SEPTEMBER – Five of us went to the convention – Betty Kelley, Doris Panzer, Joan Scherban, Mary Elizabeth Merwin and Bonnie Medin. We met with friends from CA-6 and Lynn Giadrone from CA-12. Several of us enjoyed a dinner cruise on San Diego Bay and the flag ceremony and graduation parade at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. We were treated royally there, including a brunch on the lovely grounds of the commanding general's home, which is a National Historic Site. We were impressed with the organization and operation of the convention and especially the active duty women Marines who attended. They were all "spit-and-polish" sharp as well as charming, polite and delightful company. Congratulations to all those who produced this great convention!

OCTOBER – Thirteen members and one guest gathered at the Vallejo home of Lynn Milas for a potluck lunch and social. Bonnie introduced her guest Linda Willard to whom we gave a warm welcome. They met at a community-sponsored trip where Linda recognized a Marine Corps emblem on Bonnie's jacket.

Chapter Clippings continued

This inspired a round of introductions with brief bios of Marine Corps service which proved to be fun as well as informative. After a short business meeting, we enjoyed our delicious potluck offerings. GOOD NEWS!! Linda joined our chapter. We extend an even warmer welcome to our new member.

NOVEMBER – Doris Panzer, Pepper Matthews and Joyce Anderson were among those who celebrated the 229th birthday of the Marine Corps at a cake cutting ceremony at the Veterans Home in Yountville. It was sponsored by the local detachment of the Marine Corps League and was carried out by a contingent of Marines from Alameda all in dress blues. A handsome sight they were.

DECEMBER – We had two opportunities to celebrate the Christmas season. Mt. Diablo chapter invited us to join them at their party on 1 December. Some of us will had a holiday lunch with member Lucille Thyrring at Paradise Valley Estates on 6 December. It is always a treat to lunch at PVE where the ambience is elegant, the food delicious and the company special.

Then it's on to the New Year and our anniversary luncheon in February.

Doris Panzer

WMA FL-4 Tampa Tarpons

Our fall meeting was held on 23 October at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Brandon at which we welcomed back Mary Sherron. Janet Sprehe, RNC, of the James Haley Medical Center gave a short talk on the risks of heart attack and ways to help prevent it, after which she handed out educational materials.

For our December (Christmas) meeting, we had lunch at the Colonnade in Tampa. Each member was asked to bring a toy for Toys for Tots.

LaVerne Myers

WMA FL-5 Orange Blossom

Our chapter has had a few bad months with the passing of Elizabeth Briggs' twin sister, Helen Weceras' sister, and Dorothy Poboynys' step-mother. They will all be dearly missed. We have also had two charter members move away, Ruth Fitch and Helen Perkins, though they will remain members of our chapter.

We have two new members: Louise Heidman, who has been with us for over a year, and Barbara DeGuiseppe, who just moved into our area. We welcome them both and are thrilled to have them join us. We are hoping to have another new member by the next issue.

Instead of a meeting this month we met at a restaurant to celebrate the 229th birthday of the Marine Corps. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

We are busy getting ready for the holiday season. It is time to make our annual contributions to our favorite charities. Last month we remembered a male Marine and this month a woman Marine, who are stationed in Iraq, with necessary items that are not obtainable from their PXs to share with their buddies.

FL-5 hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Loyal Escort Barb Gibbs

WMA FL-9 Thoroughbred Fillies



FL-9 at the VA center. Front row (l-r): Mary Sabourin and Millie Shipski. Back row (l-r): Lil Contini, Sunny Green and Shirley Whitaker

Hurricanes Frances and Jean came to Florida and spoiled our planned trip to San Diego for the convention. The airports in Tampa and Orlando on 4 September were closed, so no go. Fortunately two of our members had planned early departures and had a great time.

Our first meeting on 9 October was at the VA Home in Daytona Beach. We were surprised when Mary Sabourin came with us. Twelve service women are in residence, and we had arranged a lovely party with punch and cookies for them. They were given ditty bags of different designs made by Lil Contini and filled with small gifts. We are planning another visit in March.

November 13th was our Toys for Tots meeting. We had a very good response with lots of toys for both boys and girls. Shirley Whitaker collected them and took them to our local Marine Corps League for distribution.

Wishing you all a very Merry Holiday and Happy New Year! Semper Fidelis...

Sunny Green

WMA GA-1 Dogwood of Atlanta

GA-1's summer got off to a rousing start with our attendance in the Atlanta Salute-2-America 4th of July Parade attended by Laura Ward, June Dukes, Savannah Brininstool, Cathy Coker, and Sheryl Hobden. We had a great day for it and the crowds were an enthusiastic sea of red, white and blue!

We hit the Ocoee River rapids again on 28 August. Savannah and Sheryl were joined by Savannah's Aunt Sharon and soon-to-be member Susan Dickey and her 13-year-old son Tyler. We rafted a more challenging section of the river and Tyler survived going overboard in a rapid called "Humongous." He was a class act and we were all impressed with his spunk. We're looking forward to another trip next year!

Soon it was September and time for our long awaited convention in San Diego. The Dogwood Chapter was well represented by five members: June Dukes, Annetta Sallard, Kathleen Eidson, Linda Clark Wolford and Sheryl Hobden. From the Opening

Chapter Clippings *continued*



Women Marines Team participating in Hands-On-Atlanta Day, (l-r): Cheryl Brown, Linda Clark Wolford, Sheryl Hobden, Annetta Sallard, Laura Ward and Cindy Brooks. Center, Maria Morales.

Banquet, where Netta carried our flag, to the Grand Banquet, the entire convention was fabulous. We ran into old friends and met lots of new ones. The icing and cherry on top was being recognized at the awards luncheon with second place for our newsletter and first place for our history book! The five days flew by while at the same time it seemed like we'd been there three weeks because of all that was going on. It was hard to say goodbye but we're all looking forward to Louisville in 2006.

We hit the decks running on our return to Atlanta. On 12 September, Laura and Sheryl participated in the 4th FSSG Family Day where we had an informational table set up and a big tray of fresh baked homemade chocolate chip cookies as the bait. We collected contact information from 16 women Marines and gave each of them membership applications. We will be extending invitations for them to join us at future chapter events.

Sheryl visited with one of our homebound members, Mary Kiemele, on 17 October. Although Mary is not quite as mobile as she'd like, her spirits are high and she enjoyed hearing what everyone has been up to.

Our October activity was volunteering for Hands on Atlanta Day, an annual community service event. Our team was made up of Laura, Cindy, Netta, Cheryl, Linda, and Sheryl, and was joined by SSgt Maria Morales, one of our prospects from the Family Day event. Our project was painting the art room and adjoining hallways at the Austell Day Treatment Center. We quickly transformed "Pepto Pink" walls into a soothing and sunny warm yellow. The clients of the facility were excited to learn that a team of women Marines was going to be there and were greatly impressed with the quality of our work. They hope to see us next year!

We rolled into November celebrating the Marine Corps' birthday with Laura attending the RS ball in Atlanta; Cathy celebrating with the Marine Corps League and Melanie raising a glass at home. Sheryl was a force of one in the Douglasville Veterans' Day parade on 11 November and escorted Kathleen Eidson on the 12th, who was guest of honor at a birthday celebration held by the Newton County High School MCJROTC. This is an outstanding group of young people and they performed the ceremony with the precision of regular Marines. Kathleen and I enjoyed ourselves

immensely. November 13th found Sheryl working at the Veteran's Fair in Douglasville where she identified five potential members for WMA and is now networking with the local American Legion Post.

We ended the year on 4 December with our annual Toys for Tots Family and Friends Holiday Luncheon. In addition to celebrating the holiday season with those that support us throughout the year, we also put together stockings for the troops and gift bags for the patients at the VA Hospital, spreading a little holiday cheer.

We were blessed this year with new members but greatly saddened with the news of the passing of Arla Young, a founding member of the chapter. She was a role model for many of us with her dedication to WMA and we honor her by dedicating our History Book Award in her name.

We anxiously await what the New Year brings and hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

Sheryl Hobden

(This explains why their award winning history book weighed 23 pounds -- Editor)



IL-2 Blanche S. Osborne



IL-2, (l-r): Helen Laukes, in far background waving Calista Wehrli, Louise Jones, Vera Donlan, and Mary Roa. Obscured by Helen's head, Madeleine Downey.

New officers for the chapter were sworn in 15 May by Area Director Betty Jean Cannon: Muriel Underwood, president; Mary Roa, vice president; Genevieve Bowen, secretary; and Joy Reeves remains as treasurer. David Roldan, commanding officer of the Young Marines, also spoke to us about the program. There are 132 kids in the Chicago area enrolled in the program. It is sponsored in part by the Marine Corps League, and the Young Marines learn history, close order drill, physical fitness, customs, courtesies, and military rank structure. They also have a chance to go to camps. For such a worthwhile program the chapter donated money to help them out.

We did get the Humvee again for the Memorial Day Parade. Members participating were: Loyal Escort Denise DiValerio, Betty Lewis, Helen Laukes, Ann DiValerio, Martha Nawrocki, and Muriel Underwood.

The summer picnic was held in Genevieve Bowen's backyard and about a dozen members drove into the north side of the city to see this lovely backyard. Gene's daughter, Jennifer Green, a Loyal Escort, and several of her friends gave welcomed assistance to the WWII and Korea vets in serving the potluck dishes.

Eight members attended the convention - Merrilyn Cuffman,

Chapter Clippings continued

in a wheelchair, helped by her daughter Darcy, Vera Donlan (Loyal Escort), Helen Laukes, Betty Lewis, Martha Nawrocki, Mary Roa, Muriel Underwood, and Mary Simmons Zabel.

Muriel Underwood

WMA IN-1 Indiana



Marianne Hughes (left) receiving the Polen Award from Lisa Goebel, Chairman of the Polen Award Committee. Photo by Connie Hamm.

Our chapter president, Marianne Hughes, was the recipient of the Francis Polen Memorial Award for Outstanding Service to Veterans. Marianne was presented the award at the 40th Annual Veterans Day Banquet in Indianapolis. The award honors those whose voluntary service to veterans exemplifies dedicated service to veterans. Marianne was chosen because of her dedication to such groups as the Women Marines Association, POW/MIA Recognition, National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, Daughters of the American Revolution, National Video History Project and many other volunteer projects.

Our chapter has been active this year raising funds for various veteran related needs. This year we purchased items for the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette. Some of the items we purchased included: art supplies that allow grandparents to share activities with visiting grandchildren, a public address system, and tables and chairs for a recreation room. For the Roudebush VA Medical Center located in Indianapolis we purchased: microscopic surgery glasses, contributed money towards a dialysis chair, contributed over \$1,000 to the Thoracic Unit, \$1,000 to volunteer service to be used for veteran's needs and \$250 to the Women Veterans clinic. We have also contributed to the local Young Marines group, purchased t-shirts to be worn during the Relay for Life, which celebrates cancer survivorship and benefits cancer research. We contributed money to be used to buy items for troops located overseas and purchased bonds for young VA Hospital volunteers. In our latest meeting we also voted to contribute additional funds to the Women Veterans Clinic and the Indigent Patient Fund at the Roudebush VA Medical Center, additional funds to the Young Marines group and to contribute to the Injured Marine Semper Fidelis Fund.

It's been a rewarding year knowing that we were able to help fellow veterans and fellow Marines.

Connie Hamm

WMA MA-1 Bay State

Summer is gone, fall is waning and winter is fast approaching. TAPS: Evelyn Perkins and Mary Talbot.

We had a wonderful summer backyard meeting, with Joyce Barden hosting at her house in July. It was a lovely day and a lot of fun with our usual penny raffle.

Our annual Lobster Fest was held in August at Claire Wagstaff & Agnes Griffin's summer home (The Plum Island Women Marines Barracks). It was a wonderful time as always with many members in attendance.

Then convention was upon us. Kay Carpenter and Ellie Canty attended. It was a great time in a wonderful city. Meetings kept us busy, and there was ample time to visit with old friends, see the sights and participate in some of the other scheduled activities.

MA-1 again placed first in two Chapter Achievement Categories. Our dedicated VAVS volunteers again won a streamer for our colors. We thank them for their dedication to this wonderful cause year after year. The other first place was for our volunteer work with the Boston Toys for Tots program. This is our chapter's annual labor of love. Our chapter colors are wearing their new streamers proudly.



The "jockeys" tell the story of Louisville at the 2006 Convention luncheon. Left to right: Kay Carpenter, June Worden, Ellen Leidy and Eileen Scanlon. (June)

Nine of our members enjoyed a wonderful 229th Birthday Luncheon hosted by the Marine Corps Family Council of Boston. The luncheon was held at a local hotel and featured Maj Shane Tomko, head recruiter for the New England Region, as the guest speaker. The major spoke of our troops in Iraq and of the contributions made by our generation. We were all pretty puffed up with pride listening to him. Maj Tomko is the husband of chapter member (Capt) Lisa Tomko, who is with the Marine for Life Program.

A very happy Holiday Season to you all, and a very prosperous New Year.

Kay Carpenter

WMA MA-2 Peg Parda

Recruiting has not been our forte, but with a burst of energy with new ideas derived from the San Diego Convention and reading other chapters' methods, we are working on it.

Chapter Clippings *continued*



Kay Carpenter (left) with new MA-2 officers (l-r): Betsy Paulsen, Roz Mucarea, Ernestine Stowell and Lyn Grise.

We do have a close knit chapter that enjoys getting together. In June, two of our young members, Jenny Garcia and Christine Miner were married in a church wedding which was attended by a number of our chapter members. In August, the summer picnic was held at the home of Lyn Grise. Area 1 Director Kay Carpenter joined us and installed our new officers. They are: Ernestine Stowell, president; Lyn Grise, vice president; Betsy Paulsen, secretary; Roz Mucarea, treasurer.

Marines in western Massachusetts have taken over an old firehouse in Westfield, which is a great base for meetings for both the Marine associations. One of the most successful contributions to the community is the Memorial Day parade when military units, high school marching band, etc., are included and also invited for lunch after the parade.

At our fall meeting, Penny Seip and Betsy Paulsen reported on the events enjoyed at the San Diego Convention. They made many new friends and were thrilled at meeting active women Marines including pilots and those recently returned from Iraq. They found San Diego a beautiful and fascinating city.

Christmas wrapping at the Holyoke Mall for Hospice occurred in December.

We are looking forward to meeting our new area director, June Worden.

Betsy Paulsen

WMA MI-2 Motor City

The awards that we took at convention only made the Motor City chapter more resolute to work harder. We think we are off to a great start!

On 25 September we hosted the 18th Annual All Service Women Luncheon. Our theme was volunteerism. We had several speakers that spoke on how to volunteer in the community and with our veterans. Toys for our annual Toys for Tots program were collected and picked up by CWO4 Pam Cleary from MWSG 47. A display was on hand for the Marine Comfort Quilts. We donated 100 yards of material and signed squares that will go into the quilts given to the families of our fallen heroes from Iraq. We also gave them a donation from our 50/50 raffle in the sum of \$67.50 to help with postage. Each guest who attended received a beautiful mug with the red rose which said, "Women Veterans Proud to have served" then each branch of the service was listed. On 23 October we took part in Make a Difference Day. MI-2 sponsored an Operation Caring Friends event in Romeo at Fron-

tier Town. They graciously gave us a storefront to collect items and pack them for shipment. The event was a great success. We packed up 212 boxes! We were so thrilled with all of the participation. Sharon Sir, one of our members who moved to Traverse City, collected 3 boxes and had the items sent to us for our collection. Thank You, Sharon. This only goes to prove that you do not have to be close to your chapter to stay active!

Operation Caring Friends has taken a good hold on our chapter and now we have been able to get other chapters involved as well in adopting our deployed Marines. What a great feeling it is to know that together we can make a difference.

On 7 November we participated in the Shelby Veterans Day Program. A speech was given by Mary Merritt about taking care of our veterans and supporting those who are now deployed. We are also looking forward to participating in the Romeo Veteran Day Observance.

Our next event will be Operation Secret Santa. We will collect boxes of hot chocolate, mini marshmallows, homemade cookies and candy canes to be sent to the Marines we support. Just a little touch of the holidays for them.

We look forward to the challenges 2005 will bring as well as continuing to bring better awareness of WMA to our area. Semper fi...

Mary Ann Merritt



Photo is of (l-r): Mrs. Anne Klima, Recruit Bradley R. Reini USMCC, 1stLt James A. Pease USMCC, PFC Trevor A. Williams USMCC, PFC Matthew T. Klima USMCC, Instructor Charles A. Fifielski ACA., Kim White, owner of Frontier Town in Romeo. The cadets are the Michigan Marine Cadets.

WMA MN-1 Minnesota Leathernecks



The biggest smiles at the convention were on the faces of the 2002 Convention Committee. (Sondra)

The August Social to see "Mouse Trap" at the Show Boat, Minneapolis, was a big success.

The San Diego Convention was attended by Mary McGee, Betty Capron, Emily Rodich, Doris and John Palmer, Liz and Bill Whitbeck, Dot and Bob Witcher, and Lorry Vaca. McGee and Capron both came a day early to attend the side trip to MCRD and the Airfield Museum and Field at Miramar, where they had an especially wonderful time.

Chapter Clippings *continued*

San Diego was a great place for the convention. The accommodations and personnel at the Westin Horton Plaza were the best and everyone had a great time. The California gals did a great job. We hope to see them smiling in Kentucky like we were in San Diego!

MN-1 had their 11 September meeting at the VA Hospital. We made a \$100 donation to the Veterans on the Lake near Ely where June Johnson, MN-1 member from Two Harbors, does a lot of volunteer work. Rodich made a small report on the convention—the other members at San Diego were still traveling after the convention.

The social at Emma Krumbie's in Belle Plaine was attended by eight MN-1 members who enjoyed the luncheon and seeing the Halloween display, especially all the scarecrows that were entered in the scarecrow contest.

We have a new Area 5 Director, Mary Ellen Stone from Missouri, and a new member, Shannon M. Omities from Elk River.

Carol Lembrich is with her daughter in Stacy after a recuperating stay at the Lyngblomsten Nursing Home. She's even gaining weight! Carol wants to let Liz Whitbeck know how much she appreciates what she did for Carol. Carol had called Liz the night before she left for San Diego, asking her to contact her friend Edna Vac- Martin in Riverside. Instead Liz stopped packing, went to the telephone, contacted Edna and she and Carol were talking to each other soon after. Carol certainly appreciated Liz's effort to locate Edna. And that's what the WMA is all about - Marine helping Marine!

Our Christmas party was held at June Cirk's Westwood Villa Condos, St. Louis Park, 11 December. Hope you all had your flu shots!

Emily Rodich, Mary McGee, and Snoopy

WMA MO-1 St Louis

Members who were able to attend the 23rd Biennial Convention from 4-8 September in San Diego enjoyed themselves. Thanks to the Convention Committee for a job "well done".

The business meeting was held at the Salad Bowl Cafeteria in St. Louis on 10 October.

Our chapter participated, as members of American Legion Post 404, in the Veteran's Day Parade held in downtown St. Louis on 6 November. Kathy Sutphen, Mary Jantosik and Betty Gonzales were members of the Honor Guard, while Ophelia Owens called cadence. Patty Schindler placed her car in the parade representing WMA.

On 11 November eight of our members attended the American Legion Veterans' Day dinner held at Andre's Banquet Center.

The 19th Annual Tribute to Women Veterans luncheon was held on 20 November, sponsored by the all women's American Legion Post 404 in Missouri and southern Illinois, at the Christy Banquet Center. Several of our members attended.



Mabel Otten (left) takes a moment at the convention to pose with two other Sergeants Major, Sarah Thornton and Betty Noble. (Sheryl)

The MO-1 Christmas Party was held on 12 December at Our Lady of the Snow Shrine Restaurant in Belleville, IL. Happy Holidays!

Mabel Otten

WMA MO-2 MO-KAN

The MO-KAN 02 Chapter met at Jumpin Catfish Restaurant in Lee Summit where the chapter celebrated the Marine Corps 229th birthday with a cake donated by Pearl Shaklee. Our oldest Marine present was Lee Fellman from Harrisonville. She served in WWII. Our youngest Marine present was LCpl Sara Pacheco stationed at MOCOM in Kansas City. Convention pictures were shared by those who attended the WMA National Convention in San Diego.



Lee Fellman and LCpl Sara Pacheco with their pieces of birthday cake.

Chapter Clippings *continued*

Denise Elosh agreed to take over as chapter president since Mary Ellen Stone was appointed the Area Five Director. (MSgt) Celia Grayless accepted the nomination and was voted in as the chapter vice-president.

Yinka Perry won the raffle of a USMC travel bag. Thank you to Gaynelle Barnette for stepping in as secretary for this meeting, and for arranging the luncheon.

Our next meeting was held 5 December. Everyone brought an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

Mary Ellen Stone

WMA NC-1 Tarheel

NC-1 again participated in the Jacksonville Veterans' Day Parade. Since there was a Native American Pow Wow here, base women were invited to ride with us, but there were no takers. We invited two Native American couples to be on the truck with Anne Bradford and Mary Sabourin. The men are retired Marines. They and their wives had native items to show the viewers of the parade. Our driver was SSgt Evans from G-3, who has a Native American background also. Shirley John, President, and Mary Laslowski rode in Shirley's red convertible.

Mary Sabourin



Shirley John and Mary Sabourin in forming stage.
Photo by Mary Laskowski



(l-r) Odell Graham (Blackfeet), Bob Price (Cherokee), Ruth Price (Lumbee), Jeannie Graham (Choctaw, Apache).
Driver is SSgt Evans (Cherokee).
Photo by Mary Laskowski

WMA NV-1 Nevada Sagebrush



Front Row (l - r): Judith Brown, Rhea Hornbeck, Lee Kearney; Back Row (l - r): Ronza Nash and Diane Dietrich

The Sagebrush Chapter continues its efforts to bring new members into our organization. Recently, reporter Keith Rogers from the Las Vegas Review Journal interviewed our editor, Angela Melancon, about WMA and its efforts to acquire new members.

On 6 November President Rhea E. Hornbeck, Vice President Judith Brown, Treasure Lena "Lee" Kearney and members Dr. Ronza Nash and Diane Dietrich participated in the Mesquite NV Veterans' Day Parade. The City of Mesquite continues to treat our former women Marines like royalty by providing rooms and other amenities for our participating members. The ladies had a great time and same as last year, appreciated the invitation to participate as well as the fine hospitality the city provided.

Betty Elinoff has recently undergone surgery at the San Diego Medical Center in California. The doctors removed three-quarters of her left kidney to prevent the spread of a cancerous tumor. During the surgery her lungs collapsed but she is recovering. Betty returned home to Las Vegas on 9 November and her recovery process is slow but positive. Our prayers are with her. Betty graciously appreciates all the calls, cards and support she has and continues to receive.

Our chapter is gearing up for two upcoming events. We were invited to participate in the first Annual Veteran Expo, which was held in Las Vegas on 18 November. We were represented at this event by member Carol Watson. This event will have representatives available from several veteran organizations around the Las Vegas area.

Last is the upcoming holiday season. We joined with the Marine Corps Reserve to collect toys for Toys for Tots and held our annual holiday celebration. The Sagebrush Chapter would like to wish all of our fellow women Marines home and especially all our Marines abroad a safe, happy holiday season and a prosperous 2005.

Angela S. Melancon

WMA NY-5 Central New York State

Officers, members, and guests met at Pier 57, Liverpool, New York, on 24 October to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday. Chapter President and Area One Director June Worden treated us with a cake to observe the occasion. Each member took several names of women Marines serving in Iraq to send needed items to them. Semper Fi...

Marge Rowoth

WMA Toll Free Number 1-888-525-1943
www.womenmarines.com

WMA OH-1 Emerald of Ohio



Lois Cameron, Brandie Huth, Elva Pounders, Ellen Leidy.

A big "thank you" to the 2004 Convention Committee. Those of us from Ohio had a wonderful time. The hotel was great, and there was plenty of shopping and food courts within walking distance. Several of us took in the sites of the zoo, wild life park, Sea World, Balboa Park, Old Town, MCRD, Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, and the harbor cruise.

With each convention, we meet old friends and make new friends. I was happy to introduce my Ohio friends to women I had been stationed with during my career. My niece, Tabitha Cunningham, is a Loyal Escort and had the privilege of escorting Carol Mutter in the Opening Banquet and Sarah Thornton in the Grand Banquet. She is now a Director for the Loyal Escorts and is busy helping with our Ohio chapter.

Ellen Leidy and Lois Cameron have taken on additional duties at the Reserve Center because our unit is preparing to move out in January 2005. They have many requests for Marines in dress blues. Sharon Mutch organized the Toys for Tots dinner-dance. Emma Holmes, Dortha Lofquist, Betty Smith and the women from Waves National got Christmas cards signed and ready to send to our Marines overseas. The Chesty Puller Young Marines honored Marines and other veterans by handing out certificates for their service. Our women are busy throughout the state doing their volunteer work at the VA, packing boxes for overseas and doing home visits. Our women are also involved with other veteran organizations.

While at the University of Akron Veterans' Day services, I met SFC Bonnie Hutchings, Army Health Care Recruiter. Bonnie was in the Marine Corps for four years and was one of the first women stationed in Okinawa. Bonnie's maiden name was Pohl. She had a big break in service. The guest speaker, MajGen Darrel R. Porr, USMC, USA, the Joint Chief of Staff Surgeon, was a classmate of Ellen Leidy in high school.

Cpl Brandie Huth returned from Iraq and is now attending NCO School at Camp Pendleton. She said the support from everyone at home was appreciated.

Happy Holidays to all our WMA friends.

Elva M. Pounders

Our fall schedule started in San Diego at the convention. Historian Joan Willauer brought home an honorable mention award for our history book. Joan, Brenda Blair and Joan's son Ed did an outstanding job on our book. Congratulations, ladies, and thank you, Ed!

Next up was the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, where several of our members were joined by thousands of others in the 5K run/fitness walk. This event is always one of the most moving and emotional events of the year.

Then comes Halloween and it's off to the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City for the annual Halloween party. Members dress up in costume and participate in games with the hospitalized vets. We're a big hit!

On 5 November, a few members attended the annual Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon put on by the Oklahoma Marine Corps Coordinating Council. This year's speaker was the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Spider Nyland. It was reported that everyone had an outstanding time and enjoyed listening to the general.

Women Veterans Awareness Day is an event that is held every year in a different location. This is the one event of the year that celebrates service women of all branches. This year it was held at the brand new Veterans Center in Lawton on 6 November. Service women of all ages, ranks and branches attended the program. Chapter member Pat Goss woke up that morning to find her picture on the front page of the Lawton paper followed by a rather lengthy article. She became an instant celebrity. That evening, the event was featured on the evening news of one of our local affiliates with interviews of participants and attendees alike. The next day, there was an article in the Sunday paper about the event itself.

OK-2 has had the honor of handling the program for the past two years, and we've been asked to do it permanently. Pam Bloustine planned and emcee-d the program; the chapter handled mailouts and sponsored a hospitality room the night before; Brenda Blair arranged the guest speakers, got multitudes of giveaways and arranged for informational booths in the hall; Sondra Metzger handled the music; members Pat Goss and Joan Willauer helped set things up that morning.

There were excellent speakers, a wonderful singer (Miss Lawton!) and a hearty lunch. But the icing on the cake was the award for Oklahoma Woman Veteran of the Year, which went to our own Dorothy "Jingles" Rimbold. Dorothy is so involved with veterans in the state that we can't begin to list everything here. Suffice it to say, she's one helpful woman!

So we have a picture of Dorothy (left) receiving the award from the 2003 recipient, Sarah Baker, a member of OK-1, which makes Jingles the fourth Marine to take home the award in its 20-year history (Mary Louise Glann and Pam Bloustine are the other two). We may be short in numbers, but not in quality! The above picture is bittersweet; Sarah Baker passed away in December and OK-2 send its condolences to OK-1 and Sarah's family and friends.



Dorothy and Sarah with award. (Photo by Karen Flowers, Ft Sill, Lawton, OK)

Chapter Clippings *continued*

Judy Anderson, Area 6 Director, made the trip up from Houston to spend the day with us and install our officers for the new term: president/treasurer, Pam Bloustine; vice president, Brenda Blair; recording secretary, Dorothy Rimbold; corresponding secretary, Sondra Metzger; historian, Joan Willauer. Thanks, Judy! We appreciate you taking the time to be there with us.

To top off that day, several members attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball put on by the Marine detachment at Fort Sill.

Many thanks to the convention committee for putting on a wonderful convention for us! We had a great time!

Sondra Metzger



OR-1 Lady Marine Rose



Ready to parade on Veterans' Day (l-r): Sally Van Wie, Marcia Dean, Golda Fabian, Sgt Kristina Tindall, Hattie Kelley and Dorothy Schultz. Cub Scouts Jonathan Palmrose and Hunter Johnson carried our colors.

Congratulations to CA-7 members on their wonderful convention! Having been stationed at MCRD and Miramar during WWII, I especially enjoyed the pre-convention trips to MCRD for the graduation of 438 recruits and to Miramar for a tour of the station, which did not in any way resemble the station as I knew it in 1944-45. Hattie Kelley, Heidi Tanada, Loyal Escort Roberta Aaby and I represented OR-1 at the convention. Of course, accepting the first prize award for best chapter newsletter for myself and Florence Gapp was the highlight of the convention for me!

The fall season has begun with a flurry of activities for our chapter. October 5 was the Semper Fi Golf Classic sponsored by the Marine Corps Coordinating Council and organized by Nanci Visser and husband Eric. Hattie Kelley and Golda Fabian assisted with registration and various other duties.

On 30 October, the "The President's Own" United States Marine Band played for a packed auditorium at Benson High School. OR-1 was well represented. Their presentation of well selected variety and styles of music clearly illustrated why they are considered the best band in the nation.

Veterans' Day activities saw members taking part in the Vancouver, WA, annual parade, The Ross Hollywood parade, Living History Day at Milwaukie High School, and a salute to veterans at Rex Putnam High School. The event at Milwaukie High School this year featured a project the students have been working on for 2 1/2 years. They have strung drink can tabs on

wires which were then mounted on frames, each tab representing one service person that has been killed in combat since the Revolutionary War up to the present war in Iraq. The display is called "The High Price of Freedom", and the effect is indescribable. They plan to take the display on tour and I urge you to go see it if it comes to your city.

With the Christmas holidays approaching, we are looking forward to the many joyous activities accompanying them, but let us not forget our Marines and all servicemen who have put themselves in harm's way to ensure that we can continue to have our freedom to celebrate our holidays as we wish. Semper Fidelis...

Golda Fabian



OR-3 Eager Beaver

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest!

In early July this year, several of our members made the trek up Interstate 5 to attend the annual picnic hosted by OR-4. The auction at this event always proves to bring out the competitive spirit in ALL the gals who attend. Marian Knox, OR-4's "adopted" Marine auctioneer, maintains a lively bidding pace while keeping us in stitches with her highly honed skills as a story/joke teller. Needless to say, we all had a good time.

Our chapter took a hiatus for the months of August and September while members tended to vacations and the like.

Maggie Wise and Karen Reeves attended the convention in San Diego and came home with great pictures, great stories, and wonderful, lasting memories. They are already saving for Louisville in 2006 and encourage everyone to do the same.

November 7 saw Carolyn Anderson, Deb Barker, Eva McDonald, Marge Shelton, and Karen Reeves represent WMA in the Eugene Veterans' Day Parade. We were graced with sunshine and no rain on our parade!!

Our chapter "adopted" six women Marines serving in Iraq and put together Christmas "goody" boxes for each of them. We certainly hope they get them before the holidays.

Our November meeting saw the planning of our annual Christmas get together and beginning dialogue on how we can get the word out so we can make our chapter grow.

The women from the Eager Beavers chapter wishes everyone a happy and peaceful holiday season.

Until next year, Semper Fi.

Karen Reeves



PA-3 Mountain Laurel

Again, we found November to be a busy month. On 10 November we participated in a flag raising on Lackawanna County Courthouse Square. The Marine Corps League hosted the traditional Marine Corps Birthday party. The reserves came to the Gino Merli Veterans Center to celebrate with the seven Marines who are residents there.

Veterans' Day began with a morning ceremony on Courthouse Square. A Veterans' Day commemoration took place at the Veterans Center for residents of all branches.

The Montrose American Legion post honored Joyce Severs on Veterans' Day for her years of service to the post. Joyce is the only woman ever to have served as post commander.

Chapter Clippings *continued*

She was presented with two beautiful plaques and a paid up life membership to the national organization. Several members paid verbal tributes to Joyce's dedication and contributions.

Anee Kish, Shirley McAndrew and Doris Keeler attended a conference on women's health at the Wilkes Barre Veterans Hospital.

Our official semi-annual meeting on 13 November began with a luncheon at our favorite seafood house, followed by a meeting at the Veterans Center. After the meeting we had a workshop, where we assembled Christmas gift bags for the 22 women residents at the center. We also filled and mailed gift boxes to six Pennsylvania women Marines on active duty in Iraq.



Semper Fidelis, Harriet.

We received sad news of the death of Harriet Jolly Creighton on 15 November. She was a charter member of this chapter and remained a member after moving to Florida. Annual chapter picnics at her lovely lakeside home had become a tradition. In the picture she is shown serving a special scarlet and gold parfait. Harriet had served as National Public Relations Officer and received the National Service Award in 1974. She was stationed at Quantico during World War II. On Veterans' Day this year her niece took her, in a wheelchair, to the parade. She wore her WMA cover and many Marines came over to say "Semper Fi" and shake her hand.

As the mayor passed where Harriet was sitting, she pointed to Harriet from her seat on the float and gave her a special wave. What a fitting last appearance for an outstanding Marine!

Until next time, have a wonderful holiday! Semper fi.

Virginia Swartz



TX-1 Lone Star State

Update on activities since the Spring 2004 'Nouncements includes members of the chapter making award and scholarship presentations to two of our area high school MCJROTC units.

On 12 May, Mary Alice Proctor-Payton and Joan Wright represented the chapter at Irving High School with Mary Alice presenting the WMA outstanding cadet award and Joan passing

along our scholarship award. On 20 May, Joan whizzed across town to the other MCJROTC unit at W. T. White High School, really excited and pleased to be making the presentation of the WMA award as well as our scholarship award; anxious to show these young folks how much we support them. Wrong date! She walked into an all-school awards event instead of the unit awards ceremony. It really wasn't her fault – she was given the wrong information. The commanding officer did give the scholarship award to the appropriate cadet.

Also during the month of May, Polly Weidenkopf and Joan represented the chapter at Byron Adams High School to participate in their annual veterans event, sharing their Corps experiences with interested students. Polly was in her dress blue uniform, making an impressive recruiting poster for women Marines - sharp, sharp, sharp!

Five of our members attended the convention in San Diego - Gwen Darvin, Joan Oliver, Maureen Moehle, Mary Alice Proctor-Payton and Joan Wright. We send our thanks to all of you who "knocked yourselves out" preparing for this big event. A job well done, ladies!

Two of our members, Maureen and Joan, spent a good portion of the weekend prior to Veterans' Day attending events that honored veterans. It's always a great pleasure and honor for us to represent women Marines at these functions.

We reported some time ago that we planned to place a memorial monument in the DFW National Cemetery to honor all women Marines, past and present. Due to unforeseen, uncontrollable circumstances, we found ourselves having to shelve those plans. We continued to believe this was a worthy goal so we didn't give up on it, and earlier this year we were able to re-start the project. Our president, Maureen Moehle, has led the charge! Back in March she suggested that we publish a cookbook as a fundraiser for this project. The wheels started rolling big time; recipes were submitted by our chapter members, Maureen organized all of them, and then submitted all the information to the publisher. The cookbooks were in our hands in October and we have been busy since then dispersing to all who are interested.



Post members (l-r): Keith Kelm, Bud Malone, Cmdr Michael Bradley, Secretary/Treasurer Sam Samford. TX-1 members (l-r): Gwen Darvin, Maureen Moehle receiving check, Mary Alice Proctor-Payton

Keith Kelm, a friend of Maureen's and a member of VFW Post 7843 in Duncanville (just south of Dallas), was made aware of our project and he, in turn, approached the members of the post with the details. These great veterans decided this was a worthy project and voted to help us in our efforts.

See the photo showing the presentation of a \$1000 check to our chapter (these four vets are Marines). We are extremely grateful to the members of Post 7843, all having served this nation with

Chapter Clippings *continued*

courage over the years - thank you, guys, for your service! And thank you for your support of our chapter endeavor!

There is still a lot of work to be done to complete this task, but we are really looking forward to the dedication ceremony scheduled for 21 May 2005 at the cemetery.

TX-1 hopes that all of you experience a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas and holiday season. Happy 2005 and Semper Fi!

Joan Wright

WMA TX-2 Texas Gulf Coast



TX-2 with the Ruth & Dick Broe Award.
(Photo by Deb Patillo)

The TX-2 chapter of the WMA had a great summer. We had wonderful attendance at the meetings, and a few new faces joined us for a great time of fun and fellowship...work too.

As a group, we voted to co-host the 2008 WMA convention. I'm sure we'll be looking to other Area 6 chapters for assistance.

In our October meeting, we elected new officers for the coming period: president - Judy Anderson, vice president - Monica Jones, treasurer - Barbara Clark and secretary - Betty Huggins.

Several of our members took part in the Veterans' Day Parade in downtown Houston on 11 November. Those participating were Julie Allen, Judy Anderson, Marian Ives, Connie Pendergast, Marti Rainey and Lynne Sparks. I was fortunate enough to be able to see part of the parade on my lunch break, and was (as always) moved by the display of patriotism and recognition of the service given by our veterans.

The Marine Corps Birthday Ball, sponsored by the Marine Corps Coordinating Council, was held on 13 November, and was dedicated to the 123rd, which is currently fighting in Iraq. Those of our members attending were Lynne Sparks and her husband, Connie Pendergast, and Marti Rainey.

Several of our members will be volunteering to help with the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall this year as it comes to LaPorte - located SE of Houston.

BJ Huggins

**A Reminder: Copy deadline for Spring
2005 Issue is 30 January**

WMA VA-1 Crossroads

In August, the chapter hosted their annual membership Open House and ice cream social at the home of our new president, Deb Beutel. We had a full house, several new members and two officers from the VA-2 chapter who joined us to talk about the joint-chapter WMA booth they were organizing for public relations and recruiting at the 2004 Virginia State Fair in Richmond in late September. Several VA-1 members volunteered to cover the two weekends, and the VA-2 chapter set up and staffed during the week. This is a very effective way for WMA to be visible and recognized in each state and to attract new members, and share in the public good will for Marines. We plan to continue this project each year in the fall.

At our Open House, the chapter collected donations of money and care packages to deliver to those injured Marines who are recovering at Bethesda Naval Hospital from Iraq.

On 4 December, we held our annual holiday luncheon at a local restaurant in Stafford, and collected Toys for Tots and care packages for hospitalized Marines at BNH.

Lori B. Cousins

WMA VA-2 Hampton Roads

Our exhibit at the Virginia State Fair was again very successful. It was a wonderful opportunity to get our message out to the public. Many people who visited with us last year returned to visit again. We had a lot of kids whose fathers/mothers are in Iraq, and they were excited to find USMC posters and bumper stickers. And, we really enjoyed the "old" Marines who came by to share their sea stories. They were a hoot! Thanks to everyone who volunteered to staff the exhibit. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Alice and Annebel reported that we have had a tremendous response from people donating items for packages. It's been overwhelming. And, the thank you notes we receive from the troops indicate that they really appreciate the packages.

We're looking forward to the convention in 2006 being in our backyard - Louisville, Kentucky. It will be a wonderful opportunity for us to meet our fellow WMA members from across the country, so 'come on down'.

Annebel V. Lewis

WMA WA-1 The Evergreen State

This year is going by too fast and I hope it was a good year for all of you.

The chapter members met on 9 October in Tacoma at the Elks Club; thirteen were in attendance. It was especially nice to meet new member Patricia Karrasch of Kent.

The members who attended the national convention in San Diego all reported a very enjoyable time. Zelda Barrows, our treasurer and area director, gave a thorough report and explained the many changes in the business of WMA.

Our chapter president, Gerry Ahnstrom, returned from the convention to learn that her picture and a story appeared in the local Seattle paper. We now have a celebrity!

Chapter Clippings *continued*

I was pleased to hear that member Connie Holden (now of South Carolina) presented our chapter flag at the opening ceremony of the convention.

Our next meeting was at the Elks Club in Tacoma on 4 December. Instead of exchanging gifts, we have voted to donate to the homeless or possibly a needy service or Marine family.

We hope to see you at our holiday meeting. In the meantime, happy holidays to all. *Semper Fi...*

Louise George



Juanita Leighton, Gerry Ahnstrom and Connie Holden at the National Convention.

WMA WI-1 Wisconsin

The fall meeting of WI-1 was held in Fond du Lac with Hazel Strook again making the arrangements and making and gathering door prizes. Always a wonderful gathering, this time telling and sharing stories and pictures of the convention in San Diego.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the convention with its busy schedule, meeting old friends and San Diego itself with its many attractions. Compliments to the convention committee and all who made it possible. Our own Hazel Strook proudly presented our chapter flag, the one she had recently donated as a replacement.

November is a busy one with the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans' Day only a day apart. In Milwaukee, the American Legion Post 449 for the first time invited female Marines to join the former and active duty Marines from all over the community. Eight women accepted the invitation: Marceline Paulin, Valeria Hilgart, Linda O'Hara, Eleanor Campbell, Bernice Smith, Ann Liesenfeld, Rosemarie Barbera and Ruth Holman. They enjoyed a fine lunch and short program.

In Madison, Marines of all kinds have been very involved since the local rifle company deployed to Iraq. The first weekend of each month a family support group, Marine Corps League included, has been manning tables in front of three Wal-Mart stores to collect items for the troops and money donations for shipping. It's been very successful and much appreciated by the troops. For the Marine Corps Birthday, the Marine Corps League sponsored an evening at the Marine Reserve Center to include the families of deployed Marines. The traditional birthday ceremony was observed with Connie Allord being the oldest Marine present and

a very young Marine escorting her to the cake, after which cake and beverages were served and a mingling of attendees reminisced and met family members of those deployed. However, a somber air prevailed as just two days before, on 8 November, four members of the company were killed in Iraq in explosions. We await news of further arrangements.

Veterans' Day at the state capitol brought out a good crowd to observe the day. Marjorie Marshman gave the invocation at the beginning and Governor Doyle was one of the speakers. Annette Howards placed a rose during the ceremony to salute all veterans, escorted by a Marine Corps League associate. Connie Allord did the honors for the Marine Corps League, escorted by the commandant of the detachment, Ralph Brooks.

The Madison Elks Club on the evening of 13 November was the setting for a formal gathering of Marines to celebrate the 229th birthday of the Corps. Because of the deployment of the local Marines, which always provided a sea of dress blues (and much missed this year), this was a much scaled-down event. Cocktails, dinner and another ceremony concluded the evening, Connie again being the oldest and this time escorted by a more middle-aged Marine but still the youngest.

Toys for Tots is upcoming and our local Marine veterans will be picking up much of the slack in the huge undertaking.

Happy Holidays and God bless and protect our troops.

Connie Allord



WI-1 at the National Convention.

WMA'nouncements **Copy Deadlines**

A reminder of the following 2005
deadline dates for the submission of
editorial copy:

Spring Issue: 30 January

Summer Issue: 15 April

Fall Issue: 15 July

Winter Issue: 15 October

BULLETIN BOARD

Another scholarship update:

"My mother, Viola (Gerry) Borstein was a Marine during WWII. At 82, she continues to be an active member of WMA. I have been awarded two scholarships from WMA due to her sponsorship to continue my education and I wanted to let you and your membership know that I have just been promoted to Assistant Principal at Sand Lake Elementary School in Anchorage, Alaska. A heartfelt thank you to my mom, for believing in me, and our great country. I continue to fight the battle in our public schools which you all fought to keep free! Thank you." ~ Jacqui Gorlick

Two pairs of eyeglasses—one pair clear prescription lenses, and the other regular sunglasses—were left at the convention. To claim, please call/write: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056-4401 (760) 724-9861 or klcross@sbcglobal.net.

The following URL was established in 1996 to post the recent or distant passing of a military serviceperson of any nation. The purpose of this registry is to ensure no person who served his/her nation is forgotten.

There are no 'wall bricks' to buy or fees to list a veteran. Registration is FREE. Listing is permanent: <http://members.aol.com/veterans/registry.htm>, then select the Deceased Veteran Registry Application.

My mother was a member of the Marine Reserves, 10th Infantry Battalion, Seattle, WA from March 1953 through November 1956. Are there archives I can check for more information on this group? Any help is appreciated. ~ Robyn Lang, robns2@aol.com

The United States Postal Service offers free packing materials to the families of deployed military personnel. To participate, call (800) 610-8734, push 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, and then select option 3 to speak to an operator.

Tell the operator that you would like to participate in the program that offers free packing materials for deployed military personnel. The program provides up to 25 boxes in two sizes (7x7x6 or 12x12x8), custom forms, mailing labels and tape.

And, along those same lines, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced the continued suspension of the "Any Servicemember" mail program. Accordingly, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members during the holiday season.

Service members should receive mail only from those friends and family members to whom they personally give their address.

Military addresses should not be passed around by family members for use by donation programs. Unknown mailers could then obtain those addresses and mail harmful items to service members.

For these reasons, DoD continues to indefinitely suspend general donation programs from unknown mailers.

Americans who don't have loved ones deployed overseas can still show support during the holidays by other means. A list of these programs is available at <http://www.defendamerica.mil>.

With identity theft as the major fraud reported by Americans in 2003, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has designed a new identity card for veterans that will safeguard confidential information.

The card, formally known as the Veterans Identity Card (VIC), will have veterans' photos on the front and identify them as enrollees in the VA's health care system. Encrypted on a magnetic tape on the back of the card will be the veteran's Social Security number, date of birth and a control number. The magnetic strip also records whether the veteran has a service-connected disability.

Veterans should request the new card at their local medical center. Processing will take five to seven days once eligibility is verified. VA hopes to complete the conversion to the new, safer card by mid-November. The existing cards will remain valid until veterans receive their new cards.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced that Combat Service Support Battalion 10, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, is the 2004 winner of the Phoenix Trophy, DoD's highest

award for field-level maintenance of weapon systems and equipment.

In the year preceding Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Combat Service Support Battalion 10, which traditionally provided maintenance in support of tenant units at Twentynine Palms, was given a new mission: direct combat service support, including direct maintenance, to all 1st Marine Division Units in the I Marine Expeditionary Force combat zone. During OIF, CSSB 10 executed its new mission flawlessly, essentially perfecting "maintenance on the move." It established 14 repair and replenishment points between Kuwait and Baghdad, and dispatched more than 400 maintenance support teams to units that were unable to reach the repair and replenishment points.

It also distributed one million gallons of water, two million gallons of fuel, and nearly 2,000 tons of ammunition.

Home Depot unveiled a new program to hire U.S. military retirees, veterans and military spouses. Home Depot hired nearly 10,000 veterans in 2003 and expects to surpass that number by a wide margin in 2004, according to the company. Home Depot pledged to work with its military associates to provide transfers in the cases of reassignment of duty stations, retirement or separation, depending on store and job availability.

Home Depot launched its first national hiring partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor in June of 2002. In February, Home Depot also announced a hiring partnership with the AARP.

The Marine Corps Exchange and Clubs are having a reunion on 30 July 2005. All former women Marines who served in the exchange and clubs are invited. The reunion will be at Camp Pendleton Staff NCO Club.

For more information, contact Mike Hammer (MSgt, Ret) via email at: HKHAMMER@AOL.COM; or by phone at 951-301-8778.

Visit Our Website:
www.womenmarines.org

National Merchandise Sales

WMA Patch, small	.....\$4.00
WMA Patch, large	.....\$4.50
WMA Pin, Hat (pin or clutch)	.....\$3.00
WMA Pin, Life	.....\$3.90
WMA Clock (10 3/4" diameter gold toned frame, green lettering and logo)	.....\$10.00
Bezel	.....\$4.00
WMA Flag	.....\$182.00
Chapter Streamers, (36" red ribbon embroidered with chapt. designation and name).....	\$35.00
Book, "Above & Beyond, Former Marines Conquer the Civilian World" (shipping & handling included)	.....\$30.00
WMA Cap (3 months delivery)	.....\$30.00
Chapter designation: _____	

Example: CA-1 (4 spaces only except USA-1,2,3.) Size: (1" above ears - allow for hair style)

20 1/2 - 20 7/8	.....XSmall
21 1/4 - 21 5/8	.....Small
22 - 22 3/8	.....Medium
22 3/4 - 23 1/8	.....Large
23 1/2 - 23 7/8	.....XLarge
24 1/4 - 24 5/8	.....XXLarge
Golf shirts, red or white, sizes M, L, XL (ladies sizes)	.....\$28.00
Each shirt embroidered with WMA logo and name (if desired)	

40% Sale on Selected Items - supplies are limited

WMA Lavalier, 24" chain	.....\$7.20
Medallion, 90 Denver Conv	.....\$3.00
50th Anniversary Medallions	.....\$5.00
50th Anniversary Medallions w/bezel	.....\$7.00
50th Anniversary Paper Weights	.....\$10.00

Make All Checks Payable to WMA

Contact: Gloria Nix
Merchandise Sales Chairman
3802 North 12th Ave.
Pensacola, FL 32503-3162
email: Dixidust@bellsouth.net

Chapter Merchandise Sales

Send chapter ads to Sondra Metzger, 3805 NE141 Circle, Edmond, OK 73013-7221
When WMA sales items are no longer available, notify Sondra so they can be removed.

Books

Item: Not "Just Another Cookbook" More than 100 recipes by food grouping. Size: 6" x 9"

Cost: \$5.75 (includes shipping)

Chapter: NC-1

Contact: Mary Sabourin, 110 Bryan Court, Jacksonville, NC 28540

☆☆☆

Item: A limited edition booklet of line drawings portraying Women Marines, signed and numbered by the artist, Marion A. Alien, a Regimental Artist during WWII. The original art is now a part of the U.S. Marine Corps Art Collection at the Museums Branch, Washington, D.C. Printed in Forest Green ink.

Size: 12-Page Booklet (10" X 7-1/4")

Cost: \$3.00 (including postage)

Chapter: TX-2

Contact: Barbara Clark, 3539 Teakwood Drive, Pearland, TX 77584 or e-mail Brchoho@aol.com

☆☆☆

Item: History Book of WRs and the MCWR Band in WWII

Cost: \$17.00 (includes mailing)

Chapter: USA-1 (WR Band)

Contact: Bonnie Medin, 3585 Round Barn Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Cards/Stationery

Item: WMA Postcard - 5 1/2" x 4 1/4" Wide green stripe top & left margins.

WMA logo in upper left corner

Cost: 10 for \$1.60 (includes P&H); 15 for \$2.10 (includes P&H)

20 for \$2.60 (includes P&H)

Checks: CA-7, WMA

Chapter: EMVSC (CA-7)

Contact: Eleanor L. Judge, 282 San Dimas Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92075

☆☆☆

Item: One-sided Chapter Membership cards

Cost: 20 cents each (includes postage)

Chapter: WMA-NJ-1, Garden State

Contact: Winifred Reuschle, 49 Scott Drive, Bayville, NJ 08721-1224

Item: Note pads- 3"x5" green border and WMA logo in the center on a light yellow background. These are unique!

Cost: \$3.50 for a pack of 3 pads which includes postage

Checks: CO-1, WMA

Chapter: Colorado Columbine

Contact: Paula Sarlis, 3066 So. Granby St., Aurora, CO 80014



☆☆☆

Item: Name Tags, White w/ green border and logo; Two lines (name and organization); 3" x 1"

Cost: \$8.00

Chapter: Make checks to FL-2

Contact: Sylvia Morgan, 13662 87th Avenue, Seminole, FL 33776

Decals

Item: "My Grandmother was a Marine" decal for t-shirt

"My mother was a Marine" decal for t-shirt

Cost: \$2.25 each (includes shipping)

Item: Women Marine Rose Decal (1 large, 2 small)

Cost: \$3.50

Chapter: Ohio Emerald (OH-1)

Contact: Mary Lou Gruber, Treasurer, 30427 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH 44140

☆☆☆

Item: WMA Decal (Inside auto windshield)

Cost: \$1.00 ea. (includes postage). For Chapters: \$20 for 25 decals

Chapter: Make checks payable to Gold Coast of Florida (FL-3)

Contact: Ruth Beisner, Lyndhurst E-99, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

☆☆☆

Item: Seals

Cost: \$1.25 for 10

Chapter: Make checks to FL-2

Contact: Sylvia Morgan, 13662 87th Avenue, Seminole, FL 33776

Shirts and Sweats

Item: Night Shirt/VCoverup, White, knee length, round neck,

WMA logo "The Few, The Proud" in green

Cost: \$20.00 (Includes postage and handling)

Size: One-size-fits-most, short sleeve only

Chapter: Bay State, MA-1

Checks: Payable to Bay State Chapter, WMA

Contact: Joyce Barden, 56 Poor St, Andover, MA 01810

☆☆☆

Item: Blue Denim Shirt Eagle, Globe & Anchor

in gold and silver embroidery over left

pocket Women Marines Association in red

print left of logo Individual's name

printed on right side

Cost: \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping

Size: S, M, L, and XL (shirts run large) specify short

or long sleeve style

Chapter: Texas Gulf Coast

Checks: Payable to TX-2 WMA

Contact: Judy Anderson, 726 Beachcomber, Houston, TX 77062

e-mail: gulfcoastwm@AOL.com

☆☆☆

Item: White Sweatshirts and T-Shirts Women Marines' logo in green (WWI, Current, WWII) Courtesy of Col Charles Waterhouse

Cost: Sweatshirts: L, XL \$20.00; XXL \$22.00

T-Shirts: L, XL \$9.00; XXL Sold Out (Prices include shipping)

Contact: Jeanne Hesser, 217 Laurel Ct, Swatara Village, PA 17963

☆☆☆

Item: Golf shirt Dark (Hunter) Green with WMA logo (matches green covers) embroidered in white. Available in sizes (S) to (XXL)

Cost: \$28.00 (includes postage)

Chapter: VA-1 Crossroads

Make checks payable to: WMA, VA-1

Contact: Lori B. Cousins, 7006 Old Brentford Rd., Alexander, VA 22310 (703) 971-9242 Email: BronsonLC@juno.com

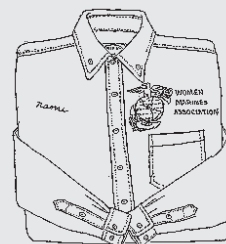
☆☆☆

Item: Red, short-sleeve T-shirts with a gold WMA logo on the left breast pocket-side and the letters WMA printed in gold beneath the logo; sizes M, L, XL.

Cost: \$13.00 each (includes shipping)

Chapter: GA-1.WMA

Contact: Sheryl Hobden, 7158 Avalon Drive, Douglasville, GA 30135, 678-838-0620, WMAgeorgia@yahoo.com.



Item: Medium sage Green polo shirts with dark green trim around sleeves, collar and button placket. Two color logo on left chest (dark green and knaki). Personalization with name and/or chapter affiliation available. Please specify.
Cost: \$35.00 includes shipping and personalization
Size: S, M, L, XL and 2XL (If you don't want it snug, suggest a size up)
Chapter: GA-1 WMA
Contact: Sheryl Hobden, 7158 Avalon Dr., Douglasville, GA 30135. 678-838-0620
 Please include your phone and/or email with order.

Jewelry

Item: WMA Bolo w/ WMA Logo and cord in gold finish (also available bolo with USMC Emblem only).
Cost: \$20.00 (includes shipping)
Chapter: Make checks payable to TX-3, WMA
Contact: Anne M. Collins, 519 Devine St., San Antonio, TX 78210-1505
 ☆☆☆

Item: Pin "WOMAN MARINE"
Cost: \$10.00 (includes shipping)
Item: Marine Corps emblem pendant w/18" chain
Cost: \$18.00 each (includes shipping)
Chapter: New York Metropolitan
Checks: Payable to NY-2
Contact: Roberta Eaton, 18 Maple Court, New Hyde Park, NY 11040-3105
 ☆☆☆

Item: WMA Logo Earrings (matches gold bolo)
Cost: \$10.00/pair (includes shipping)
Chapter: Make checks payable to: TX-3 WMA
 Please designate one: ☐ Wire/Dangle Clip-on ☐ Post
 Note: Post can also be worn as a lapel pin.
Contact: Jeanne Varelas, 6502 W. Kings Crown, San Antonio, Texas 78233-4700; (210) 655-5000
 ☆☆☆



Item: WMA Ring. Jeweler - Jostens
Cost: Lustrium (non precious white) \$181.00
 Quesra (non precious gold) \$218.00
 10 Karat Yellow Gold \$325.00
 14 Karat Gold \$395.00 (Cost includes three initials inside ring & shipping)
 Note: Include ring size and phone number when ordering
Chapter: FL-7 First Coast
Contact: Gayle Plant, President FL-7, PO Box 463, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; (352) 473-7826
 ☆☆☆



Item: WMA Pendant on chain Size: 7/8 inches round
Item: WMA Lapel Pin Size: 7/8 inches round
Cost: \$19.75 each (including shipping)
Chapter: FL-7 First Coast
Contact: Gayle Plant, President FL-7, PO Box 463, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; (352) 473-7826
 ☆☆☆



Item: Watch with WMA logo in center with black band
Cost: \$22.00 (includes mailing)
Chapter: CA-7 (Checks to: EMVSC, CA-7, WMA)
Contact: Marie A Proulx, 748 Pearwood, Street, Oceanside, CA 92057-8618
 ☆☆☆

Item: Charm "Semper Fi"
Cost: \$15.00
Chapter: Lady Marine Rose (OR-1)
Contact: Cleary Creations, 2225 NE 130th Ave., Portland, OR 97230-1704
 ☆☆☆



Item: Red, White, Blue Austrian Crystal elastic bracelet
Cost: \$12.00 includes shipping
Chapter: IN-1
Checks: Payable to IN-1
Contact: Diane Ward, 8310 W. 88th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46278, 317-873-4113
 ☆☆☆

Miscellaneous

Item: USMC Antenna Balls (can be used on car, truck, RV radio antennas, kid's bikes, strollers or wheel chairs too)
Cost: \$1.00 each-red colored with yellow letters, "USMC"
Item: USMC Sun catchers (also have other military branches)
Cost: \$5.00 each
Size: 4" round a/suction hanger
Chapter: CA-15
Contact: Pat Murray, 40701 Rancho Vista #92, Palmdale, CA., 93551, 991-718-8324
 ☆☆☆

Item: Travel neck pouch, black w/two zippered sections on one side with clear section on reverse with WMA logo; adjustable strap; size 6 1/2x4 1/2
Cost: \$5.00 each (includes shipping)
Chapter: NM-1 (checks payable to NM-1 Sandia Chapter)
Contact: Stella Delgado-Kinnison, 204 General Patch NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123
 ☆☆☆



☆☆☆
Item: WMA Logo Magnet. Ideal for gift. Size 2" long, 1 1/2" wide
Cost: \$2.00 includes postage
Chapter: NJ-2 Contact: Lorraine Nankivell, PO Box 208, 38 Point Pleasant Rd, Hopatcong, NJ 07843-0208
 ☆☆☆

Items: Challenge Coin, Women of the Corps
Cost: \$7.50 (includes shipping & handling)
Chapter: OK-2
Contact: Pam Bloustine, 2801 W. Redbud Ln, Edmond, OK 73003-2200; email, PamOKWM@aol.com
 ☆☆☆

Item: New aluminum license plate in distinctive RED lettering on white. Includes a Semper Fi sticker
Cost: \$8.00 (postpaid)
Chapter: FL-4, Tampa Tarpons
Contact: Laveme H. Myers, 3803 Drexel Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611-1517
 ☆☆☆



Item: WMA "Semper Fi" bumper sticker (for anyplace—boat, luggage, etc.). White w/green - 2" x 9"
Cost: \$1.50 ea. for 5 for \$6.45 or 10 for \$11.00; postpaid
Contact: Laverne H. Myers, 3803 Drexel Ave., Tampa, FL 33611-1517
 ☆☆☆

Item: Magnetic Telephone Index. 3 1/4" x 2 1/4" Flexible Satin Gold American Flag with God Bless America printed. Holds 42 names and addresses
Cost: \$3.00 including shipping
Chapter: Orange Blossom, (FL-5)
Contact: Helen Wecera, 3553 Warbler Dr., New Port Richey, FL 34652-6464
 ☆☆☆

Item: WMA Umbrella, green with WMA logo, Automatic Open Button
 Size: Collapsed 15 inches long, open 21 inches long and 36 inches wide
Cost: \$17.75 (includes shipping)
Chapter: FL-7 First Coast
Contact: Gayle Plant, President FL-7, PO Box 463, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-7826
 ☆☆☆

Item: WMA logo Rubber Stamps
Cost: Large stamp: \$9.00 (includes mailing) Small stamp: \$6.00 (includes mailing)
Chapter: CA-7 (Checks to: EMV, CA-7, WMA)
Contact: Marie A Proulx, 748 Pearwood Street, Oceanside, CA 92057-8618
 ☆☆☆

Item: Fanny Pack WMA Logo
Cost: \$10.00
Chapter: FL-2
Contact: Sylvia Morgan, 13662 87th Avenue, Seminole, FL 33776
 ☆☆☆

Item: Clear Vinyl Bag with Long Zipper, WMA Logo Women Marines Association. Green/White Size: 9" x 12"
Cost: \$6.25 (includes shipping)
Chapter: NC-1
Contact: Mary Sabourin, 110 Bryan Court., Jacksonville, NC 28540-6054
 ☆☆☆

Item: US Marine Corps Bear. Stuffed bear, red with Marine Corps emblem on front
Cost: \$15.00 includes shipping
Chapter: IN-1
Checks: Payable to IN-1
Contact: Diane Ward, 8310 W. 88th St., Indianapolis, IN 46278; 317-873-4113
 ☆☆☆

Item: Mouse Pad, 7" x 8", white background, WMA logo, "The Few The Proud" in green
Cost: \$10
Chapter: Bay State, MA-1
Checks: Payable to Bay State Chapter, WMA
Contact: Joyce Barden, 56 Poor Street, Andover, MA 01810
 ☆☆☆



Item: Molly Marine picture, 8 x 10
Cost: \$12 each (includes shipping)
Chapter: AR-1
Contact: Vickie Davis, Treasurer, AR-1, 415 Maryland St., Benton, AR 72015
 ☆☆☆

Item: 2005 WMA Historical Calendar: "Places We Called Home"
Cost: \$12 each (plus \$3.00 S&H)
Chapter: TX-2, WMA
Contact: Judy Anderson, 726 Beachcomber, Houston, TX 77062; email, gulfcoastwm@aol.com
 ☆☆☆

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WMA Convention 2006: Louisville, Kentucky

Imagine yourself in a place that is known for hospitality. Add in warm breezes, a walk by the river and a historic House that overlooks the Kentucky-Ohio border. Think of being with old friends and sharing conversation and making new friends. If you can see yourself in this setting then we know that you are headed to Louisville for the 2006 convention.

The 2006 convention honors our pathways and embraces our purpose and will be held at the historic Galt House Hotel & Suites. The hotel is now in the process of completing a \$50 million renovation. The suites have



been completed; the ball rooms and east entrance have been done. The east entrance is in progress (all new tile already in the lobby area) and the completion date is scheduled for March 2005. Never before has southern hospitality and history been united with a

sense of modern day. The Galt House offers inviting views of the Ohio River and downtown Louisville.

All Area Directors have been given the challenge of working part of the convention and proceeds will go to the National General Fund.

We invite all to look online at what the Galt house has to offer (www.galt-house.com/index.html).

Explore the city and come ready for the event of the year. To find out more about this grand city on the river, start your exploration and planning at www.kyconvention.org and www.loukymetro.org/.

Women Marines Association



Application for Membership

(Please Print)

Check applicable box: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Reinstated ☐ New Life ☐ Life



Date Enlisted _____ Date Discharged _____ How did you hear about WMA _____

Name _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.) Service/Maiden

Address _____
(Street) (City/State) (Zip+4)

SSN _____ DOB _____ Telephone _____ Chapter _____ E-mail _____
(Mo/Day/Yr) (i.e., OK-2)

Next of Kin _____
(Name) (Relationship)

Address _____
(Street) (City/State) (Zip+4)

Dues include "Nouncements and the membership Directory. (Check one box) ☐ 1 Year...\$15 ☐ 2 Years...\$25

Life (Pro-rated by age): ☐ 30 & Under...\$220 ☐ 31-45...\$190 ☐ 46-60...\$155 ☐ 61 & Over...\$120

Enclosed Dues \$ _____ Enrolled by (if applicable) _____

"I certify that I am now serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, regular or reserve components.

Signature _____ Date: _____

make check payable to WMA and mail with application to: Women Marines Association
P.O. Box 8405
Falls Church, VA 22041-8405



Address Service Requested

Women Marines Association
P.O. Box 8405
Falls Church, VA 22041-8405