



69th Anniversary Celebration of Women Marines

Women Marines of all generations gathered together 13 February at Parris Island to celebrate the 69th anniversary celebration of women in the Marine Corps. The celebration, hosted by 4th Recruit Training Battalion, brought together over 250 women Marines in an emotional, motivating journey that looked back upon where women in the Marine Corps have been, where they are now, and what awaits them in the future.

Beginning with morning colors at the 4th RTBN complex and culminating in a dinner banquet at the Lyceum, the day was filled with tours, demonstrations, briefings, time to reminisce, and oral history recordings.

In her speech at the opening ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Maria Marte, Commanding Officer, 4th RTBN, reminded those gathered to celebrate that while 13 February, 1943 was the day that the Marine Corps Reserve was formed, women had also served in the Marine Corps during World War I.

"As each generation have taken their turn to serve, they have broadened the scope of their role within the Marine Corps," LtCol Marte said.

She went on later in her speech to say that the opportunity that is granted to women Marines of today cannot be appreciated unless it is clear how those opportunities came about.

"The status that women Marines enjoy today is the result of a long, slow process that was tenaciously carved out by the outstanding efforts of thousands of women," said LtCol Marte.

At the end of the opening ceremony, a commemoration marker was unveiled for historic Building 903, which is the last building standing of the first women Marine complex built on Parris Island during World War II. Rhonda Amtower, President of the Women Marines Association,



WMA President Rhonda LeBrescu-Amtower spoke at the ceremony dedicating Building 903.

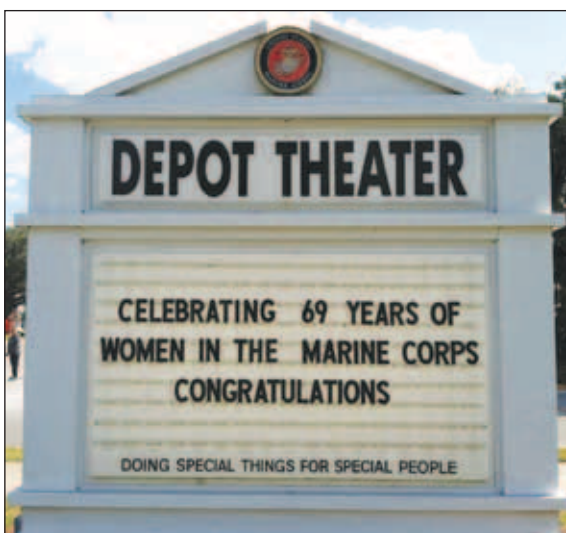
presented the marker on behalf of WMA. Speaking to the multitude of Marines gathered in the courtyard, Rhonda explained how the idea for the marker had come about through one WMA member's memories of being housed there as a recruit in 1978. To honor that memory and many others from the first women Marine complex, WMA contributed the marker to preserve yet another link in women Marine history. The marker will be placed in the main foyer of Building 903, which is currently headquarters for the 6th Marine Recruiting District.

*A look back upon
where women in the Marine
Corps have been, where
they are now, and what
awaits them in the future.*

Guests at the celebration were divided up into tour groups that were escorted throughout the day to the various events. Women Marines returning to Parris Island after years away from active duty were able to see first hand the opportunities for women today for which they helped pave the way for.

At a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) demonstration, women were able to watch active duty women instructors demonstrate lessons in basic martial arts that would have been closed to them years ago.

Women drill instructors, wearing the infamous DI smokey cover that women DI's were not allowed to wear before 1996, gave a screaming demonstration of "introducing" themselves to a new platoon using guests as volunteers to be their recruits. (Continued on page 4)





Editor's Note

Taking a Look Back, and Planning Ahead

By now, I am sure many of you are aware that Loyal Escorts President, John Holvoet, passed away in March. My Loyal Escort (Howard) and I would like to send our condolences to the Holvoet family. I remember John trying to “recruit” Howard at the Denver convention. He declined, only to join a few months later. John was probably the most dependable and punctual person when it came to meeting *Nouncements* deadlines. I could always count on his column being in my inbox a couple of weeks before the deadline. If I ever had any questions about anything, he'd send me a timely response via email. Our organization has truly lost a great man.

In February we celebrated the 69th Anniversary of the USMCWR, and many of you made the trip to Parris Island for the “official” celebration. Corrina Martell, Member at Large, from Massachusetts, has written two articles centered around anniversary events for this issue of *Nouncements*. Corrina

joined the Marine Corps in 1978 and is a former print journalist who was stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. In 1982, she was a recipient of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association's Distinguished Performance Award for best feature story. I have asked for volunteers to help with *Nouncements* on



Corrina Martell and WMA President Rhonda LeBrescu-Amtower at the ceremony dedicating Building 903 at Parris Island.

a few occasions. Corrina came to me with two stories, and had a “What else can I do?” attitude. She could not have come at a better time. I am currently recovering from surgery and I do not know what I would have done without her. She proofed, rewrote, and revised like it was nothing! Thank you, Corrina, and welcome aboard!

The next deadline for submissions is 1 June. It is critical that all members have a copy of the next issue in hand 45 days prior to convention, so that we can vote on any bylaws or standing rules changes while we are in Philadelphia. We do not have any wiggle room with this date, so please get your submissions in on time. If you are sending your Chapter Clipping to me in the mail, please provide me with a phone number so I can reach you if I have any questions. The final deadline of the year will be 1 October.

Wanda Antoine



“Where it all Began”

27th Biennial Convention & Professional Development Conference
31 August to 4 September 2012
Philadelphia, PA • Join Us!

WMA's Women of the Corps Collection (WOCC) Update



Before I begin the subject of my column, I must first pay a special tribute to John Holvoet, President of the Loyal Escorts, who passed away suddenly last March. John has been a part of WMA for many years, not only as a Loyal Escort, but he also provided his technical expertise as he served as our civilian Administrative Support Contractor (ASC). John was a big man; big of heart, soul, loyalty, and love for his family and friends. We will miss him, and send our sympathies to his family--especially his wife Doris Bell, a WMA Life Member, and to Erin Holvoet, our current ASC and John's daughter-in-law. I would like to thank Don Cannon and Ken Cross for stepping up to help fill the void of John's absence.

I want to focus my column in this issue with an update on the Women of the Corps Collection (WOCC). As I reported in the June 2011 issue of *Nouncements*, the ownership and management of the WOCC (commonly referred to as the Collection), was transferred to WMA National after it outgrew its status as a CO-1 Chapter project. Soon after WMA assumed its ownership responsibilities and the National Board of Directors (BOD) met in Philadelphia for the Interim Board Meeting to discuss this issue, we decided that additional assistance was needed to ensure the Collection's preservation and future growth. As a result WMA and the Women of the Corps Foundation (WCF), which was established to assist in the support of the Collection and has provided significant financial support

over the past few years, entered into an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that delineates the shared roles and responsibilities between our two organizations as it relates to the Collection.

In summary the MOU addresses the following major points:

- WMA retains ownership of the Collection and provides funding for expenses for any exhibits of The Collection at the Modern Day Marine Expo (WMA Booth), WMA Conferences and Conventions and any other WMA sponsored venue. Should WCF be requested to provide support, WMA and WCF shall agree to the level of effort and expense in advance of each event.
- WCF will manage the Collection including financial and operational support, as well as onsite control. WCF's funding support includes expenses for storage, storage security, insurance as well as archival preservation along with preparation for and execution of displays of the Collection except those for which WMA is responsible as described above.
- WCF will coordinate with WMA on any operational support requirements. These requests will be evaluated by the Curator as the WMA representative who will make approval/disapproval recommendations to the WMA 2nd Vice President who acts as the liaison to the National Board of Directors.
- When requests for temporary loans or displays are received, the requestor should fund the display delivery, return and restoration to the Collection. If the requestor cannot fund the request or by policy cannot fund the request, the WMA Curator and WCF will determine if this is a worthy loan and how it will be funded. All requests will go through

the Curator of the Collection to determine practicality, feasibility, and protection of the Collection. If it is to be funded by WMA, the WMA 2nd Vice President will be asked to concur prior to any commitment.

- Both WMA and WCF will promote monetary donations in support of our respective funding responsibilities as summarized above. Any monetary donations received by WMA earmarked for The Collection will be used to support The Collection.

If you want to help support the Collection to ensure its preservation and future growth you can donate to either WMA or WCF. Please note that both WMA and WCF are 501 © 3 non-profit organizations and your donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

The Collection is a unique and important part of our history that deserves and needs your support. I encourage everyone, whether it is at the chapter level or individually, to donate to this wonderful cause. If you want to donate through WMA, you can do so by sending your donation specifically earmarked for the WOCC to WMA P.O. Box 377, Oaks, PA 19456-0377. If you want to donate through WCF please send your donation to: 3578 Hartsel Drive Ste E-175, Colorado Springs CO 80920.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Sara Phoenix, the current President of the WCF, for all of her dedicated efforts in the establishment of the WCF and to its continual support of the Collection on behalf of WMA. We look forward to a productive and successful relationship in support of WMA's Women of the Corps Collection.

Semper Fidelis,

Rhonda LeBrescu Amtower

1st Vice President's Message: Hope to See You in Philly!



I hope everyone is making plans for the WMA 2012 Convention in Philadelphia, PA. Though it no longer exists, Tun Tavern was near the convention hotel and there is a Historic Mark-

er. History is all around the hotel and I hope you take some time to visit these areas; they are in walking distance, but be careful, the cobblestone streets will give you a work out. Months before the convention, many chapters will elect new officers. Serving as a chapter officer can be a challenge; there may be

many obligations for your time and money. For those of you who have been a chapter officer, I want to give you a special recognition and thank you for your service. To our new officers, welcome! Each of our WMA chapters is special and it is our chapter members who make them unique. (Continued)

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WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

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Deadline for materials for next issue:

1 June 2012

Please send all materials for 'Nouncements to the Editor:

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1st Vice President's Message

I encourage each of you to work to preserve your history and traditions. Keep your chapters active and motivated. And, don't neglect the chapter business. If you are a new chapter president don't forget to appoint an audit committee to review the chapter accounts.

It is time for chapters to be planning their entries in the Recognition and Awards. There are a lot of ways to win! History! Membership! Chapter Activities! Get busy and let the rest of WMA know about your chapter.

Convention is also an opportunity to join the WMA PX. If your chapter has any fund raising projects, the PX may be the place to get the attention of WMA

shoppers. It is another great place to meet other members and chapters. If you need a new WMA shirt, necklace, notecards, or shopping bags the WMA PX will meet your needs.

Sometimes as chapter officers it is difficult to make the hard decision. If your chapter is no longer viable, look at the options. Talk with the Area Director; invite her for a visit. Ask for help from the WMA PRO and Membership Secretary; they are tasked with assisting chapters who need help staying active. If after six months, there has been no growth in the chapter, talk with the Area Director about the steps necessary to disband a chapter. Just as the WMA

Board approves all chapters formed, the board also approves all chapters disbanded. Like the shifts in population of our country, chapters will have growth cycles. When a chapter no longer has a supporting membership base, be a good leader and make the difficult decision to disband the chapter. Disbanding a chapter is not a failure; it is recognition that the chapter members can no longer support the chapter.

Congratulations to all of our chapter officers on your new term. I hope to see all of you in Philadelphia. Semper Fi,

Judy Anderson

Paving the Way...

As we move forward towards the 2012 Convention, we know that it takes more than good intentions to make everything a huge success. We are confident that with the support of our members we will be able to do just that.

Since cupcakes and goodies are hard to mail, raffle tickets can't be done and going door to door is out of the question we thought we'd give everyone a chance to buy a "paver".

With the purchase of this paver you can have it "engraved" with your name, a welcome, in honor or memory or your heart's desire. Keep in mind that it must fit into a 3x5 size "paver".

These pavers will be displayed all during the convention as a reminder of the strong foundation that supports WMA and the convention.

Help us pave the way to Philadelphia! They are \$35 each or 2 for \$50. Make out and mail your check to: **Women Marines Association Convention 2012, P.O. Box 261, Eatontown, New Jersey 07724**

**The paver is a 3x5 printed card that will be displayed during convention on our "Walk of Fame" for all to see and read.*

Paver Order Form

HONORING ALL
WOMEN VETERANS

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Inscription: _____

Introducing The Women of the Corps Foundation

The Women of the Corps Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)3 corporation designed to support the preservation of woman Marine history. Our primary mission is to raise funds to maintain and improve the Women of the Corps Collection owned by WMA.

In the past we have provided considerable funding for the collection to purchase, dry clean and preserve items in the collection. We have also provided

funding for other needs of the collection.

Most recently we have been in discussions with WMA to create an official agreement of this relationship and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between us. WCF is proud to be in cooperation with WMA to ensure the Women of the Corps Collection is adequately supported.

If you would like to donate to the WCF

send your checks to:

WCF 3578 Hartsel Dr. Suite 175
Colorado Springs CO 80920

Donation of uniforms and artifacts should be sent directly to the collection:

Nancy Wilt
7679 Berkshire Lane
Castle Rock, CO 80108.

The WCF looks forward to a positive and productive relationship with WMA.

Sara Phoenix

69th Anniversary Celebration of Women Marines (Continued)

Sergeant Major Robin Fortner, Sgt-Maj, 4thRTBN, briefed women on the changes and progress women have made in the Marine Corps since World War I, and opened up the floor to hear what the women had to say about what they remembered from the time era in which they served. She encouraged them to share their memories in oral histories that were being recorded that day. Future opportunities for women in the Marine Corps were also discussed, including a briefing on Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) which is now open to women.

A time capsule with memorabilia from various times of service was filled and buried at 4th RTBN complex. A WMA 50th Anniversary Coin, post card and WMA brochure with a membership application was included in the time capsule that will be unveiled again at the 80th anniversary celebration.

The celebration culminated in the evening with an elaborate dinner banquet

at the Lyceum on Parris Island. Esprit de Corps ran high as women Marines mingled and enjoyed the evening. Barbara Blount, who enlisted in 1950, and Private First Class Abigail Day, who enlisted in June of 2011, represented the oldest and newest women Marines present for the cake cutting ceremony.

Guests were honored by the attendance of Brigadier General Lori Reynolds, Commanding General, Eastern Recruiting Region, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, who gave a moving speech to the proud and motivated women.

"It occurs to me each time I hear some of your stories that the only reason I am standing here tonight is because so many of you stood in formations in years past. You fought for the opportunities that my peers took advantage of," said BGen Reynolds.

Women Marines listened intently as BGen Reynolds described some of her own experiences and the persistent pro-

fessionalism of women in the Marine Corps.

"Ladies and gentlemen, there is no dispute that women Marines have distinguished themselves in the past ten years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan," BGen Reynolds said. "They have gone when called and served in places not thought possible 69 years ago.....They carried their own pack. You all would have been tremendously proud of them."

For the many women Marines who traveled miles to come home to Parris Island where it had all began, the celebration left them with a renewed pride in who they are and what they are a part of. True to the highest standards and traditions of the United States Marine Corps, 4thRTBN delivered an outstanding anniversary celebration for women Marines that will not soon be forgotten.

Corrina Martell

Photos by Corrina Martell, Debra Drummond, and Ellen DePatie

Women Marines Association Announces Educational Essay Contest

The Marine Corps Association, in coordination with the Women Marines Association (WMA), is looking for military personnel - active duty, retired, Reserve or veterans - and civilians employed by the Department of Defense- to enter an educational essay contest.

The essay must pertain to women in the Marine Corps, and should be no longer than 2,000 words. Submission constitutes the author's permission to publish; however, there is no commit-

ment that the winning article will be published.

First prize is \$500, a Life membership in WMA or a Life membership in the Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter (WMA Auxiliary), as appropriate, and a one-year membership in MCA. Second Prize is \$250, a two-year membership in WMA or a two-year membership in the Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter and a one-year membership in MCA.

Entries must be received no later than

July 15, 2012. E-mail entries to souscan1@aol.com, or mail them to WMA Essay Contest, Essay Program Coordinator, 7342 Dartford Dr #1, McLean, VA 22102 Attn: CWO4 Eileen Scanlon, USMC (Ret). Mailed entries must be in CD format in Microsoft Word.

WMA will announce the winners in conjunction with the 27th Biennial National Convention and Professional Development Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia August 31-September 4, 2012.



Molly Marine Award Recipients

Recipients from Series 4010 who were awarded 12 April are Pfc Sarah Decker, of Allenwood New Jersey, and Pfc Kelly Youngblood of Millbrae, California.

Name Change Approved for Online Chapter

We are extremely excited to announce that thanks to the support of the Board of Directors and assistance of our Facebook friends, the Iraqi Lioness Chapter's name change has been approved as well as bylaws to make this an online chapter. We are now the ***Women of War Chapter***, encompassing all women who have served in a combat zone, even back to Vietnam! Since we are revising this chapter, here is some history:

The Iraqi Lioness Chapter of the Women Marines Association was established in June 2006 (OIF 05-06) by a small group of both officer and enlisted Marines; predominantly from 9th Communications Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), aboard Camp Fallujah, Iraq.

A few Marines who assisted in establishing this Chapter participated in the Operation Iraqi Lioness program

in which they spent approximately six weeks at the Syrian Border to search Iraqi Women. As a tribute to the Marines who served as Lioness and to associate the name with part of our history, this Chapter was named after the Lioness Program.

Throughout 2011, a group of Marines from Headquarters Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force formed a group as a part of this chapter while deployed to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. We had to do something about the perception of this chapter being that membership was only open to those who served as a part of the Lioness program and also expand our membership since our departure from Iraq. Since there are many women Marines who have served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and many more who have served in combat zones in the past, it only made sense to have

one chapter open to all women Marines who have that common bond and experience. Iraqi Lioness will not be forgotten.

We will have albums and forums based on location for historic purposes and to assist our sisters who served together in linking up.

The mission of our Chapter is to preserve and promote the history and traditions of women Marines; to foster, encourage, and perpetuate the spirit of comradeship among women in the Marine Corps; to support professional development, mentorship, and provide a support community for deployed Marines; and capture history as we make it.

We may also be found on Facebook (WomenofWar).

Jeanine Cressman

Members Encouraged to Assist VAVS, Assist Our Veterans

WMA encourages you to volunteer at your local veteran's facility. This can be as an occasional visitor or a registered volunteer with a regular assignment.

Our status with the VA has changed at the national level. WMA is no longer a member of the Dept of VA National Advisory Committee.

This does not affect individual participation at local facility. Our repre-

sentatives and deputies may remain as part of the committee and continue to recruit and encourage volunteering at their local facility.

Associate membership requires a minimum of 15 certified representatives. We have never met that requirement as long as I have been the National VAVS Representative. We have never had more than 12 Certified Reps. We were allowed to remain as honorary associ-

ate members for two years, however as of January 2012, we are no longer on the National Advisory Committee.

If we are able to increase the number of representatives to 15, and increase the number of volunteers with regular assignments, we may request to be re-appointed.

Kay Kroll

Taps

"If the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines." (Third stanza of the Marines Hymn)

Each in your own way, please take a moment to remember our departed sister Marines who have taken leave of this life to fulfill heaven's ranks. May their souls and those of all our departed members rest in peace.

Life Members

Auchenbach-Casmus, Betty J.	MAL PA	2/14/12	2052
Duge, Mae Pearl (Sande)	MAL AZ	1/11/12	2090
Green, Marion Alice	MAL NY	8/1/06	1861
Haliscak, Coletta M.	DC-1	2/17/12	519
Hartnett, Joan A. (Huitt)	MAL NE	1/7/12	937
Healey, Regina M. (Schnepf)	NY-3	12/27/11	84
Henneforth, Mary E.	MAL PA	6/3/11	2766
Jones, Vera M.	WA-1	3/2/12	1160
King, Caryn	CA-6	1/27/12	2417
Marlin, Marcia A.	MAL MI	10/25/11	763
Medin, Bonnie (Smallwood)	USA-1	3/21/12	187
Meyer, Leontene "Lee"	MO-1	3/20/12	701
Tremblay, Patricia (Donahue)	MAL MA	9/25/11	2321
Van Oosterwyk, Jeanette (Robinson)	MAL MI	11/26/11	1574
Wall, Kathleen Deanne (Kuks)	CA-10	2/23/12	724
White, Barbara	MAL NY	12/29/11	2255

Term Members

McNamara, Florence A.	FL-6	9/5/07	
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Membership No.

Deadline for Submissions, 1 June

National Service Award Nominations

As we approach our Biennial Convention and Professional Development Conference, it is time to consider nominations for the National Service Award. Authorization of this award was granted to procure appropriate recognition for individuals making significant contributions to the National Association by implementing the objectives of WMA.

Any WMA member can nominate an individual for the award but it must be submitted for consideration and approval by the National Board of Directors through a member of the National Board. (National Board members include President, 1st/2nd/3rd/ Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and all 10 Area Directors. The proposal must be in writing and must contain the rationale and justification for the proposal. It is im-

portant to remember that if you propose a nominee for this award, you need to make strong, clear reasoning and justification since this proposal will be what the Board of Directors will base their voting upon. The proposal must also contain the wording that will be read to the convention delegates and guests at the time of the presentation.

Criteria for the award include:

- Nominees should have contributed significantly to the achievement of the WMA national purposes. Awards should not be authorized simply for performance of duties expected. This would apply to elected or appointed officers. An exception might be made for dedication above and beyond the call of duty. It is important to remember that this is the highest award that is given by our association and it should be pre-

served and not diluted in any way.

- An individual cannot receive more than one National Service Award for the same service. They may be nominated again for different reasons.
- No more than three (3) National Service Awards are to be awarded at a convention. If the board decides that NO applicant fulfills the high standards of this award, then no award need be given.
- A non-member may be nominated for this award if their service is recognized as meeting the criteria for the National Service Award.

Please submit your nominations through any one on the Board of Directors no later than 1 June for consideration. The award(s) will be presented to the selected recipients at the Opening Ceremony at the Convention in Philadelphia.

CASH Door Prizes Continue for 2012 Convention

The Denver 2010 Convention brought about a change in the door prizes from wonderful baskets to even more wonderful cash. The change was a great success as winners did not have to worry about packing the basket and items. Instead they simply saved the cash for a rainy day or more often “reinvested” it on the spot at the convention PX or on a round at the convention’s Tun Tavern.

Based on the 2010 success with cash door prizes, the 2012 Convention will be doing the same. Of course to continue the cash door prize success requires CASH and the creatively designed presentation envelopes! This is the call for WMA chapters to budget funds for one or more cash door prizes of \$25.00 each and to begin designing your envelopes. Envelopes should identify the chapter and reflect the 2012 convention theme of “Where It All Began”. Each WMA chapter is asked to contribute one envelope and

\$25 to continue the success of the cash door prizes. Monetary contributions from Members at Large and Loyal Escorts are also welcome along with your creatively designed envelopes. A spe-

*Envelopes should
identify the chapter
and reflect the 2012
convention theme of
“Where It All Began”*

cial gift will again be awarded to the chapter or individual whose envelope is judged as Best Envelope.

The success of the cash door prizes is obviously dependent on the amount of contributions. Cash door prizes will

be given at every event on the convention schedule and with sufficient contributions, multiple cash door prizes will be given at individual convention events. Help to make the cash door prizes another fun and rewarding part of the 2012 Convention by sending your check and envelope(s) to:

WMA 2012 Door Prizes
6715 Monarch Park Drive, Apollo Beach, FL 33572.

Make checks payable to: WMA 2012 with a notation “Door prize” at the bottom of the check.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Potthoff at “mailto:kpottthof@aol.com” or reach her by phone at 813-318-2721.

Women Marine History Keeps on Growing

Historians take another look at Sergeant Opha Johnson, USMCR (W), WWI



Recently, the curator of the Women of the Corps Collection (WOCC) was contacted by Marine Corps History Division historians who were attempting to verify the spelling of the middle name of Sgt. Opha Jacob

Johnson, the first woman sworn into the Marine Corps.

Something or someone had triggered the search for the accurate spelling of her middle name.

Hundreds of historical references spell her middle name as Mae, as had History Division HQMC. Our WOCC records and published references of her also spelled her middle name as Mae. Finally, it was decided that a trip to the St. Louis, MO, Military Records Repository would be made by the History Division historian.

After reviewing the original enlistment document it was discovered her middle name was spelled *May* and not Mae.

Historical photos of Opha May in uniform have always shown her appearing much older than most recruits. According to her enlistment document, Opha was born in 1878 which would have made her 40 years old at the time of her enlistment in 1918. (Women enlistment ages in WWI were 20-50 years of age).

A 1918 news article the WOCC curator had located just a month prior to this search stated Opha was married to a Mr. Victor Johnson of Washington DC at the time of her enlistment. The article indicated she was a civilian employee of the Marine Corps working for the Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps prior to her enlistment. {The Evening Independent, Massillon, Ohio dated September 26, 1918.}

Unique Historical Collection

The WMA website was contacted re-

cently by a former Navy Corpsman with the VFW in Palm City, Florida who was looking for contact data on the WOCC. The WOCC curator made contact with the VFW and an envelope, holding a new collection, was quickly winging its way to the WOCC.

When it arrived the envelope contained a very small collection; A WMA hat shaped pin, a women Marine civilian style pin and one WWII collar emblem. Documents included a WWII quality of service card signed by Lt. AE Noble, USMCWR, 3 Garden State NJ-1 chapter membership cards, a WMA life member card and a brief investigative note from a police officer.

The original owner was Katherine Marie McCarthy, #772347, who served honorably from Sept 5, 1944 until May 3, 1946. She joined WMA in the early years with life member #459. She was associated with NJ-1 Garden State Chapter until December 2001 according to her last Chapter membership card. No record of her still exists in WMA active files

The Cobb County, Georgia sheriff's investigation comments were limited; the note indicated Katherine Manning is deceased and provided us with an investigator's name, phone number and email. The WOCC has made contact with the investigator for any other information on Katherine or family that they can provide.

A collection is being opened in Katherine's name and will contain the info and memorabilia we have to date and we ask if you knew Katherine McCarthy Manning while serving in the Marine Corps, or in WMA, you call or send a note or email telling us more about her and her Marine service. (The curators contact data is Nancy Wilt, 303-663-3747 or niwilt@aol.com)

VUMS (Volunteer Underage Military Service)

An unusual name for a very special military organization whose membership were all underage at the time of their enlistments during WWII, then a clear violation of Federal law. These men and women joined at the ages of 13 thru 18 years, filled with a fire to serve

their nation in a time of war. Many VUMS members both male and female, went on to 30 year careers in their respective services, and while an amnesty, of sorts, was given after Korea, few with military pensions want their names known to this day. The book, "America's Youngest Women Warriors", edited by Dorothy Hinson Brandt and directed our way by Carol Mutter, tells the stories of 24 women representing all the WWII women branches. The book contains the stories of two women Marines. Marine Lela Downey Watson tells in detail the products used to erase her original birth certificate birthdate and the typewriter needed to change the date on the document and look official. It's quite a story. Leave it to a Marine to provide the specific techniques and equipment used to bypass Federal law.

Books may be ordered through Wise Publications Printing, Custom Book Manufacturing, 809 East Napoleon, Sulphur, LA 70663 or 337-527-8308 or at lwise73956@aol.com with an alternate email of www.wisepublications.biz.

Success at Parris Island on the 69th Anniversary

Two exhibits were provided by the WOCC for the anniversary celebrations at MCRD Parris Island this past 13 February. Flying to Colorado to hand select the items from the WOCC they wished to exhibit, were LtCol Maria Marte, CO, and SgtMaj Robin Fortner of PI's 4th Recruit Training Battalion.

They chose nearly 100 items from the WOCC for exhibit. The uniforms of WWI, WWII and into Korea as well as smaller items were exhibited with great success.

Parts of this exhibit will remain on display until late June of this year. Representing WMA was National President Rhonda Amtower and many other women.

Some 320 people attended the gala evening banquet after a day filled with the exhibit; the unveiling of a WMA sponsored plaque and many hours of camaraderie between WMs of many generations.

(Continued)

Our second PI exhibit on 13 February was done in Bldg. 903, the current home of the 6th Recruiting District for the Marine Corps. MSgt Ramon Gallimore led the development of this exhibit on women and it was a huge success. The WOCC provided a WWII uniform with accessories, some WWII recruiting art and all the information requested by MSgt Gallimore. MSgt Gallimore was honored 21 April at the Marine Corps Heritage Dinner at the National Museum of the Marine Corps for his award winning exhibit. The WOCC curator and other WMA members were in the audience to cheer him on for his efforts involving the Women of the Corps.

What an Obituary or Memorial Services Booklet Can Mean To Our History

No one likes to dwell on the loss of family or friends, but thankfully, many save the memorial service book and the obituary as a final keepsake of those that they have lost. The WOCC is seeking copies of these items on women Marines that maybe in your possession. When you share these documents with

the WOCC, a collection will be opened of this Marine life and service. Once the collection is opened it becomes part of the Women of the Corps Collection (WOCC), the largest collection known to focus on the service of women Marines.

This simple act of sharing will preserve a Marines' history and existence for generations to come and will be used to tell the story of the woman who earned the title Marine.

Of great importance is that the information received can be used to assist families in the future to locate these Marines and their stories as well as museums and archives, nationwide.

So please help our efforts and share the treasures that you have on your women Marine friends. Copies of the original documents can be used so that you may retain the originals.

The curators contact information is listed below. Help us save the stories and knowledge of as many women Marines as possible.

The Women Marine Band

The recent passing of Bonnie Medin reminded me of a long overdue thank

you to Susan Bassiri, daughter of band leader Charlotte Plummer, who took the time and put forth months of effort to provide the WOCC a complete history of the famous WWII band, its members, performances and music. The Bassiri book, along with the book by Bonnie Medin and Ellen Stone, *"Musical Women Marines; The Marine Corps Women Reserve Band in WWII"*, provide us with in depth knowledge and a delightful look at this unique organization.

Collection Needs

The WOCC is still seeking WWII hoisery, a tube of Montezuma Red Lipstick, WWII base booklets, maps and barracks photos as well as holiday mess menu's and command greeting cards, dance cards, movie schedules and ration books or coupons. Uniforms and accessories (shoes and footwear, handbags and covers) of every era are needed. Shoes of the WWII through the Korea era are of special interest at this time to the WOCC.

*Nancy Wilt, Curator, Historian,
Women of the Corps Collection*

2012 Hamblet Award Winner Announced

It is a great pleasure to announce that Lieutenant General Carol Mutter, USMC (Ret) is this year's winner of the prestigious Hamblet Award. The Hamblet Award is awarded yearly to the individual or group for their efforts in actively preserving the history of Women Marines. The Award was presented at the 2012 Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Dinner on 21 April, held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

General Mutter is credited through personal efforts of "kick-starting" a variety of historical programs that continue today, during her two terms as President of the Women Marines Association. The General's support of WMA's number one purpose "to preserve and promote Women Marine history" has led to the development of the following historical programs and positions.

- WMA's Oral History Program that interfaces with other national oral history programs.
- Enhanced the WMA historian position
- Created the position of History Committee Chair
- Supported the development of the Women of the Corps Collection and has watched and aided its growth in prominence in the historical community.
- The Hamblet Award was implemented as a cooperative effort with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. General Mutter and WMA President Lou Teixeira jointly developed this Award and supporting program.
- Provided personal rapid response financial support when invaluable artifacts have been in eminent danger of being lost.
- Indirectly, the General's historical ef-

forts lead to the creation of the Women of the Corps Foundation, whose purpose is to provide financial support for the Women of the Corps Collection.

• General Mutter's continual personal support of those individuals working to preserve women Marine history that is invaluable to their efforts.

For these reasons, General Mutter has been awarded this prestigious award. Congratulations, General from all of WMA.

Past Hamblet Award Winners

2006	Margaret Brewer
2007	Eleanor Wilson
2008	Sue Sousa
2009	Mary Bacon Hale
2010	Nancy Wilt
2011	Linda Lacy

*Submitted by
Nancy Wilt*

PHILADELPHIA 2012: "WHERE IT ALL BEGAN"

Not Just a Convention, but a Professional Development Conference, Too!

Twelve years ago, when we gathered for convention in Washington, D.C., there was a decidedly different flavor to the gathering. We actively sought to have lots of active duty women Marines in attendance, and our efforts were rewarded. That began our expanded convention emphasis: a leadership and professional development component at each biennial convention.

This year in Philadelphia, we hope that our workshops will be educational, inspiring, and also fun. While active duty members who are sent to convention by the Marine Corps are required to

attend all the workshops, the Convention Committee has tried to make each workshop something that appeals to the entire spectrum of our membership.

In addition to the always well-attended Veterans Administration presentation, which includes new information about veterans benefits and programs that are available for all members of WMA, we will have panels this year that include three women who have been engaged in the Female Engagement Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan and three women Marines who are authors and will be talking about their respective books.

Our 4th panel will focus on mentoring and ways to be successful in and out of the Marine Corps, led by Kathleen Carroll who has made a successful transition from the Corps to a corporate job with one of the largest and most well known companies in America, Amazon. Joining Kathleen will be one of our returning panelists, Vernice Armour, whose energy and enthusiasm has motivated us at conventions past.

Check the 2012 Convention schedule (included in this issue) and make sure all four of the workshops are on your schedule. See you in Philly!!

Reserve Your Table Spaces for Philadelphia Patriot's PX 2012

The *Patriots PX* will be a great place to show off your chapter wares and earn a bit of cash to fill your coffers. We invite you to bring your enticing goods and lead the charge on your chapter path to financial security.

Table cost is \$25 per table. Make your checks payable to Women Marines Association and mail to: **Women Marines Association Convention 2012. Atten: Patriot PX, Box 261, Eatontown, NJ 07724**

Patriot's PX 2012

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Items to be sold: _____



2012 Convention Roommate Request

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

1. Are you a smoker? Y N

2. Early riser? Y N

3. Night Owl? Y N

4. Need more than 20 min. in the bathroom to be ready for the day? Y N

5. Prefer to sleep in a very cool room (68° or less)? Y N

6. Do you have an age preference for a roommate? Y N

• If yes, then age range: _____

7. Room Preference: 2 per room _____ 4 per room _____

Please fill out form and return to:
EileenSRN@aim.com

Or mail to:

Eileen Skahill
32 McClurg St.
Westfield, NY 14787

Recognition & Awards: 2012-WMA Convention-Philadelphia, PA

All chapters, large and small, are *strongly* encouraged to enter the awards competition.

There are five categories of awards: Newsletter Competition, History Book, Website, Recruiting Award and Chapter Achievement Projects. There is a separate grand prize award (for overall outstanding chapter achievement) called the Ruth & Dick Broe Award. The Newsletter, History and Website Awards receive a perpetual plaque held until the next convention when it will be exchanged for an individually inscribed award plaque. The Recruiting Award is a monetary award along with a chapter streamer in appropriate categories.

The rules and prizes are detailed below. I'd like to take the time to thank you for all the energy and cooperation you are about to put into the creation of such wonderful entries.

Newsletter – 3 Awards (1st, 2nd & 3rd Place)

Purpose: To inform & stimulate interest in improving communications within and among chapters of the Women Marines Association.

SUBMIT: One copy each of two (2) issues created since the last convention.

Pages: No restrictions (brevity should be considered where appropriate). Newsletter will be judged on the following format and contents:

CONTENTS

Identification –

WMA chapter, number, date, volume number, issue number, editor name, address and phone number. Also, list each chapter officer.

Masthead: artistic, attractive and original. State number of newsletters issued during period.

Story Types –

Contributor – number of articles that have bylines.

WMA national news – not extensive – something to keep members current on national.

Personalities: Biography of members.

Local chapter news – community involvement, volunteer work, meetings, etc.

Personalize – Activities of members, trips, sick calls, etc.

Special events.

Layout – Arrangement of copy should be neat, readable, orderly with pictures identified. Graphics may be used. This does not have to be a slick ad agency presentation.

AWARDS

1ST Place: A perpetual plaque inscribed “*The Editor’s Award for Outstanding Chapter Newsletter*”, which is to be returned at the next convention. When returned, the Chapter editor will receive a small individual award plaque bearing the winner’s name and reading, “*Editor Award for Outstanding Chapter Newsletter*” with dates.

Chapter will also receive a streamer for their chapter colors and a certificate.

Plaque donated by Past National President Sue Sousa. Streamer donated by Loyal Esports of the Green Garter.

2nd & 3rd Place: A certificate is awarded to the chapter

JUDGING CRITERIA

Newsletter well documented;

Creative and attractive Masthead;

Number of articles with bylines;

WMA news for member information

Member profiles

Local chapter news, community involvement and volunteer work

Personalized activities of members, trips, sick calls, etc.....

Special events

History Book – 3 Awards (1st, 2nd & 3rd Place)

Purpose: History books tell the story of your chapter. They should contain photos, newspaper clippings, program books, chapter memorabilia and memories you wish to be documented. They should be informative, fun, enjoyable, attractive, meaningful, and interesting.

Period: Should cover the biennial between conventions. Two year period from fiscal of convention to end of fiscal year before convention (July 1st to June 30th). Example for convention 2012: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012.

SUBMIT: Send your history book – well packaged- to the address at the end of the page.

BOOK LAYOUT:

Chapter name and number on cover page.

Brief history of chapter’s beginning.

Table of Contents.

Identify chapter officers and members.

Chapter activities should be told in chronological order. All important events and programs held during the year by the chapter should be included. Examples of chapter activities may include newspaper articles, thank you letters, and activity programs and photographs. Only one book per chapter will be accepted for judging.

FORMAT:

Cover – Use 1 standard 3 ring binder for 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. Identification of chapter in a creative way is encouraged.

Name and address of compiler should be inside front cover/lower left hand corner.

Title page or cover page centered, double-spaced.

Table of Contents with page references.

Page numbering for content.

Articles and photos should have names, places and dates. Remember the “**Who, What, When, Where and Why**”. Blurry and foggy print will not enhance your finished product.

AWARDS

1ST Place: Chapter is awarded a perpetual plaque inscribed “*Outstanding Chapter*

History Book Award”, which is to be returned at the next convention. When returned, the chapter historian will receive a small individual award plaque bearing the winner’s name and reading “*Historian Award for Outstanding History Book*” with dates. The chapter will also receive a streamer for their chapter colors and a certificate.

2nd & 3rd Place: A certificate is awarded to the chapter.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Only **one book** will be judged per Chapter. Material should be enclosed in an attractive cover. Chapter should be properly identified and indexed.

Presentation and documentation (Make use of a descriptive brief of the project, such as newspaper clippings, photos, letters of thanks, etc.) Remember the “**Who, What, When, Where and Why**”.

Chapter member participation is important. The more members involved the better.

Cover the proper time frame.

Website Award - 3 Awards (1st, 2nd & 3rd Place)

Purpose: To inform members and recruit new members by showing the activities of local chapters.

To promote the goals of the Women Marines Association.

Period: Two year period from fiscal of convention to end of fiscal year before convention (July 1st to June 30th). Example for Convention 2012: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012.

Submit: Website address on application form. Identify chapter member webmaster.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The amount of local information.

Site design – how appealing is it? Does it catch your attention?

Appropriateness of the information: Does it meet the organization objectives?

How easy is it to navigate through the site?

Awards:

1st Place: Chapter is awarded a perpetual plaque inscribed “*Outstanding Chapter Website Award*”, which is to be returned at the next convention. When returned, the chapter webmaster will receive a small individual award plaque bearing the winner’s name and reading “*Outstanding Chapter Website Award*”, with dates. Chapter will also receive a streamer for their chapter colors and a certificate.

2nd & 3rd Place: A certificate is awarded to the chapter.

Recruiting Award - 3 Awards (1st, 2nd & 3rd Place)

Individual Award

This is awarded to the individual who recruits the most new WMA members during the contest period. Your name **MUST** appear on the application in the sections “*Enrolled By*” or “*How did you hear about WMA.*”

(Continued)

Recognition & Awards for 2012-WMA Convention-Philadelphia, PA

Entry forms *must* be postmarked on
or before 10 July 2012!

Recognition & Awards

Prizes

1st Place - \$250.00
2nd Place - \$100.00
3rd Place - \$ 50.00

Chapter Awards

This is awarded to the chapter that recruits the most new WMA chapter members during the contest.

Prizes

1st Place - \$250.00
2nd Place - \$100.00
3rd Place - \$50.00

Winners are also awarded a Certificate of Recognition and a streamer for Chapter Colors.

One award within each chapter size classes: (Class I: 5-20 members; Class II: 21-45 members; Class III: 46+ members)

Loyal Escorts

This is awarded to the chapter that recruits the most new Loyal Escort members during the contest period.

One award will be given within each chapter size class as noted above.

The affiliated chapter must appear on the application form in the section "*Sponsor Chapter Code.*"

Prize

Loyal Escort Recruitment Streamer for Chapter Colors

Area Director Award

For the most new WMA chapters organized within her assigned area during the contest period.

Prize

Special Pin and \$150.00 (To help supplement the AD's budget for the new chapter support).

Chapter Achievement – 27 Awards

Possible (1st, 2nd & 3rd place for each Class in each Category)

Period

Two year period from fiscal of convention to end of fiscal year before convention (July 1st to June 30th). Example for convention 2012: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012.

Entries

Chapters may enter any one or all of the categories for their class (*chapter size*)

**All Chapters,
Large and Small,
are encouraged
to compete!**

Entries in each class and category require separate binders and entry forms

Classes

Class 1 5 – 20 members in a chapter

Class 2 21 - 45 members in a chapter

Class 3 46+ members in a chapter

Categories

A. Fostering the spirit of comradeship of women who have served or now serve in the U. S. Marine Corps (regular or reserve), and sponsoring participating activities of a patriotic nature, particularly, those that perpetuate the traditions and esprit de corps of the U. S. Marine Corps.

B. Promoting activities that help community or charitable organizations function, such as office work, fund drives, volunteering, soliciting contributions, telethons and the like.

C. Activities that improve the comfort, convenience, education, and quality of life for elderly, disabled, needy, or active duty women Marines. Or, providing entertainment, care and assistance to hospitalized veterans and members of the armed forces of the United States.

The Ruth & Dick Broe Award for Overall Chapter Achievement

No separate entry is required for this award. This, the highest Overall Outstanding Chapter Achievement Award, is presented to the chapter who, in the opinion of the judges, has accomplished the most in keeping the objectives of the Women Ma-

rines Association as demonstrated by their entries in the above chapter achievement categories. It does not necessarily go to the chapter with the most awards. The *quality* of the project is the most important factor.

The chapter will be presented with a perpetual plaque inscribed "*Ruth & Dick Broe Overall Outstanding Chapter Achievement Award*", which is to be returned at the next convention. When returned, the chapter will receive a small individual award plaque reading, "*Ruth & Dick Broe Overall Outstanding Chapter Achievement Award*" and the dates. The Chapter will also receive a streamer for their chapter colors. The plaque is donated by Past National President Sue Sousa. The streamer is donated by Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter. This award is presented at the closing banquet.

DEADLINE for all awards entries: Postmarked on or before July 10, 2012.

Mail all entries to: Mary Ann Merritt Chairman, Recognition & Awards, 70274 Campground, Romeo, MI 48065

Enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard to be returned as a receipt.

The award selection committee will consist of people cognizant of the Women Marines Association objectives. They may or may not be WMA members. Awards in any or all of the categories may be withheld when, in the judgment of the committee, no entry in a category warrants recognition.

Constructive feedback will be given to each chapter who enters.

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL!

All entries will be displayed at the convention during the Recognition and Awards Banquet and for 1 hour afterward. Each chapter with a submission will be required to provide an escort for their entry during that time period. This escort will answer questions regarding their project as well as provide protection for their entry. The name(s) of the escort(s) should be submitted with the entry. Entries will only be released after the banquet to the chapter president or their designee.

2012 Recognition & Awards Official Entry Form

Philadelphia, PA

Submitter	Chapter Name and #
Address	City, State, Zip
Phone	Email
Type of Entry	Website URL
Category	Class
Person Assigned to accompany entry at R&A event	

Type of Entry (History Book, Newsletter, Chapter Achievement. If entry is Website enter web address)

Category and Class required for Chapter Achievement Entries

Brief Description of Entry _____

Date of Submission _____ Date Received by R&A Chair _____

DEADLINE for ALL awards entries:
MUST be postmarked on or before July 10, 2012

Mail all entries to:

Mary Ann Merritt, Chairman
Recognition & Awards
70274 Campground
Romeo, MI 48065

Enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard to be returned as a receipt.

For questions regarding awards please contact Mary Ann Merritt at
 "mailto:pro@womenmarines.org" pro@womenmarines.org

Rev 04/03/11

Getting to Where It All Began! Forward March to the Hyatt

From Philadelphia International Airport:

Taxi - \$28.50.

Lady Liberty Shuttle Service - \$11.00 per person. Proceed to a phone in baggage claim area and dial 27 for pickup for Ground Transportation. Van makes multiple stops, and runs every 20 minutes from 5:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. 215-724-8888

From Greyhound Bus Station:

Taxi - approximately \$6.00.

From Amtrak Train Station:(Located

at 30th St Station. 4 miles from hotel)

Taxi - approximately \$12.00 to \$15.00.

SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority)

There are three trains that run in the city, Orange, Blue and Green. The Orange Line runs north and south underneath Broad Street, one of the main thoroughfares in Philadelphia. The Blue Line runs east and west under Market Street, another thoroughfare. Orange and Blue Lines intersect one another at City Hall with a free interchange. The

Green Lines are mainly located in west Philly eventually turning into surface trolleys.

The closest stop to our Hyatt hotel near Philadelphia airport is at 2nd and Market Streets (Blue Line). This is only a five minute walk from our front door. One way fare for any of the trains through the city is \$2.00. Multiple tokens can be purchased at specified locations for a discounted price.

For more information please visit their website at www.septa.org.

27th Biennial Convention & Professional Development Conference Sponsorships

To BE a Sponsor: To sponsor an Active Duty Marine or WMA Marine Veteran please fill out the application below. This sponsorship includes Registration Fee of \$50.00 and admission/meals at the five (5) major events \$210. Recipients are responsible for transportation and hotel accommodations.

Full Sponsorship \$260.00	Number of Sponsorships	Active Duty	WMA Member	Total Enclosed

At this time I can't donate an entire sponsorship but I would like to donate \$_____ towards helping a Marine or Veteran to attend the 2012 WMA Convention.

I ____ would ____ would not like my Marine to know that I was their sponsor.

I would like to make a general donation to the WMA 2012 Convention to be used as needed. \$_____

Full Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Chapter _____

If enough monies are not raised to support an attendee, excess money will revert to the general convention account to support all efforts. Mail Completed form with payment to: Women Marines Association Attn: Registration Sponsorship P. O. Box 590, Romeo, MI 48065

To be completed by Registration Chair: Date Received _____ Registration Number _____

Registration Acknowledgement Sent On _____ Name of person(s) Sponsored _____

To be completed by Registration Chair: Date Received _____ Registration Number _____

Registration Acknowledgement Sent On _____ Name of person(s) Sponsored _____

For YOU To be Sponsored:

To be considered for a sponsorship you must be an Active Duty Marine or WMA Member in good standing. Financial need is a major consideration as is convention attendance. Please fill out the application below and send in. This sponsorship includes Registration Fee of \$50.00 and admission/meals at the five (5) major events \$210. Total Sponsorship is \$260 to be paid in the name of recipient.

Recipients are responsible for all transportation and hotel accommodations.

Full Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Chapter _____ First Time Attendee? __ Yes __ No If No, how many have you attended? ____

If Active Duty: Duty Base _____ Have you applied for TAD? _____

Reason you should be chosen: _____

Recipients will be chosen by the convention committee and all decisions will be final. Sponsorship has no cash value. Deadline for application is July 15, 2012. Notification will be made no later than August 1, 2012.

Women Marines Association

2012 Convention and Professional Development Conference

Schedule of Events • 30 August - 5 September 2012

Thursday Aug 30, 2012

1500-1800 Registration
1900-2100 Molly Marine Celebration

Friday Aug 31, 2012

0800-1700 Registration
0800-1200 2010-2012 WMA Board Meeting
0830-1200 2010-2012 Loyal Escorts Board Meeting
1000-1400 Patriots PX
1215-1245 Active Duty Orientation*
1300-1500 First Timers Meeting*
1530-1630 Flag Ceremony Rehearsal
1800-1900 No Host Reception
1900-2200 Opening Banquet

Saturday September 1, 2012

0800-1700 Registration
0900-1100 WMA Business Meeting # 1*
0900-1100 Loyal Escorts Business Meeting # 1
1130-1300 Welcome Home Warriors
1300-1800 Patriots PX
1400-1500 WS #1*
1530-1630 WS #2* Marines and the Female Engagement
Teams: Women Marines in Combat
1900-2300 Patriots Pub/Loyal Escorts Hospitality

Sunday September 2, 2012

0700-0800 2nd Annual Fun Run/Walk
0800-1600 Registration
0800-1200 Worship Time/Personal time
1100-1500 Patriots' PX
1130-1330 Outside Event/Tour
1400-1500 1st VP/Area Directors/Chapter Presidents+
1530-1700 WMA Memorial Service*
1900-2300 Patriots Pub/Loyal Escorts Hospitality

Monday September 3, 2012

0800-1600 Registration
0830-1030 WMA Business Meeting # 2*
0830-1030 Loyal Escorts Business Meeting # 2
1100-1200 WS #3 Telling Our Marine Corps Stories:
Women Marine Authors
1230-1500 Recognition and Awards Luncheon*
1530-1700 1st VP/Area Directors/Chapter Pres+
1600-1800 Patriots PX
1900-2300 Patriots Pub/Loyal Escorts Hospitality Suite

Tuesday September 4, 2012

0800-1600 Registration
0830-1030 WS #4 * Know What You Rate: Veterans
Benefits and Areas of Special Concern
1100-1200 Board of Directors Photo
1200-1400 Installation Luncheon*
1430-1630 2012-2014 WMA Board Training
1430-1630 2012-2014 Loyal Escort Board Meeting
1800-1900 No Host Reception
1900-2200 Closing Banquet

Wednesday September 5, 2012

0800-1200 2010 -2012 WMA Board Meeting

* Mandatory Events/Workshops (WS) for Active Duty:

- Active Duty Orientation
- First Timers Meeting
- Workshops 1-4
- WMA Business Meetings 1 & 2
- WMA Memorial Service

+ Denotes mandatory for Area Directors and Chapter Presidents

*Denotes mandatory for Active Duty

37th Floor, Pyramid Peaks:

WMA business Meetings
Memorial Service
USO Hospitality Suite

2012 WMA Convention Program Booklet Ad and Event Sponsor Information

Dear Military and Veteran Supporter,

The Women Marines Association (WMA) will host our national biennial convention Aug 31 – Sept 4, 2012. It is our hope that you will support this effort and purchase an ad, sponsor an event or make a contribution to our cause.

Formed in 1960, WMA is a non-profit, 501(c)3, charitable organization comprised of women who have and continue to honorably and proudly serve in the United States Marine Corps. WMA and its members work to preserve and promote the history and traditions of women Marines as well as those of the Marine Corps. We volunteer within our communities and provide assistance to those veterans in need along with conducting programs for charitable and educational purposes.

These ads will be in our 2012 Biennial Convention program booklet, which every registrant (over 450) will receive. Your ad will be seen nationally hitting your target audiences. WMA has over 80 chapters with members in every state and around the globe that range from our active duty Marines to our WWII veterans. These treasured mementos are frequently shared with family, friends and members who were unable to attend. They are available for sale to those unable to attend the convention. It is definitely the place to advertise to gain a wide base of prospective clients. Event sponsors will be recognized in the program booklets for the sponsored event with a full page ad and also receive a copy of the program.

Ads will be accepted in **BLACK & WHITE**, camera ready hard copy, on disc or CD and electronically. Electronic ads must be sent to: ConventionAds@womenmarines.org.

Please be sure your check payable to **Women Marines Association 2012** is enclosed or in the case of electronic ads, sent separately. Page size is 8 1/2" X 11", with half-inch margins on each side. All ads must be **postmarked by 15 July 2012** to enable time to do the layout and printing. Make out and mail your check to: **Women Marines Association Convention 2012, P.O. Box 261, Eatontown, New Jersey 07724** Email your ad to: ConventionAds@womenmarines.org

If ad copy is submitted in its original form and is not submitted via email or disc, please submit an additional \$10.00 for scanning fee.

AD SPACE COSTS and SPECIFICATIONS

(Standard B/W - Camera-Ready Copy Only)

Program Ads

	Ad Size*	WMA	Non WMA
Full page	7" x 10"	\$200	\$400
Half Page	8.25" x 5.25"	\$100	\$200
Quarter page	4" x 5.25"	\$ 50	\$100
Business Card	3" x 2"	\$ 25	\$ 50
2 Line Ad	1" x 1"	\$ 20	\$ 40
Name Only Ad	One line	\$ 10	\$ 20

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Opening Banquet Meet and Greet Sponsor	\$2,500 Only 3 available
Closing Banquet Meet and Greet Sponsor	\$2,500 Only 3 available
Table Decoration Sponsor	\$1,500 Only 10 available
Meal Program Booklet Sponsor	\$ 1,000 Only 5 available

Name _____ Phone _____

Point of Contact _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Please find enclosed my camera ready ad enclosed on disc

_____ I have sent my ad file via email on _____. Please verify when it is received.

***Ads can be sent as portrait or landscape**

**Please note donations to WMA are tax deductible as prescribed by law.
Please check with your tax advisor.**

Convention Registration Form



27th Biennial Women Marines Association Convention and Professional Development Conference Aug 31 – Sept 4, 2012

You can register online at www.womenmarines.org

<input type="checkbox"/> Molly Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> National Officer/Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> NATO	<input type="checkbox"/> VA Volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/> Desert Storm	<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Heart Recipient
<input type="checkbox"/> OEF/OIF	<input type="checkbox"/> FET/Lioness
<input type="checkbox"/> Peace Time	
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending my 1st Convention	
<input type="checkbox"/> Need to schedule my oral history	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mobility impaired	

WMA Conference Fee Schedule For Marines On Orders

Full Name _____ Service Name _____
Birth Date _____ Email _____ Phone _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name to be printed on Badge: _____ MOS _____
Duty Station _____ Military email _____

WMA "On Orders" Conference Fees Plan C "On Orders"

Plan C	All Inclusive		
Aug 31 Opening Banquet	Included	WMA Registration Fee	\$ 50.00
Sept 1 Warrior Welcome Home	Included	Event Total	\$ 210.00
Sept 3 Recognition and Awards	Included		
Sept 4 Installation Luncheon	Included	Total Conference Fee	\$260.00
Sept 4 Closing Banquet	Included		
Total Cost of Events	\$210.00		

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201 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd
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215-521-6557

Make your hotel reservation online at
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/wma>
OR by calling the hotel directly at (888) 421-1442 .
Identify handicap room needs when you book your reservations.
Tell them you are with **WMA** for the preferred room rates of \$119

☐ I am unable to attend, but wish to purchase a convention program at \$10 each, payable to Women Marines Association

Mail Completed form with payment to Women Marines Association to: Women Marines Association
Attn: Registration P. O. Box 261, Eatontown, NJ 07724

To be completed by Registration Chair: Date Received _____ Registration Number _____
Registration Acknowledgement Sent On _____

WMA Chapter Clippings

AZ-1 Arizona Roadrunner

Four members of AZ-1 assisted at the "Stand Down" for veterans, an annual 3 day event for homeless veterans that provides services such as VA benefits and housing assistance, medical services, clothing, meals, showers, substance abuse counseling, legal assistance, mental health services, and social security information.

Pres. Jeanne is a member of the Unified Arizona Veterans and recently became a member of a group of women who are interested in having a "Stand Up for Women Veterans" which, we hope, will provide 3 days of caring/sharing and help for women veterans who are finding their way after returning from active duty.

We had our Anniversary Meeting at the Spaghetti Factory in Phoenix, AZ. I met two other women Marines who are real go-getters and very involved in the community. We also have two women Marines who moved here from Minnesota, and hope they will be joining our chapter. Welcome Dot Witcher and her daughter Gale. We are always happy to have our "winter visitors" Betty Jean and Don Cannon, and Sharon and Richard Jones.

We lost our longest surviving woman Marine, Mae Duge, in January. After this meeting we will not meet again until October. Semper Fidelis,

Jeanne Botwright

CA-1 Greater Los Angeles

California CA-1 chapter of WMA celebrated the 69th anniversary of the Women Marines and also the 51st year of the Women Marines Association on Saturday 18 February at Taix's French Restaurant on Sunset Boulevard in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles.

President Anna T. Brown welcomed the members and guests. Anna planned our celebration, sent out invitations, printed up our programs and place cards, took reservations and has held us together as our diligent president for the past 16 years, for which we are most grateful. Acting chaplain Sherry Porter gave the invocation she had prepared asking for the blessing on those who govern us and to protect those who fight for our freedom.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by vice president Zelda Weiss who also later sold raffle tickets and was in charge of door prize distribution.

Treasurer Peggy McIntosh checked in all members and guests who had reservations and later helped pass out door prizes.

Member Ellen Grim brought a comforter she had made soon after her discharge from the Marines and it was made up of appliques showing all the various uniforms worn by women Marines during World War II. This remarkable comforter was displayed for all to see, enjoy and remember. Ellen's daughter also attended the lunch with her.

Other members and guests attending were Sofia "Rusty" Meznarich who came from Santa Barbara and who brought her son along. She also had other friends attending from a closer area. Anna Brown had family and friends attending from the Santa Maria area.

Another attendee was Master Gunnery Sergeant Paul Madison, who served with Colonel Hinds at the Crenshaw High School USMC JROTC program which our chapter supports.

James Maddox, service representative of the Vietnam Veterans of America, was also among the guests attending.

Debby McIntosh presented a Salute to the Red, White and Blue.°

She is a delightful speaker who is a representative of the Forest Lawn Memorial Park Museum, and always gives us something special to think about and be thankful for. Debby is also the daughter-in-law of our treasurer Peggy McIntosh.

All members and guests were introduced and given an opportunity to share where and when they had served their country in the military.

Small Valentine boxes of chocolates were distributed to each guest, including the waiters, who served us filet of sole and roast beef for lunch.

Also printed on our program was the inspiring message from Commandant General John F. Amos, U.S. Marine Corps. It certainly brought a remembrance of extra pride for having served our country at one time as women Marines.

We are grateful to all friends and family who came to help celebrate the Women Marines Association luncheon and to give us support.

Shasta L. Anker

CA-3 Greater San Francisco Bay Area

Greetings to all from Northern California. We have had a very mild winter but we seem to be making up for it now that spring has officially arrived. It was looking as though we would be very low on rain, but spring brought a few rain storms and things are no longer looking so dry.

I must begin this article by expressing our sincere sympathy to the family of John Holvoet. John did so very much for both WMA and the Loyal Escorts. Not only was he a fantastic contributor behind the scenes, he also provided exceptional leadership as the Loyal Escorts President. He will be greatly missed by many.

In January, CA-3 had our first monthly meeting of 2012 at Harry's Hofbrau in San Leandro and Wanda Antoine did a great job as hostess. She provided fun decorations and yummy home-made cupcakes that were enjoyed by all. January also found Kathy and Shaaron Wright traveling to 29 Palms to attend CA-29's first meeting of the year. President Elaine Bowden was a wonderful hostess and we spent a very enjoyable afternoon with her chapter. As LE Director, Shaaron delivered a LE patch and LE coin to their only Loyal Escort - 10 year old Isaiah Harrison who joins his Mother Michelle in leading the Pledge of Allegiance at each meeting. Kathy shared WMA pins and news and answered questions from the attendees. We would like to thank the entire chapter for a great visit.

On the way home, we also spent an afternoon visiting Sybil Acree and Helen Page of CA-8 in Riverside, CA. It was great to spend a little personal time visiting these ladies who contribute so much to WMA and the Loyal Escorts.

In February, we made our annual visit to Paradise Valley Estates in Fairfield to celebrate the 69th Anniversary of Women in the Marine Corps. Lucille Thyrring served as hostess and we had a great event. Our oldest Marine present was Lillian Rufsvold and our youngest was Wanda Antoine.

Additionally, we were honored to have six WWII veterans with us who have witnessed all 69 years of our Women Marine history. Our WWII vets were Doris Panzer, Evelyn Milas, Maryannette Schneider, Lillian Rufsvold, Lucille Thyrring and Lucille Danielsen.

We ended the event with a raffle for Marine Corps oriented gifts and all the winners were very happy with their prizes. To make the day even more special, we had three new guests join us - Nancy Zaunbrecher-Payne, Tracy Roman, and Sheila Trevail. We certainly enjoyed each of these ladies and hope they will all come back soon. You can't beat a day spent with good friends, sharing good food and enjoying each other's company.

February also found Kathy and Shaaron Wright traveling to Elk Grove to visit Past National President Virginal Allred. We brought Ginny some gifts and she sent us home with some of her Marine Corps items to share with our chapter members. We had a lovely visit and enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with such an amazing Marine. Ginny has given so much to WMA and she is very special to us.

In March, we tried a new meeting place and gathered at the new Spaghetti Factory in Redwood City. One of our Loyal Escorts, Sarah Rivera, works in the office and she got us a private room. The hostess, Lily Brockmeier, really went over the top with St. Patrick's Day decorations, custom-made cup cakes with WMA logos on them, and handmade cake pops. It really was a fun afternoon and everyone really enjoyed spending St. Patrick's day with their WMA friends. Sheila Trevail joined CA-3 at the meeting and we welcome her to our chapter. We were also joined by Angelina Miller who recently returned from active duty. It is always a pleasure to welcome new members and guests to our chapter.

We continue praying for our sisters Bonnie Medin and Virginia Allred. Additionally, our own Lillian Rufsvold has been under the weather for the past few months and we are keeping her in our prayers as well. Natalie Firato is recovering from foot surgery and she, too, is in our prayers. Please pray for all our women and for all those serving in harm's way. Stay well and we hope to see you all in Philadelphia. Semper Fidelis,

Kathleen Wright

CA-7 Edith Macias Vann

The WMA Edith Macias Vann Southern California Chapter (CA-7) of the Women Marines Association hosted the 69th Annual Anniversary of the U. S. Marine Corps Women Reserve at the Shadowridge Country Club in Vista.

More than one hundred chapter members and invited guests attended the celebration with a No-Host Guest Social Hour followed by an excellent luncheon of tri tip steak, salmon or vegetarian entrée.

This year's event featured CA-7 member Colonel Renée Renner, USMC (retired) as our very special guest speaker. As part of her presentation, Colonel Renner prepared a stirring two minute short film clip featuring the prologue from *Fiddler on the Roof* ("Tradition!") accompanied by several vintage Women Marine photos.

The Colonel's following presentation developed personal recollections and observances of Women Marine life and character she experienced first hand throughout her nearly thirty years of service to our Corps as a Marine Leader during ever changing Women Marine roles and missions starting in the early 1970's and culminating with the current forward deployment and employment of Marine FET's in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A great time was had by all!

Peggy Reiber

CA-8 Palms to Pines

As you know the weather all over^o has been crazy, especially here in Southern California. Weekdays in the 80s and storms on the weekends, when we meet. Our January meeting was no exception. It was our election of officers and we were concerned no one would make it as there was snow in all of the passes. Julie Tocco and Linda Kennedy come through Cajon Pass which was snowed in. Vivian Pranger and Vivian Bolton came through the Badlands area which was all but closed. Some of our WWII members just didn't care to fight the rain, but 14 brave souls made it. All the officers were re-elected for another term and the meeting was fun and everyone made it home safely.

February was our installation of officers. Joanne Evans CA-8 member, City Council Member and Mayor Pro-tem of Perris, CA was installation officer. Eddy Stephens and Ozell Barksdale planned the festivities. We each received a flower in our office color. We had a great time. Officers are Sybl Acree, President; Johnnie Williams, Vice President; Eddy Stephens, Secretary; and Ozell Barksdale, Treasurer. Dixie Forrest was appointed Chaplain and Gina Marbury Sgt. at Arms, both are members of our Loyal Escorts. I was presented with a beautiful Ann Hand pin for my services to WMA and to CA-8. It is something I shall treasure, and wear with pride. I thank the members of CA-8 and the Loyal Escorts for having faith in me and I will try to live up to their high standards.

March was dark for CA-8. Secretary Eddy Stephens called a pot luck meeting at her house, for officers and interested members, to go over the plans for the year. Again mother nature decided to have the last big storm of the season. Cajon Pass was closed due to snow and a lot of the desert and local streets were flooded. Many of our members decided not to brave the elements, but 9 were there. It turned out to be not only a meeting, but a surprise birthday party for President Sybl Acree (March 22), and Loyal Escort National Secretary Helen Page (March 25). Sybl and Helen, Eddy Stephens, Dorothy Jeffares, Johnnie Williams, Juanita Cartwright, Gina Marbury, Ozell Barksdale and Juanita's niece Linda also attended. It was a great pot luck. These ladies can really cook and fun was had by all. We moved our April meeting up to the 14th, so we can be in the Riverside Veterans Parade on 21 April. See you in Philly.

Sybl Acree

CA-29 Twenty Nine Palms

CA-29 chapter started the year off with great participation. At our January 2012 chapter meeting we enjoyed sharing a great lunch at the Rib Company restaurant in Yucca Valley, CA.

We had 18 members in attendance and were honored to have Area 10 Director, Kathy Wright and Loyal Escort Director, Shaaron Wright as our special guests.

Kathy spoke about the duties of an Area Director and gave us an overview of WMA membership by age. Member, Dorothy Angil was presented with the chapters 'Special Recognition Award for 2011' for her support of Chapter activities in 2011.

We welcomed several new members to our Chapter: Jodi Calahan, Gwynn Sadlier and Arlene Baldwin.

On 11 February, six members had a chance to attend the WMA 69th Anniversary celebration with CA-7 chapter in Vista, Ca. And in March, members of CA-29 attended the USMC Battle Color ceremony which featured the Marine Corps Silent Drill team and Marine Corps Band from Washington, DC at the MCAGCC parade field, followed by lunch at DiCarlo's restaurant on the Base.

It was so nice to be able to attend all of these events with so many of our members. Our next chapter meeting will be on 28 April at member Georgia Shirey's beautiful home in Yucca Valley.

Elaine Bowden

DC-1 District of Columbia

Ooh Rah! Greetings from the nation's capital. On 13 February, DC-1 members joined fellow Marines where it all began – at Parris Island, SC to celebrate the 69th Anniversary of Women in the Marine Corps. Marines swapped stories, reminisced, and marveled at the many accomplishments of women Marines.

The ladies walked the squad bay halls, watched recruits march, and in some cases popped to attention at that very familiar thunderous drill instructor voice. Much fun was had by all! March was packed with events.

On 6 March WMA sponsored a luncheon for the Marines who attended the 2012 Sea Service Leadership Association Joint Women's Leadership Symposium at the National Harbor, MD.

Among the attendees were Major General Angela Salinas, Major General Tracy L. Garrett, Brigadier General Lori Reynolds, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Michael P. Barrett. WMA National President Rhonda Amtower and DC-1 President Betty Moseley-Brown addressed the close to 100 Marines attending the luncheon about WMA and the upcoming Convention.

Rhonda Amtower also recognized Megan McClung Leadership award recipients, Captain Rebecca Spahr and Sergeant Major Robin Fortner, by giving them both Life Memberships to WMA.

On 15 March, DC-1 members attended the National Museum of the Marine Corps' Women's History Month panel discussion. A few days later on 17 March, DC-1 and VA-1 celebrated the 69th Anniversary at a joint luncheon at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

MajGen Angela Salinas delivered a wonderful speech recognizing all generations of women Marines to include the Marinettes. The oldest and youngest Marines present were DC-1 members. The youngest was Corporal Rodelyne Desir (DC-1's newest member) and the oldest two were Iona Gilbert and Betty Printzy-Sims.

On 21 March, DC-1 member Pat Hackbarth was one of the distinguished guest participants in the Women's History Leadership Panel for the Office of Finance, Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Of special note this quarter, DC-1 donated \$2000 to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation for the Molly Marine Rally Point at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. DC-1 members worked tirelessly to raise money for this very worthy cause.

On a sad note, DC-1 said farewell to DC-1 Life Member and WWII Veteran Coletta Halisak who passed away on 27 February. Coletta joined the Marine Corps in 1943 and in her words she "enlisted in the USMCWR to take a more active part in the war effort...thereby freeing Marines to serve with our fighting forces." She was very proud to hold the title Marine and she will be greatly missed.

Lelia Jackson

FL-2 Gulf Coast

Gulf Coast FL-2 Chapter started the New Year with elections. Kathleen Potthoff was elected as chapter president, Jean Sivik as vice president, Kathy Sheppard as treasurer and Marilyn Goler continuing as secretary. Mary Blackmon has stepped up to become the chapter's VA Voluntary Service representative. Speedy Gibson and Maxine Wehry will continue their services as the chapter's "sunshine committee" calling members to remind them about meetings and sending birthday greetings.

Our Anniversary celebration on 11 February 2012 began at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Largo where each member was presented a fresh Lady Marine red rose. This year's "cake" was made with multiple cupcakes and then covered with icing to appear as a solid sheet cake. As each member was given a cupcake, chapter president Kathy Potthoff gave members business-styled cards with WMA contact information. She asked that members use the cards whenever they are out in the community to give to potential members.

We were a hit in the restaurant after they realized we were all Women Marines! Following



lunch everyone toured the Armed Forces History Museum also located in Largo, FL. The museum was founded by John J. Piazza, a Marine Vietnam veteran and newly elected Commandant of the Morris F. Dixon Marine Corps League detachment where FL-2 holds chapter meetings. It is the largest non-government funded military museum in the southeast. Displays include military uniforms, a WWI trench complete with the sound and smell of gunfire, a diorama of the attack on Pearl Harbor along with other displays from Korea through Desert Storm. FL-2 is looking to participate in one of the museum's upcoming rotating exhibits where different organizations display their part in military history.

WELCOME ABOARD to our newest chapter member, Christine Brewer. Christine is preparing to launch her own small business venture in the Tampa Bay area this summer. *Ooorah!* to Tina Bostic, WMA term and FL-2 chapter member became a WMA and FL-2 Life member upon her March membership renewal date! And lastly, SEMPER FI to Maxine Wehry and the much anticipated publication of her book, "*A Kindred Spirit*" just in time for the upcoming WMA Convention in Philadelphia!

Maxine Cardinal Wehry

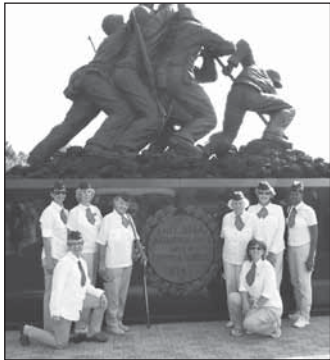
FL-4 Tampa Tarpons

Our WWII ladies could not attend a planned 69th Anniversary luncheon and may try again in the cooler months of fall. The James Haley VA Medical Center VAVS has started a new I. D. card process for voluntary service members and can only be done with in-person interviews. There are about 40 women veterans at this center, and just a few women Marines. At the homeless shelter there are four women Marines. In our 1 April Sunday newspaper, there was an article about the rise and fall of a woman Marine (1977 - 1987) *EYES RIGHT: Confessions from a Woman Marine*. None of us have seen this book.

Laverne Myers

FL-6 Florida Gators

Our chapter has had a beautiful resurgence in the last few months. Thanks to the effervescent Sgt. Joanne, 3 new members joined during our November meeting. December found us saying our final memorial prayers and farewells for Mary Holmes, who had served with such pride and enthusiasm. In addition all arrived with numerous unwrapped gifts for the local Toys for Tots drive.



In February, one member traveled to Parris Island for the birthday celebration of Women Marines. Our chapter was overwhelmed as guests in the largest night parade, The Edison Festival of Lights. The outpouring of sincere enthusiasm from the crowds was unexpected and moving. To rededicate Cape Coral's refurbished monument, we gathered a week later with local

recruiters, Marine Corps League members, and hundreds of former Marines, along with humble, but honored survivors from the battle of Iwo Jima. In early March we gathered to install the new officers of our small but mighty chapter, FL-6. Semper Fi,

Carol Mayne

FL-8 Spaceport

We haven't checked in for a long time. As I am sure, like many other chapters, the members are getting older and not doing as much anymore. We are dwindling down to a precious few, but still proud Marines.

Bridget Kennedy, our treasurer, was honored on 24 March as an Exceptional Woman in Volusia County, Florida. Bridget has been a volunteer for many years for the American Cancer Society, and visiting local nursing homes in the area.

A few of us went up to the ceremony to honor her: Mary Bevan and Marge Collins, WWII veterans; Bridget served in the Korean War, and Mary Lu Demmond, in Vietnam. We sure covered many years of history. We got a standing round of applause!

We recently attended the Annual Stand Down event. Our chapter has been active in this event for many years, and last year nearly 250 veterans attended.

Many agencies offer help and information at the Stand Down. Breakfast and lunch were served and medical and dental exams were given to the needy. The VA was there to sign up veterans who were not in the system and to inform them of their benefits.

Needless to say, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball is a BIG event in our lives. With the Marine Corps Detachment, Brevard County, and some of us WMA members, a good time was had by all!

We are hosting the annual All Women Luncheon this year. Since our chapter is slowly getting smaller and older, the Navy is going to help with the affair. They are having the same problems we are experiencing, and a joint co-host helps us all.

The other branches of service may also be having the same problems. Perhaps all branches should consolidate to host future luncheons.

Mary Bevan

IL-2 Blanche Osborne Chapter

I certainly agree with Judy Anderson in the last 'Nouncements, about the younger ones needing to step up and serve as chapter officers. If only this chapter had a number of younger members.

The present president and board have served for four years now. In picking a new board, all we can do is shuffle the members to different positions. They are all WW II and Korean War veterans. One other item to be mentioned is that the use of computers in being connected to national WMA. In getting information about what's happening in and about WMA, a lot of it gets lost by just sending the the necessary stuff in the mail by the Area Director to the president. So at least one of the board members needs to be computer-literate to get on the Yahoo list.

At our February meeting, Mike Ruffner, the Marine Corps League's present Illinois Department Judge Advocate, gave us an excellent talk on trying to get publicity for our meetings.

Unfortunately, the two daily Chicago papers want nothing to do with a group such as ours. And the smaller suburban papers are much the same. Once in a while they hire a columnist to report local happenings for some groups, but it seems the columnist doesn't last long. It is a problem.

Other than that, we had an informative meeting and we did get a new and younger member. Lisa Remer, who was an officer in a Joliet Marine Corps League Detachment. She's in the process of moving now and hopefully she'll know enough about us in two years to become an officer.

Carol Eubanks is now a full-fledged member of the Highlanders, a bagpipes band that plays and marches in events all around the suburbs. She's enjoying every minute of it.

Muriel Underwood

LA-1 Molly Marine

Happy New Year WMA! The Molly Marine Chapter is off to a good start in 2012. The first event of the year was one definitely indicative of our mission. On 12 January, active duty Chapter members, Sgt Chantel Williamson, Cpl Karina Santiago and LCpl Alexandria Betancur paid a surprise visit to the female cadets at the New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy (NOMMA). These cadets are participating in the MCJROTC Program at the new academy. The Marines did a fine job of holding a personnel inspection at the request of the NOMMA Commandant, Col William Davis. More visits to inspect and mentor the cadets will take place throughout the year.

On 21 January, we had our first meeting of the year. During the meeting, at the Southside Café in Slidell, LA, we presented a group photograph from the 2011 Marine Corps birthday ball to the manager to hang on the wall with the many other Marine Corps photographs and memorabilia that adorn the walls of the café. We also took the pleasure of holding a ceremony to appoint Allison Truelove as our new Chapter Secretary! Our Loyal Escort (LE) membership is growing; two of our LE's also attended the meeting!

On the Anniversary of Women Marines, 13 February, April Bell (Treasurer) and Georgianna Hildebrandt (Parliamentarian) enjoyed lunch with Frances Hoffman at the Lambeth House in New Orleans. Frances was 20-years old and had to get her Father's signature to enlist in 1943.

At that time, women had to get parental consent if they were under 21-years old. Frances shared some other stories from where she was (Hawaii) when the war ended. It was their pleasure to present a cake, decorated with a WWII poster. Frances told some of the



staff that it was her on the poster 69 years ago (SMILE) as we shared the rest of the cake with the staff. They were excited to share our 69th Anniversary with Frances, however, they were saddened and missed

our eldest member's presence. Please pray for Marian Landry's health to improve. In the photograph are Frances Hoffmann and Georgia Hildebrandt with the motivating WWII poster cake!

The Mardi Gras season was as exciting as ever on 16 February, with the Chapter rolling in a parade with the Krewe of Muses, an all female krewe! Prior to the start of the parade, Elizabeth McQueary (Special Projects Officer) read the Commandant's Anniversary of Women Marines message to recognize all women Marines past and present. Nine members and four Loyal Escorts participated in the parade. It was an evening we shall never forget! On 20 February, Mary Draughn (Chaplain), Darlene Graves (Loyal Escort) and Melanie Young (President) went to visit Marian Landry, our eldest Chapter member. Marian was moved to the Chateau de Notre Dame Nursing Home, New Orleans. We ask that all WMA members continue to pray for her strength.

Taking care of one of our own is something the Molly Marine chapter takes very seriously. On 27 February, Mary Draughn (Chaplain), Karen Williams and Melanie Young attended the funeral of Cpl Cheryl Judy-Montz in Metairie, LA. She was a Vietnam era veteran. Mary Draughn dedicated a Women Marines' tribute following Catholic Mass. Marine Forces Reserve rendered the honors with a gun salute and presentation of the flag to the family. The family expressed their deepest appreciation of the Molly Marine Chapter paying respects to their beloved Marine.

April Bell and Georgia Hildebrandt have actively ensured the well-being of our two eldest Chapter members, Marian Landry and Frances Hoffmann. April and her husband visited each lady on 5 March. They spent time with Frances and took Marian one of her favorite treats for lunch; fried oysters! April also decided to part with her Barbie Marine; letting her stay with Marian to keep her company and motivate her. She loved it all!

Frances Hoffmann (WWII veteran/chapter member) donated over 100 books (history, biographies, religious, cookbooks and novels) to the chapter for a fundraiser. On 15 and 16 March, we had our first fundraiser of the year at Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans; a book sale! Thanks to the motivation and expert selling skills of GySgt Dalia Robles, Sgt Hideshi Dyer, Sgt Chantel Williams, Cpl Karina Santiago, Cpl Elizabeth McQueary, Karen Williams and Melanie Young, the fundraiser was a huge success! Thanks Frances!

On 29 and 30 of March, we had our last fundraiser of the quarter: our Annual Easter Egg Fundraiser.

With the support of the Marines and civilian employees of Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans, the fundraiser was a big hit and very successful! The Molly Marine Chapter sends Easter greetings to all members and Loyal Escorts of WMA!

Melanie L. Young

MN-1 Minnesota Leathernecks

The chapter met at the VA Hospital on 14 January. Mary Frances Feiler provided details of her experience as a volunteer on the October 2011 Honor Flight and what a wonderful opportunity it is for the veterans who apply. Ideas were submitted for potential boutique items for the 2012 Convention and the chapter finalized plans for the 69th Anniversary celebration.

The chapter gathered on 11 February for their anniversary celebration at the VFW Post 5555 in Richfield, MN and was surprised to find another group of Marines from the 2nd Marine Division meeting in an adjoining room.

On 11 March we again met at the VA Hospital and discussed upcoming events including chapter Chaplain Judy Austin's upcoming Honor Flight on 28 April, the United Veterans Legislative Council meetings, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Luncheon on 31 March and various details/deadlines for submission for the 2012 convention in Philadelphia.

We will meet again on 12 May to plan the annual chapter picnic, discuss Memorial Day activities at Ft. Snelling, the Minnesota Boot Camp to Veteran Seminar on 19 May at the Boy Scout Base Camp at Ft. Snelling and to finalize our submissions for convention.

If you would like more information about the chapter, please visit our website at: www.minnestoaleathernecks.com

Vicki Latolais

MO-1 St. Louis

On 22 February, several members gathered at O'Charley's in Fenton to celebrate the 69th Anniversary of the women Marines – good food and sea stories were shared by all! Then on 22 March, Mary Jantosik, Ophie Owens and Kathy Sutphen plus several members of St. Louis Service Women's Post 404, The American Legion traveled to the Capitol in Jefferson City, MO for a Veterans Day Rally and Women Veterans Recognition Day.

We were honored to be in Governor Jay Nixon's office as he presented a proclamation declaring March 22, 2012 as Women Veterans Recognition Day at the Capitol. And all women veterans and active female duty present were privileged to have our picture taken with Governor Nixon. All in all, it was a glorious day for Missouri Veterans! Sadly, we report that we loss one of our life members, Colonel Leotone "Lee" Meyer (Ret.) on March 20, 2012. She will be greatly missed.

Kathy Sutphen

MO-2 Mo-Kan

Deniese Elosh, Yinka Perry and Ora Reyes of the MO-KAN 2 Chapter from Kansas City, Missouri attended the African American Women in the Military Past and Present on 10 March 2012 held at The Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City, Missouri. Our own, Ora Wiggins Reyes MO-KAN 2 Chapter, is a member of the Intergenerational Panel of African American Women Veterans.

The panel shared short stories highlighting their careers from lessons learned that resulted in mentorship.

Mary Ellen Stone and Deniese Elosh attended the 'Women of Valor' Luncheon sponsored by the Sixth Annual Global Women's Leadership Summit at Missouri Western University in St. Joseph, Missouri. The Summit consisted of a girl's lock-in with a variety of classes related to physical, mental and emotional health resources, sisterhood and exercise, finance, self-image and self-esteem.

Attendees included the President of Missouri Western, Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Assistant Dean of Students, Tay Triggs, who was responsible for this summit.

Rebecca Bradley, Minority Women Coordinator of the Missouri Veterans Commission, was the guest speaker of the luncheon. She spoke on reasons young women should join the military such as gaining and giving respect, education and nurturing.

All military women in attendance were presented with a 'Lionheart' award (pin) and a carnation as tokens of appreciation for their service.

Deniese Elosh

NC-1 Tarheel

October found Linda Lacy and Shirley John with a historical display of women Marines at Camp Lejeune for the "Diversity Day."

We talked with active duty, civilians, retirees, veterans, and many school children. November was cold and windy for the Veterans Day Parade in Jacksonville. Shirley John, Mary Laskowski, Deloris Hamrick, Gene Blick, and Sylvia Fry volunteered at the Salvation Army during the months of November and December. Mary and Shirley attended the Thanksgiving dinner at the USO making it a more home like atmosphere for the troops. Gail Horn and Elizabeth Horn volunteered that day at the USO. At our regular meeting, we wrapped packages and shipped them overseas.

We ended 2011 with our regular Christmas party followed by President Linda Lacy and VP Shirley John attending the Commanding Officer and Generals' Holiday Get together aboard Camp Lejeune. 2012 has been a very busy year already starting off with the election of officers. We celebrated the 69th Anniversary three times. First, was with our local chapter at the Golden Corral. Colonel Daniel Lecce, Loyal Escort, the Commanding Officer of Camp Lejeune, read the Commandant's message followed by our cake cutting. The first pieces went to our oldest member, Gene Blick and then to the youngest, Mindy Decker, Iraq veteran. Second, VFW 9133 honored women Marines with a very impressive cake cutting ceremony--we have been invited again next year. We are so appreciative and honored. Third, we were invited for the third year in a row by Combat Training-East to celebrate our 69th Anniversary. Our guest speaker was Gen. Lori Reynolds, Commanding General of Recruiting East and Parris Island.

Brig. Gen. Reynolds emphasized women carry their own packs. Linda Lacy displayed her Women Marine Historical Collection covering WWI to the present. In February, Linda Lacy, Shirley John, and Deloris Hamrick joined the Womens' Veterans Organization in Morehead City. In March, our chapter participated in Womens' History Month with a luncheon, invited guests, and speaker, Gail Horn. Every two months, NC-1 sends packages overseas, especially to the Female Engagement Teams.

For the 20th year, we will be riding our red convertible in the Azalea Festival Parade. Rosie Noel, purple heart recipient, GySgt Jeanine Cressman, Shirley John, and Linda Lacy will be representing the Women Marines Association. We are humbled by thumbs up, salutes, and Semper Fi!

Linda Lacy

NY-5 Central New York State

Greetings from Central New York. It is with great sadness that we report that one of our Marines passed in December. Olga Kaish, a Korean War Veteran was a charter member and very active in civic and military organizations. She had been ill for some time yet continued to attend meetings until her illness prevented her from participating. She will be missed.

Our group celebrated the Women Marines Anniversary with lunch at the Retreat Restaurant in Liverpool NY. Five members, and two Loyal Escort hopefuls attended. Cake completed the meal and great conversation was had by all. We will meet again this summer, and will continue looking for ways to assist our fellow Marines and pursue recruitment for new members. The most active members are in their 80's and 90's, so we want to recruit some younger members who need a challenge. Happy spring.

Charlotte Wallace

OH-2 Chesty Puller

July 8 will be "Salute to Women of the Military" at a Cleveland Indians vs Tampa Bay Baseball Game. All women veterans will form on the field and march around the stadium.

We have a new president, Tania R. Shugarts-Oliveros. She will be busy with her three sons while keeping up with all our members. She is already planning a summer picnic. Several of our members met Tania at "Der Dutch Heritage" restaurant for a Sunday Brunch. Donna Perdue has returned home from her travels and while away, her son joined the U.S. Marine Corps. Rebecca Lee's son just returned from Afghanistan and our active duty member, 1stLt Carolyn Giebel, is now stationed in Afghanistan.

Rebecca Lee and Elvie Pounders spent a week at the beach at Camp Lejeune and enjoyed all the beautiful views. They visited Mary McCarty Clarke who was in the Marine Corps from 1958 to 1962.

Ellen Leidy, Area 4 Director, has been busy with her duties as Director and Commandant for the Ohio Marine Corps League. She keeps fit by running after two grandchildren.

Sharon Jones and Lois Cameron have a new fund raiser for our chapter. They will be selling bread cutting boards with the U.S. Marine Corps Eagle, Globe and Anchor on them. Save your dollars and pick one up at the convention.

Our members who are on the Ohio Department of Veteran Services, Women's Advisory Committee met at the State Capitol for a panel discussion.

There were women from WWII to the present discussing their experiences and changes that have taken place. The governor stopped by and said next year we will have a women's display in our Capital Museum. After the discussion, we had lunch and held a quarterly meeting in the Governors State Room. It was a good day.

To all our members, have a good summer, good health and safe travels.

Elva "Elvie" Pounders

TX-3 San Antonio Rose

Our annual Christmas party at the home of Anne Collins was small this year, only 6 of us. But with such a small group of old friends we were able to have lively discussions about politics, religion, and all those other things we usually try to avoid. The white elephant gift exchange provided some mighty fine elephants, with some being subtly steered towards the most appreciative and appropriate recipient.

March was Women's History Month, and a local elementary school contacted the Joe Foss Institute for help in obtaining a Marine veteran to speak to its 5th graders. Trish Martin answered their questions until the buses threatened to leave without them. The questions ranged from the expected "Did you shoot anyone?" to "What was your baby's name?" The Joe Foss Institute's aim is to promote patriotism and service to one's community, not just through military service, but any kind of service. If you haven't heard of this wonderful group, check into it. You might become their newest presenter.

April is Fiesta time in San Antonio, and we will be attending the All Veterans Memorial Service in force. Our own WW II veteran Anne Collins has been asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance once again. The Marine Band from New Orleans will be here to participate in both major parades, as well as a free concert in front of the Alamo. San Antonio is Military City USA, with a strong Army and Air Force presence, but the Marines always seem to be the biggest crowd pleasers.

Trish Martin

WA-1 Evergreen

Don't count us out yet! Just when Chapter WA-1 of Western Washington was about to fold, President Julia Sheredin notified all members to attend a luncheon meeting on 3 March to make a final decision. After much deliberation and discussion, the members decided to keep the chapter active and to elect officers. WA-1 was chartered on 6 June 1969 in Seattle and has had many wonderful and active members over the years.

Newly elected officers are, President, Julia Sheriden; Vice President, Loraine Sanford; Treasurer, Trudie Miller; Secretary, Pat Karrasch, and Chaplain, Louise George.

After lunch, a delicious cake was served to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the USMCWR. There were two guests present: Emmalee Ashland, life member of the Loyal Escorts, and Jerry Wood, a retired WWII Navy veteran.

We are sorry to hear that retired Colonel Vera Jones, a member of our chapter, passed away on 4 February. Col. Jones was the first female Marine officer to serve in Vietnam. She had resided at a senior facility until her death, and had been honored there for all of her work in the Corps from 1962-1982. She will be interred in July at Tahoma National Cemetery in Washington State.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 15 September. Members will be notified of place and time.

Louise George

WI-1 Wisconsin Women Marines

Our members may be aging but some WWII gals are still going strong. Betty Gill was honored on her 90th birthday in Belleville, WI by family and friends. Linda O'Hara and Linda Dancker were among those present, driving from Milwaukee. Betty



Duff hit the 92 mark, being visited and taken to lunch by Mibs Ewald, Annette Howards and Connie Allord. She lives in assisted living in Madison. Following her was Connie, also at 92. Friends from Milwaukee and Madison provided a heavenly red velvet cake following the United Veterans luncheon meeting in Madison. Marge Marshman, after 19 years of faithful service as the chaplain on the Madison Firing Squad, has stepped down and was recently recognized for her many years of service to veterans - and she hasn't stopped yet. Annette and Connie once again did their bit with Toys For Tots, joining the local Marine Reserve Detachment in serving over 6,000 happy kids. They join the Salvation Army in this tremendous effort, making for a perfect match.

Linda Dancker learned of a WWII Marine, Antoinette Kolbeck Burch, living in Germantown (near Milwaukee) and visited her at the health center where she lives. She served at Cherry Point in 1943 and 1944 as a driver and married a Marine there. She isn't a WMA member but is still a proud Marine. Linda also reported that at last count our pop-top collection for the Ronald McDonald House topped an impressive 15,000 and growing.

On 8 March General Wilma Vaught (from WIMSA) visited Milwaukee at the VAMC for recognition of Women Veterans Month. She just passed her 80th birthday but there's no slowing her down either. On a sadder note, Mary Dooley, a WWII Marine, passed away at the Tomah Veterans Home where she had lived for the past several years. She was not a WMA member but did belong to the Madison MCL. Annette and Connie attended her funeral in Madison at St. Patrick's Catholic church and was joined by MCL chaplain, Roger Boeker. Not having married, she was survived by only a cousin who lives near Madison. Serving in the Marine Corps was one of the most important and proudest part of her life.

The Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs sponsored an open house at Vet Center in Madison to celebrate Women's History Month where there was a nice turnout of women veterans, including a representation of Women Marines. An author from San Diego was present and interviewed Annette and Connie for part of a book which she is writing about WWII veterans, her mother among them. Watch for the book at a later date. The Vet Center Director is one of the victims of the Ft. Hood shooting. Although seriously wounded, she has made a remarkable recovery and expects her military discharge soon.

Spring arrived early in Wisconsin so it's "full steam ahead" for our summer activities.

Connie Allord

Support the Convention, Do What We Do Best - *Escort*



Hello to all Loyal Escorts,

It is with great sadness that I have to report that our President, John Holvoet, passed away on 21 March 2012. Funeral

services took place in Colorado with friends and family that weekend. It was a sad day for the Loyal Escort body of members. Our sympathy goes out to Doris Bell, his wife and AD7, and family.

Now we must move toward the convention in Philadelphia. John had put a lot of things into motion before he passed and it is up to us to carry them forward: support the convention and do what we do best--escort, as he put it.

The Loyal Escort Board moved to fill in the space left by John per Robert's Rules and also our Vice President Dan Murray. Due to personal commitments and work schedules, he was not able to assume the position of President. The Board has elected Don Cannon as President.

Elections will take place at the convention as usual. Elected officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors. We have written descriptions of the duties of each position. Should you want a copy prior to convention, please contact our Director Shaaron Wright (yes, two a's) and she will email or snail mail a copy to you. Her address is located in the front along with WMA and LE officer listings. After reading that and you are still interested, please contact me and I will list your name under the office of your choice. We also have three appointed offices: chaplain, WMA liaison, and parliamentarian. John has instituted positions of Area Coordinators, much like WMA has Area Directors. These positions need to be filled also. We also have a desperate need for someone to be our LE merchandise

sales administrator. This position is an urgent need and should be filled before convention.

Membership applications should continue to be mailed as per usual. John was making the life membership cards so until we obtain that equipment, life membership cards may take some time in getting to you.

Convention registration is now open. Loyal Escort registration is combined with the WMA registration form printed in this issue. Loyal Escort registration fee is \$35 with a late fee of \$10 if postmarked after July 15. Make your hotel reservation as soon as possible. You can reserve online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/wma>, OR by calling the hotel directly at 215-521-6557. Identify handicap room needs when you book your reservations. Tell them you are with WMA for the preferred room rate of \$119 plus taxes. Mail your registration and meals form and check to Women Marines Association, Attn: Registration, PO Box 261, Eatontown, NJ 07724. You can also register and pay for meals online at www.womenmarines.org. See bottom of opening page.

We encourage you to attend convention even if your sponsor is unable to attend. We have plenty of areas which Loyal Escorts volunteer at convention. There will be a sign-up sheet at the convention registration table. Some of these duties are manning the registration table, escorting dignitaries at formal events and banquet, checking credentials at the entrance to meals, set-up and tear-down of the stage flag stands, memorial service, hospitality room, assisting with chapter flags at opening and closing banquets, and manning our Patriot PX table during PX hours (big need here).

If you are interested in golf and would like to sign up, please email John Hubert at 36hubert@gmail.com for your reservation.

As I mentioned before, and it is so important that I bring it up again, we are in need of a merchandise sales coordinator. Sales of merchandise during convention help fund our treasury. Tabitha Cunningham-Radzick has found it necessary to give up her post as our merchandise sales administrator. This is an extremely important position within, really needs to be filled prior to the Philadelphia Convention, as the coordination of our sales effort at the boutique (PX) depends on this person. With that preamble, I ask each of you to look at your other commitments and see if you could take on this responsibility. I think the major part of the job occurs leading up to and at the convention, but there is an inbetween convention element where orders need to be filled based on our advertised products in 'Nouncements. If you have the time and are willing to take on this position, please contact me at KenCross294@cox.net, or 760-724-9861 PDT.

At convention Loyal Escort members wear gold sashes to help distinguish them in the crowd. We lost two at the last convention in Denver. We have since recovered one of them but are still missing one. Someone for sure unpacked it at home. They are expensive to make so if you are in possession of our missing sash, please let any of our board members know, mail it in, or bring it to convention.

If you need to update any of your information with the Loyal Escorts, such as a new address, phone number, email address, etc., please contact our Treasurer David Wiszneaukas. He will be able to make the changes.

So in closing, let's continue to make our plans for a successful and fun convention. See you in Philly!

Ken Cross
Immediate Past President
Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter

In Memoriam: John E. Holvoet, Loyal Escorts President

Both the Women Marines Association and the Loyal Escorts were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Loyal Escorts President and Life Member #309, John E. Holvoet on March 21, 2012. John was only 69 years old and he left us way too soon. John was a significant contributor to both organizations for many years and was the key contributor to our entrance into the digital world. John held several degrees to include a BS in Mechanical Engineering, a MS in R&D Management and an MS in Mechanical Engineering. John was a veteran having served as an Ordnance Officer in the U.S. Army from 1967-1978. He attained the rank of Captain. From 1978 until 1995, John held various Civil Service engineering positions and retired as Director, U.S. Army Industrial Engineering Activity.

When John's wife, Doris Bell, became the National Treasurer for WMA, John realized the WMA financial records were not automated and he assisted pro bono for several years. It became apparent that WMA should hire a professional administrator to automate and maintain both the financial and membership databases. John had a strong financial background and considerable computer skills so he offered his services to WMA and was hired as the first contractor to support WMA. During his term as contractor, John automated the WMA financial records using Peachtree Accounting Software. He also set up/established data bases for our finances including the budget and expenditure reports that we are still using today. Included were/are also automated procedures for donation thank you letters and quarterly donation reports. He also updated and greatly improved the WMA



**John E. Holvoet
1942- 2012**

membership database so that it was easier to publish documents such as the Resource Manual and Directory (RM&D); to capture information about changes to contact information; to track dues expiration dates; to identify deceased members; and to support generation of membership reports for use by the WMA Board of Directors. As a result of his efforts, John was awarded the WMA National Service Award for *"moving WMA into the 21st Century of electronics & defining, organizing, and managing our membership database and finances"*.

While serving as the WMA Contractor, John also became active in the Loyal Escorts where he volunteered to automate the Loyal Escorts membership database. John was still maintaining that database at the time of his passing. In 2009, John stepped down as the WMA contractor to spend more time with family and friends. His daughter-in-law, Erin, was selected to step into the WMA Contractor role and has done an exceptional job of maintaining

and improving the databases which John put in place. Of course, John continued to help with background information and suggestions. Between 2004-2010, John served at the National level as a Loyal Escorts Director. In 2010, John was elected President of the Loyal Escorts and he was deeply involved in the planning process for the next convention in Philadelphia. In addition to leading the Loyal Escorts, John was also a member of the American Legion and the Mensa Society.

John was a large man, but he was a gentle giant. He was soft spoken and easy to work with. Everyone who served with John on both the WMA and Loyal Escort boards had great respect for him as a person and for his efforts to expand the role of the Loyal Escorts within WMA. At each WMA convention, John was always a ready volunteer and willing to provide whatever support was needed to keep things running smoothly. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing John personally, will miss him greatly.

John really enjoyed his family and took great delight in spending time with his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed reading, working on the computer, cooking and spending time with friends. He touched many with his intelligence, his patience, his kindness and his team spirit. The Loyal Escorts Board of Directors and the WMA Board of Directors extend their deepest sympathy to his wife, Doris Bell, and to his family. It will be a sad moment, indeed, when his name is read at the next Memorial Service in Philadelphia.

Semper Fidelis Dear Friend!

Kathleen Wright

Chapter Tool Kit: All About Membership Cards

The Women Marine Association held their annual business meeting at the Interim Board Meeting in Philadelphia, PA in September 2012. During the meeting a change was made to the way WMA membership cards are delivered to the members. In the past, membership cards were delivered to chapter treasurers who would give the card to the member at the next chapter meeting. This was a good practice in theory, but did not always work. Some members do not become chapter members and they request a replacement card. Some treasurers move, become ill, or do not attend a meeting; their absence can also necessitate a duplicate card request.

These situations had become so common it was necessary to change the way membership cards are delivered to the member.

Membership cards for all new, reinstated and renewing members will now be delivered to the member's home address; Life members (new or conversions from term) shall receive a temporary card pending receipt of their permanent card. If the member is active with a chapter, at the next meeting, the member should present their new membership card for the reverse side to be completed by the chapter treasurer. Routinely, the chapter treasurer should verify the status of all WMA term members. This change will eliminate the need for duplicate cards and members will receive their cards more quickly.

There may be concern about not knowing when new members become affiliated with the chapter. That concern should be resolved with the Quarterly Area Director Report. Each quarter the

WMA Membership Secretary sends a report to each Area Director identifying all chapters and WMA members in the area. The Area Director should pass this report along to each chapter treasurer. The chapter treasurer can use this report as a tool to verify the chapter members, their contact information and chapter affiliation. It is also a good time to verify the member's NOK (this is not in the report), but if there is a change it is a good time to report it to National. If there are any changes, the chapter treasurer should report them back to the Area Director, who will report them to the Membership Secretary.

In addition, the board voted to approve a \$10.00 fee for life member replacement cards.

WMA National Merchandise Sales Your Purchases Support Our Association!

WMA Patch, small	\$4.00	Medallion, '90 Denver Conv	\$3.00
WMA Patch, large	\$4.50	50th Anniversary Medallions	\$5.00
WMA Pin, Hat (pin or clutch)	\$3.00	50th Anniversary Paper Weights	\$10.00
WMA Pin, Life	\$3.90	WMA insulated travel mugs	
WMA Clock (10 3/4" diameter gold toned frame, green lettering and logo)	\$10.00	(green with WMA patch on one side and the USMC emblem on the other side)	\$8.00
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). . . . \$38.50

Chapter designation: ____ - ____ - ____

Example: CA-1 (4 spaces only except USA-1,2,3.)

Size: (1" above ears - allow for hair style)

Sizes for WMA Caps:

20 1/2 - 20 7/8	XSm	22 3/4 - 23 1/8	L
21 1/4 - 21 5/8	Sm	23 1/2 - 23 7/8	XL
22 - 22 3/8	M	24 1/4 - 24 5/8	XXL

Make All Checks Payable to WMA

Contact: America Zarate Dones,
6506 Carrington Sky Drive, Apollo Beach, FL 33572
Phone: (813) 810-3437
email: America.Dones@gmail.com

Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter Merchandise

- Item: "I love my Woman Marine" pin ...\$1.00
- Item: "I love my Woman Marine" bumper sticker ... \$1.00
- Item: Grandma's Loyal Escort
My Wife's Loyal Escort
Mom's Loyal Escort... \$1.00
- Item: Loyal Escort Hat... \$8.00
- Item: Loyal Escort Patch ... \$5.00
- Item: Loyal Escort Cup w/lid and straw... \$5.00



Shipping and handling will vary but should range from \$2.00 to \$6.00

Contact: Pending as this issue goes to press, due to the passing of LE President John Holvoet.

Send chapter ads to Wanda Antoine, 3020 Puffin Circle, Fairfield, CA 94533, Editor@womenmarines.org.
IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE: When WMA sales items are no longer available, please notify Wanda so they can be removed.

Books

- Item: Not "Just Another Cookbook" More than 100 recipes by food grouping. Size: 6"x9"
- Cost: \$5.75 (includes shipping) Chapter: NC-1
- Contact: Naomi Malone, 218 Sunset Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546-7045 (910) 545-7154 nmalone@ec.rr.com



Books

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: "The American Flag" Booklet

Cost: \$4.00 (includes shipping) Payable to: CA-8, WMA

Chapter: Palms to Pines

Contact: Ozell Barksdale, President, 5394 Sierra Street, Riverside, CA 92504 (951) 688-2806 e-mail: ozellb@pacbell.net



Item: "Parris Island: A Woman's Memoir of Marine Corps Boot Camp"

Signed copy by author Lisa Cordeiro

Cost: \$16.95 (\$3.95 shipping)

Chapter: MA-1

Contact: Lisa Cordeiro, 35 Berkeley St., Watertown, MA 02472 or order online at www.lisacordeiro.com <http://lisacordeiro.com>



Item: "Cooking With Marines", a collection of recipes from Marines

Cost: \$12.50 (includes shipping) Chapter: TX-2

Contact: B.J. Huggins, (WMA) P.O. Box 1821, Pasadena, TX 77501



Cards/Stationery

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, 4525 Cove Circle, Apt. 102, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

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; 15 for \$2.10; 20 for \$2.60 (prices include P&H)

Checks: CA-7, WMA Chapter: EMVSC (CA-7)

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056-4011 (760) 724-9861

Candy

Item: WMA & Letting 3" Insignia/Logo Green, White, Milk Chocolate or Special Order

Cost: Singles\$1.50

Box of 8\$6.50

Box of 15\$13.50

Mints Box of 12\$10.50

Item: WMA Mint 1" round Insignia/Logo

Green, White, Milk Chocolate or Special Order

Singles\$1.50

Box of 12\$10.50

Chapter: CA-11 - Central Coast

Contact: Soledad Kennedy, 4062 Capella Street, Lompoc, CA 93436

Fax/Office: (805) 733-2175 Cell: (805) 588-0650 centralcoastwomenmarines.com usmcrfemale@yahoo.com



Decals

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, 4525 Cove Circle, Apt. 102, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

Shirts and Sweats

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

Cost: T-Shirts- M, L, XL and XXL @ \$10.00; Sweatshirts - M, L, L @ \$24.00, XXL @ \$25.00 Pay to: WMA PA-2 Liberty Belles (Price includes shipping)

Contact: Kathy Van Gorder, 584 Barrington Rd., Collegeville, PA 19426



Item: Golf shirt Dark (Hunter) Green with WMA logo (matches green covers) embroidered in white. Available in sizes (S) to (XXL) Red and also Khaki solid polo shirts. WMA notation spelled out under acronym.

Cost: \$28.00 (includes postage) Chapter: VA-1 Crossroads

Make checks payable to: WMA, VA-1

Contact: Dorothy Gordon, 93 High Ridge Dr. Stafford, VA 22554



Item: Forest Green Sweatshirts, t-shirts, short sleeved golf shirts, long sleeved golf shirts and low profile cap. All shirts are embroidered with WMA on the left side and Women Marines Association underneath. Embroidery is in white; low profile cap has WMA embroidered in white.

Cost: All prices include shipping and handling per item.

Sweatshirts: M- XL - \$26 ea ; 2X - \$28 ea.

T-Shirts: M - 2XL - \$16 ea; Short sleeved golf shirts:

M - XL - \$28 ea

Long sleeved golf shirts: M - XL - \$32 ea.

Low profile cap: one size fits all - \$16 ea.

Checks: Old Dominion Chapter, WMA VA-2

Contact: Mickey Jennings, 6486 Lark Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 E-mail: mickeyjennings@hotmail.com



Item: Dark Green Windbreaker Jacket with WMA logo on front left side. Sizes: Available in **Medium Size Only**

Cost: \$34.00 Includes postage and handling.

Checks: EMVSC, CA-7, WMA

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056-4401



Item: White golf shirt with embroidered green WMA logo circled by the phrase, "More Than A Woman A Woman Marine"

Cost: All sizes (S) to (XXXL) \$28.00 (price includes shipping)

Make Checks payable to: WMA, OR-1

Contact: Heidi Tanada, 17103 S.W. Eldorado Dr. Tigard, OR 97224-2075



Item: Light gray t-shirt with small green WMA logo on front and large logo on back; both circled by the phrase, "More Than A Woman A Woman Marine"

Cost: Sizes (M) to (XXXL) \$16.00 (price includes shipping)

Make Checks payable to: WMA, OR-1

Contact: Heidi Tanada, 17103 S.W. Eldorado Dr. Tigard, OR 97224-2075



Item: OR-3 (Eager Beavers Chapter) is offering new apparel options for adults and kids. Each item (available in a variety of colors) can be **embroidered**.

Adult	Ladies Polos (S-XL) \$30	Short Sleeved T-Shirt (S-XL) \$17
Youth	Youth Polo (S-XL) \$22	Short Sleeved T-Shirt (S-XL) \$15
Infant/Toddler	Long Sleeved T-Shirt (6M-4T) \$16	Short Sleeved T-Shirt(6M-4T) \$15

Note: All prices include shipping & handling. Adult sizes 2x -6x available for additional cost.

For additional information on each item and how to order please visit <http://home.comcast.net/~or-3> or contact Stephanie Wilcox directly or-3@comcast.net or (541) 554-6015. Pictured: Loyal Escort Aubrey Wilcox, Granddaughter of Area 9 Dir. Debbie Barker.



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

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

Contact: Anne Collins, 4707 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209 • (210) 829-8522



WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE SALES

Item: WMA Ring, Jeweler - Jostens

Cost: Lustrum (*non precious white*) \$181.00

Questra (*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: Charm "Semper Fi"

Cost: \$15.00

Chapter: Lady Marine Rose (OR-1)

Contact: Cleary Creations, 2225 NE 130th Ave., Portland, OR 97230-1704

Item: Lapel pins, "United States Woman Marine" and WMA, 1 inch in diameter

Cost: \$5.00 each (including shipping and handling)

Chapter: CA-3

Contact: Kathleen Wright, 349 Howard Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95051



Miscellaneous Items

Item: USMC Sun catchers (*also have other military branches*)

Cost: \$5.00 each

Size: 4" round w/suction hanger Chapter: CA-15

Contact: Pat Murray, 40701 Rancho Vista #92

Palmdale, CA 93551 (661) 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 6-1/2"x4-1/2"

Cost: \$5.00 each (including shipping)

Chapter: NM-1 (checks payable to payable to WMA-Chapter NM1)

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



Item: New aluminum license plate in distinctive RED lettering on white. Includes a Semper Fi sticker

Cost: \$9.00 (*postpaid*) **Chapter:** FL-4, Tampa Tarpons

Contact: Laverne 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 Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611-1517

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: \$11.00 (*includes mailing*) Small stamp: \$8.00 (*includes mailing*) Chapter: CA-7 **Checks to:** EMV, CA-7, WMA

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056-4011 (760) 724-9861

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: Naomi Malone, 218 Sunset Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546-7045 (910) 545-7154 nmalone@ec.rr.com

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: Handmade soy wax candles (*Lavender, White Tea and Ginger, Rose, Lemon and Lovespell*)

Cost: 9 oz. \$10 (*plus \$5 Shipping*); 16 oz. \$15 (*plus \$5 Shipping*)

(*Two candles or more contact Bonniesbunch@yahoo.com or Rosa_rmr@yahoo.com for correct shipping*)

Checks: WMA-Phyllis Alexander **Chapter:** SC-1

Contact: Rosa Robertson, WMA, P.O. Box 5296, Parris Island, SC 29905 (*or via email*)

Item: "Proud To Be A Marine" ribbon magnet, 8"x 3"

Cost: \$6 each (*includes postage*)

Checks: Payable to to EMVSC CA-7 WMA

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056-4011 (760) 724-9861



Item: Woman Marine cover cross stitch pattern, with backstitch eagle, globe and anchor.

Cost: \$2.50 each (*includes shipping*) Chapter: OH-2

Contact: Janice Lascko, 3157 W. 82nd St., Cleveland, OH 44102 or janlascko@yahoo.com. Payments can be made through PayPal at this same email address.



Item: "Koozie" Bottle or Can size sleeve for sweat absorption, foldable foam, green, with WMA logo in white on one side, other side in white letters: "No Sweat, the WOMEN Marines are on duty" **Cost:** \$4.00 each, or 20 for \$75.00 (*Price includes shipping*)

Contact: Kathy Van Gorder, 584 Barrington Rd., Collegeville, PA 19426 e-mail: VanGorders2@aol.com Fax: 610-489-4383

Item: Bumper sticker, The Few, The Proud, The Women Marines

Cost: \$1.50 each (*Price includes shipping*) **Chapter:** NM-1 (*checks payable to WMA-Chapter NM1*)

Contact: Phyllis Young, 1070 Stovall Ave., Bosque Farms, NM 87068

Item: Pewter zipper pulls, yellow ribbon pin, heart necklace or ornaments all with the eagle, globe and anchor.

Cost: \$6.00. \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$9.00 (*plus \$3.00 shipping per item*)

Chapter: MN-1 Minnesota Leathernecks (*make checks payable to MN-1*)

Contact: Mary McGee, 2652 Marshall St NE #301, Minneapolis, MN 55418 (612) 788-1216

Item: "Woman Marine" Ribbon Magnet, 8" x 4"

Cost: \$7.00 (*includes shipping & handling*)

Chapter: OH-2 Chesty Puller

Contact: Ellen Leidy, 1107 Columbus Ave., Barberton, OH 44203 (303) 825-8935 email: leidyrun@aol.com



Item: Ornament "The Fewer" Size 2 3/8" x 3 1/8" Limited 3-D, designed by Former Marine, Artist Gene Roncka

Cost: 24 Karat Gold on Brass \$29.75 (*includes shipping*) Portion of proceeds go to "Paws and Stripes".

Make Money Order or Cashier Check to: Katherine M Lorenz Townsend

Chapter: TX-1 "The Lone Star State"

Contact: Katherine LorenzTownsend, 4025 Tortoise Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76135. GYSgtLTUSMC@aol.com subj line: "The Fewer"

Acceptance of an advertisement for printing in 'Nouncements' in no way endorses, nor does it indicate approval of the quality of the product. All local and state taxes, including any licenses, are the responsibility of the chapter submitting the ad. A percentage of profits from the sale of merchandise advertised on these pages must go to a chapter in order to be listed here.

Remembering Building 903 at Parris Island

It started with a trip I took in 2011 back to the heart of the Marine Corps simply to remember - to muse on the pride and mystique of Parris Island and to recall memories that had been buried for years. It culminated the following year with the dedication of a commemoration marker for Building 903, the last building still standing that was part of the first women Marine complex built on the island that makes Marines.

When I drove onto Parris Island that hot April day, commemorating something was far from my thoughts. I just wanted to go back - this time alone - and to let it surround me and take me once again wherever it wanted to - just as it had over 30 years ago.

After a trip to the Parris Island Museum, I started to walk - knowing what I was looking for and certain I would recognize it if it was still there. It was.

It was just as tall, just as grave, just as stalwart as I remembered it. Even the breeze around me seemed to stop for just a moment as if in a gesture of respect as I took it all in. Building 903 was in front of me for the first time since that dark night I had entered it as a recruit so many years before.

When I came to Parris Island in January of 1978, Building 903 was my recruit barracks and housed two platoons. We became aware within days after arrival that there were other recruit squad bays in the new women recruit complex that had been built nearby and that other recruits were being housed there as well, while we were in the "old building". At the time none of us realized the significance of the old squad bays with the hardwood floors, high ceilings, and life-sized windows. It was initially part of a complex built to house women Marine reservists in World War II, and then in 1949 the complex was designated as a training area for women Marine recruits. As we stood terrified and lined up against the cold bulkhead with the hard click of the drill instructors shiny black oxfords mixing with their shouts, we had no idea of the history that had come before us there. We were unaware that we stood on the very spots where women Marines who had seen WWII, Korea, and Vietnam had stood as they paved the way for us.

I entered the building slowly that day so many years later, reliving everything in my mind. It had been completely renovated and was now headquarters for the 6th Marine Corps Recruiting District. In the main foyer in a glass case were some mementoes of women Marine history, including information that two other buildings, 901 and 902, had once been part of the complex also but had at some point been torn

down. The three buildings together had originally housed permanent women Marine personnel as well as women recruits.

The Marines inside were warm and welcoming when they found out why I was there. They were surprised to hear that the building had at one time been a woman recruit barracks. A couple of them had questions about my memories there - questions about things that I had buried for a long time and was not used to being asked about. I pulled at my mind to remember it all and answer them. I showed them where the DI hut had been, where

the DIs had slept, and the door to their sleeping quarters that the last fire watch of the night had to be sure to pound on in just the right way to awaken them before dawn. I showed them where the showers and head had been, how the stairs used to be wider and the ceilings taller, and explained that the long ago squad bays used to be where fresh carpeting and offices now were.

But some memories I couldn't explain. I couldn't tell them how it felt to see our DI standing eerily still at the end of the day in the hatchway of our darkened squad bay, the light from the hallway making an almost ethereal glow around her, as we all lay stiffly in our racks and sang *The Lord's Prayer*. I couldn't describe our tired voices as they rose in song, or the muffled sounds of some of us crying ourselves softly to sleep. I didn't tell them how solemn the southern winter wind sounded late at night as it blew against the large old windows, and what happened in the hearts and minds of young women recruits those many years ago as we began to experience the change that was forever.

(Continued next page)



Platoon 2A, 13 March, 1978.



The Marines were surprised to hear that the building had at one time been a woman recruit barracks.



Address Service Requested
Women Marines Association
P.O. Box 377
Oaks, PA 19456-0377

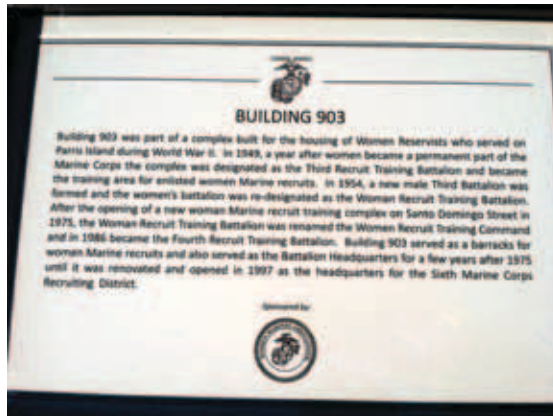
Remembering Building 903 *(Continued)*

I finished my personal tour outside in back of Building 903 and stared out at the now deserted field that had once been our physical training area. There was an old sign being overgrown with brush and what appeared to be some digging going on for some type of construction work. I had to focus harder on the field than the building to remember the past there, but slowly it came - first in bits and pieces, and then in a flood. I turned to the side to see what had once been a brush lined path that we took for our five mile runs - it was now cleaned up and manicured - the tall brush gone and replaced with bright green grass on the sides of the path. In my memory's eye I saw us all running and shouting on the field, going from station to station, our gray winter sweats clinging to the moisture on our bodies as we began to learn that pain was good. I could almost feel it all over again - I saw one of my drill instructors hissing at the side of my face and forcing me to continue on - the memory became so vivid that I could feel her breath again on my cheek.

I left and began the long drive home to Massachusetts in silence. No one will remember in the future, I thought to myself. No one will know what happened there when we are gone.

Once home I drafted a letter - to someone, anyone, who would listen. I called

the Women Marines Association. I suggested a commemoration marker for the old physical training field and was advised by Paula Sarlls, Immediate Past President of WMA, to write a proposal. The proposal I wrote was eventually forwarded to Rhonda Amtower, President of WMA. Rhonda forwarded the proposal to Lieutenant Colonel Maria Marte, Commanding Officer, 4th Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island.



The idea changed from a marker for the field to a marker for Building 903. The response and support was overwhelmingly positive and the idea took flight.

WMA President Rhonda LeBrescu-Amtower, LtCol Maria Marte, Sergeant Major Robin Fortner, 4th RTBN SgtMaj, and Master Sergeant Ray Gallimore, 6th Marine Corps District Training Team, all came on board and were eager to help. MSgt Gallimore worked

tirelessly to help us all.

Finally, on the morning of 13 February, 2012 during opening ceremonies at Parris Island for the 69th anniversary celebration of women Marines, the commemoration marker for Building 903 was presented in front of women Marines of all eras that had gathered together in the courtyard of 4th Recruit Training Battalion. Rhonda Amtower spoke first about the idea for and significance of the marker, and as it was unveiled, LtCol Marte read a copy of the words inscribed on it.

The marker, with its wording recognizing it as the last building standing from the first women Marine complex, was designated to be placed inside the front foyer of Building 903.

I rested, for a moment, both moved and humbled at the same time by the camaraderie and love of Corps around me. I felt deep gratitude for those who made the commemoration of Building 903 possible. The completion of the project provided another link in the chain to compile and preserve the history of women in the Marine Corps.

Those entering and leaving Building 903 can now pause at the marker and reflect on the history and mission of women Marines, and on this historic structure that holds so many stories of their journey.

Corrina Martell



**"Where it
all Began"**

27th Biennial Convention & Professional Development Conference
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