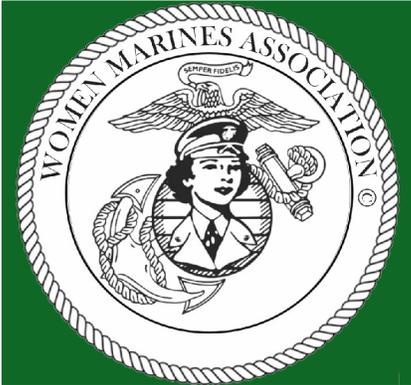


WMA 'Nouncements



“SgtMaj of Women Marines... SgtMaj Grace A. Carle.”



With CMC Gen Robert Neller

Recruits between April 1974 and October 1976 recited that every night for the eight weeks they were in boot camp, along with other governmental VIPs like the President and Vice President of the United States, Secretary of the Navy, Commandant, and Director of Women Marines. I served on active duty from 1973 to 1978 and Grace A. Carle has been “my” Sergeant Major, even when women Marine companies were disbanded in 1977. It was a thrill to finally meet her at a convention many years ago, and still a thrill to see her at the

last one in Washington, DC, thanks to her niece accompanying her. She passed away on September 9, 2019.

Grace Carle joined the Marine Corps when she was 20, and was in the last class to train at Hunter College in New York. Training at that time was only three weeks long. The curriculum consisted of lessons about Marine Corps rules and regulations. She remembered the Corps was more focused on getting them through basic training and into the field to free more men to fight. She graduated on 3 July 1943, and a week later had orders to go to Headquarters Marine Corps (which ended up being her first and her last duty station).

For those admin troops out there, Grace started as what would be considered an O151.

In February 1945, she shipped to Hawaii and on her 23rd birthday, marched down the main street in a parade on the day Japan surrendered. She rotated stateside where she was discharged on 7 November 1945.

In 1948, living in Los Angeles, Grace joined the voluntary training unit that became the nucleus for the Women Recruiting Platoon, 13th Infantry Battalion. She went back on active duty in 1950 when the Marine Corps mobilized this unit for the Korean conflict. In August 1951, Grace integrated into the regular Marine Corps.

Her greatest desire was to learn everything she could. She would constantly seek out the women surrounding her to see how they behaved. She would also determine how this behavior made them successful. So, when she set her goals, she would adopt some of those habits and lead in the successful manner as other women Marines have led. She

always believed that if you want to be successful and to become a great leader, you must work hard to achieve that goal. She applied this to all areas of her Marine Corps experience.

Other duty stations included MCAS El Toro, Quantico, and Parris Island. During May and June of 1956, she was one of three women Marines to attend the first class on the Uniform Code of Military Justice School that was held at Camp DelMar, CA.



Sgt Maj. Grace A. Carle 1922 - 2019

In 1958 while at PI, she and SgtMaj Ouida Craddock assisted in the physical education program for the elementary grades at the Depot Dependent School in their off time.

Next came duty at Camp Pendleton, then Camp Lejeune, back to PI for training, then to Okinawa. Next it was on to Quantico and the Woman Officer School (WOS). Later she became the SgtMaj of WOS.

As the assistant on Woman Officer Selection Duty to the 8th District in New Orleans, she and 1stLt JoAnn Canal exceeded their quota, recruiting more females to join the Marine Corps as officers from New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas, leading the nation in overall results in 1964 and 1965.

In 1974 at Henderson Hall she was named the sixth SgtMaj of Women Marines. She worked with then Col Margaret Brewer, the last Director of Women Marines. Her job was to travel with Col Brewer to different bases talking to women Marines. She also enjoyed being a part of the discussions that advised the Marine Corps about their thinking on what women could and could not do.

Grace decided to retire on 31 October 1976. She had her retirement parade at 8th & I and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for playing a role in shaping how women Marines would seamlessly integrate without any incident with male Marines. She and SgtMaj June V. Andler,...



With Jeanne Botwright and June Dempsey at 2018 Convention

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76 YEARS OF PROUD SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND CORPS

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WMA

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5 January 2020

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for 'Nouncements
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fifth SgtMaj of Women Marines, were the only women Marines to have such a distinction of a parade at 8th & I.

In June 1977, the Marine Corps officially integrated the women and male Marine companies.

"I like to think that I have the distinction of being 'LAST'. I was in the eighth and last regiment that trained at Hunter College. I was the second and 'LAST' SgtMaj of Women Marines to have their retirement parade at Marine Barracks, 8th & I. My first and 'LAST' duty stations were at Headquarters Marine Corps. I was the sixth and 'LAST' SgtMaj of Women Marines", she said.

Grace Carle was a life member of WMA, having Life Member #174. During her time with WMA, she served as president of the Redwood Chapter (CA-9) from February 1987 to February 1990.

In a video posted in March 2018, SgtMaj Carle had this to say:

"I am very pleased that we have come this far. I know I'm a trailblazer, I know I have opened doors for women, and I am very proud of the fact that they have walked through those doors and they have continued to open doors for those women who will be coming behind them. We have proven that we are worthy to be called Marines, and we have worked very hard at it and will continue to work very hard at proving that they are Marines."

If you're wondering why she is so important, you have to understand this is being written by a Marine who felt during that time that the Director and SgtMaj of Women Marines were OUR equivalents to the Commandant and SgtMaj of the Marine Corps. And because younger Marines truly wouldn't be where they are if it wasn't for Grace Amy Carle. She was a true trailblazer, a woman Marine who served during THREE wars and fought for advancements for women Marines. She was the last of the last. Semper Fidelis to a warrior whose service is honored beyond measure, as well as her friendship...Sergeant Major Grace A. Carle.

"We are sisters and have a common bond. We may never have met but we have served and are proud of our service; that's what it means to me."

~SgtMaj Grace A. Carle, USMC (Ret)

Written by Sharon Tutt
Edited by Sondra Metzger



SgtMaj Carle at 2018 Convention



Reporting In...National President

Your National Board of Directors (BOD) met in Omaha, Nebraska for the Interim Board Meeting (IBM) 24-25 August to conduct the business of WMA on your behalf. We stayed at the Omaha Hilton, the site of the 2020 Convention. The 2020 Convention Coordinating Committee (CCC) led by Co-Chairs Penny Hardiman and Jenifer Nothelfer provided us a detailed briefing on the status of convention planning. The dedicated efforts of their entire team were evident in their plans for what promises to be a wonderful event.



The theme is "Back to the Basics" that will focus on our WMA roots that began 60 years ago next year. Bringing our OOHRAH to Omaha will help us appreciate how our history has helped to influence what WMA has become and what we want to be in the future. We will have the opportunity to discover Omaha with time to visit one of the world's top-rated zoos, local museums, the Old Marketplace, and, of course, appreciate the home of Omaha steaks! I am sure we will get a sample of those delicious steaks for one of our meals.

During the two-day IBM there was a lot of business to get to in a short period of time to include a review of revisions to our Bylaws and Standing Rules along with recommended changes to our Standing Operating Procedures (SOP). Our procedures are always evolving and it is important to update them accordingly so we can continue to conduct the business of WMA in an efficient manner.

One key theme was a discussion on the way forward for WMA. I am pleased to share that we are working with consultant Courtney Lynch, a Marine and principal at Lead Star, who is providing her services pro bono, to support WMA in improving current operations and future strategic planning. Courtney will be facilitating strategy sessions for a working group of WMA members and supporters to review what is working well, what could be better and develop a way forward that will allow WMA to excel in the future. We will keep you posted on the working group's progress and opportunities for your input into their process.

This fall we will roll into the nomination and election process for the Board of Directors for the 2020-2022 term of office. You will see more details in this issue about the nomination process. All elected positions are open for nominations. If you want to be a part of this great association and have your voices heard to make a difference, consider stepping up and serving at the National level.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays and appreciate all that we have and can share together.



Your Board of Directors at the IBM

Semper Fidelis,
Rhonda Amtower

Area 1

I never quite understood what a “motorcycle run” was until I participated as a volunteer with the MA-3 Captain Jennifer Harris Chapter in August. I knew that the RI-2 Corporal Holly Charette Chapter had been providing support for their motorcycle run in RI over the past two years; but unfortunately, I wasn’t able to attend. Being present at just one of these events has proven to be a remarkable experience for me.

My passion to support our Gold Star families, as we continue to honor and carry out our fallen sister’s legacy here at home, is what always energized me. And then I participated in a motorcycle run...

Observing the participants ride their “bikes” into the holding area and watching all the volunteers, to include the local MCJROTC cadets, work effortlessly inside and out in support of the Captain Jennifer Harris motorcycle run in August was truly motivating. There were hundreds of supporters everywhere who came to honor our fallen sister. Following the opening ceremony with the MCJROTC color guard and the National Anthem being sung, the roar of the engines took over and, in some small way, it brought me back to my earlier days serving and the sounds of our vehicles starting their engines and then launching the convoys on their missions. It was one spirit -- one mission then, as it was this day.

The WMA mission here at home in New England is to honor our fallen sisters, Captain Jennifer Harris and Corporal Holly Charette, and to welcome all our neighbors to support us along the way. Holly’s parents said it best (and Jennifer’s dad has echoed the same): “Losing a child, that pain never goes away, no matter what circumstance you lost your child from, that heartache is with you forever,” Regina said. “We love talking about her and happy tears are coming out because everyone’s here for her. We miss her tremendously and if we can pay it forward and other people try to pay it forward, that’s what she’s about.”

The men and women (many were veterans) who volunteer to ride their bikes in support of one of our sisters is remarkable. So many of them go from one event to another in the region in support of various great causes. But for these bikers to put a name to their support is meaningful. Both of the motorcycle runs benefit college scholarships for area teens in honor of Jennifer Harris (MA-3) and for Holly Charette (RI-2). Many children have enjoyed the financial support from these events so they can carry on the spirit and legacy of our sisters, too.

I’m very proud of our RI-2 and MA-3 chapter Marines who stepped up to support and honor our fallen sisters and their Gold Star families. Bravo Zulu Marines!

Favorite Quote: “You cannot allow any of your people to avoid the brutal facts. If they start living in a dream world, it’s going to be bad.” ~ General James Mattis

*Jamie B. DePaola
Area 1 Director*

Area 3

Area 3 has been very busy these past few months. Here are a few highlights.

We have several new chapters forming. In Florida we have interest in the Tallahassee area, chapters in formation in West Palm Beach and Cape Coral. In Alabama we have forming chapters in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Huntsville. AL-1 is reforming in the Moline area. GA is forming in Augusta and Savannah, and South Carolina is looking to add to their chapters in Greenville and Columbia. In North Carolina we find a formation in the Fayetteville area. NC-4 is reforming in the Charlotte area. Tennessee has one forming in the northeast area around Kingsport as well as the Memphis Area.



Joint meeting with Florida chapters

If there is not a chapter near you, we would love to investigate starting one. Please contact me at AD3@womenmarines.org. Several Florida chapters came together in July for the 1st annual joint meeting. The meeting was a great success. A variety of topics were discussed...recruitment, fund raising, how to run a successful meeting, and Area 3’s goals. I am looking forward to next year’s joint meeting. I look forward to doing this in each state that we have forming and chartered chapters. Members-at-Large are always invited.

GA-2 Semper Sororibus invited me to their officer installation ceremony. It was a very elegant event. The base commanding officer and sergeant major were in attendance. Thank you, Marines, for the invitation. It was my honor and pleasure to perform your ceremony. This chapter is a prime example of getting the command in Albany on board. They are working with them hand in hand.

GA-1 celebrated the 100th birthday of Kathleen Eidson along with her family. She is still as feisty as ever. Many more birthdays to you, Kathleen.

We are looking forward to 2019 being a banner year for Area 3. Watch us grow!



GA-2 officer installation



*Patricia Collins
Area 3 Director*

Area 6

This period ends with summer behind us. It was a record hot summer and it was a record hot recruitment period as well for Area 6. We saw an increase in membership across all areas especially in Texas. Along with reporting the events I was able to attend, I want to mention the great work chapter members across Area 6 are engaged in, like TX-3 San Antonio Rose President Venesa Delagdo and her work with Adopt-A-Family Team Support; TX-5 Heart of Texas Vice President Ursula Gruetzer and her work with Dress for Success; OK-2

Heartland Chapter member Pam Bloustine and her work with Oklahoma Women Veterans Recognition Day program; LA-1 Molly Marine chapter members cleanup efforts around the community. As an area director, I couldn't be prouder to be a member of this organization and all the great things we are doing for the community. Below are the events I was able to attend.



Esther Jean Sherrod funeral

On 20 July I attended the funeral of Esther Jean Sherrod. Although Ester Sherrod was not a member of the Women Marines Association, she was a woman Marine and her family requested a military presence. I was accompanied by Marti Raney and LaShonda Jones to pay our respects and represent WMA. The funeral was a celebration of her life and we represented WMA well in our red blazers/shirts and WMA covers.

On 16 August, I attended Many Voices Participate (MVP) Coffee Series showcasing the work of Astros Foundation and local non-profit organizations. The event's topic was everything "Military and Veterans". The panel discussed ways to improve benefits for our veterans within Houston and how to get services for those veterans who are in need of services. This event was sponsored by the Astros Foundation and organized by Twila Carter, executive director, Astros Foundation.



With Diamantina Rodriguez at TX-7 chapter meeting

On 24-26 August, I attended the Interim Board Meeting (IBM). The board discussed several initiatives and our next convention in Omaha. The theme for the convention is "Back to Basics". As your Area Director, I want to help you attend the convention. I want to hear from you on how I can help.



With Beverly Franklin at TX-2 event

On 21 September, I joined TX-7 Opha May Johnson Chapter for one of their monthly meetings. I was so impressed with each member attending the meeting showing their support by wearing their chapter shirts. They are in full swing of fundraisers and community services.

On 2 October, I joined TX-2 Texas Gulf Coast Chapter in preparing cards for patients residing at the Houston Veterans Hospital. I know how much each recipient appreciates being thought of and knowing that they are not forgotten. Great job, TX-2!

*Semper Fidelis,
Area 6 Director Rosa Osborn*

Area 10

Greetings Lady Leathernecks,

What a fast pace this year has been. Chapters come in all sizes, small, medium and large. The mission is for each chapter to create new ways to continue to search for Marines in their local area to help WMA increase our membership.

Take the time to join other veterans' groups or get involved in community events. This will enlarge your chances for better exposure. You will also enjoy a kinship with other veterans' organizations and veterans from other branches of

service. Representation for each chapter may be different. Explore new and fresh ideas to bring in young Marines.

I traveled to San Diego in September to honor Sergeant Major Grace Carle along with chapters CA-2 and CA-7. It was a warm and loving memory of her and I am glad I got to know she departed.

This is a good time to refresh your minds to read the How to Book and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). These books will guide you with your chapters and assist with entries for awards. I encourage chapters to create a history album of what your chapters have been doing throughout the years. I am here should you need assistance.

I attended the IBM in Omaha, and I look forward to another convention. I think that each chapter should plan on attending as a group or come solo, but have a plan to attend a convention at least once. You will learn about WMA, prepare to lead the chapter, and enjoy comradeship with fellow Marines. You get to explore the state and just have fun. Prepare to bring your Oooooorah to Omaha!

Remember to be kind to everyone, for everyone has a story untold, a battle not won, struggles they do not share and demons within.

Have a wonder holiday season and remember our military men and women in harm's way.

*Semper Fidelis,
Area 10 Director Soledad Kennedy*

Note of Apology

My sincere apologies to LtGen Lori Reynolds for her photograph with Erin Holvoet on the front page being reversed in the last issue. I totally missed it. For that, I'm truly sorry.

And a thank you to Mary Dodd for telling me!

~ Sondra

911 for Chairpeople!!

WMA is looking for WMA members in good standing (dues paid) who are organized and very detail-oriented.

There is an immediate need for a chairperson for the WMA MCJROTC program. This job consists of getting a list of schools that are active in the MCJROTC, sorting them into areas, inventory of MCJROTC items, coordination between schools and chapters to assure full coverage.

There is also an immediate need for a chairperson for the Matching Funds and Grants program. Along with her committee, they review and approve/disapprove matching fund requests from chapters and emergency grant requests from individuals. There will be an extended article about this program in our January edition.

Please submit your name with a short one-paragraph bio and head/shoulder picture to the 2nd Vice President. Any questions and to see the full SOPs contact Jeannine Franz at 2VP@wommenmarines.org.

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a national effort to remember fallen veterans, honor those who serve, and teach children the value of freedom. Through wreath sponsorship, you can help to continue this mission as well as supporting WMA. For each wreath sponsored on our site, national will receive \$5.

Last year, our efforts supported Ft. Sam Houston National

Cemetery in San Antonio, TX. This year, there is no specific cemetery designated so each sponsor will be able to choose in which cemetery their wreath is placed. Next year, we will sponsor a specific cemetery. Suggestions for cemetery sponsorship may be emailed to waa@womenmarines.org. The National Wreaths Across America Day will take place on December 14th. I encourage all of you to participate and to forward pictures so that our sponsorship page for next year can showcase our efforts!

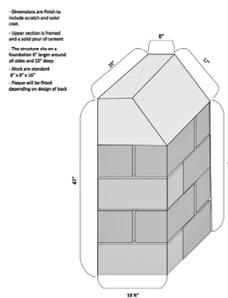
Jennifer Rooth

Wreaths Across America Coordinator

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/20065/news/?relatedIds=14880>

Monument

We are providing a memorial monument to honor the World War II Women Reserves.



In 1945, there were 18,000 women serving, 690 women were stationed at Marine Corps Base, San Diego from 1943 through 1946. Not many people realize just how many women were serving on the base at that time. We feel it is important to recognize this unique time in the base's history.

In order to have this monument on the base, we essentially offered a gift that was approved and accepted by the Commanding General. This gift, by law, has to be at no cost to the government. This means that we must pay for everything to include the installation. The monument will be placed in front of the building that served as the barracks, quarters for the officers, and other battalion facilities for these women.

Your support is crucial to our efforts to preserve this history. If able, we would appreciate a donation of any amount, to help us achieve our mission. Here is how you can personally donate.

Checks should be made out to WMA, San Diego County Chapter, CA2 with MONUMENT on the memo line. Mail to: WMA CA-2, P.O. Box 87089, San Diego, CA 92138.

Donations may also be made via Pay Pal. Please use this link: [PayPal.Me/SanDiegoWMA](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.womenmarines.org).

Thank you in advance for your contribution. Your donation will go towards funding the construction and installation of this monument.

CA-2

New President for WIMSA



It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of this incredible organization. I fully appreciate the trust and faith bestowed upon me as the incoming President of the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial Foundation.

I am proud to have served my country in uniform and delighted to have the opportunity to continue to serve alongside so many of my sisters-in-arms!

As we look to the future, I am excited for all of the new opportunities we have ahead of us at the Women's Memorial

– the place where America says thanks to the 3,000,000 women who have served in the nation's defense, beginning with the American Revolution. The Memorial is undergoing significant external structural repairs and once completed, we will turn our focus to the interior redesign! Reimagined displays and state of the art technology will greatly enhance the Women's Memorial experience for visitors of all ages so that generations to come will know of the service, courage and sacrifice of America's military women, as well as those who've served by our side in the "We Also Served" organizations such as the American Red Cross, Special Services, Cadet Nurse Corps, WASP, USO and more.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the amazing accomplishments of Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, President Emeritus, and Major General Dee McWilliams, past president. I am humbled to follow in their path – but they have lit the way and remain my trusted advisors. Perhaps more importantly, I want to publicly thank the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation staff who have worked behind the scenes to diligently safeguard the stories of every woman registered. They are the unsung heroes of the Foundation.

As we look ahead to the 25th Anniversary of the Women's Memorial in 2022, you can rest assured that we will never waiver from our commitment of honoring all women who have served in and with the United States Armed Forces. I look forward to meeting many of you and hearing your incredible stories!

Phyllis Wilson
CWO5 (ret) USA

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE

*** National Nominations Now Open ***

Do you have what it takes to serve on the National Board? Do you want to make a difference in your organization? Now is the time to step up and run for an elected position. As we look forward to the Biennial Convention and Professional Development Symposium next fall in Omaha, we must also focus on the future of WMA in the election of a National Board of Directors (BOD). This process takes place every two years as we prepare to meet at convention to conduct the business of WMA. Elected positions include the seven (7) National Officers: president, 1st /2nd /3rd vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and membership secretary along with the 10 area directors.

Area 1 - CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT, Europe, Middle East and Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia, Canada

Area 2 - DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV and Africa

Area 3 - AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN, and Caribbean Islands

Area 4 - IL, IN, MI, OH, KY, NAT-1, and Ontario, Canada

Area 5 - IA, KS, MN, MO, WI, and Manitoba and Nunavut, Canada

Area 6 - AR, LA, MS, OK, TX, and Mexico

Area 7 - CO, MT, NE, ND, SD, WY, and Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories, Canada, and FPO/APO Zips 09XXX and 96XXX

Area 8 - AZ, NV, NM, UT, USA-3, Central America and South America

Area 9 - AK, ID, OR, WA, British Columbia, and Yukon Territories, Canada

Area 10 - CA, HI, Australia and New Zealand; Pacific Islands and Asia

All positions are open for nomination.

More information about the Board of Directors is available in the WMA National Bylaws and Standing Rules that can be found in your copy of the Resource Manual and Directory (RM&D). Specific duties of each position can be provided by the Nomination Committee. The key qualifiers for a board position are commitment, time, and experience. All candidates should be able to spend at least eight hours a week on WMA business. Some positions may require more and others less. Must have a good working knowledge of MS Word, and Excel. Must have a computer/laptop and Wi-Fi. Must be able to attend the annual board meetings at either the Biennial Convention or Interim Board Meeting (IBM). Be available for periodic conference calls to conduct official business.

Nominations for the 2024 Convention Site

Are you ready to show off your city and your state? Experience the feel of a National Convention? Bids are now being accepted for the 2024 convention.

The bid area consists of Region 1, which includes Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Your area should be easily accessible by car, train, and plane. Hotels should be able to easily accommodate 300, reasonable rate and have attractions and restaurants in close proximity.

Please direct your questions to the Nomination Committee at nominate@womenmarines.org. The team will be more than happy to provide more detailed information upon request.

Omaha 2020!

It's my duty as your editor to attend the meetings involved with the Interim Board Meeting so I can tell you all about Omaha and what lies ahead for attendees to the Biennial Convention. So here goes!

Let's start with the Hilton. Wonderful hotel for the money. As with most hotels, the restaurant is a bit pricey, but it won't break your bank. It's backed up with great food! Five elevators, plenty of restrooms with plenty of stalls, shuttle busses that will take you anywhere you want to go. You'll need them to visit places as the hotel is not located in the center of things. There are still restaurants around the hotel that are within walking distance, but no convenience stores. They are in the process of remodeling the lobby area with a promise that the small deli area will be expanded.

The one thing that impressed me the most was the staff. Everyone was so friendly! From check-in to check-out, any staff member I encountered was helpful when needed and just more friendly than I'm used to at convention hotels. In fact, so much so that



(l-r) Rhonda Amtower, Karen Kelly, Pam Bloustine, and Mary Ellen Stone checking out the Old Market.

I STILL haven't gotten over it. Even the dogs I encountered on their walks with their owners were friendly!

As for Omaha, Kat Montira said it perfectly during the convention meeting: "We're not DC and we know it, but Omaha has a lot to offer." And indeed, they do! Omaha residents are also very friendly and very proud of their city and its amenities. But you will need to keep that in mind. They don't have all the sightseeing spots that DC has, but Omaha still has places to go and things to do starting with the Old Market.

The Old Market consists of eight blocks of stores, art galleries, restaurants, pubs, and horse drawn carriages. You will definitely need the hotel shuttle bus to get there along with plenty of time to wander.

We ran out of time and didn't make it to the zoo and art museums. Omaha is big on art. It's all over the hotel and the city, and there are many galleries in the Old Market.

Some of the attendees made it to "The Bob." This is a bridge named after Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey that goes over the Missouri River. Half way across, you walk right into Iowa. I have a feeling those who will participate in the walk/run during the convention will become acquainted with Bob.

My suggestion for this convention is to make sure you bring comfortable shoes, get ready for some fun times, and read the article about the anniversary party on September 3rd. It's in this issue with more convention information.

Sondra Metzger



One of the alleys between buildings in the Old Market that has many shops to wander through

Convention 2020

Calling all areas, chapters, and Marines-at-Large! The time has come to plan for Convention 2020, 3 – 7 September 2020. We will be ringing in the 60-year anniversary of the Women Marines Association at the Omaha Hilton in Omaha, Nebraska.

Registration to WMA Convention: PAPER (mail-in) registration and Omaha Hilton hotel registration opens in November 2019. ONLINE registration opens February 2020.

What do you need to do to plan? Talk to your area directors, chapters presidents, take a look at the "How To" book, and join a competition which includes newsletter, history book, chapter achievement books, website, and recruiting. Chapters...start brainstorming for PX items to promote your chapter, and remember to contact the Convention Committee if you want to reserve a PX table and tables at the ceremonies.

Be sure your flight comes in during the daytime on Thursday, 3 September. Thanks to Pam Bloustine and a small \$10 fee you will be treated to a 60th anniversary party that's going to blow your mind! Including hor d'oeuvres and drinks, a DJ, and dance floor. Look for an article by Pam within this issue.

The official first day kicks off Friday, 4 September with a First Timers and Active Duty Orientation. The PX will open up. Time to start shopping! In the evening, get your party clothes on for a "Back to the Basics" Opening Ceremony that will include a gourmet meal and guest speaker.

On Saturday, 5 September our early risers will get their P.T. gear on and go through a motivating course of kick-boxing with a 4'9" dynamo. Then we'll attend our first of two business meetings for both the Women Marines Association and the Loyal Escorts. Recognition and Awards Luncheon, which showcases our chapter competitions and awards for outstanding individuals and chapters, will be held over the lunch hour. The afternoon will include Round Table Workshops that will cover relevant topics including: leadership development, chapter development, and women's interests. Round Table workshops will be an interactive sharing of ideas and led by military leaders, chapter leaders, and field experts. These Round Table workshops will be presented on a rotating basis over the course of two hours. In the evening the Loyal Escorts will host a hospitality event.



Your NE-1 Lady Leathernecks ready to welcome you to Omaha! Front row (l-r): Jen Nothelfer, Diane O'Keefe, Penny Hardiman. Middle row (l-r): Becky Lowell, Elizabeth Jurgens, National President Rhonda Amtower, Pam Voss, Robbie Rosemann. Back Row (l-r): Georgia Parment, Stephanie Bruss, Kat Montira, Tami Schmidt. We can't wait to see you! Semper Fi!

R&A – Chapter members - wear your chapter shirts and show us your chapter camaraderie during the Recognition and Awards Ceremony.

Annual Fun Run – All members - wear a convention “2020 Bring your Oohrah to Omaha” t-shirt – on sale Spring 2020.

Sunday, 6 September will include our Annual Fun Run/Walk across the “Bob” (Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge) that towers over the Missouri River and where you can stand in two states at one time – Iowa and Nebraska. Our Memorial Service will be held

to remember our fallen. The second set of WMA and LE business meetings, and a meeting for the first vice president, area directors, and chapter presidents will occur. Opportunity to explore Omaha is available. The PX will again be open for shopping. The evening will close with a Loyal Escorts hospitality event.

The last official day, Monday, 7 September will hold a workshop and the Installation Luncheon for new WMA and Loyal Escort board members. Be sure to attend and show your support for these leaders that will hold the responsibility of carrying our association on to the future, to another 60 years. An “Explore Omaha” opportunity will be held in the afternoon and finally, the Closing Ceremony, which will showcase our long history of the Women Marines Association.

Explore Omaha: There are a few open blocks of time during convention that you can get out and “Explore Omaha” the following are suggestions from local Omaha Marines:

- Capital District – Open air, food, and entertainment
- Casino's (Harrah's & Ameristar) – gambling and entertainment
- Craft Axe Throwing - Excellent chapter building experience.
- Durham Museum – Western regional living history museum. Great for history buffs looking to investigate regional history
- Old Market – food, pubs, boutique shopping, street entertainment
- Henry Doorly Zoo – Omaha's top attraction
- 88 Tactical Group – firearm range

Tentative Schedule of Events for 2020 Biennial Convention Omaha Nebraska **Subject to Change**

<p>Thursday 3 September Registration Anniversary Party - 60 Years of WMA</p> <p>Friday 4 September - FIRST OFFICIAL DAY Registration WMA Board of Directors Meeting LE Board of Directors Meeting **Explore Omaha** PX Open Active Duty Orientation First Timers Orientation Opening Banquet</p> <p>Saturday 5 September Kick Boxing Registration WMA Business Meeting 1 LE Business Meeting 1 Recognition and Awards Luncheon PME/Workshop #1 (Round Table) PX Open Hospitality Event - Loyal Escorts Hosting</p>	<p>Sunday 6 September Annual Fun Run/Walk Registration Memorial Service PX WMA Business Meeting 2 LE Business Meeting 2 **Explore Omaha** 1st Vice President, Area Directors, & Chapter Presidents Meeting PX Open Hospitality Event - Loyal Escorts Hosting</p> <p>Monday 7 September - LAST OFFICIAL DAY -- PME/Workshop 2 Leadership Installation Luncheon **Explore Omaha** 1830-2130: Closing Banquet</p> <p>Tuesday 8 September 2020-2022 WMA BOD Meeting</p>
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Join in the Celebration!

As you may know, our wonderful Women Marines Association was formed by a group of hard chargers back in 1960, and next year in 2020, we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary. So, what do Marines do to celebrate? Party, party, party!!

On Thursday, 3 September 2020, on the eve of the first official day of the 2020 Convention, we will hold a WMA 60th Anniversary party from 1800-2200. As you make your travel plans to head to Omaha, try to arrive in time for this celebration.

Back by popular demand, we are hosting a talent competition similar to the one that was enjoyed by all in attendance at the Rose Bowl in Portland in 2016, and at our 40th Anniversary Party back in 2000. It will be a night of fun and laughter for everyone! Chapters, Members-at-Large, and Loyal Escorts will have a chance to compete as teams or as individuals, and to be creative and join in the competition. Ideas can range from karaoke, lip syncing with choreographic moves, or changing the words to favorite songs or even a skit to go along with the music lyrics. Someone even suggested having a cadence calling competition! The possibilities are endless. So, gather your sisters and brothers, be creative and see what you can come up with to participate, make unforgettable memories, and make this a truly wonderful beginning to the convention.

For a price of \$10, you will be served heavy hors d'oeuvres (enough for a full meal), salads, fruit, and of course, anniversary cake! A cash bar and a large dance floor will be available to dance the night away! And of course, free entertainment by your sister members!

Please contact me if you have any 60th Anniversary Celebration questions: Pam Bloustine at pamokwm@aol.com or 405-226-5688. More information will be available as time gets closer.

“Cel-I-I-lebrate Good Times, Come On...”

Pam Bloustine

Traveling to the 2020 Convention & Professional Development Symposium

Hilton Omaha

***Traveling by Plane** - Eppley Airfield is 2.4 miles from Hilton Omaha.

★ Complimentary shuttle service available. Call the hotel for shuttle service, 402-998-3400. Hilton Omaha Shuttle Stop is at the median between Southwest Airlines and the parking garage.

★ Taxi / Uber / Lyft \$11

***Traveling by Bus** - Greyhound Bus lines are 1 mile from Hilton Omaha

***Traveling by Train** - Amtrak Omaha is located 1.2 miles from Hilton Omaha

***Traveling by Car** - Hilton Omaha is located at 1001 Cass Street. Parking is discounted for Convention and is \$15 per day

***RV Parking** - The following parks are open: Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Ashland, NE; Louisville State Recreation Park, Louisville, NE; Arrowhead Park, Neola, IA; I-29 Hwy 34 Campground, Pacific Junction, IA. The casinos (Ameristar, Harrah's) allow unsupported RV parking, Council Bluff, IA. Several local parks are still closed due to 2019 flooding - stay tuned!

***Logistics** – There are two Hiltons. Be sure to go to **“Hilton Omaha”** located at 1001 Cass Street. DO NOT make reservations with Hilton Garden Inns. The convention is NOT there!

*Table Reservations for Meals

All meal events will be OPEN SEATING with the exception of reserved tables. To reserve a table for up to eight: cost \$50 per event for each chapter or special group. Fill out the form below and make checks payable to: WMA 2020 Convention and write “Table Reservation” on the memo line. Mail check to 2020 Convention (Table Res), PO Box 83, Pender, NE 68047.

Chapter/Reservation Name: _____

POC Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*Convention Roommate Request

Cut the cost for your hotel stay and bunk with a buddy! Fill out the below request and send to:

Diane Fuss O’Keeffe, 2020 Registrar, 4623 S. 155th Circle, Omaha, NE 68137, 402-708-7229.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Arrival: _____ Date of Departure: _____

1. 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 _____ *3 per room _____
*4 per room _____

Additional Information: _____



32nd Women Marines Association Convention & Professional Development Conference
September 3 – 7, 2020

PROGRAM ADVERTISING

- _____ FULL PAGE AD - \$200
- _____ HALF PAGE AD - \$100
- _____ QUARTER PAGE AD - \$50
- _____ BUSINESS CARD AD - \$25

SPONSORSHIP

- _____ **1 Star (\$1,000)** - Full-page ad in convention program
Promotional information in every welcome bag (sponsor supplies materials)

- _____ **2 Star (\$2,500)** - All the above benefits plus:
Logo printed on closing ceremony banquet program
Two (2) tickets to closing ceremony dinner (September 7)

- _____ **3 Star (\$5,000)** - All of the above benefits plus:
2'x 4'board with message & logo displayed during the entire Convention
Logo listed on the National WMA webpage (2 yrs.)

- _____ **4 Star (\$10,000)** - All of the above plus:
3'X6' board with message & logo on display during the entire convention
2 additional (total of 4 tickets) to the closing ceremony (Sep 7)

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE PROVIDE HI-RES ARTWORK
ACCEPTABLE FILES ARE: JPEG, HI-RES PDF

E-MAIL ARTWORK TO:

CONVENTIONADS@WOMENMARINES.ORG

ADS DUE: May 1, 2020

CONTACT INFO

NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ENCLOSED IS MY PAYMENT OF \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: **WMA 2020 CONVENTION**)

PLEASE MAIL FORMS AND PAYMENT TO:

WMA 2020 CONVENTION, PO BOX 83, Pender, NE 68047

PHONE: (308) 874-6025

EMAIL: CTREASURER@WOMENMARINES.ORG



Convention Registration Form

2020 Convention Mail in Meal Registration Form
 31st Biennial Women Marines Association Convention and Professional Development Symposium
3 September - 7 September, 2020

ONLINE Registration: AFTER 1 FEBRUARY 2020 go to www.womenmarines.org

**Late Fee of \$10 will be charged after 12 July 2020. A fee of \$50 will be charged for cancellation after 1 August 2019.
 Refunds will be mailed a minimum of 30 days after convention finalized.**

A SEPARATE FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH ATTENDEE

 WMA Member **LE Member** **Non Member**

~ MEAL REGISTRATION ~

Only current members may take Package A (Member - all meal \$198) or Package B (Member - individual Choice)

Date/Event	Package A (Member-All Meals)	Package B (Member-Individual Choice)	Package C (Non-Member Individual Choice)
3 Sep 60th Anniversary Party (AP)	Included	(AP) \$10	(AP) \$10
4 Sep Opening Ceremony (OC)	Included	(OC) \$63	(OC) \$69
5 Sep Recognition & Awards (RA)	Included	(RA) \$42	(RA) \$48
7 Sep Installation Ceremony (IC)	Included	(IC) \$42	(IC) \$48
7 Sep Closing Ceremony (CC)	Included	(CC) \$69	(CC) \$75

Full Name _____ ServiceName _____

Boot Camp/OCS grad month/year & name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name to be printed on badge _____ Primary Chapter & Name _____

Loyal Escort(s) Name for Badge _____

Non-Member Guest Name for Badge _____

Choose as applicable: My First Convention Will Volunteer Mobility Impaired Describe _____
 Special Dietary needs Describe _____

ALL ATTENDEES MUST PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE. NO EXCEPTIONS

REGISTRATION FEE \$50

Loyal Escort Registration Fee \$35 TOTAL \$ _____

MEAL PACKAGE A \$198 TOTAL \$ _____

MEAL PACKAGE B (AP) \$10 (OC) \$63 (RA) \$42 (IC) \$42 (CC) \$69 TOTAL \$ _____

MEAL PACKAGE C (AP) \$10 (OC) \$69 (RA) \$48 (IC) \$48 (CC) \$75 TOTAL \$ _____

DONATION TOTAL \$ _____

LATE FEE IF AFTER 12 JULY 2020 - \$10 TOTAL \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Make your hotel reservations online <https://book.passkey.com/go/WMA2020Convention> OR call 1-800-Hiltons (1-800-445-8665) and use the group code **WOM** for preferred WMA Convention room rate of \$99 plus taxes. Identify handicap room needs when you book your reservations. Omaha Hilton, 1001 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68102. Direct phone (402) 998-3400.

Mail completed form with payment to: WMA Convention Treasurer, PO BOX 83 Pender, NE 68047

To be completed by Convention Treasurer: Date Received: _____ Registration Number: _____ Reg Acknowledgement sent on _____

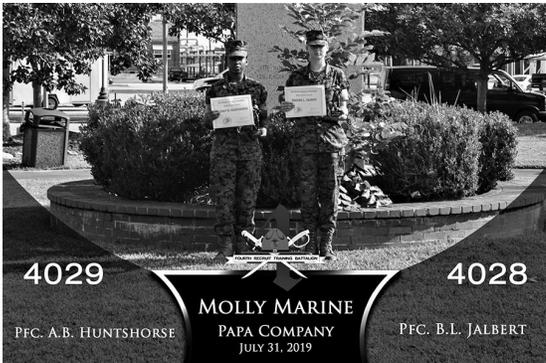
Molly Marines



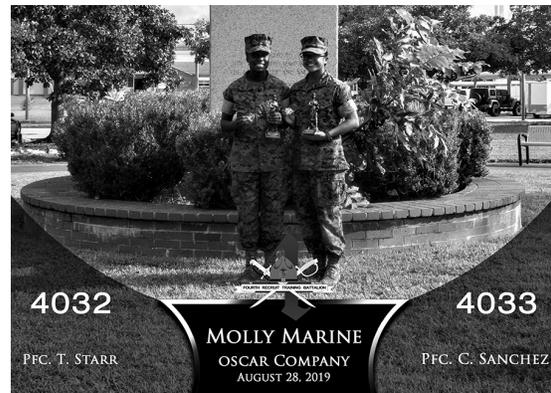
Platoon 4024 - PFC Laura A. Marmolejo Mora, Flushing, NY
 Platoon 4025 - Pvt Karla K. Heisser, Muskegon, MI
 Graduation: 28 June 2019



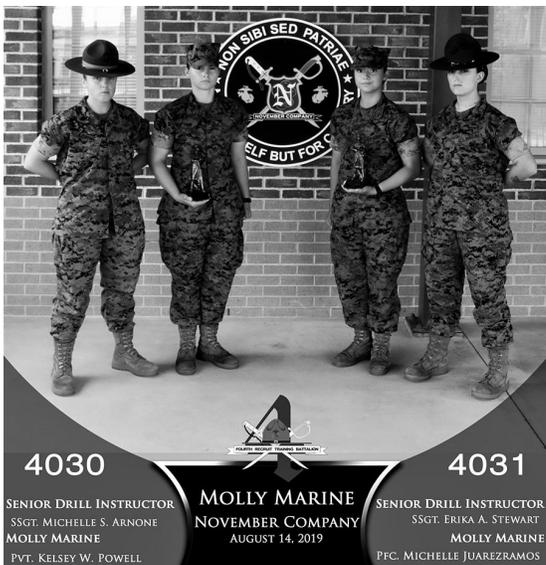
Platoon 4026 - PFC Hannah M. Pratt, Festus, MO
 Platoon 4027 - Pvt Maria F. Cardenascecena, Flowery Branch, GA
 Graduation: 19 July 2019



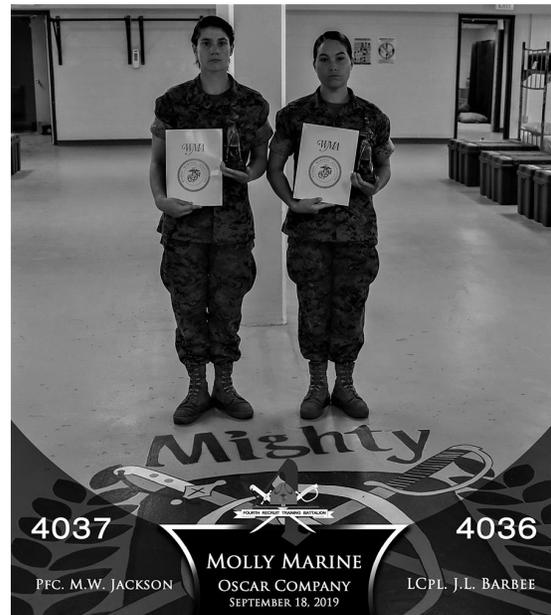
Platoon 4028 - PFC Brooke L. Jalbert, Overland Park, KS
 Platoon 4029 - PFC Audrey B. Huntshorse, Howes, SD
 Graduation: 2 August 2019



Platoon 4032 - PFC Tatiyana Starr, Trenton, NJ
 Platoon 4033 - PFC Chasity Sanchez, New Britain, CT
 Graduation: 30 August 2019



Platoon 4030 - Pvt Kelsey W. Powell, Seal Beach, CA
 Platoon 4031 - PFC Michelle Juarezramos, Bullhead City, AZ
 Graduation: 16 August 2019



Platoon 4036 - LCpl Jenna L. Barbee, Spring Hill, FL
 Platoon 4037 - PFC Miriam W. Jackson, Price, UT
 Graduation: 20 September 2019

Photo unavailable due to Hurricane Dorian.
 Platoon 4034 - Pvt Hailey E. Mitchell, Grain Valley, MO
 Platoon 4035 - PFC Rachel A. Trevino, Wausau, WI
 Graduation: 6 September 2019

More firsts for female pilots



Capt. Anneliese Satz is the Marine Corps' first-ever female F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter jet pilot. The 29-year-old from Boise, Idaho, has spent the past four years training as a naval aviator. Now, she's cleared to operate the cutting-edge fifth-generation stealth, supersonic fighter aircraft in combat. She's the first woman to complete the F-35B Basic Course, designed specifically for the Marine Corps variant of the fighter jet.

Satz is joining the "Green Knights" with the Japan-based Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121. VMFA-121 was the first F-35B squadron to complete an operational deployment with a Marine expeditionary unit aboard a Navy ship.

Satz was licensed to fly the single-engine Robinson R44 light helicopter before joining the Marine Corps. Since switching to fixed wing, she's flown the T-6 Texan II tandem-seat, turboprop trainer and the T-45C Goshawk carrier capable jet trainer, which prepares naval aviators for tactical missions.

She then joined Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, where she trained to fly the military's newest fighter jet. Showing up and working hard are what allowed her to succeed, she said. Satz also credited the instructors, maintainers and other members of Marine Fighter Attack



1stLt Stark after her pinning ceremony

Training Squadron 501 for helping her complete the F-35B Basic Course.

While her graduation just happened, another female Marine, 1stLt. Catherine Stark, was recently the first female Marine selected to train and fly the F-35C. Stark recently had her aviation wings pinned on during a ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville, TX, following completion of flight school on August 2. Stark will soon begin nine to 12 months of F-35C training at the Navy's F-35C Fleet Replacement Squadron in Lemoore, CA.

Stark was the first female Marine selected to train on the F-35C. She has spent the past 18 months training on the Beechcraft T-6 Texan II and the McDonnell Douglas T-45 Goshawk. She graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in aerospace engineering and was commissioned as a Marine officer in 2016. She will continue to her assigned fleet replacement squadron to fly the F-35C II Joint Strike Fighter jet aircraft. Stark is the first female Marine to be assigned to the Navy's F-35C FRS.

While the first female Marines are entering the F-35 pilot community, other female pilots have come before them.

The Marines have 86 F-35 pilots across the Corps, but are authorized to have 263, according to data obtained by Marine Corps Times through a government records request. The data is current as of February.

The F-35C is the aircraft carrier variant of the high-tech stealth fighter. The Corps is procuring both the F-35B and F-35C variants of the stealth aircraft. The F-35B allows for short take-off and vertical landing and can be deployed from the Navy's amphibious assault ships. The Corps plans to procure 353 F-35Bs and 67 F35Cs, according to the Marine Corps' 2019 aviation plan.

*Gina Harkins, Military.com
Shawn Snow, Marine Corps Times*

Women Veteran Suicides

After four years on active duty, Amy left the Army and moved back to her hometown. However, she struggled to find her tribe. At work, she was told her handshake was a bit too firm and lectured about how her direct communication style made her coworkers uncomfortable. At her local VFW bar, the men stopped talking to stare at her, and her attempts to connect were met with awkward silences. A few other attempts to connect with the veteran communities she saw advertised at the VA and Facebook left her feeling similarly displaced. "In both civilian settings and veteran settings, I was 'weird,'" she recalls.

She explored some of the newer veteran service organizations (VSOs), but most failed to include child care or weren't kid-friendly. Amy was a single parent, so she mentally crossed those options off her list too. She stayed lonely, and slowly sank into a deep depression.

The very word "veteran" calls to mind the image of a man — particularly a male combat veteran. However, there are more than 2 million women veterans in the United States today, and women veterans are the nation's fastest-growing veteran population. Unfortunately, this unique population, many of whom have deployed during the past 18 years, rarely benefit from the traditional trappings of the hero returned home.

"Invisible Veterans," an anthology released this summer by Praeger Publishing, outlines what happens — for better and worse — when women veterans like Amy return home and begin the long reintegration process. My co-editor and I assembled the latest research alongside powerful personal stories to paint a comprehensive picture of the return of these largely invisible veterans, and in doing so discovered that in many ways, challenges and health risks for women veterans are significantly greater than those facing their male counterparts.

A lonely and dangerous civilian reality

Stories like Amy's are common. Young veterans in general, and women specifically, often report they feel unwelcome in the very places created to support service members. While on active duty, many women veterans work to hide their differences out of fear of visibility. They work to blend in with their male counterparts, and try to mask issues like traumatic stress, domestic violence and substance use. Many male veterans also experience these issues, but are more likely to seek help and to find resources on the other side.

As women move into the civilian world, existing challenges are compounded by the limited services and care systems, both non-profit and government, available to women. Women veterans also report that they leave the military with less of a very important factor: social support. Social support provides astonishing protective health benefits, to include lowered stress hormones, lowered risk of suicide and better overall physical health.

Social alienation, on the other hand, is even more dangerous to your health than smoking. It leads to increased levels of stress hormones, and when they're elevated too long, you may begin to have difficulty communicating, displaying empathy or engaging in high-level thinking. All of these things make connecting with others even more challenging, and your isolation can easily become self-perpetuating.

Particularly for women veterans, that the combination

of invisibility and isolation combine to create deadly consequences post-service.

For instance, women veterans are 250 percent more likely than civilian women to commit suicide. And women who do not use VA services have seen a 98 percent increase in suicide rates. To us, the numbers are more than just statistics. Behind them lie heart-wrenching story after heart-wrenching story. As editors of “Invisible Veterans,” and as Marines turned academic researchers, we know these stories well. In fact, both of us were almost part of these grim suicide statistics.

Once a Marine, always a Marine

My co-editor and I have a personal investment in the stories and health outcomes of women veterans, because these stories and data points are also our own. We are Marines. Although no longer in uniform, we continue our service as academic researchers and accidental activists.

Kyleanne Hunter was a Cobra pilot and is a decorated combat veteran. I served as military police. We spent our 20s in the Corps, and it quickly became both our family and identity. We each deployed overseas and generally loved our time in service. However, transitioning to civilian life was another matter entirely. We were high performing, but — despite appearing “successful” and “normal” on the outside — we each felt a nagging sense of displacement and not belonging.

We missed the sense of unit cohesion and good-natured support we’d so often enjoyed on active duty, and struggled to find that same sense of community in our civilian lives. Further, we had a hard time carving out new identities. We were young, with intense personalities. We knew how to push the gas, but rarely the brake. We wore masks of invulnerability and strength, but felt lonely and often isolated.

Even today, years after leaving the military, we find ourselves still searching for our place in a society that simultaneously praises veterans while unconsciously ignoring women.

What does it mean to go from being the most visible Marines to the most invisible veterans? How does a woman make that transition successfully? These are the questions we sought to answer through “Invisible Veterans.”

Reaching women veterans

The research and stories we compiled illustrate the fact that women veterans share many of the exact same concerns of our male colleagues. However, transition is made more difficult by the lack of services and social support we find as we depart the service.

The good news is that resilience can be taught, and our work illuminated many success stories. We learned of women leveraging a unique formula of social support, spirituality and self-care to overcome their sense of isolation, and to form new identities post-service. These women often go on to become leaders in business, government and local communities, and to thrive through challenging times.

We also discovered that those hoping to reach women veterans must acknowledge that many women veterans do not feel like current efforts are effective. For example, unavailability of childcare is often an insurmountable barrier to participation in a program or service, particularly since women are more likely to be the primary caregivers to dependent children.

Women veterans who have experienced trauma may

be less likely to participate in a mixed-sex setting. Instead, an offering that includes a single-sex environment is more likely to see participation. Making services and programming as effective for female veterans as it is for male veterans is a leadership challenge. However, the effort can succeed if prioritized. Government agencies, non-profits, communities of faith, academic institutions and companies all have a role to play.

So, too, do male veterans. Whether part of a traditional or newer VSO, or simply a member of the broader veteran community, be on the lookout for female veterans. Make an effort to welcome them into your professional networks, clubs and communities. Help these invisible veterans feel seen once more.

Kate Hendricks Thomas

Kyleanne Hunter

Kate Hendricks Thomas and Kyleanne Hunter are the editors of a new volume on the experiences of service women titled “Invisible Veterans: What Happens When Military Women Become Civilians Again,” available wherever books are sold.

Defense Department to make sexual harassment a crime

Defense Department officials will make sexual harassment a criminal offense amid new reports of increasing bad behavior among service members.

In a statement Thursday morning, acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan called the move a necessary step to combat the “scourge” of sexual assault and abuse in the ranks.

A new report from the department’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office shows the number of reported cases of sexual assault in the ranks rose from nearly 4,800 in fiscal 2016 to more than 6,050 in fiscal 2018.

Based on reporting rates (about one in three service members reported their assaults to authorities, according to researchers), officials estimated the actual number of assaults in the military for fiscal 2018 at about 20,500 cases, a rise of nearly 38 percent the previous two years.

“Within the female active force, increases were concentrated among service women ages 17 to 24 as well as junior enlisted women, who are already at the highest risk for sexual assault,” the report states. “Most perpetrators were in the E3 to E5 rank, and alleged perpetrators were often the same grade, or slightly higher, than the victim.”

A day earlier, during testimony on Capitol Hill, Shanahan promised new action to deal with issues of harassment and retaliation against victims of those assaults. Defense officials said they hope to have new criminal penalties in place by this October, including “steps to seek a stand-alone military crime of sexual harassment.”

The department also announced plans for new training for commanders and a new program to root out serial sex offenders, as well as “efforts to select recruits of the highest character.” Specifics of all of those initiatives have not yet been identified.

In the memo announcing the changes, Shanahan said, “To put it bluntly, we are not performing to the standards and expectations we have for ourselves or for each other. This is unacceptable. We cannot shrink from facing the challenge head on.”

In a separate statement, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller echoed those sentiments.

“In the end, this is an issue of trust — trust that fellow

Marines will look after each other, trust they will not be assaulted, and trust their command will take appropriate action," he said. "Only Marines who trust and respect each other can be fully prepared to fight and win our nation's battles."

In February, defense officials announced the number of cases of unwanted sexual encounters at the military service academies has increased almost 50 percent since 2016. Last fall, a report from the RAND Corporation found that more than 10 percent of all women experienced a sexual assault at "high-risk" installations inside the military.

According to the SAPR report, 43 percent of women who reported a sexual assault to military authorities said it prompted "perceived negative experiences," including additional harassment and abuse. That number was up from less than one-third in fiscal 2016.

However, cases of retaliation for reports were down, from 26 percent in fiscal 2016 to 21 percent in fiscal 2018. Shanahan has said he will consider strengthening criminal penalties for that behavior as part of the upcoming military legal review.

Leo Shane III, Military Times

No Veterans Die Alone

On September 20th I got my first call to utilize my services for No Veterans Die Alone (NVDA). I was eager and a bit anxious all at the same time. When I arrived at the Portland VA Hosp at 6:45pm. I was greeted by the chaplain who proceeded to walk me to the vet's room while giving me a quick briefing. I asked the chaplain if he had a belief system, and she informed me that he was a Christian. Having the same belief system brought me some comfort on how to proceed once in the room. Upon arrival to his room, I was met by the nurse, who also gave me a small briefing. I asked him if I could play some worship music in the room and he said "yes." Once I was left alone with our vet, I pulled up a chair next to his bed and took a couple minutes to just get my thoughts together on what I should do next. I went straight into introducing myself. I told him I was a Marine vet and was so glad to be sitting there with him.

I then proceeded to thank him for his service to our country, and that his service mattered. I then told him I was happy to hear his love for the Lord and that I did, too. I told the vet that I was going to put on some worship music for us to listen too. After about two minutes of just listening to the music, I felt this urge to tell the vet that God was so happy about his homecoming and that he would no longer be suffering. I told him it was okay now to leave, that Jesus was waiting and he was going home to our Father in heaven. Right after I spoke that last word, I watched him take his last peaceful breath. It was surreal, touching, and forever engraved in my heart.

The vet's two children were with their father the whole day and just left to grab some dinner prior to my arrival there. I let the nurse know and he confirmed his passing and said we needed to wait for a physician to call time of death. He said I could leave, and I said I would like to stay until his family comes back. I didn't feel right leaving him alone. We are trained to never leave a man behind and I wasn't planning on it now. I waited in his room for about an hour and half, just listening to worship music and being present. I kept thinking, that is what I would hope someone would do for me. After

arrival of his children, we gave them the opportunity to grieve alone, and when they were done, I shared with them the events leading up to his passing. They just cried and said they were so thankful I was there, although they wished they had been there when it happened. (Chaplain told them more times than not, the patient waits for the family to leave before they pass). They continued to say that he would have been so happy to know that I was a vet and that I stayed with him the whole time.

The staff then came to let us know that they had prepared him (also covered in the American Flag) for the final passing through the halls of the hospital. Myself, the family that was there along with the chaplain and other hospital staff lined the hallways while they played "Taps" through the speaker system. Once he was wheeled in front of me, I saluted while tears filled my eyes at the joy I felt to be a small part of this vet's story.

After it was all done, hugs were shared with the family and we said our goodbyes. I know each case will present differently but I feel confident I will be able to adapt to each case and be a small part of bringing them some sort of peace, love, and comfort while I am there. I already got a second call six days later. The vet's wife was with them, and I had the opportunity to speak with the spouse, bring them some comfort. The spouse said I could pray for them, so I did, and it was a lovely and special time for me. I then spoke to the vet directly & thanked him for his service, and that I was a Marine Vet like him. I then proceeded to say, "Ooh Rah Devil Dog," and gave him a salute. I know he heard and understood me as right at that moment, the vet moved his head a couple times and tried making sounds. It was so precious! I left the room so his spouse could have the remaining time alone (about 7 hours later he passed).

That time was different but equally important to me as I hope it was for the spouse I got to comfort and the vet that I got to speak with before his passing.

Jeanette van Niekerk

Letter to the Editor



I'm enclosing the last page of my mom, Sgt Velma F. Mooney's, magazine from you. My mom moved to Heaven on Ash Wednesday, March 6. She loved being a Marine and was so proud. Each week she volunteered at the Brockton VA Hospital. She was a celebrity at the VA. All knew her. She made them smile and will be GREATLY missed by them, our family, and all that knew her. She was a disabled veteran from the time she was in the service, but never let that slow her down in helping others. One of her favorite times was being with the veterans at the Elks Lodge for a special dinner once a month. That's actually where she got sick on December 13. She passed out, and was taken by ambulance to the ER. I was told she was dying and had three days to live and that I should do what's best for her. Well, I did. I prayed and advocated for her because she loved life and would want everything done to help her. She was transferred from there to Boston where they did an amazing job fighting for her life. They would give me bad reports of what she was going through and offered me no hope, but as a person of strong faith, I believed in miracles, and she



had many. She had a UTI and pneumonia that turned into sepsis. She overcame a port, breathing tubes, blood transfusions, and a tracheotomy. After being sedated for almost four weeks, she woke up and was transferred to a rehab shortly after where she continued to improve.

She had physical therapy, was taken off the breathing machine and had the trach removed! I will never forget hearing her

speak for the first time after. When I told her I loved her, she was able to say she loved me back. The day she was being transferred to a nursing rehab facility to strengthen her walking so she could go home, she suddenly got sick. From that point on it was a challenge because she got CDIF, which was caused by all the antibiotics. Within five days her vitals slipped and she got sepsis again. I was with her holding her hand and my other hand was on her chest. I told her she was here for my first breath and I would be there for her last. And I was. She slipped peacefully into the arms of Jesus, no more sorrow, no more pain, no more walker.

When I went to tell those who knew her at the VA, one of the women told me a story that really blessed me. She told me that a week before Mom moved to Heaven, she called the VA and told them she had been sick but was much better and would be back to volunteer. That was her heart till the end.

I wanted to let you know so you can stop her subscription. Although it's sad not to have her here each morning, I have coffee in her Marine Corps mug and listen to one of the ten voice messages on my answering machine from her. As I'm sorting through all of her treasures, I have found so many special things that I didn't know about her. Her neighbor gave me a bunch of letters Mom had written to her. I had no idea what she went through! And I found out that she was in the second platoon of women Marines!

My mom didn't like flowers, so at her showing I had her treasures throughout the funeral home. My friend called it "The Velma Museum." At her service I had the Marines' Hymn played near the end. She was laid to rest in her women Marines jacket, too.

I have volunteered at the Brockton VA Hospital for over 12 years. Next month I'll be honored for my 500 hours. The last time I was honored was for 300 hours, and my mom was also honored for her volunteer time. What a mother/daughter legacy!

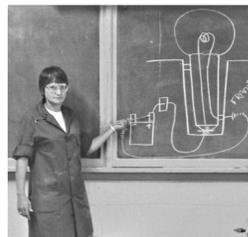
If you wanted to write a tribute to my mom in your magazine, I sure would appreciate it, then send a copy to me. It would mean a lot!

Thank you for taking the time to read about my mom and all you've done to protect our great country!

Lynn A. Frattasio, Norwell, MA

Dear Editor,

Elaine A. Plasse, AKA Snoopy (73), retired Gunnery Sergeant serving 21 years (1969 – 1990) in the United States Marine Corps, passed away on Memorial Day 27 May 2019. She was a multi-talented person who met challenges that came with her pursuing her interest and desires. Her first few years in the Marines she served through the later part of the Vietnam War and became a driver for auto parts delivery and received a couple Driver of the Month awards. In 1977, she became the first female Staff NCO to instruct



at Camp Johnson (formerly Montford Point) in Jacksonville, NC. She taught fuel and electrical mechanics in motor transport, predominantly all male students, on how to repair vehicles and to keep them in operational order prior to the student's assignment to a military motor pool. She said she

was considered for a "trial run" because everyone in rank above her thought she couldn't do it since she was a "female and supposedly not capable of teaching a bunch of young Marines" or "the guys won't take the class seriously because she's a woman and wouldn't know what she was talking about". She proved those higher in command to be wrong and received a Meritorious Mast in 1980 to this hard-earned achievement.

Having received more training over the next few years in the field and military, she obtained countless degrees in auto mechanics, Meritorious Mast, marksmanship and other degree interest in carpentry and electricity to become a licensed electrician. In 1986, the Marine Corps sent her to Oshkosh, WI to take a 3-week training program called "LVS 3rd & 4th Echelon Maintenance Course," which taught her to maintain and operate a five-ton truck that loads and unloads huge dockside containers that the Marines use for shipment to and from the seas. With her 5' 2" slender frame, salt and pepper hair, military button up, khakis, combat boots and dog tags around her neck, one can only imagine what she looked like in the driver's seat or under the five-ton truck checking out some aspect of maintenance. When she wasn't teaching, she kept busy with other extracurricular activities as in traveling, bowling competitions, photography, collecting stamps and various Snoopy items.



When she finally was ready to retire in 1990, she adopted her daughter from the Philippines and moved to Bedford, VA to settle down on a patch of farmland where she was the "Jane of all Trades." Unfortunately, retirement was short-lived. She didn't even get to unpack the moving boxes when she was called back for Desert Storm. When she was finally back home to settle down, she specialized in heating & air, then later welding. Eventually she moved on to gain her CDL and drove trailer truck across the US for a of couple years. Officially retiring in 2000 and soon to have an empty nest she still couldn't just sit at home. She upkeep her properties, started a little goat farm and worked part-time as a delivery driver for a local flower shop where every flower arrangement found its recipient.

Hope Plasse

A Note of Thanks from Muriel Underwood

To all my sister Marines,

A special THANK YOU for all the cards I received last spring about moving to this new place. Received over two dozen from all over the country. I don't have a computer anymore, so I'm assuming you all get 'Nouncements. I've written down all your names and addresses in a book – recognize quite a few. Don't know if they put the article in where everyone saw

it.

Right now, I'm getting therapy – legs and arms. Even with my left leg – the one with the stroke – they seem to think it will respond in all cases, especially in the morning – it's a dead weight – doesn't respond. Some aides just don't understand!

I've taken up my sketching again – some flower arrangements were too tempting, and some have turned out quite well! They're recognizable.

Have lots of my things. My niece, who had to pack up everything – made sure my Marine Corps items got packed – Molly Marine, for sure!

I picked out what would fit in the room – did pretty good, except for books – family and friends got a treat.

Chapter members came over once and they got some goodies, including my chapter items. And after they left, I found more shirts! The sporty gray ones with slogans (can't wear them in my wheelchair – they need to be ¾ sleeves!)

This place – the "inmates" – don't go in for veteran stuff, but it's a very clean place – no smell, etc.

I have to mention the roof garden and the FREE ice cream at certain times. The 9th floor is quite a treat!

My room came with a good-looking dresser and bed.

Bless you all, and Semper Fi! *Muriel Underwood*

First underwater veterans' memorial is open for divers



It wasn't the typical ribbon cutting ceremony. Instead of standing in front of some building, Heyward Matthews, a professor of oceanography at St. Petersburg College, wielded the oversized scissors in the water and cut a ribbon strung between two boats.

That's because Matthews was dedicating the opening of the nation's first underwater dive memorial honoring veterans, located 40 feet below the surface 10 miles off the coast of Dunedin Beach, FL.



Matthews has been pushing the idea for the "Circle of Heroes" for almost 10 years. "(I) just wanted something that was going to be permanent and also wanted something that was going to honor our veterans in a unique and different way," Matthews told the Military Times in June.

In addition to honoring veterans, Mathews would like the memorial to be a therapeutic dive site for disabled veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. He also wants it to serve as an artificial reef in order to help sustain marine life in the gulf.

The memorial currently features 12 life-size concrete statues depicting men and women from each of the five service branches. The statues will be arranged in a 100-foot circle facing a pentagon shaped memorial containing bronze emblems of each of the five service branches. The statues' 2,000-pound bases also contain plaques with names of service members.



In total, the memorial will have 24 statues, the remaining 12 statues are expected to be installed in 2020 in order to complete the 100-foot Circle of Heroes.

The statues were made possible

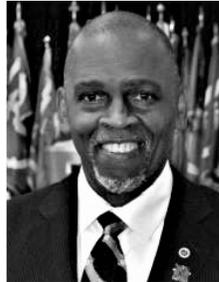
through the cooperation of private businesses, community donors and Pinellas County. Spearheading the campaign to complete the memorial is a non-profit created by former Congressman David Jolly, known as Brighter Future Florida. Jolly is Matthews' nephew and spoke today during the memorial's dedication ceremony.

Monument information can be found on Facebook. Just search for Circle of Heroes Veteran's Memorial.



*Brian Mackley
Military Times*

Reporting In...Loyal Escort President



Greetings everyone,

Fall is here and everyone is busy preparing for the holidays. I hope that everyone is well and doing well with your lives and families.

Cheryl Roberts has volunteered to take on chaplain duties on top of her current vice president duties. Thank you, Cheryl!

I am hoping everyone is busy also with recruiting new members to our great organization. We are moving forward and I am excited about next year's convention. I believe we will have an outstanding convention and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Omaha. Please encourage your fellow auxiliary members to join us there. We want to solicit ideas that will aid us in making our auxiliary stronger and more unified going forward.

Have a safe, blessed, and happy holiday season. I hope to see you all next year.

*Semper Fi,
Isaac J. Bazile*

Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter

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LOYAL ESCORT MEMBER APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Date of birth:

Phone:

Cell:

Current address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Email:

New Renew Reinstated Life (Sponsor must be Life member)

2 YR \$30 LIFE 40 AND UNDER - \$180 41-45 - \$150 46-60 - \$130 61-70 - \$105 71-80 - \$80 81+ \$55

SPONSOR INFORMATION

WMA Sponsor Name:

Recruited by:

Chapter Affiliation:

Do you live with sponsor Y N

Sponsor Life Member # if applicable

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name of a relative **not** residing with you:

Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Relationship:

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER INFORMATION IF APPLICABLE

Name:

Date of birth:

Email:

Phone:

SERVICE INFORMATION IF APPLICABLE

Dates of Service

Branch:

How long?

MOS

Duty Stations:

ABOUT MYSELF

How did you hear about the Loyal Escorts?

Recruited By:

WMA Newsletter is sent electronically to members with an email

SIGNATURES

Signature of member:

Date:

**Make checks payable to Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter
Mail to: Isaac Brazile, 3518 Whitestone Dr., Pearland, TX 77584**

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*)

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 the souls of all our departed sisters rest in peace.

Life Members

Blackburn, Beverly	3249	10/09/2019	FL
Carle, Grace	174	09/09/2019	CA-7
Christensen, Wilda (Meyer)	3237	07/09/2019	MI-2
Crandall, LaVerne (Benda)	844	02/21/2018	CA
Geib, Elaine (Rumph)	1870	04/30/2019	SD
Kennedy, Patricia (Harkins)	264	09/30/2019	MO-2
Manchester, Gene	49	08/19/2019	OR
McLaughlin, Pauline	1749	07/28/2019	MA-1
Roth, Marjorie Ann	2883	06/19/2019	AZ
Shank, Lucy (Prado)	1500	09/17/2019	OK-2
Smith, Dorothy (Butterworth)	792	07/29/2019	IN
Whitbeck, Elizabeth "Liz"	46	10/09/2019	MN-1
Woodson, Carolyn	3069	07/17/2019	KY-1

Term Members

Birney, Betty-Jo (Peters)	06/29/2018	FL
Bozeman, Addie (Raybon)	02/24/2019	AL
Carr, Frances (Dooley)	08/25/2019	OR-3
Davis, Grace (Wartke)	07/14/2019	OK-2
Hansen, Mary (Jackson)	02/06/2019	OR
Kelleher, Margaret (Creedon)	07/02/2019	FL
Knapp, Joyce (Bechtel)	03/23/2014	WA
Konklin, Lillian (Wood)	07/12/2018	CA
Lanz, Carol-Ann	10/01/2019	RI
London, Doris (Shoemaker)	07/12/2018	NC
Messer-Licuanan, Betty Lou	08/00/2019	CA
Misurella, Lucille	08/17/2019	FL
Murrell, Frances	08/01/2019	IA-1
Roberts, Marie	03/15/2019	IA
Rugg, Marie (Jansen)	07/05/2019	CO
Shughrou, Patricia	05/16/2019	IL



Chaplain's Corner



Every quarter I look for something to inspire us to achieve more than we thought possible. Our sister, Elaine, seems to have hit the mark: she did it her way, and she did it well, as all who knew her will remember and love about her.

Elaine Rumph Geib was born Goldie Elaine Rumph in Bend, OR on March 29, 1923. She went to her Lord at the VA Hospital at Ft. Meade in Sturgis, SD on April 30, 2019, close to her home in Nisland, SD. Elaine will be remembered by friends and family and honored with a military service at the VA Cemetery at 11am on July 5, 2019, in Miles City, MT, and a reception at the VFW at 1 pm.

Elaine and her brother Duane started 1st grade together at the one room Baking Powder Creek School in Powder River County, which they attended for two years before the family sold their homestead and moved briefly to Denver, CO before moving to Miles City, MT. They graduated from Custer County High School in 1941.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Elaine moved to California with her father where they both found jobs at Ryan Aircraft in San Diego. Elaine worked there until she proudly enlisted in the Women's Marine Reserves and was in the first set of recruits to go to Camp Lejeune. She was trained as a radio operator at Miami University in Ohio and then transferred to an airbase in El Centro, where she and her friends often hitched rides in order to spend weekends with her family in San Diego. She deployed to Hawaii for the remainder of the war where she had fond memories of good friends and Hawaiian culture.

After the war was over, she moved with her family back to Montana where she met and married John Weber Geib. They had two children, Teresa Ann and Bradley Carlton. She raised her young family, after leaving John, by working as a rancher, bookkeeper, secretary, and traffic manager at KATL Radio. She also taught at Spring Creek and Divide Schools in Custer County.

Elaine, ever the entrepreneur, leased the Husky Truckstop Café in Miles City, which was popular and profitable. She lost her lease and moved to Billings for work. Then she moved to Ashland where she and the kids were living when Brad was diagnosed with leukemia. Elaine moved to Miles City to take care of Brad where he passed away just after his 15th birthday in July 1965.

In 1967, Elaine married Joe Considine and they entered the exotic cattle business on the old Rumph/Considine homesteads at Butte Creek near Broadus. They developed registered limousine cattle bloodlines and built a reputation for excellence. Her grandkids, Desiree (Klein) Johnson and J.D. Klein to this day cite spending summers gardening, painting, competing in rodeos, and working on the ranch for their Marine Corps grandmother as among the most joyful and formative experiences of their lives.

Elaine was an aficionado and expert in whatever she set her mind to including oil painting, gardening, cattle breeding, building things, collecting fine crystal and china, and of course, her animals. She bred show quality Persian cats and Angora rabbits. Elaine took great pride in developing animals

with exquisite features and personalities.

Elaine's artistic ability was remarkable and known to many. Her creativity ranged widely from early abstract oil paintings, pencil and charcoal sketches, portraits, and realistic depictions of wildlife in nature's splendor. She taught her grandkids how to bring a landscape to life on canvas by sitting on a dusty prairie knoll, capturing the vista with pencil and then translating every detail to oil on canvas media.

In 1986, Elaine started an Angora goat business and successfully launched a partnership with BLM to graze leafy spurge from public lands. She grew her herd eventually to over 700 goats while grazing the Powder River valley and Moorhead areas.

In the fall of 1988, Elaine and Joe divorced and she moved to her new home on a ranch in Nisland. Elaine, then in her 60s and starting with nothing, rolled up her sleeves as she'd always done, built her sheds by hand and continued the BLM projects with her 4 herding dogs, riding her dirt bike motorcycle, and planning her retirement.

She was joined at her home in Nisland in her last year by daughter Teresa, and was kept company by her beloved Samoyed Tyka, and of course a few cats, her handsome Tom Turkey, and a handful of geese and chickens.

Elaine is survived by daughter Teresa Klein Bacon (Mark) of Windsor, CO; two grandchildren; five great grandchildren; one brother; one sister; nieces and nephews.

In her own words, Elaine lived an interesting, happy and diversified life that aside from a few bumps along the way, she wouldn't trade for anything.

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all."

~ Stanley Horowitz

Eileen Skahill

Listen Up!

Your 'Nouncements is running a bit late this quarter. Conversations have taken place behind the print, and we have decided we need to make a few changes to not only expedite the creation and delivery of your newsletter, but also to save WMA money in the process.

For the past year the deadline has been the fifth of the first month of the quarter (January, April, July, October). Some members have sent items late, which makes me late in sending items to the publisher. From this point on, the deadline IS the deadline. You have until midnight on that day to get items to me. If they come the day after, they will be held until we see how much space we have left. NO exceptions, including national board members (you're expected to set the example!). As a reminder, 2020 is a convention year. Deadline dates will not be set in concrete due to reports and rule changes that must be published before the convention.

I've enjoyed all the photographs for Clippings. Some of you have been busy and others have been VERY busy. I'd like to see MORE Clippings from our chapters, especially the newer ones so we can find out how they're doing.

Unfortunately, to keep the newsletter down to an affordable size and have a better quality of photograph, we will have to limit all articles to three (3) photographs, and not just Chapter Clippings. You can send as many as you want, but only three will be published. If there's room, we will either do a collage-like page or use the extra photographs as fillers. So, if you send more than three, be sure to (a) indicate which three are most important, and (b) write a caption. No caption, no publish!

That's all the bad news for this issue. I hope you all have a wonderful, memorable, and safe holiday season, and a Happy Birthday! Semper Fidelis!

Sondra Metzger

Chapter Clippings

CA-2 San Diego County

It's busy in Southern California, and the ladies of CA-2 have been active in their community. The chapter has been busy welcoming new leaders in several positions, as well as celebrating big birthdays.

In April we all gathered at Tom Hamms Lighthouse restaurant to celebrate Ruth Gallivan's 103rd birthday. Pictured here is Ruth with Area Director Soledad Kennedy, who was on hand for the festivities.

In May the chapter awarded the annual Grace Carle Leadership Award to Jennifer Lopez, a Marine Corps Junior ROTC student at Sweetwater Union High School. Chapter member Michelle Kramek presented the award.

In June, Mikki Hurst represented the chapter at San Diego Standdown. Mikki is pictured here with the San Diego Optimist Club after the group assembled and distributed breakfast to the veterans attending the event. Standdown is an annual community outreach weekend wherein homeless veterans are afforded housing, clothing, meals, showers, haircuts, counseling, and professional services in a military camp setting.

In June we also gathered for a social BBQ Meet and Greet at MCAS Miramar. We welcomed a few new members and enjoyed swapping stories about our active duty days. Pictured here are President Kassie Wurts with husband Hugh and daughter Dharma, Treasurer Michelle Kramek and someone whose name was not available.

CA-2 members also conducted a fund-raising event in June, providing the refreshments at a Starlings Volleyball tournament.

In July, Barbara McCurtis was sworn in as the new chapter vice president, and the July meeting focused on planning numerous fall social events to include sponsoring a chapter recruiting booth on the Multicultural Day at MCRD, and the MCAS Miramar Air Show, a Victorian High Tea to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday, and marching in the Escondido Veterans Day Parade.

In September several members from the board attended the MCRD Museum annual fund raiser, The Globe and Anchor Salute. Featured here are Chaplain Babs Meairs, Secretary Mani Santos, Vice President Barb McCurtis, and Chapter President Kassie Wurts.

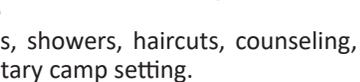
CA-2 is sponsoring four local cemeteries for the Wreaths Across America event on December 14. If you would like to recognize a veteran at one of these cemeteries, please search the website using our group fund raising ID **CA0105P**. The four cemeteries are Fort Rosecrans National (CAFRNS), Miramar National (CAMRNC),



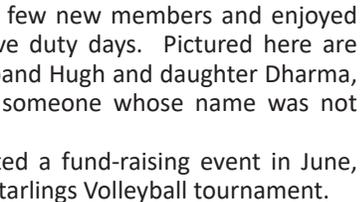
Jennifer Lopez on the right



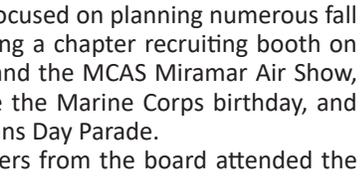
San Diego Standdown



BBQ Meet and Greet



MCRD Museum fund raiser



MCRD Museum fund raiser

Greenwood Memorial Park and Mortuary (CASDGM), and Riverside National (CARNCR). Grave specific requests may be made on line. Please include our group ID and location ID from these cemeteries. Thank you in advance for your assistance; please pass the word to family and friends.

Barbara McCurtis

CA-3 Greater San Francisco Bay Area



BBQ Meet and Greet

Greetings from the Greater San Francisco Bay Area, Chapter CA-3. We continue to have monthly meetings.

The July meeting, celebrating the nation's independence, was hosted by

CA-3 members Lily Brockmeier

and Molly Howe. September's theme was Fall, hosted by CA-3 member Nancy Zaunbrecher-Payne. Our very special August meeting was hosted by CA-3 member Bonnie Dabalos-Castro and Loyal Escort Patti Ellison. For this meeting, we met in Bonnie's newly remodeled backyard for our 1st (and hopefully not last) Annual Summer Cook-out and Barbeque. Bonnie's husband, Paul, was the chef, cooking hamburgers grilled to order, hotdogs, chicken, and sausages! Also available were a variety of side dishes. No one went away hungry.

We had three special guests at this meeting - Ron Saunders from the Lt Frank Reasoner Detachment, Marine Corps League # 919, Elizabeth Johnson, and her daughter Olivia Armand. Olivia is a high school senior who is interested in joining the Marine Corps. She was invited to our meeting so that she (and her mother) could talk to CA-3 members (and spouses) and receive all kinds of information from women who served during a variety of times in the Marine Corps. They were also able to talk to one of our members who is the mother of a currently serving woman Marine. Arrangements were made for Olivia and her mother to speak to a currently serving woman Marine stationed in the San Francisco Bay area. All in all – a very successful meeting, and we are already looking forward to our 2nd Annual CA-3 Barbeque!

During this period, CA-3 President Susan Johnston participated in a "We Will Never Forget 9/11" fundraising dinner. The American Legion James McDermott Post # 172 provided the honor guard.

Also, during this quarter, CA-3 President Susan Johnston participated in three memorial services/funerals as part of the combined Veterans of Foreign Wars/American Legion Honor Guard giving military honors to veterans.



The CA-3 gang

*Semper Fi,
Susan Johnston*

CA-7 Edith Macias Vann Southern California



Kathleen, Chuck, Iris, and Glynis at the Marine Corps Appreciation Day

Our chapter has been pretty busy representing WMA around our community.

On July 28, San Diego Padres hosted their United States Marine Corps Appreciation Day. Civilians thanked us for our service. In attendance were Kathleen Ables (chapter president), Chuck Ables (Loyal Escort), Iris Biggers, and Glynis Rates.

On August 10, our Summer

Social was held at Mimi's Cafe. Great food and good conversation was had by all.

On August 16, chapter members Barbara Cogburn, Iris Biggers and Glynis Rates attended the VANC fundraiser "Taking over the Taps." Veterans Association of North County (VANC) building is where we hold our monthly meetings. The maintenance and upkeep are expensive so we really do support and participate in any way to help VANC.

On August 24, chapter members Glynis Rates and Iris Biggers attended the 90th birthday for GySgt Robert L. Moore (Ret). GySgt Moore is a Montford Point Marine and one of three in San Diego county. The family asked the public to come and celebrate his birthday at the Brooks Theatre in Oceanside. Our chapter and other military organizations were in attendance to honor GySgt Moore.

On September 19, a few of our chapter members attended Sergeant Major Grace Carle's memorial service at Miramar National Cemetery located in San Diego. After the memorial service, chapter members Lil Cross, Lee Tusa, and Marianne Waldrop went to visit Norma Wohlfarth's grave site. Norma Wohlfarth was a lifetime member of WMA and our local chapter.

On September 22, Shirley Downey, Lee Tusa, and Lillian Cross attended the Oceanside Harbor Days. The booth was provided by Veterans Association of North County.

Iris Biggers



Summer social at Mimi's



Visiting Norma's grave with her husband, Jerry

CA-11 Central Coast

Greetings Lady Leathernecks,

Central Coast Women Marines is thriving here on the gold coast of California. We have joined the ranks of our sisters from all branches of service and other veterans' organizations. We have been able to locate Marines in the local area by attending community events which draw them to us.

On September 30 we were in the veteran's building notifying the community to sign up for Toys for Tots volunteers and informing them about families in need. We will be joining the Season of Hope for the official kick off and setting out boxes. We will start collecting toys for Toys for Tots in the Santa Barbara County on October 14, and it will be broadcast on the local news channel. This is great exposure for WMA.



Toys for Tots notification

The Marine Corps 244th Birthday celebration preparation is underway and this chapter will have a table just for us. We donated handmade candies and a raffle basket to help support our Marine Corps League Detachment #1340, and we enjoy the camaraderie. We have found women Marines during this get together and we plan on doing more during the holidays.

We will be participating in the first veterans New Year's Eve celebration and we will be bringing in the New Year with fellow veterans. Have a wonder holiday season and pray for those in harm's way.

*Semper Fidelis
Soledad Kennedy*

CO-1 Colorado Columbines



WMA CO-1 has attended and again began attending the new sessions of the United Veterans Coalition (UVC) where WMA has had a presence for over 25 years working on legislative issues to help veterans in Colorado and nationally. UVC, including WMA CO-1 President & Past National President Paula Sarlls, was involved at every step of the way in

obtaining the new VA Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center and pushing for completion through all 18 years of the building process.

The chapter ended the US Marine Corps Memorial 5/10K Race and is working to revamp and improve it at some time in the future. We have supported the US Marine Corps Memorial on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day since 1974 when the chapter was formed and helped in building the memorial. WMA is honored at this Memorial! Stop by if you're ever traveling through Colorado on I-70! We are now leading the charge to remodel the memorial and hope that WMA will learn about the memorial and support the project as well. WMA members visited the memorial when they were in Denver for the 50th Anniversary Convention. A print of WWII veteran Marge Alexander's painting "Tun Tavern" was auctioned at the first fundraiser for the remodel project and went for \$975! It's becoming very collectible!

Member Sheila Scanlon sits on the Colorado Board of Veterans' Affairs and is working to convince Colorado to establish a Woman Veterans Coordinator serving at the pleasure of the governor and working on issues pertinent to women veterans. She and our president, Paula Sarlls, have testified regarding this representative at the Colorado State Capitol.

We are also assisting the VA hospital to exhibit history and artifacts of women veterans. We took our first batch of items to them recently for display soon. They are placed in display cases along with our male counterparts so people visiting the hospital will learn that women are veterans, too. Displaying the history of veterans at the new VA Hospital was inspired by a suggestion from our president when building began!

In addition, our chapter celebrates the Marine Corps Birthday with Rocky Mountain Marines at the Denver Athletic Club every year with 250 Marines and a great guest speaker. The speaker receives a canvas print of Marge Alexander's "Tun Tavern" as a thank you gift and the chaplain receives a set of her paintings made into greeting cards!

This fall we will gather goodies for our "Breakfast for Buckley" event where we bring breakfast and gifts to the Naval Operation Support Center on Buckley AFB to the Marines and sailors stationed there. This is the 12th or 13th year we've done this. Vendors donate over \$6,000 in gifts for the event and a local hotel provides the food.

This year we also provided awards for the Outstanding Cadet in our two Colorado MCJROTC units. We also support and include the Young Marines in Colorado in all of our events!

This is an exciting and fun chapter! The photo attached shows what we did at our last meeting! We threw tomahawks! Shot BB guns! And bows and arrows! A great time was had by all!

D. Kelly

DC-1 District of Columbia

Following the highly successful 2018 Convention co-hosted with the VA-1 chapter, and all of the preparation leading up to the grand event, all of which is now a year behind us, the DC-1 Chapter is settling back into our normal schedule of quarterly get-togethers.

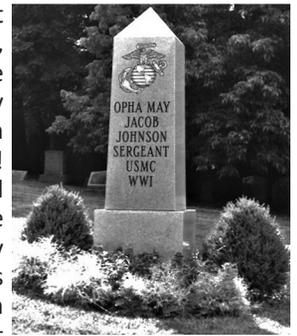
Members celebrated the 76th Women Marines Anniversary in February with a joint luncheon held with the members of the VA-1

Chapter. Our guest of honor for the event was Colonel David Everly from Quantico, and we were especially pleased to have his wife, NaTasha McEachin, accompany him as she is an active duty woman Marine also stationed at Quantico! Additional chapter meetings were held in April and in September, and we are looking forward to our annual holiday get-together in December, which is always a festive event and one at which our members provide special support for the annual Toys-for-Tots campaign by generously donating toys and games for needy children in our area.

A number of our members had a lovely afternoon in August at the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in D.C. visiting two of our World War II WR veterans, Norma Rambow and Muriel Kupersmith, who reside there. Members of the group enjoyed lunch together in the home's dining room and also shared lots of stories about their experiences during the years they were on active duty.

Sadly, we lost one of our WWII WRs, Phyllis Bradford, who was also a resident of the AFRH, as she passed away in June of this year. One of our chapter life members, Iona Gilbert, passed away in July and will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on October 15, and another of our chapter life members, Lois Beadling, who passed away in June of last year, was inurned at Arlington this past May.

We can also share that the gravesite of Opha May Johnson, located at St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery here in D.C. and at which a beautiful memorial was dedicated during the Biennial Convention last August, is now "complete" with the addition of a number of attractive plants and landscaping around its base. The memorial is really an impressive and very special tribute to our "first" woman Marine who signed her enlistment papers a century ago on August 12, 1918!



Donna Campbell

FL-12 Heart of Florida

FL-12 is celebrating being a chapter of two years. October is our anniversary month and two years as a chartered chapter of WMA. It took a lot of work to become and to be a new chapter. Now we are moving forward focusing on productive growth as a WMA chapter within the veteran community.



All Florida gathering

The Heart of Florida meets quarterly the second Saturday of the first month of each quarter. Our October quarterly meeting begins a community partnership with the Rio Pinar Golf & Country Club in Orlando. They have opened their doors giving us a consistent location to host our meeting. This is provided free of rental charge in a warm but professional atmosphere. We look forward to our future alliances and their expertise in the corporate community and charitable events.



Edgewater High School MCJROTC award

Our chapter has participated in the annual MCJROTC awards presentations at several of our local high schools. We made changes to our chapter logo. We really liked what we had but also realized our chapter logo did not clearly tell anyone but us what organization we belonged to. With future marketing in mind we now



Fisher House



Foundation Casino Night



University High School MCJROTC award

have a patch-like logo, thanks to one of our new members, Melanie Starkman, and her expertise in marketing and graphics.

At the summer quarterly meeting in July we had a potluck social. It was a fun time for all and a productive business meeting. We are supporting our local Lake Nona Fisher House by providing meals to their house guests. We participated in the Area 3 Joint Florida meeting in Ocala this summer. There was a wealth of information shared. We also had members support the Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation's Casino Night fundraiser. Our year end plans include celebrating our Marine Corps Birthday and participating in the Wreaths Across America service project. We will be working on a Spring 2020 fundraising event.

October also brings a time for change and looking to the future. We will hold elections for new leadership. Our current president needs to step down from this position thus opening the chapter to new fresh ideas. We are looking forward to more fun, camaraderie and a productive new year in 2020.

Katie Dixon

GA-1 Dogwood of Atlanta

Happy 100th Birthday, Kathleen Eidson, WWII Veteran! On September 16th we were honored to be included in her celebration with her family. We were also treated to a resounding solo performance by Kathleen's niece, world renowned pianist Christi Zuniga, who is onstage with Kathleen's other niece, Anne. Anne was so gracious with extending an invitation to Kathleen's GA-1 Chapter. Thank you again Bernice Grussing for helping to support our sister on this day. Kathleen's actual birthday is September 15, 1919, and just think, Opha Mae Johnson was the first female Marine in 1918. What a blessing!! Our chapter gifted Kathleen with her personalized shadowbox, she was over the top with the gift. And last, but not least, Kathleen's first ever selfie.



Kathleen Eidson and Johnetta Williams in Kathleen's first selfie!



Christi Zuniga (left) and Anne



That Kathleen is popular!

GA-1 Dogwood Chapter of Atlanta would like to congratulate our very own Victoria Conkel Turney on being awarded the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association prestigious Donald L. Dickson award. Below is an excerpt I copied from the USMCCA's Facebook page:

For those who were not able to make it to the 2019 COMMSTRAT Training & Leadership Development Summit in Atlanta last month, Victoria Conkel Turney was awarded the USMCCA's prestigious Donald L. Dickson award at the annual awards banquet. Below are the words she'd like to share:

*Dear fellow CC warriors,
Please allow me this opportunity to say a special heartfelt thank you for honoring me with the Donald L. Dickson Memorial award at this Kathleen's shadowbox*



year's CC Conference.

Yes, I was surprised and speechless, which is a rarity – good job in keeping it a secret – but looking back I wish I would have conveyed to the active duty Marines in attendance what it meant for me to be a member of the CCs and establish my near 40 year bond of like-minded Marines.

Having a lifetime membership with this group has never been a regret – everyone joined – just something we did – a valuable networking opportunity to learn and share in fellowship with others from many eras of public affairs Marines. I have made longtime friends because of the CCs and some who I never even served with – that is something other MOSs cannot claim.

I agreed with this year's Guest of Honor Col. Mary H Reinwald when she commented on this organization. We indeed have a gold mine in this organization and ARE so fortunate to have members past and present who believe in our task of telling the story in whatever format as well as providing the support to "get it done."

Thanks for the memories and I am sure there will be more. ~ Semper Fi, Victoria Veterans Summit: September 25, 2019

Vetlanta Q3 was a sold-out Women's Summit event focused on women veterans which was sponsored by Coca-Cola! Great speakers and networking. Vetlanta highlights Atlanta's Women Veterans and connects them to each other and the broader veteran community. The keynote speaker this year was "Semper Sarah" Sarah Plummer Taylor, a Marine Corps combat veteran and former intelligence officer who spent more than six years on active duty. Sarah gifted over 40 veterans with a personally autographed copy of her book, "Just Roll With It: 7 Battle Tested Truths for Building a Resilient Life." She is also an in-demand public speaker as well as the co-owner of Just Roll With It Wellness (JRWI) which provides unique, somatic-based stress management workshops both domestically and internationally. Her website address is www.SemperSarah.com.



Victoria Conkel Turney with her award



Sarah Plummer Taylor



Our table at the Women's Summit.



Last business meeting: Johnetta, Ari, Leah, Ellen, Peggy, and Bernice



Our swag flag!

And of course, the GA-1 Dogwood Chapter made our presence known with our table display. I spoke with several women Marines whom I shared our chapter information with. Surprisingly enough, not many women Marines are aware of the WMA or our local chapter. I'm looking to change that!

September 7, 2019

Our last business meeting for the year 2019. I'm so appreciative of our members who suited up and showed up. We had a great meeting in which we finalized our event schedule for the rest of the year. Wreaths Across America (WAA), Marine Corps Birthday, Marine Corps Ball, Veterans' Day, and Toys 4 Tots dates and times are posted on our website: <https://wmaga1.wixsite.com/wmaga1>.

We also showcased our chapter swag. Until next time Semper Fi!!!
Johnetta Williams

HI-2 Wahine Koa

Aloha from the Wahine Koa Chapter!



Team WMA: Rob Young, Tex Dobrowolski, Kathy Kincaid, and Betty Kramer

The summer months, even in Hawai'i, have been muggy and, for the most part, quiet with several chapter members traveling. Unfortunately, getting away from the heat in Hawai'i to most parts of the mainland hadn't provided any relief at all!

July brought us the opportunity to meet retired Marine Major Ahmed Martin, the newly assigned senior instructor of the MCJROTC, Kapolei H.S. – the only unit on Oahu. We discussed various fundraising ideas that might

benefit both organizations. The highlight of the meeting, though, was our announcement of the start of the Chapter HI-2 scholarship program to benefit the Marine cadets of that unit.

August found some of us at the Annual Na Koa Wounded Warrior Canoe Regatta held at the Fort DeRussy beachfront in Waikiki to support the MCL Aloha Detachment's two canoe entries. Betty Kramer jumped in at the last minute to help out another veteran group who needed a replacement paddler! She ended up paddling in two competitive heats! The chapter plans to have our own canoe entry for next year's competition.

Finally, we wound up the summer with Team WMA's entry in the MCL Aloha Detachment's annual "Esprit de Corps" golf tournament at MCB Hawaii's Kaneohe Klipper golf course. Lots of competitive games, snacks, and beverages followed us around the course, and after 18 hot and humid holes of golf, we finished the day with a good meal sponsored by the K-Bay Rocker Room. We're now looking forward to a cooler, event-loaded fall season!

*Semper Fi,
Kathy Kincaid*

MN-1 Minnesota Leathernecks

Our east coast chapter resident, Mary McGee, had to move when her assisted living facility closed with only a two-week notice. She relocated to a new facility and has been settling in but not without some "drama." One day two Marines came strolling into the facility in their dress blues looking for a Marine celebrating her 90th birthday. Needless to say, she was thrilled they were searching for her and enjoyed the camaraderie they brought to her new home at Harmony Place in NE Philadelphia.



We lost a very special member of our chapter. Elizabeth "Liz" Whitbeck, 98, passed away peacefully on October 9th. Liz was the 2017 Minnesota Woman Veteran of the Year. The Women Veterans Initiative annually honors a woman veteran who displays leadership, supports women veteran issues, and contributes to her community. She joined the Women's Reserve in 1943, leaving her position as a teacher in upstate New York. When Liz enlisted, the recruits were given men's shirts and jackets to wear until a complete women's uniform was provided. She recalled wearing Elizabeth Arden's "Montezuma Red" lipstick. After graduating as a PFC, Liz served as an instrument flying instructor at Parris Island. After VE-Day, Liz became a rehabilitation specialist in New York City, until she was

discharged as a staff sergeant in 1946. She provided multiple decades of volunteer service to a myriad of civic organizations, including the Girl Scouts, Parent-Teacher Associations, League of Women Voters, Women's Club of Minneapolis, 5th Police Precinct, Women Marines Association and Women Veterans of Minnesota,

Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Coordinating Council and many others. She was a vital part of our chapter, and we will miss her. Semper Fidelis, Liz, and thank you for your service and your dedication to women Marines.

Michelle Livingston continues to attend both Marine Corps Coordinating Council and Marine Corps League meetings to network with other Marine and veteran groups in order to explore avenues of increasing membership as well as continuing our community involvement.

The chapter picnic was held in Duluth this year. It was great to explore northern Minnesota. Attendees enjoyed a boat ride around the harbor, took a ride on a pedal cart, and enjoyed touring the Maritime Museum for a nice relaxing day.

In August, the chapter met at President Michelle Livingston's home for a chapter meeting and identified chapter activities for the remainder of 2019 to include attending the Women Veterans of Minnesota fall luncheon, the Nearly Naked Ruck March on October 26, gathering at Keegan's Pub for the Marine Corps birthday, lunch at McCormicks and Schmicks for Veterans' Day, and the holiday party on December 7.

On September 28, Chris Magnusson, Julie Williams, Linda Munson, Bonnie Hanson, and Vicki Latiolais attended the Women Veterans of Minnesota event. Michelle Livingston gave the Minnesota chapter unit report. Chapter member Chris Magnusson presented the United for Veterans/United Way of NE MN report. Chris has done a tremendous job in connecting women veterans in northeast Minnesota and has worked diligently with the Women Veterans Initiative in promoting the I Am Not Invisible campaign in Minnesota. Chris, due to a chance meeting with S. Fabian Butalla, agreed that the stories of the campaign participants would indeed make a great book. Ms. Butalla shares the stories of 26 women veterans before, during, and after their military service in her latest book, "We Are Not Invisible." Contact the chapter if you are interested in buying a copy.

Vicki Latiolais

NC-1 Tarheel

The Tarheel Women have survived another hurricane season and very busy summer in North Carolina. Hurricane Dorian couldn't stop us! From award ceremonies to special events, our ladies were on the go.

Before we go into all of the great things our chapter was a part of, we would like to take a moment to remember one of our sisters. Bonnie Friel, a life member of WMA and NC-1, reported to the Supreme Commander on 31 May 2019. Bonnie Friel (Morgerson) entered the United States Marine Corps on September 26, 1952 at Parris Island and was discharged on September 26, 1955. She attained the rank of sergeant and completed her entire tour before she EAS'd and married her Marine boyfriend, Joe Friel. She and Joe were married 64 years! Bonnie will be greatly missed.

We started the summer celebrating one of our chapter members. Gail Horn was selected to be one of the first recipients of the 2019 Inaugural Outstanding Combat Female Veteran of NC award. The awards were presented in Raleigh, 10 May, by First Lady of NC, Kristen Cooper and Secretary of Military and Veterans' Affairs for NC, Larry Hall.

Gail was also invited to be the



Gail Horn receiving her award



Gail speaking at the Salute to Women in the Military: Past and Present



MCJROTC award at Lejeune High School



Wilmington Woman's Club tea

guest speaker for Craven County's annual Salute to Women in the Military: Past and Present. The event was held 20 June.

This year's MCJROTC Outstanding Cadet award was presented to Shevaugn Brown at Lejeune High School, 21 May.

The rest of the Summer was spent at community events, monthly meetings, and hurricane prep. Some of our ladies attended the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony held on 20 September at the Lejeune Memorial Gardens. The NC-5 Chapter of Rolling Thunder did an amazing job with the ceremony. The guest of honor was Harold Lee Frank, a POW during WWII. What an amazing gentleman he is - an inspiration to all.

We finished out the summer with Camp Lejeune's Retiree Appreciation Day and finally had a chance to relax with the Wilmington Woman's Club at their 4th Annual Tea, Honoring Women Veterans.

We are not slowing down as we approach the end of 2019. The end of the year is always the busiest. We look forward to spending more time together and celebrating another successful year.

NM-1 Sandia

Greetings from New Mexico. The Women Marines, Sandia Chapter, are very happy to congratulate one of our own, Cedar Sorrell, who along with two other La Plata County Colorado employees were recognized in September by the Board of County Commissioners for going above and beyond in recognizing a life-threatening situation and taking immediate action. Upon realizing a fellow employee was suffering from a severe allergic reaction, their quick thinking and actions made all the difference in saving the life of their co-worker. Congratulations Cedar!

Sandia Chapter members are continually seeking avenues of support for veterans in our community. With that purpose in mind our members generously donated much needed toiletries as well as 50 sets of undergarments (bras and underwear) for the benefit of women veterans admitted to the Albuquerque VA Hospital.

In May, members Laurel Hull, Joni Seymour, Stephanie Pugh, and Area Director Patricia Horton, presented certificates and a \$20 gift card to one woman cadet from each of the MCJROTC programs at nine New Mexico high schools: Rio Rancho, Atrisco, La Cueva, El Dorado, Rio Grande, Laguna, Acoma, Grants, and Shiprock High Schools. All the recipients exhibited dedication and strength of character, and we wish them all the best of luck as they continue on their path to success.



At our July meeting member Gay Doman was happy to receive a throwback utility uniform cover. Perhaps a reminder of her DI days at Parris Island?

And finally, as Marines around the globe look forward to celebrating the Marine Corps 244th birthday, it is an honor and a privilege for the Women Marines of the Sandia Chapter to share the celebration with our chapter's WWII Marine Anna Desposito.

Happy 244th Birthday Marines, Semper Fidelis!

Stephanie Pugh

NV-3 Sagebrush Marines

As life's journeys have once brought our paths together to join in comradery, life's journeys have brought one of our sisters to part from NV-3 Sagebrush Marines. Ludi McCauley has been one of our founders and a part of NV-3 since 2015 (formerly known as Battle Born). Ludi has carried the highest traditions in Espirit de Corps by

devoting her personal time towards bringing fellow women Marine sisters together and partaking in the community needs around Las Vegas. Ludi carried the responsibilities of the chapter vice president from 2018-2019. We wish Ludi the best of luck in her future endeavors and may our sister have fair winds and following seas. A message from Ludi: "It has been a wonderful experience of meeting such great women that when upon meeting, instantly understood each other and lifted each other up."



Ludi

Jahaira Farias, although stepping down as NV-3 chapter president, remains within our chapter as one of our proud members. Jahaira held the chapter president role since 2018-2019. Jahaira has carried the highest traditions of Espirit de Corps by devoting her time in leading the chapter in a positive direction of community services and interactions throughout Las Vegas. We as a chapter appreciate Jahaira's dedication towards the chapter in such a billet and are grateful to still have her with us as a fellow member/sister. A message from Jahaira: "Joining the WMA meant comradery, teamwork & community service. It meant once again I could be a Marine and be around other women Marines, who I didn't get much time with in the Corps. That feeling that I was missing from being a Marine in a predominantly male unit, I got from being a part of an active chapter in the community such as NV-3 Sagebrush. I've learned to listen, to take advice and guidance, and most importantly, I learned that being the president had nothing to do with me or what I wanted for the chapter: it had everything to do with what is best for the chapter and keeping it active and relevant to other female Marines in need of what we have to offer. The peer to peer support, friendship, and comradery is what I loved the most from our meetings and events. That is why I joined the national Women Marines Association & the local Las Vegas chapter. I'm honored and grateful to be a life member of the WMA."



Jahaira

Both Jahaira and Ludi have demonstrated and reflected leaderships skills and dedication to duties for all Marines to emulate. We thank you for your time, advice, mentorship, and sisterhood through the journey of building this chapter. Semper Fi.

Heather N. Kaufmann

OK-2 Heartland



Lucy Shank

We begin this Clipping with the sad news of the passing of a woman who was crucial to the creation of the Heartland Chapter: Lucy Shank. Lucy passed away on September 17th. A WWII WR, Lucy was a member of OK-1 in Tulsa when she made the decision to work on recruiting enough members to form the Heartland Chapter because many of the OK-1 members were from the Oklahoma City metro. Lucy was also responsible for bringing Pam Bloustine into the fold by inviting her to speak at one of our meetings. You can see what that move has gotten WMA! Semper Fidelis, Lucy, and thank you for your service and all that you've done for WMA. You are missed.

The chapter as a whole hasn't been very busy, but members Joan Willauer and Pam Bloustine have become celebrities in the veteran set!

On October 4 and 5, the Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization held the 35th Annual Oklahoma Women Veterans Recognition program. The 4th was an anniversary party to celebrate the program's 35th year of existence. At that party, Pam was



Marilla Cushman (Women's Memorial), Lynda Waldroop (OK Women Veterans), and Pam on the dance floor as Lynda reads Pam's proclamation.



Joan and her walker enjoying a spin on the dance floor.

presented with a proclamation from the Oklahoma State Senate honoring her 30 years of service to her country and her 19 years of serving as co-chairwoman of the program. The proclamation expresses that: Pam is a vivid believer and active participant, has been a strong leader in supporting past and present military women programs; and through her dedication and leadership, she has served as chairwoman of the Oklahoma Women Veterans Recognition Day for the past nineteen years, a program originated by Oklahoma Women Veterans by proclamation of the Governor in 1984; and Oklahoma is the leader among states in organizing this program to honor military women. We now celebrate thirty-five years, the longest-running such program in the nation; it is proclaimed that she

be bestowed with honors from the Oklahoma State Senate for her advocacy in ensuring that our daughters of America receive quality recognition and for developing programs that ensure they receive the health care and services they have earned as a result of their military service.

The program has gone from guest speakers and a box lunch to \$26-a-piece meals completely paid for by the program so every veteran in attendance gets a free meal. There are still speakers, but on topic and not just there to speak. There are no words to describe the veterans who attend. Fabulous is all I can think of! The party the night before is another free event with food, music, dancing, and entertainment. Darcie Lynn Farmer, the young ventriloquist who won America's Got Talent, performed at one of our Friday night parties before hitting it big.

If you're anywhere near Tulsa next October, stop in! You won't regret it.

Our Joan was also recognized during the program on the 5th for being the oldest woman veteran to have continuously attended the Oklahoma Women Veterans Recognition Day. She received the Woman Veteran of the Year award in 2009, and danced the night away on Friday night!

What's next for OK-2? Who knows. We're exhausted from Recognition Day! Pam works our behinds off! But you can be sure we'll let you know when we find out!

Sondra Metzger

SC-2 True Grits

True Grits Chapter (SC-2) of Charleston was organized in November 2013. Members of the chapter join for camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of supporting female Marines. We preserve traditions, promote interests of the United States Marine Corps and band together those who are now serving, or those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy. True Grits volunteers in aiding and assistance to all Marines and former Marines to maintain the history of the United States Marine Corps by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical events or occasions of interest to Marines in the Charleston



area. Website: SC2@womenmarines.org.

Vonda Jones Sellers

TN-1 Rocky Top Marines

TN-1 members held their meeting on 21 September at the AMVETS Post 22 Clubhouse. Members were asked to bring school items for distribution to two local schools. The results were fantastic. Plans were made for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive, a favorite activity of the chapter, and for our birthday celebration for our WWII veteran Eileen Neiler, who will be 96 years young in December.



Teresa Greene, Barbara Chagnon, WWII Eileen Neiler, Lindsay Long, Pearl Rich, Laura Ward, Deb Henderson and Doris Keane, pose with school supplies.

On 25 and 26 September, several members assisted the local chapter of the Marine Corps League by doing registration for their Annual Mud Run. Helping out were: Doris Keane, Deb Henderson, Lindsay Long, Pearl Rich, Laura Ward, and Terese Greene.

Barbara Chagnon

TX-2 Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Spring gave way to summer here in the Lone Star State of Texas. The month of May has seen somewhat warmer than usual with temperatures in the 90s. It is welcome weather for most of us except for those who suffered terribly with allergies. June brought us the beginning of hurricane season.

Spring found us with regular visits to the VA hospital to give cards to the patients. Thank you to Betty Huggins for spear heading this endeavor. She also attended a meeting to find out all the service hours by WMA volunteers for the past year. Both TX-2 and our sister unit TX-7 had volunteers assist with visitations.

The April meeting had us planning to do a picnic in June at a nearby park. This did not occur due to scheduling issues. The picnic was postponed to cooler weather.

In May we continued to press forward with our By-Laws and Standing Rules amendments. They were submitted to National who approved and returned a signed copy. Project completed. Yay!

Our June meeting has us continuing to move forward with the picnic. We will strive to have this in the fall time frame as it is much too hot to do a picnic during the summer months. We are also looking at fundraisers for the next six months or so. Possible raffle to be held at the picnic and the sale of greeting cards.

On June 8th there was a 5K Fun Run by Women Veterans for Women Veterans. One of our ladies ran in this event. In 2017, Texas lawmakers enacted a law naming June 12 as Women Veterans Day to highlight women's role in the military and commemorate their valor and sacrifice.

Our August 3rd meeting found us scheduling a garage sale for Oct 4 and 5 instead of a picnic. Plans were discussed to have our annual luncheon in November.

December we will be found at the VA Hospital decorating two wards and one waiting room.

Summer has now faded ever so slightly towards fall. It is still rather warm and humid, but that is Houston. Looking forward to cooler temperatures soon.

We will all be looking forward to the holidays with the hustle and bustle of the season!

Barbara Barnhart

TX-7 Opha May Johnson

On Aug 2-3, TX-7 Marines, sailor, and Loyal Escorts assisted the Blue Star Moms of Houston in completing a packing party. We helped pack care packages for deployed service members. We also got to answer their questions about how we felt while we were deployed and were lucky enough to intercept one of these types of care packages!



Packing party

On Aug 17, TX-7 Marines, sailor, and Loyal Escorts enjoyed a comedy night out together. We were thoroughly entertained and enjoyed each other's company.



Comedy Night

From Aug - Sep, TX-7 Marines, sailor, and Loyal Escorts collected yard sale donations from the local community to host a fundraising yard sale for the chapter. The yard sale was held on two separate dates in October and yielded so much more than we could have imagined! We even had a Marine brother stop by with his family to support our cause! The leftover merchandise was distributed to other local veterans' organizations and local library.



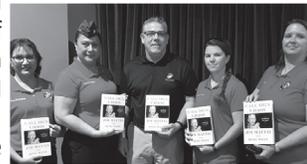
Garage sale decor

In September, TX-7 hosted a chapter business meeting and planned events through December and added a new fundraiser. Our Super Bowl Wagon of Cheer raffle has begun. On Jan 31, 2020 we will draw the winner of the Wagon of Cheer! The lucky ticket holder will win this starter kit for their Super Bowl party!



Garage sale with customers!

Also, during September, some members of TX-7 attended the General James Mattis "Call Sign Chaos" book signing event.



Book signing event

TX-7 Opha May Johnson Chapter wants to wish the US Navy a very Happy 244th Birthday! We would also like to wish all Marines a very special celebration as we embrace our 244th USMC Birthday! Semper Fidelis, Marines! OooooRAH! We are looking forward to hearing how our sister chapters celebrated our 244th birthday in the next 'Nouncements!



September meeting

Semper Fidelis,
Audrea Killalea



Wagon of Cheer!

VA-1 Crossroads

Crossroads VA-1 has been very active the last couple of months. In August we prepared and served dinner at one of the shelters in the Northern VA area. A huge thank you to our member Michele Ebron who put those Food Service skills to great use and led the charge, developing the menu and directing all of us in the preparation and service of the meal.



Komen walk

In September we had a team to raise funds for the Susan B. Komen "More Than Pink" Walk for the Cure in Washington, DC. Thank you to member Carmen Cole for being our team captain once again. Following the walk, our team gathered at National Harbor for a wonderful lunch.



National Harbor

Later in September, we manned the WMA booth at Modern Day Marine Expo in Quantico. We were able to spread the word of our organization with many women Marines, both active and those no longer in uniform. We received contact information for approximately 30 women who showed interest in learning more about this wonderful organization.



Modern Day Marine Expo

VA-1 is looking forward to our activities scheduled for the remainder of 2019 and adding members to our roles.

Charmale Gallagher

WA-3 Northsound

Fall has officially come to the North Sound! Our chapter, WA-3, continues to support the VA CBOC Clinic in Mt Vernon with a coffee bar.



Clinic coffee bar

When Esther Owens, the Nurse Manager, came on board she thought a coffee service of some kind would help the patients waiting for their appointments feel more cared for. Wait time can sometimes be longer than expected, and we all know how that can change our mood.

Our chapter has been decorating the clinic for the holidays going on three years now and this has been received very well by the staff and the patients. Some have even helped a bit to put the decorations up.

When Esther broached the idea of a coffee bar of sorts to Peggy and me, we brought it up to the chapter who enthusiastically embraced the idea. From there it grew from two Keurig coffee pod machines to a very fancy Keurig which Esther found at Walmart.

At chapter meetings we have collected money to support buying coffee, sugar, creamer, cups etc. We have also solicited help from the community. Costco gives us cash cards for \$25 or more, about every 3 months and another large food supplier, Smart Food Service, has also given us \$25 on a regular basis.

At a recent meeting Esther was our guest speaker. She told us just how much this simple act of having coffee, hot coco, tea and or hot cider can make a difference in patients' attitude. She said there was much less complaining about the wait times and patients were much happier having something to sip on while waiting. Often times James, one of the nurses, brings in pastries or cookies. At holidays we also make cookies - some with sugar substitute for diabetic patients. This has been a big hit with both patients and staff.

We are in the process of getting more community participation by asking other Costco stores, etc. in areas where members live to also contribute.

Bettie Glassey

WMA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION * DENOTES MANDATORY FIELD

*Full Name:		
*Current address:		
*City:	*State:	*ZIP Code:
*Date of Birth:	*Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
*Email:		*Email must be provided for electronic issues

ALTERNATE ADDRESS INFORMATION

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	E-mail:	Reason for alternate:
Start Date:	Stop Date:	

EMERGENCY CONTACT

*Next of Kin		
*Address:		*Phone:
*City:	*State:	*ZIP Code:
*Relationship:		

MILITARY INFORMATION

*When Served: mm/year to mm/year	
*Name (s) Served Under:	*Maiden Name:
Plt./Co and Series/OCS/ FMF qualified date	___ USMC ___ FMF NAVY

RM&D AND 'NOUNCEMENTS PREFERENCES

The Resource Manual & Directory (RM&D) and Nouncements will be sent in electronic format. If you prefer another format, please check below. Help WMA **"Go Green"** choosing the electronic copy for your RM&D and Nouncements.

___ Hard Paper Copy	**Must provide current for email electronic copy
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WMA 'Nouncements is the organizational quarterly magazine

___ Hard Paper Copy	**Must provide current email for electronic copy
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ___ NEW ___ RENEWAL ___ REINSTATEMENT

___ 2 year Membership \$40	Life Membership: Pick One:
Chapter Name if Known:	___ Age 30 & Under \$295 ___ 31-39 \$260 ___ 40-49 \$210
Enrolled By/ How did you hear about WMA:	___ 50-59 \$180 ___ 60-65 \$150 ___ 66 & older \$120

***FMF Must submit via hard copy with payment and documentation of FMF qualification with application.**

SIGNATURE AND VERIFICATION

By my signature, I verify that all information contained within is correct and that I am eligible to apply having served or honorably serving in the United States Marine Corps or as Navy FMF qualified. I understand my basic information is listed in the RM&D. I will abide by the WMA Bylaws and Standing Rules.

*Signature of applicant:	*Date:
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Effective May 2019

WMA will never share any of your information with outside sources.

Fill in application, print and mail with payment to:
Women Marines Association
120 State Avenue NE, #303
Olympia, WA 98501
www.womenmarines.org



Chapter Merchandise

Send chapter ads to Sondra Metzger, Editor@womenmarines.org.
IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE: When WMA sales items are no longer available,
 please notify Sondra so they can be removed.

BOOKS

Not "Just Another Cookbook"

More than 100 recipes
 by 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

CLOTHING

Woman Marine Veteran Hats

Blue with red bill
 Pink Woman Marine
 Cost: \$15 plus \$5 shipping
 Black patch with red bill
 Red patch with black bill
 Cost: \$20 plus \$5 shipping
 (Contact listed below)

Tumbler

Arctic Tumblers, with 100 years or
 Proud Female Veteran Marine Corps
 Cost: \$20 plus \$5 shipping
 (Contact listed below)

WMA stickers

Cost: \$5 plus \$.50 shipping
 (Contact listed below)

Polo Shirts

Polo shirts available for order.
 You may choose to have your name
 embroidered on the shirt.
 Cost: \$30 including the name
 embroidered and shipping

Contact: TX7@womenmarines.org.
 PayPal payments can be
 sent to
 TX7@womenmarines.org

All sales are final.



CLOTHING CONT'D

WMA Apron

Apron, short, three pockets,
 with WMA logo
 Cost: \$10.00 plus \$6.00 shipping
 Chapter: CA-11 Central Coast
 Contact: Soledad Kennedy
 4062 Capella St.
 Lompoc, CA 93436
 Fax/Office: (805)733-2176
 Cell: (805) 588-0650

4th Bn Shirts, Crew Neck Unisex

Comes in black and burgundy.
 Large logo on back and
 small crest on front.
 Cost: \$23.50 (includes shipping)
 Sizes: M, L, XL, 2X
 Send check or money order to:
 WMA Motor City
 PO Box 590
 Romeo, MI 48065
 (Please state size and color).

Ladies Cut T-Shirt with V neck

Comes in vintage khaki and gray
 with logo in hunter green.
 Cost: \$23.50 (includes shipping)
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL
 Send check or money order to:
 WMA Motor City
 PO Box 590
 Romeo, MI 48065
 (Please state size and color).

Shirts, OD Green Crewneck (men's size)

Footprint logo on back, flag on the
 right arm, and a choice between
 two front logo options.
 Sizes and Costs:
 S-XL: \$28 + \$4.75 shipping
 2XL-3XL: \$30 + \$4.75 shipping
 Chapter: OR-1
 Contact: OR1@womenmarines.org



CLOTHING CONT'D

Adult and Youth Shirts from Port Authority

5 embroidery options:

**THE FEWER,
THE PROUDER**



**THE WOMEN
MARINES**

Option 1

**NEVER UNDERSTIMATE
A WOMAN**



WHO HAS A DD214

Option 2



Option 3

**I
♥
MY
WOMAN
MARINE**

Option 4

**MY
HERO IS A
WOMAN
MARINE**



Option 5

Sizing and Pricing, include shipping:

Adult:	
Ladies Polos (Crew neck)	S/S T-Shirt
S-XL: \$35	S-XL: \$25
2XL: \$37	2XL: \$27
3XL: \$39	3XL: \$29
4XL: \$41	4XL: \$31
5XL: \$43	5XL: \$33
Youth:	
Polo	S/S T-Shirt
S-XL: \$30	S-XL: \$20

**Please contact for: Infant/Toddler
 Contact: Stephanie Wilcox, OR-3
 swilcox818@yahoo.com
 (541) 554-6015**

<http://wmaor3.wixsite.com/shirts>



Chapter Merchandise

FLAGS

Car Flag

WMA logo (clips to car window)
Cost: \$10.00 plus \$6.00 shipping

Table Flag

WMA logo with stand
Size: 4"x6"
Cost: \$5.00 plus \$6.00 shipping
Chapter: CA-11 Central Coast
Contact: Soledad Kennedy
4062 Capella St.
Lompoc, CA 93436
Fax/Office: (805)733-2176
Cell: (805) 588-0650
usmcrfemale@yahoo.com
www.centralcoastwomenmarines.com

JEWELRY

Charm "Semper Fi"

Cost: \$5
Chapter: OR-1
Contact: OR1@womenmarines.org



MISCELLANEOUS

Bumper Sticker

"The Few, The Proud, The Women Marines"
Cost: \$1.50 (includes shipping)
Chapter: NM-1
Checks payable to WMA Chapter NM1
Contact: Laurel Hull
28 Tejon Canyon Rd
Placitas, NM 87043
505-867-9172
prism@lobo.net

License Plate Frame

Aluminum, "OohRah Sisterhood" on the top and "Women Marines Association" on the bottom.
Cost: \$12 (includes shipping)
Checks payable to:
EMVSC CA-7 WMA
Contact: Lillian Cross
3122 Morningside Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92056-4011
(760) 724-9861
Visit www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color.

MISCELLANEOUS CONT'D

WMA Logo Magnet

Size: 2" long x 1.5" wide
Cost: \$2 (includes shipping)
Chapter: NJ-2
Contact: Lorraine Nankivell
PO Box 208
38 Point Pleasant Rd
Hopatcong, NJ 07843-0208

Luggage Tag

3.5"x2.5", aluminum, "Proud Member Women Marines Association" WMA logo on one side and "OohRah Sisterhood" and WMA logo on the other side.
Cost: \$10 (includes shipping)
Checks payable to:
EMVSC CA-7 WMA
Contact: Lillian Cross
3122 Morningside Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92056-4011
(760) 724-9861

Visit www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color.

Women Marines Padfolio

WMA logo, zips all the way around, has a pocket on the outside and several on the inside, zippered one on the inside, writing pad included
Cost: \$28.50 (includes shipping)
Chapter: MI-2
Contact: WMA MI-2 Motor City
PO Box 590
Romeo, MI 48065

Ribbon Magnet

"Proud to be a Marine"
Size: 8"x3"
Cost: \$6 (includes shipping)
Checks payable to:
EMVSC CA-7 WMA
Contact: Lillian Cross
3122 Morningside Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92056-4011
(760) 724-9861



Visit www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color

WMA Logo Rubber Stamps

Large stamp
Cost: \$11 (includes shipping)
Small stamp
Cost: \$8 (includes shipping)
Chapter: OH-2 Chesty Puller
Contact: Ellen Leidy
1107 Columbus Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203
(330) 825-8935
leidyrn@aol.com

MISCELLANEOUS CONT'D

Travel Mug

White aluminum with green WMA logo on one side and gold "OohRah Sisterhood Women Marines Association" centered
Size: 15 oz.
Cost: \$15.00 (includes shipping)
Chapter: CA-7
Checks payable to:
EMVSC CA-7 WMA
Contact: Lillian Cross
3122 Morningside Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92056-4011
(760) 724-9861
Visit www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color

WWII Poster Mug

with vintage Women Marines recruitment poster art, "Be a Marine - Free a Marine to Fight"
Cost: \$12 each
plus \$7 shipping & handling
Checks payable to:
IN-1
Chapter: IN-1
Contact: Kay Ross
(317) 698-6637
kayross@comcast.net



Travel Neck Pouch

Black w/two zippered sections on one side, clear section on reverse with WMA logo, adjustable strap
Size: 6.5"x4.5"
Cost: \$5 (includes shipping)
Chapter NM-1
Checks payable to:
WMA Chapter NM1
Contact: Laurel Hull
28 Tejon Canyon Rd
Placitas, NM 87043
505-867-9172
prism@lobo.net

Clear Vinyl Bag

With long zipper, green/white WMA logo
Size: 9"x12"
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

WMA National Merchandise Sales – Your Purchases Support Our Association!

Items (in alphabetical order)

WMA Items

(A) Afghan.....	\$ 55.00
(B) Ceremonial Flag.....	\$ 200.00
(C) Chapter Ribbon (replacement).....	\$ 20.00
(D) Cover-shaped membership pin.....	\$ 10.00
(E) Cover, with Chapter and EGA.....	\$ 55.00
(E) Cover, with Chapter, Life, and EGA.....	\$ 60.00
Gold EGA for cover.....	\$ 10.00
Life member pin.....	\$ 12.00
(F) Name Tags, 1.5"x 3".....	\$ 10.00
Patch, large.....	\$ 10.00

SALE Items!

Cammo Drawstring Bag, WMA.....	\$ 8.00
Turner WMA History Book.....	\$ 15.00
Book, Above and Beyond by Rudy Socha & Carolyn Darrow.....	\$ 10.00



Item (A)



Item (B)



Item (C)



Item (D)



Item (E)



Example



Item (F)



Example



Cover and Name Tag Instructions— Read before ordering!

WMA COVER

Sizing: (Measure crown of head 1" above ears, allow for hair style)	
XSmall. (20 1/2" - 20 7/8")	Small. (21 1/4" - 21 5/8")
Medium. (22" - 22 3/8")	Large. (22 3/4" - 23 1/8")
XLarge. (23 1/2" - 23 7/8")	XXLarge. (24 1/4" - 24 5/8")

Please specify your cover size, chapter information (limited to 5 characters max, i.e. CA-29), if "Life" is requested, shipping address, and contact information (phone number and email). Covers are custom ordered - please allow **4 – 6 weeks for delivery.**

Please verify the size and information you provide—COVERS ARE SPECIAL ORDERED AND NOT RETURNABLE (if you measure near the top of the size bracket, you may want to order the next size up)

WMA NAME TAGS

Nametags are laser etched on dark green acrylic with white text and have magnetic hardware. Please indicate your Name, Chapter and Chapter designator exactly as you wish it to appear on your nametag. (See Item (F))

You may order any of these items on our website at www.womenmarines.org, Shop, Members or mail the item information, quantity, your mailing address and contact info including email address along with your check payable to **Women Marines Association** to:

WMA Sales
C/o Gail Horn
P. O. Box 12518
Jacksonville, NC 28546

Contact info: sales@womenmarines.org
Phone: (910) 355-0293

WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS
P.O. Box 120 State Avenue NE, #303
Olympia, WA 98501

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PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 1562



Bring your "Oohrah" to Omaha!

2020 Women Marines Association
Convention and Professional Development Conference
Omaha, Nebraska
Thursday Sept. 3rd to Monday Sept. 7th, 2020