

History Timeline Error

An email was sent to the WMA mailbox commenting on a misstep in the history timeline on our website, and here's what it said:

"My name is Savannah Chase. I recently stumbled across the timeline on the website, loved learning the history of women in the Marine Corps, but noticed one piece of history was missing. After Congress allowed women into combat roles in 2015, three active duty females submitted and were approved lateral moves into the 03xx fields that they were trained in during the Infantry integration study at SOI-East. I served as the first female machine gunner in the Marine Corps and was given orders to 1st Battalion, 8th



Marines, Alpha Company, Weapons Platoon. There was a female mortarman (Cpl Sarah Brinkerhoff, now a Staff Sergeant), and a female rifleman (Sgt Remedios Cruz) that checked into the 1/8 with me in January of 2017. I was also the first female

to pass Advanced Machine Gunners course in July 2016 as part of class 4-16 at Advanced Infantry Training Battalion-East on Camp Geiger. There were a few articles listed about our lateral moves, but for the most part we were never named and were asked to remain anonymous because of the climate towards being named. I do think this bit of information adds value to the historical timeline, as I'm also very proud of my service as a machine gunner. Since I've ended my active service, I've realized how important 'the firsts' are to the future generations of female Marines."

I got in touch with Savannah to get more information.

She enlisted in 2014 and was originally an ammunition technician. After boot camp, the Marine Corps was still conducting studies for females in combat roles, so she tried for the Infantry Training Battalion-East and graduated from the machine gunner course. She then went to her



MOS school in Fort Lee, then to Camp Schwab, Okinawa for her first duty station.

At the end of 2015 when Congress allowed women in combat roles, Savannah submitted a lateral move request to machine gunner. It was accepted and she was given orders to 1st Battalion, 8th Marines in Camp Lejeune. Prior to arriving at the 1/8, she was sent to the Advanced Infantry Training Battalion at Camp Geiger where she became the first female to graduate from the Advanced Machine Gunners Course or any advanced level infantry training. In January, she checked into Alpha Company 1/8 with Sarah Brinkerhoff (0341) and Remedios Cruz (0311). The three were the first females to join an infantry unit holding an 03xx MOS. Sarah is still on active duty and now a Staff Sergeant. She spent the last few years as a combat instructor and is headed to 7th Marines shortly. Remedios has left active service. We deployed as part of a unit deployment program to Okinawa, Korea, and mainland Japan. Savannah was promoted to Sergeant before leaving active duty.

She is still very proud to be a **MOLLY MARINE**. She was also the honor graduate in boot camp, and received the Chesty Puller award. But according to her, there's a different kind of pride with the Molly Marine Award.

She now works in law enforcement in Southern California and is expecting her first child, a daughter.



Savannah Chase
 Edited by Sondra Metzger



LA-1 at the Pre-Parade Party Krewe of Muses 2023

Board of Directors

President

Ann Crittenden
4 Timothy Lane, Stafford, VA 22556 (540) 226-3580
WMANatPresident@womenmarines.org

Vice President

Patty Collins
35361 CR 35, Peetz, CO 80747 (630) 696-0364
WMAVP@womenmarines.org

Director of Finance

Christine Williams
4900 SW 46th Ct, Apt 1407, Ocala, FL 34474
(816) 355-7865 WMADirFinance@womenmarines.org

Director Of Administration

Kat Montira
9212 Fowler Circle, Omaha, NE 68134
(308) 874-6025 WMADirAdmin@womenmarines.org

Director of Development

Vacant

Director Of Marketing & Communications

Margaret Lazarus
5800 Herons Landing Dr, Rockledge, FL 32955
(321) 507-0509 WMADirComm@womenmarines.org

Director of Member Services

Leila Garcia
118 Warren St, Suffolk, VA 23434 (757) 758-0068
WMADirMembers@womenmarines.org

Director of Programs

Pat Horton
HC65, Box33423, Concho, AZ 85924 (586) 381-1866
WMADirPrograms@womenmarines.org

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Immediate Past President

Rhonda Amtower
160 Highland, Williamsburg, VA 23188 (757) 564-3496
IPP@womenmarines.org

Chaplain

Melinda Townsend
5008 Sky Lark Court, Pensacola, FL 32505
(509) 301-3834 Chaplain@womenmarines.org

Public Relations Officer

Mary Ann Merritt
70274 Campground, Romeo, MI 48065
(586) 752-9421 PRO@womenmarines.org

Editor

Sondra Metzger
3805 NE 141 Circle, Edmond, OK 73013
(405) 570-2472 Editor@womenmarines.org

WMA Addresses You Need to Know

Snail Mail - USPS

Women Marines Association
401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600
Wakefield, MA 01880- 8501

Email

WMA@womenmarines.org

For general information about WMA

Membership@womenmarines.org

Membership questions, to include updates to member contact information.

Listening@womenmarines.org

For questions and comments regarding the new governance structure.

Phone Number: 1-888-525-1943

WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS

Official Publication of the WMA

WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS (USPS 371410) is published quarterly by the Women Marines Association. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN and additional mailing offices. Membership eligibility: Women who serve or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps regular or reserve components; or in the United States Navy as "Fleet Marine Force (FMF) qualified" personnel to include corpsmen, chaplains, religious program specialists, and medical officers (these are designated as Active Members) are eligible for membership in the Women Marines Association. Dues are \$40 for two years.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS, Women Marines Association, 401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600, Wakefield, MA 01880-8501.

This material is intended for the sole and express use by the Women Marines Association (WMA) and is not to be distributed or used in any fashion not in accordance with WMA guidelines. Any use or distribution outside of WMA is strictly prohibited.

WMA is not an official component of the United States Marine Corps or Department of Defense.

**DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE
JULY 10 2023**



Reporting In...National President

Today is Easter Sunday. What a beautiful day it is and more importantly, it's a special day. I hope that all who read this today are blessed with your family and great memories of past Easter Sundays. I come from a very large family. Mom got us dressed up and shuttled off to church in our Easter finery (hats and gloves too!) and then to Grandma's for a wonderful Easter lunch (and boy could she cook – felt like a 4-star Michelin restaurant) and then an easter egg hunt. Finally we got back home and off came that finery and back into our ripped blue jeans and ratty sneakers. A great day only to do it again the next year.

I am not going to say that Easter Sunday reminds me of WMA but I am going to let you know that the WMA we know is growing and expanding in ways that I hope members will find exciting.

Let's look back and see how we have grown:

WMA recognized in late 2018 that our membership numbers were declining due in large part to age but also that the allure of being part of this organization was waning. The organization was beginning to see "hair line" cracks in terms of communication and ability to attract new members and that our governance structure was too big and not open to effective communication. The WMA reputation was stale. It was time to bring it back to life and reenergize the organization to make it a resource for women Marines and our FMF Navy certified chaplains and corpsmen – regardless of status – to help them navigate through their careers, during and after the Marine Corps. The first challenge was to develop a strategic plan. We set goals for ourselves that we wanted to attain within three years: increase membership, improve member experience, redo the logo, rebrand ourselves. The one thing we did not change was our mission. That will always remain intact.

We opted to retain an association management company, Virtual Inc. to assist us in "looking under the hood" and see what needed to be fixed. Turns out just about everything: our website was old and outdated, our membership database was not user friendly, the Logo and seal (green and white with the Woman Marines head in the center) was a legacy to our older Marines but meant nothing to our young Marines (the green and white pattern was an old uniform that was replaced in the late 1970s).

So our solution, along with our association management company, was to start a series of working groups that met weekly to go over everything: website design, marketing and communication plans, merchandise development, sponsorship and donor planning, governance structure development and a complete overhaul of Board of Director duties and responsibilities, overhaul of the membership database and development of what the member experience should be – it was a mountain of work but after three years we finally began to make headway. And remember, this was done primarily by volunteers.

To improve communication, we reduced the governance structure from 18 to eight positions, launched the new website last summer, launched a self-serve database program last month, the logo and branding were approved for use by the HQMC Trademark office – which I would like to share a small factoid: WMA is in the top 10 of Marine Corps Associations! And we have formalized our communication efforts to be primarily virtual in nature but recognizing that some of our older members are challenged by using computers we will continue to print our newsletter, *Nouncements*, for mailing only to those that request it.

Our membership is rebounding, at end of 2022 our website incurred over 47,000 individual hits, our LinkedIn site is now over 5000 followers, our National Facebook page is over 13000. The survey we sent to members in January came back with an improved Satisfaction number that went from 36 in 2022 to 43 in 2023! This is a remarkable increase.

Communication occurs daily between the National WMA headquarters and the followers on Facebook; we have created social networking events; our Vice President, Patty Collins, holds a virtual meet and greet for new members on a monthly basis, which really tightened up our resolve to improve the member experience; and we will have a presence at the Marine Corps Expo in Washington DC in June 2023. I look forward to that as it has been a while and finally we will get to show off our new marketing materials!

By the end of April and early May, be on the lookout for a Job Board on our website that will be geared for companies that are veteran friendly, offer free career counseling and resume writing services to our members, as well as creating a strategic partnership with a company called Bunker Labs

who's expertise is in creating networking and grant opportunities for entrepreneurs! There will also be courses offered for entrepreneurs through Bunker Labs.

WMA is always exploring ways to create strategic partnerships. I have already contacted the Marine Corps League, Marine Corps University Foundation, National Marine Corps Council, and Marine Corps Association to discuss how WMA can better leverage their benefits and capacities to our members' advantage. Other groups I have discussed potential capacity with are WIMSA and the Women Warriors Foundation. Much more to follow in these areas.

I know this is a longer than usual article, but I wanted to ensure that our members know that I am not sitting out here dying Easter eggs and eating chocolate bunnies. We are busy. The March Monthly Minute referred to grit. The next few months are going to be just that: gritty. Stand by Marines.

Semper Fidelis, Ann

Reporting In...Vice President

The past few months have been very busy. We hosted several meet and greets for new members. We also held a few Chapter networking events. Our topic of discussion was on recruiting, there were some great ideas passed around. I want to thank all of you who participated. I plan on hosting chapter networking events on a quarterly basis. I will try and do a couple each quarter in the different time zones. Hopefully this will allow more members to join. These events are open to all members of WMA. So please pass the word around. Not all topics will be WMA related. I would like to discuss other topics like finances, fitness, dietary, and health. If you have a topic that you would like to discuss please email listening@womenmarines.org. I monitor this email as well so I will get your topic ideas.

I wanted to again thank NE-1 for inviting me to their business meeting. I really enjoyed meeting everyone. If you would like me to join one of your meetings via Zoom, please send me an invite and I will do what I can to join. Also, I would like to get out and see some chapters. If your chapter would like for me to come visit please let me know. Especially if you have multiple chapters that are close enough to get together. Myself and the National President will be heading to Florida at the end of March to visit with chapters there. My email is wmapv@womenmarines.org. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Patty Collins



She's Home!

Col Nicole Aunapu Mann and three Expedition 68 crew members ended their stay aboard the International Space Station on March 11. They splashed down off the coast of Tampa, FL.

Col Mann is not only the first female Marine to go into space, but also the first Indigenous woman. She is a member of the Wailacki tribe of the Round Valley Indian Tribes of northern California.

Col Mann has also been chosen as one of *USA TODAY's* Women of the Year.

Welcome home, Colonel, and congratulations!

NASA



*Photo by
Robert Markowitz,
Johnson Spacecenter/
NASA*



*Cpl. Manny, the previous MCRD San Diego and Western Recruiting Region (WRR) mascot, is relieved of his duties during a relief and appointment ceremony at MCRD San Diego, April 21. Pvt. Bruno relieved Manny of his duties as the mascot for MCRD San Diego to continue the tradition of representing the WRR.
(photo by Cpl. Grace J. Kindred)*

Correction



PFC Charlotte Ayers submitted a poem and a song for the last issue of *'Nouncements*. However, there wasn't room in that issue for "The D.I. Song," and her poem was published incorrectly. With apologies, both are correctly published in their entirety on the following page.

(L-R): Cpl Charlotte Ayers, TSgt Eleanore Childers, LtCol Barbara Bishop, Capt Joann McLamore. Inspection visit of I-I Staff, Navy & Marine Corps Reserve Center, Ft McHenry, MD, April 1955.



I am a Marine

*Headed south when I turned eighteen
To Parris Island to become a Marine!*

*Boot camp on the Depot was my destination
Two months of training was not a vacation.*

*They issued us uniforms, skirts below the knee
Cause that was the '50s fashion, don't you see.*

*We learned new words to replace the old.
Made up our bunks with a hospital fold.*

*Instead of the bathroom, you went to the Head.
Where you slept was named Bunk, not a bed.*

*Don't go into the kitchen, it's now the Messhall,
And the word Bulkhead replaced the wall.*

*What we ate in the Messhall, now is called Chow,
And going there meant we were going to Chow now.*

*We wore not a hat, we called it a Cover.
It sits straight on your head or you will sure suffer.*

*We shined shoes and boots with a rag and our spit,
So shiny and bright you could see your face in it!*

*So much to learn, days sitting in classes;
We were ready to be really smart lasses.*

*Marine Corps history, laws, and traditions,
How to salute, and lead a platoon on a mission.*

*In uniform we stood, straight and felt proud.
And knew that anywhere, we'd stand out in a crowd.*

*For drilling we wore Utilities and black shiny boots,
For physical training, we wore "Peanut Suits."*

*From barracks to classroom, even to chow,
We marched to cadence, our D.I. showed us how.*

*When Field Day came, it was not held outside.
It meant that the barracks must be cleaned inside.*

*We dusted, we mopped, we buffed decks to
perfection,
We polished and cleaned Heads, for white-glove
inspection.*

*To greet all those ranks above us "boots,"
We daily practiced snappy hand salutes!*

*Then came the day, our training's complete!
In spite of the sand fleas and PI's so hot heat!*

*I stood at attention, sorta nervous inside.
Shoulders back, I felt such pride!*

*I raised my hand, swore to protect and defend
The Constitution, our Country, our Flag to the end.*

*I will be loyal, committed, and strong
Serve my Country, never doing it wrong.*

*I loved the challenge, the discipline, the drill.
The friends I made, I think of still.*

*Those weeks were special, never had a regret
For that decision to serve, now I am a Vet.*

*Yes, I came south when I was eighteen
And proudly earned the title of U.S. Marine!*

*Charlotte M. Ayers
Sgt, 1952 - 1957*

The D.I. Song

*To the tune of "Stormy Weather"
(Google it, youngins'!)*

Don't know why I'll count cadence till I die.

I'm a D.I. Why is it me stuck on P.I.

Keep drillin' all the time.

Life is bare, clowns and idiots everywhere.

I'm a D.I. Why is it me stuck on P.I.

Keep drillin' all the time.

*When they come aboard the blues walk in to meet
me*

Lord I'm sick of only those recruits to greet me

How I pray that my poor feet will keep me

Through another year in the Corps.

Can't go on. My mentality is gone

I'm a D.I. Why is it me stuck on P.I.

Keep drillin' all the time.

Keep drillin' all the time.

(Written by Charlotte M. Ayers and other recruits in Platoon 21-A, MCRD PISC. These original songs were for a skit Plt 21-A was to give to entertain our Drill Instructors, Platoon Leaders, and members of Platoon 19-A and 21-A prior to graduation from boot camp, 1952.)



WMA MCJROTC Outstanding Cadet Awards

Cadet Sergeant Alissa Placido
John C. Fremont High School
Los Angeles, CA



Cadet Corporal Sinai Palma
Gar-Field High School
Woodbridge, VA



Cadet Corporal
Nicolette Howard
Shiprock High School
Shiprock, NM



Kensley Kalstad
Hendrickson High School
Pflugerville, TX



No Photo

Ariana Woods, Lake Cormorant High School
Lake Cormorant, MS

Molly Marines

Platoon 1010

Bravo Company
PFC Alexandra M. Lane, Bonita Springs, FL
Graduation: 27 January 2023

Platoon 2025

Hotel Company
PFC Alyssia I. Luna, Trinity, FL
Graduation: 21 April 2023

Platoon 3010

Kilo Company
PFC Desiree Nowak, Pound, WI
Graduation: 10 February 2023

Platoon 3017

Lima Company
Pvt Heaven D. Rogers, Pensacola, FL
Graduation: 17 March 2023

Platoon 2141

Golf Company, MCRD San Diego
PFC Mykell M. Green
Graduation: 14 April 2023

Platoon 3265

Mike Company, MCRD San Diego
Marine Aaliyah Venegas
Graduation: 10 March 2023

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 they and all our departed
sisters rest in peace.

Life Members

Carmen E. Cole (Clifton/Spruell)	2670	01/22/2023	VA-1
Arlene ("Arddy") Farrell (Cyphers)	2711	02/24/2023	FL-7
Barbara Finkbeiner (Stephenson)	3350	03/12/2023	MAL
Mary Louise Glann (Courey)	1902	02/09/2023	OK-1
Marlene ("Mikki") Hurst (Balios-Robson)	3253	12/09/2022	CA-2
Hattie Hope Kelley (Mecham)	3018	02/14/2023	OR-1
June M. Linsmeyer	1246	08/27/2022	NM-1
Maria Matlak	1878	03/06/2023	MAL
Dorothy A. McGary (Etschied)	2122	04/02/2023	TX-2
Sara Phoenix (Roach/Thompson)	2700	10/25/2022	TX-5
Doris E. Purdy	480	02/21/2023	MAL
Agnes Smith (Black/Smith)	3260	02/09/2023	MAL
Frances T. Sturkus (Satagaj)	1523	03/27/2023	CT-1
Lorre C. Wardyn	702	12/11/2021	MAL



Mary Jane Kane (Beenau) surrounded by family as she celebrated her 101st birthday March 3rd, 2022.

Mary Jane Beenau was born in Buffalo, NY and this year celebrated her 101st birthday. She enlisted in the Women's Reserve in 1943 at the age of 21. She completed basic training at Camp Lejeune and served on active duty at Miramar till the war's end.

After the service, she moved to Miami and stayed busy raising a family and being a caregiver for her parents and her brother. Mary Jane served her community in a number of organizations and was always ready to help others.

In the 70s, she joined The Women Marines Association, Gold Coast Florida Chapter FL-3, and became a national life member of WMA, #3104. During her tenure, Mary Jane held the offices of treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president. She led many community and fundraising events. She served on the committee organizing the 1978 National Convention aboard the T.S.S. Mardi Gras which sailed out of Miami (some may remember). For years she provided greetings and goodies to hospitalized veterans at the Miami VA hospital; holiday baskets for Safe Space (a housing facility for abused women). Her greatest devotion was sending 100s of care packages to troops serving in the Middle East. She received the Patriot Award, awarded by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization in recognition for her outstanding volunteer service to the Guard, Reserves, the community and to the nation's military men and women.

Life has now slowed down greatly and activity limited. She misses attending conventions, fundraisers, etc., especially the camaraderie of the Corps community. She is legally blind but I know she would love receiving a greeting card. Her address is: Mary Jane Kane, 955 NW 32 Avenue, Miami FL 33125.



Another 100th Birthday Girl!

If June Whitehurst of Olive Branch was presented with a birthday cake containing a candle for every year of her life on March 23rd, the centenarian will likely blow them all out with the same guts and determination she showed to become one of the first women Marines in 1943.

Whitehurst was born near Chicago on March 23, 1923 but spent most of her married life with her husband in the Miami area. She has now moved to Olive Branch to live with her daughter.

"Just another corner to turn," Whitehurst said about turning 100. "There are lots of corners and lots of wonderful open spurts and places."

Not only was Whitehurst one of the first 80 women Marines, whose motto was, "Join the Women Marine Corps and free a man to fight," but she married a Marine, Dale Whitehurst, in June 1945 while still in the Marine Corps. They remained married and had seven children before his passing in 2000.

The women Marines were started as World War II progressed and when it was announced the women Marines were starting, Whitehurst said she knew that was what she wanted to do.

June enlisted on her 20th birthday, was sworn in the next day, and then went through boot camp with an initial rank of Private First Class. June, then known as June Johnson, would be a sergeant when she left the Marines.

Boot camp was nothing like the boot camp they have to go through today, but they did learn about Marine history and traditions, the marches, and how to take apart a rifle and then put it back together again.

While June could not fly herself, part of her job as a Marine was to help train male fliers in the Link simulator, which she learned to operate in just eight weeks of training. Whitehurst was able to take that job because of her high score on her entrance test.

"I was never one of those girls who sat around and chit-chatted," Whitehurst said. "I always had something that I had to do or had some work that had to be done."

Grateful for her life and experiences, Whitehurst said it's those experiences she carries with her.

"I just keep living," Whitehurst said. "You have to start with something wonderful and for me it was the Marine Corps. I have a lot of good memories."

Semper Fi, June Whitehurst, and happy birthday!

Desoto County News



One Down, Two Up 8/30/23—2/14/2023

While Col Nicole Mann and her crew splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico, two WR sister Marines had departed for their final duty station.



OR-1 lost a true treasure when Hattie Kelley ironically passed away on Valentine's Day.

I say ironically because Hattie had a huge heart whether it was for her family, her Marines, or all veterans. If you attended

any of the conventions, you knew Hattie Kelley.

Despite the challenges of the Great Depression, Hattie developed a passion for life, family, and friends. She had sparkling blue eyes that accompanied her constant beautiful smile. She had a strong will, an outgoing personality, quick wit, and a love of meeting new people and saying "yes" to new experiences.

She served in the Marine Corps from 1943 to 1945. While on active duty, she served as a recruiter, and had that mentality for the rest of her life.

Hattie retired in 1990 after 30 years of working for Tektronix. Following retirement, Hattie rejoined her Marine Corps family as a member of the Lady Marine Rose Chapter OR-1. She served as their President from 1996 to 1998, and again in 2002.

Hattie is survived by three very proud children, five granddaughters, and one great-grandchild.

A graveside service with Full Military Honors was held on March 17 in Willamette National Cemetery with a celebration of life reception afterward.

Semper Fidelis, Hattie. You are missed.

Sondra Metzger



At the 2018 convention, Hattie celebrated her birthday with her chapter and then CMC Gen Robert Neller.



Mary Louise Glann

Another perpetual smiler who passed at the young age of 99 on February 9 was Mary Louise Glann.



An Iowa native, her military life began with boot camp at Camp LeJeune. She was excited to be sent to Aviation Machinist Mate School at the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) in Memphis, then on to Advanced Training (NATC) in Norman, OK.

Traveling by troop train proved to be quite the geography lesson for her.

Training at different bases became a mini cultural education which she found fascinating. After completing her training, Mary was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, Mojave, CA, as part of Squadron 1, where she served as an aviation mechanic for



19 months and attained the rank of Corporal. She was awarded three WWII medals: the American Campaign, Good Conduct, and Victory medals. She was most proud of being in the original group of women, "the few and the proud," to join the Marine Corps Women's Reserves in WWII. She is thought to be among the last surviving USMCWR members in Oklahoma.

Mary Louise was active in numerous veteran organizations throughout her life. She was a charter member of the Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization since 1985, having served in various positions within the organization including President for three years. In 1994, Mary was presented the Oklahoma Woman Veteran of the Year award. She was a life member of WMA OK-1, the Sooner Detachment, MCL, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). She was also a member of one of the American Legion Posts in Oklahoma. Mary was accompanied by family members to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony of the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial in Washington D.C. in June 1995, and then to the grand opening in 1997.

Mary met James R. Glann (USN) and married in July 1953. They had six children. They were married 57 years before he passed away in 2010.

Mary was devoted to her Catholic faith, her family, and her country. She was part of the "Greatest Generation" and a force of nature who was cherished by all who loved her. Her last words would be, "My God, I love you."

Edited by Sondra Metzger

Four Stars



(L to R) Norah O'Donnell, CBS News, Coast Guard Adm. Linda Fagan, Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Army Gen. Laura Richardson and Navy Adm. Lisa Franchetti.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. John Wright/Air Force)

In celebration of Women's History Month, the nation's top female military leaders met together in public for the first time to discuss how far the services have come, and still need to go, in their efforts to incorporate women.

The panel of four-star female officers — Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Linda Fagan, Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Army Gen. Laura Richardson, and Navy Adm. Lisa Franchetti — gathered at the Military Women's Memorial for the conversation.

The group of women leaders reflected on their personal careers, noting how they do not always enjoy the weight of being a "first," and emphasized the need to recruit and retain talented women so the services can move beyond breaking glass ceilings.

In 2021, there were nearly 232,000 women service members comprising 17.3% of the active-duty force, according to Defense Department figures released in December. At 171,000 members, women also made up 21.4% of the National Guard and reserves.

Some of the challenges women in the armed forces still face include access to child care, specialized female equipment and uniforms, and having their voices recognized, even when they do have a seat at the table, the four-stars added.

Another issue highlighted was the continued need to address a culture in which women deal with discrimination and sexual abuse.

"All of the services have been on a journey around sexual harassment, sexual assault, bullying," Fagan said. "And I consider where we are today versus where we were eight or 10 years ago ... a much better position."

*Jonathan Lehrfeld
Military Times*

(A video of this event can be found at: <https://www.defense.gov/Multimedia/Videos/video/875562/>)

2024 Biennial Convention

The 2024 Women Marines Association Conference in Atlanta, GA, promises to be an unforgettable event. Starting on August 8th and running through August 11th, there are numerous advantages to attending this conference, including renewing old friendships, making new friends, and learning about the business of the WMA. Additionally, Atlanta is a city filled with history and culture, offering plenty of things to see and do.

One of the most significant advantages of attending the Women Marines Association Conference is the opportunity to reconnect with old friends. For many attendees, the WMA conference is a chance to catch up with fellow Marines they haven't seen in years. It's a chance to reminisce about old times, share stories, and reconnect on a personal level.

Another benefit of attending the conference is the chance to make new friends. Whether you're a first-time attendee or a seasoned veteran, there's always an opportunity to meet new people and forge new connections. The WMA conference brings together women from all walks of life and all parts of the country, making it an excellent opportunity to expand your social circle.

The conference is also an excellent opportunity to learn about the business of the WMA. Attendees can participate in workshops and presentations that cover a wide range of topics, from leadership and career development to current events affecting women in the military. The conference is also an opportunity to get involved in the organization and make a difference in the lives of other women Marines.

Outside of the conference, Atlanta is a city with a rich history and plenty of cultural attractions. Visitors can explore the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, visit the World of Coca-Cola, or take a tour of the CNN Center. There are also plenty of opportunities to indulge in Southern cuisine and sample local craft beers.

In conclusion, attending the 2024 Women Marines Association Conference in Atlanta, GA, is a fantastic opportunity to renew old friendships, make new friends, learn about the business of the WMA, and explore a vibrant and culturally rich city. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with other women Marines and be a part of something special.

Learn more about Atlanta at: <https://discoveratlanta.com/>

*Mary Merritt
PRO*



Veterans' Super Hero

CW04 Lelia P. Jackson, USMC (Ret), is playing a vital role in the VA's efforts to become a more accommodating organization to women veterans.

After serving as a fellow in the White House Leadership Development Program in 2018-19, the MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) board member became director of the Assault and



CW04 Lelia Jackson, USMC (Ret), center, stands with her husband, Andrew Jackson, left, and Dr. Karen Ott, right, a colleague at the Veterans Health Administration. (Courtesy photo)

Harassment Prevention Office in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). She was tasked to improve an organization under scrutiny at that time from Congress due to research indicating 25% of women veterans reporting inappropriate/unwanted comments or behavior by male veterans on VA grounds.

Three years later, Jackson has rewritten policy, established procedures to make it easier to report sexual harassment, addressed gaps in training for employees and veterans, and oversaw the production of anti-harassment infomercials that have been aired in 80 VA facilities. That dedication earned her the 2023 AMSUS (Society of Federal Health Professionals) Management and Administration Award.

According to the AMSUS website, the award is given to individuals who have made "conspicuously outstanding contributions in management and administration to include areas of healthcare administration, information management, resource management and logistics, and demonstrated superior leadership while serving in the federal healthcare system."

"I was honored to be selected because I know there are a lot of people who have done major things in VHA," Jackson said. "We have people who have invented things and won some major achievements in public service."

Since joining the Marine Corps in 1983, Jackson has shown an aptitude in getting things done. While she was often the only woman in her Marine Corps unit, Jackson said she was always given the opportunity to lead while serving on inspections and process improvement teams. This has carried over into

her civilian life, with each position helping her prepare for her next responsibility.

Dr. Oladipo Kukoyi, executive director of the Birmingham VA Health Care System, is not surprised with Jackson's recent accolade. As an example of her abilities to work well with others, Kukoyi cited Jackson's role in pairing service dogs with service members with PTSD and other mental health issues while working at the VHA's Office of Community Engagement Center for Compassionate Care Innovation.

"Lelia gets to do jobs at the VA that no one has done before because no one else has been able to do it," said Kukoyi, "and she figures out a way to make it happen."

VA colleague Dr. Karen Ott, who teamed with Jackson in her current role, echoed Kukoyi's sentiments.

"She has a force field around her, and that generates a lot of excitement," said Ott, director of Policy, Legislation, and Professional Standards in the VA's Office of Nursing. "She dedicates herself to veterans' needs all the time, and she's so enthusiastic about the VA's mission that she lives it on a daily basis."

*Kipp Hanley
Military Officers
Association of America*

Loyal Escorts Board

President - Michael Pearce
president@loyalescorts.org

Vice President - Don Ferneding
vp@loyalescorts.org

Secretary - Alec Cousino
sec@loyalescorts.org

Treasurer - David Mercure
treasurer@loyalescorts.org

Immediate Past President - Cheryl Roberts
ipp@loyalescorts.org

Director - Richard Gruetzner
richard.gruetzner@loyalescorts.org

Director - Donald Johnson
donald.johnson@loyalescorts.org

Director - Karl Hackbarth
karl.hackbarth@loyalescorts.org

Chaplain's Corner

This is a season of hope. Many of us have recently celebrated Easter and Passover. By the time of publication, Ramadan will have ended or is about to end. Each of these great observances call us to hope. Beyond religion, spring is a season of hope as plants spring up, trees bud and flowers bloom. What is hope for you?

Christians are called to be an Easter people, a people of hope. However, this hope must be rooted in the reality of life. As Christians, we cannot rush to Easter and the resurrection by skimming over, or even ignoring Good Friday characterized by suffering and death. To do so, not only denies Jesus' suffering but all human suffering. The resurrection of Jesus promises us that suffering and death do not have the final word. We have been given the promise of hope.

No matter your source of hope, when we have hope, we also have an opportunity to be a beacon of hope to others. A poem by Denise Levertov sheds light on how hope shared grows more hope.

I have a small grain of hope—
one small crystal that gleams
clear of colors out of transparency.
I need more.
I break off a fragment
to send to you.
Please take
this grain of a grain of hope
so that mine won't shrink.
Please share your fragment
so that yours will grow.
Only so, by division,
will hope increase,
like a clump of irises, which will cease to
flower
unless you distribute
the clustered roots, unlikely source—
clumsy and earth-covered –
of grace.

Melinda Townsend

Pentagon tells service members to stop displaying giant US flags at major events

The Defense Department has a message for the service members being cheered on as they unfurl giant American flags horizontally at the Super Bowl and other major events: You're not following the rules.

In a February 10 memo to its public affairs offices, the department said that having service members

carry the U.S. flag horizontally or land it on the ground after a parachute jump is no longer acceptable.

The department's leaders have expressed concern over proper flag protocol and alignment with Title 4, United States Code, more commonly known as the U.S. Flag Code.

The code, which is referenced in DOD regulations, provides guidance on how to properly display the American flag, including rules about its size, placement and handling. It states that the flag should be treated with dignity and respect.

"In recent years, some sporting events have asked military members to hold large, horizontal flags during events, and some military units have carried them in parades," Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman, a Defense Department spokeswoman, told *Stars and Stripes*. "While many, including service members, find these events moving and patriotic, according to the code, the flag should never touch the ground or be carried flat or horizontally."

The memo also generally bans the flying of flags by military parachutists, because the Flag Code states that "the flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise."

The exception is when the U.S. flag is used to cover a casket during funeral honors, so long as it isn't lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

While some may see the policy as limiting their ability to show patriotism, the department's leaders say the restriction is necessary.

It prohibits uniformed service members from participating directly in the "unfurling, holding, and/or carrying of giant horizontal U.S. flags" and bars DOD jump teams from incorporating the U.S. flag in their demonstrations if it "cannot be caught reliably and handled respectfully by ground personnel."

"I encourage public affairs officers to work with sponsors of community events to develop other ways to showcase the patriotism and capabilities of our military that comply with DoD policy," Chris Meagher, assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, wrote in the letter.

The Pentagon's leaders have been concerned with flag protocol in recent years, addressing troops on the issue in previous memos.

In 2020, DOD issued a new policy that banned the display of unauthorized flags on military installations, buildings and vehicles. The policy was seen as effectively banning Confederate flags and other controversial banners without spelling out which flags were undesirable.

*Alexander Riedel
Stars and Stripes*



Chapter Clippings

AZ-1 Roadrunner

Yesterday (2/12) AZ-1 Roadrunner chapter had an outstanding turnout for our event named **Operation Rose Garden**. In previous years, including 2023, women Marines, families and friends have searched on foot the vast 78,000 graves at the National Cemetery of Arizona. This year we're proud to say we've found 133 women Marines interred and all received roses yesterday. This was the 3rd annual event which coincides with the Women Marine Reserves anniversary. In attendance were veteran liaisons from two members of Congress, Young Marines, and other veteran service organizations. Ms. Patricia Horton, WMA National, was also in attendance. Our guest of honor was SgtMaj Sara Lopez of RS Phoenix. Lastly, 12News, a major Phoenix area news outlet recorded the event.



AZ-1 Chapter Leadership: President is Gladys Nichols, Vice President is Barbara Farmer, Secretary is Maureen Dougherty, Treasurer is Maria Jones, Communications/Social Media is Kim Branch.

The Women Marines Association AZ-1 Roadrunner chapter is proud to tell you what we've accomplished & the visibility we are gaining. Our mission is to grow chapter membership and notoriety within the community including with local businesses for added support. We're building momentum. A special shout out to our incoming President Ms. Gladys Nichols for organizing the event using her steadfast leadership & Vice President Ms. Barbara Farmer.

Many thanks & Semper Fi.

Kim Branch

CA-2 San Diego County

The following is from CA-2 in San Diego.

Wreaths Across America participants at Ft. Rosecrans and Singing Hills cemeteries as well as donors for several more.

Awarded Molly Marine certificates to graduating female platoons at MCRD San Diego.

Chapter provided Christmas gift to active duty Marine.

Two members attended and participated in the WMA convention in Las Vegas.

Chapter had four meetings and social events including a Christmas party at the Admiral Baker clubhouse.

Several members attended Marine Corps birthday ball events.

Members attended Women Reserve anniversary luncheon with CA7 in Oceanside.

Chapter said goodbye to life member Mikki Hurst who died in December. RIP.

Members donated clothing to the Operation Dress Code for veterans event in San Diego at the University of San Diego.

Members volunteered at and donated clothing to the Veterans Standdown in San Diego.

Planned events for 2023:

Continue to award Molly Marine certificates and speak to platoons at MCRD San Diego.

Women's Reserve anniversary luncheon honoring 101 year old CA-2 member Randy Tidmore, 23 March sponsored by Mount Soledad.

Chapter meeting and lunch March 11.

Wreaths Across America participants 2023.

Operation Dress Code participants 2023.

Veterans Standdown participants 2023.

Quarterly meetings and social events for chapter.

Barbara McCurtis

CA-3 Greater San Francisco Bay Area

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

We started out the year with our January meeting, hosted by CA-3 member Carolina Rudisel, as we celebrated the New Year.

Our February meeting was hosted by new member Amy Bernard – at a new location – Napa! At a restaurant called the Q, which is managed by USMC Staff Sergeant Matt Flint, who was excited to host our meeting. We celebrated the anniversary of the Woman Marine Reserve with a cake cutting ceremony.



Our oldest Marine present – Maggie Hart (A Korean War Era veteran), received the first piece of cake, passing it to our youngest Marine present – Amy



Bernard. A great time was had by all!

At our March meeting, hosted by Loyal Escort Cheryl Christensen, we celebrated St Patrick's Day. Loyal Escort and Marine Vern Smith brought a vintage camera to share – the same model used by



combat photographer Joe Rosenthal to take the legendary Iwo Jima photograph. And CA-3 Secretary Bonnie Dabalos-Castro received a



sheet of commemorative stamps depicting Distinguished Marines John A Lejeune, John Basilone, Lewis B. Puller, and Daniel L. Daly.

During this time, CA-3 member Susan Johnston participated in 4 military funerals/services.

Susan Johnston

CA-7 Edith Macias Vann Southern CA

Hello Everyone from Chapter CA-7. On February 3rd, Lillian and Ken Cross went to the Celebration of Life for chapter member Mikki Hurst at the Admiral Baker Club House in San Diego. Over 100 people were in attendance.

On February 11th, we celebrated the Women's Reserve Anniversary this year at Hunter Steakhouse. The food was delicious and the company was great. Twenty-nine people attended.



Several members of CA-2 joined us and Sue Ballinger came from AZ to attend. Everyone brought gift baskets to raffle. The proceeds from the raffle went to the scholarship fund (\$130). Everyone got up and told a little about themselves and shared stories about their Marine Corps experience. There were quite a few "firsts" in the room. Randy Tidmore was the oldest Marine and Aurora Gandy was the youngest Marine in attendance.

On March 11th, Mary Anthony, Lillian Cross and Kathleen Ables attended the all-female pool function at the SNCO Academy at SOI W aboard Camp Pendleton for Recruiting Stations Riverside, San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles. There were Recruiters, Drill Instructors, and FMF Marines. BGen Hennigan was the guest speaker. This pool function focused on leadership, mentorship and development of all pooled within the RS. The poolees were excited to speak with all three CA-7 members about their experience in the



(L-R) Mary Anthony, Lillian Cross and Kathleen Ables (Poolees in background)

Marine Corps. The purpose of this pool function is to continue to invigorate the pool program to ensure each poolee is physically, mentally, and emotionally prepared to successfully graduate recruit training, and become a United States Marine. Dynamic warm ups, physical training, and classes will be conducted followed by chow and a question & answer session led by Recruiters, Drill Instructors, and Marines from the FMF. The end state is that poolees are better equipped to handle the physical, mental, and emotional rigors of recruit training. Poolees leave the pool function motivated and ready to attack recruit training head on. There were approximately 150 female poolees, mostly 17 years old preparing to go to bootcamp.

If you're in the area and have some free time, come and join us for the MCJROTC Ceremony for these high schools when CA-7 members present the National WMA Award to a female cadet: Monday May 15th at 6:30pm, Fallbrook High School (2400 South Stagecoach Lane, Fallbrook CA 92028) in the theater/performing arts center; Thursday, May 18th at 5pm, Oceanside High School, 1 Pirates Cove Way, Oceanside CA 92054 in the auditorium. Semper Fidelis.

Iris Biggers

DC-1 District of Columbia

Our Chapter is slowly transitioning out of a lengthy period during the Covid Pandemic when we could only meet using Zoom Conference Calls. Taking advantage of that "modern technology," we continued to meet, using some innovative techniques, including speakers, games, and "Spin-the-Dial" raffles for various prizes as a means of still bringing us together and creating some meaningful and fun events.

Last October and again for our annual Holiday Luncheon in December, we were finally able to convene those meetings as "Hybrids" – half of our attendees were together in person and half joined from home using our Zoom format. We were particularly pleased that we were able to continue our tradition of donating gifts to our local Toys-4-Tots campaign, and two Women Marines from our nearest Reserve Unit joined us for our Holiday Luncheon get-together and transported all of our donated toys back to their unit for us. In addition, we also participated in a Holiday Collection for the VA Hospital in Washington, D.C., and our members were very generous in donating numerous items for gift bags which were prepared for veterans at the Hospital.

The first week of February, Mary Ann McKenzie,

one of our WWII veterans, celebrated her 100th birthday!

Lelia Jackson, one of our Chapter members, devised a way and led the project to compile a video with messages recorded by many members of our Chapter as a special birthday celebration presentation for Mary Ann. She sent back a special Thank You message to all of us, saying that she was really moved by our gift and admitted that she had tears in her eyes many times as she watched it over and over, all in the comfort of her home. Several of our members also attended the birthday party held in her honor to help her celebrate the very special occasion.

To commemorate our 80th Anniversary, we co-hosted a very successful and completely “in-person” luncheon on February 11, with our nearest WMA “neighbor” the VA-1 Chapter. Co-hosting this event is a long-standing tradition for us, with each of our Chapters taking turns as Event Chair and Planning Coordinator. We were pleased to have 84 WMA members and guests in attendance at the All-Hands Club, Patton Hall, located at Ft. Myer, Virginia, including a table of guests from the VA-3 Hampton Roads Chapter who joined us for this special event. We were honored to have Colonel Kelly Frushour as our Guest of Honor and Speaker as she has been the Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group located at Quantico, Virginia, since June of 2022.

We are now looking forward to participating in the National Memorial Day Parade – a tribute to our Nation’s fallen heroes - to be held in Washington, D.C. on Monday, May 29. The Parade will be from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. and will march on Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets. WMA members from other Chapters are welcome (and encouraged!) to join us; however, everyone must register in order to participate. Please contact our Parade Chairman, Vivian Price-Butler, at: pbutlerv@gmail.com to obtain the required entry form and additional information.

Donna Campbell



Lelia Jackson, Donna Campbell, Vivian Price-Butler and Mary Sue League with Mary Ann McKenzie

LA-1 Molly Marine

On January 2, 2023, the Molly Marine Chapter LA-1, started the year strong with a monthly meeting and a Muses parade combat boot decoration working party. Members and Loyal Escorts decorated boots to pass out during the parade, while celebrating the new year.



On January 16, Dalia Robles, and Yareli Robles (LE) volunteered with the Sankofa Wetland Park and Nature Trail Project that restores acres of a deteriorated land and wildlife areas adjacent to the Bayou Bienvenu Triangle in New Orleans East.

On February 16, 2023, the Chapter enjoyed Mardi Gras 2023 by participating in the Annual Krewe of Muses Parade. Muses is known as the first all-female Mardi Gras krewe to parade at night in uptown New Orleans. LA-1 has been invited to participate in the Muses parade for over 15 years. The members and Loyal Escorts gathered at Vicki Duplantier’s house for a pre-parade party with great food and camaraderie! The parade started at 7pm, with some members riding a 12-passenger float and others walking the 4.5-mile parade route.



On March 18, 2023, the Chapter had another monthly meeting where Melanie Young was recognized for her leadership during the Muses parade and other different contributions to the chapter.

Well done, Melanie!! In addition, after the meeting members and Loyal Escorts prepared for the upcoming Easter Egg Fund-raiser by stuffing eggs. Members and Loyal Escorts donated prizes, candy, and eggs.



On March 31, several Chapter members attended



an evening of hope, 'Rescue NOLA', a program the New Orleans Mission developed that helps restore the lives of women who have been trafficked or suffered physical or sexual abuse. Our Chapter purchased a table of 10. The Women Marines Association was displayed on the marquee and listed in the Program as a New Orleans Mission supporter. This fundraiser was a fabulous event!

On April 4, 2023, we had our Annual Easter Egg Fundraiser at the Marine Corps Support Facility in New Orleans. The fundraiser is always fun for all parties involved; Chapter members participating and the Marines, Sailors, and civilian employees! The fundraiser was a huge success, as always. Members that helped to raise funds were MGySgt Miriam Jenkins, MSgt Mirna Ramos, Shannon Sweeney, Nicole Bailey, and Melanie Young. An awesome team!!!



Stay tuned for LA-1 next quarter adventures.

Dalia Robles, Melanie Young

MA-1 Bay State

On Sunday April 2 the WMA Bay State Chapter held our second "Meet and Greet and How do you Do?" In attendance was a former Drill Instructor, and one of the first Drum Corps Musicians! The stories and history we shared were amazing. We could



have chatted all day.

The GRAND FINALE of the meeting was celebrating our NEW WMA LIFE member Millie Cox. Millie turned 99 years YOUNG in March and is a WWII

Marine. Our next meeting is scheduled for July somewhere in the middle of Massachusetts so we can reach our NH, VT and ME Marines! WE ARE GROWING!

Heidi Hurley

NC-3 Semper Fi

Our first meeting of calendar year 2023 was an 80th Anniversary lunch/meeting in Carrboro, NC at the Grata Diner. Discussions about next steps to raise money to support the Voluntary Service projects of our Durham VA Medical Center, were a large part of the agenda. Our first venture will be another Wines for Humanity wine tasting, tentatively scheduled for the third weekend in May. Our favorite W for H "sommelier" Nancy is back, and we all look forward to inviting wine-drinking friends to come and enjoy wine....and, if course, BUY.

This month, members are gathering baby items for the spring Women Veterans Baby Shower at Durham VA. The fall shower provided 40 "baby bags" of items for newborns and infants, and was a rousing success.

Present at the meeting were:



L-R Kath, CJ, Suel-len, Catherine, Dee, Hope, and Tracy

Tracy Crow, Catherine Barker, Suel-len Beaulieu, Kathy Kincaid, Hope Kelly, C J Scarlett, Dee Green, and Mitzi Manning.



Looking forward to the 2024 Convention being close to home!!

Mitzi Manning

NM-1 Sandia

Hello to our sister Marines from New Mexico, The Land of Enchantment.

The Sandia Chapter Marines had a fun and chilly, November taking part in the City of Rio Rancho Veterans Day parade. We followed the parade by partnering with the local Marine Corps League Detachments to participate at the Isleta Pueblo Veterans Day symposium. It was an informative day and we

were able to bring attention to our Chapter and share stories with the many attending veterans. In November our Chapter meeting centered on celebrating the 247th Marine Corps Birthday where the birthday messages were read and we held our cake cutting ceremony honoring our oldest and youngest Marines present, Christine Bates, and Roleen Younis.

We are a generous group and every year we support the veteran community through monetary donations to Operation We Care, providing holiday meals to New Mexico veterans. We also supported our local Paws and Stripes Chapter with a donation. And for a little respite during the busy holiday season we enjoyed some great food, and had lots of laughs at a casual brunch party.

In New Mexico each March we celebrate women veterans from all services at an annual Tribute to Women in the Military event. This March, as we celebrated the 35th annual Tribute, we were proud to have our own Barbara Winslow honored with the presentation of a Quilt of Valor. Barbara, who was stationed at Camp Lejeune during the Korean War era, has over the years served the WMA in many leadership roles



locally and nationally. She has been a mentor to the younger members of both our WMA Chapter and the local MCL Detachment.



Looking forward to spring, our members will be attending many of the local high school MCJROTC award ceremonies to meet, and present certificates, to the next generation of women who have taken the challenge and excelled in their roles this year. We congratulate all the young women striving to grow, achieve, lead, and be the best version of themselves.

We can't know what 2023 has in store for us, but we anticipate many new adventures will be coming our way. Stay safe, Ladies! *Semper Fidelis.*

Stephanie Pugh

NV-3 Sagebrush Marines

First of all, NV-3 would like to acknowledge all the comments from participants of the 2022 WMA Convention held in Las Vegas, NV in Sept/Oct 2022. We are very happy many enjoyed the convention because we put in a lot of hard work and fundraising to make it a memorable



(L-R: Rosemary, Liz, Anna, Judy, Cathy, Lori, and Geri)

experience for attendees. It was a labor of love. We are looking forward to the 2024 WMA Convention being held in Atlanta, GA in August 2024. Go forth and conquer, GA-1 Dogwood of Atlanta!



On September 10, 2022 a NV-3 WMA convention fundraising event was held at The Legacy Golf Club in Henderson, NV by having a table at one of the golf holes on the

golf course. Many golfers purchased items the chapter had for sale or made a donation. Our past president, Leslie, was very lucky winning 5 raffle prizes!

In November we celebrated the Marine Corps for three days. On November 10 and 11, we had a fundraising table at The Leatherneck Club's parking lot. This is an annual event sponsored by the club and visitors in the hundreds come together to celebrate the Marine Corps. The celebration ended with the Marine Corps Ball sponsored by local Detachment 186 of the Marine Corps League. Last year NV-3 assisted with checking in participants and answering questions about silent auction items. If you are in the Las Vegas area November 11, 2023, you may consider purchasing a \$95 ticket. The ball is being held at the Orleans Hotel & Casino, Mardi Gras Ballroom, 1700, cocktails and dancing starts at 2100. Tickets go on sale May 1, 2023. Visit www.gnd186mcl.org. Reach out to NV-3 if you'd like to purchase an ad.

You may remember Elizabeth Dahlman from the convention. She was first in her age group at the Vegas Strong Run. 2ndLt Dahlman graduated from

OCS on March 25, earning the title “Marine,” and on her way to TBS. NV-3 sent her cards of encouragement.

Recently in April 2023 we met at



(L-R): Sharon, Rosemary, Cathy, Renee, Judy, Lori, and Lucrecia

zoom at 1800 on April 20 at The Leatherneck Club, 4360 Spring Mountain Road, Las Vegas, NV 89102 if you or anyone you know in the area would like to join us. Semper Fi.

Rosemary Abrego-Holmes

Woman who faked being cancer-stricken Marine gets 6 years in prison

Sarah Jane Cavanaugh received a prison sentence after lying about being a sick Marine with a Purple Heart to commit fraud. A former social worker at a Rhode Island veterans’ hospital received a nearly six-year federal prison sentence Tuesday for using stolen patient information to pose as a cancer-riddled Marine as part of a “massive fraud scheme,” according to officials.

Cavanaugh, 32, who never served in the military, falsely masqueraded over a period of five years as a Purple Heart and Bronze Star-decorated Marine to obtain more than \$250,000 in cash, charitable donations and services reserved for injured veterans, according to a release from the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island court also ordered Cavanaugh, who claimed to have inhaled matter from an IED explosion in Iraq and to have developed service-related cancer, to pay full restitution to all the



victims she perpetrated.

The fake Marine used her civilian role at the Rhode Island Veterans Affairs Medical Center to misappropriate veterans’ identities, their combat experiences, valor, and diagnoses of illnesses to create fraudulent documents and medical records in her own name, indicating that she was an honorably discharged Marine stricken with lung cancer.

Exploiting her false persona, Cavanaugh gained introduction to various individuals and veterans’ charities, which she defrauded, the release said.

In addition to collecting funds for travel to retreats, in-home care, gym memberships, physical therapy and payments for electric bills, Cavanaugh wrongfully obtained months of paid leave from two federal employee benefit programs based on her cancer claims.

She then used her feigned military experience to earn leadership roles in the veteran community, even giving public speeches in Marine dress blues with medals she purchased from the internet, the release said.

In one instance, Cavanaugh secured a spot in a therapeutic art program that, as one real veteran told the court, could have gone to another veteran he knew who later died by suicide.

The pretend Marine pleaded guilty in August 2022 to wire fraud, aggravated identity theft, forged military discharge certificate and fraudulent use of military medals after she was hit with the charges earlier that year.

In court, Cavanaugh apologized for her actions, saying “I will always carry this burden and shame for what I have done, and I accept that,” according to WPRI.

Jonathan Lehrfeld

VA to change its motto, dropping male-only language

Veterans Affairs leaders are changing the department’s mission statement from the current male-only focus to be more welcoming to women veterans.

The current motto — in use by VA and the Veterans Administration since 1959 — is based on an excerpt from President Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address: “To fulfill President Lincoln’s promise ‘to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan by serving and honoring the men and women who are Amer-

ica's veterans." It's displayed prominently at half of all VA hospitals, cemeteries and office buildings across the country.

The new motto will still be based on Lincoln's words but instead reads: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."

The use of male-specific language in the original mission statement has long drawn criticism from veterans advocates who note that women veterans are the fastest growing cohort of the community, expected to make up one in every five living veterans in America by 2040.

VA leaders said the decision was made after interviews with more than 30,000 veterans over the last two years. According to those surveys, the change was supported by the majority of every age group, racial group and gender group.

They noted that the motto change not only includes a wider scope of veterans, but also better emphasizes the role of veterans' family in their care and benefits.

The new motto also downplays the role of combat operations in veterans benefits, to reinforce that anyone who serves honorably in the military is granted a wide range of education support and financial assistance.

"For too long, women and LGBTQ+ veterans have been considered 'invisible veterans' — feeling inadequately recognized by our fellow Americans," said Allison Jaslow, CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and herself an Iraq War veteran. "We're one step closer to changing the way America sees its veterans today, and that's a damn good reason to celebrate."

Leo Shane III

Celebrating Women's History Month: Susan's Lifetime of Service to Country and Community

This Women's History Month, we would like to shine a spotlight on Susan Finnigan, a Disney cast member who epitomizes the word "service" to both country and community. While Susan now works as a Lead Product Manager for Disney Parks, Experiences and Products, she is also a former Sergeant with the Marine Corps where her passion to serve began. She is a proud Marine Corps veteran and now serves in the leadership team of Disney's SALUTE, an employee resource group for veterans and friends of veterans.

A third-generation military musician, Susan enlisted in the Marine Corps because it was the only branch of the military where she could play her instrument, a baritone bugle. Since being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, she has been very active in veteran Marines organizations where she has formed strong ties with other veterans, dedicating her time to helping with various Central Florida and national organizations.



Currently, Susan is the president of the WMA chapter in Central Florida, where she helps with events throughout the state. She has also had the immense honor of being the first-ever woman to serve as the National Director with the First Marine Division Association, a highly respected national organization that supports veterans and their families. She has had the opportunity of escorting World War II veterans to Washington, DC where they were celebrated for their incredible achievements during the war effort.

While serving with the Marines, her affinity for volunteering began with the Toys for Tots program, an organization led by the Marine Corps Reserve that distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. Susan found out just how important this program was soon after leaving active duty to pursue a career in the civilian world. While excited for her new adventure, she unfortunately soon found herself in a very difficult position. Pregnant, newly divorced, and unable to give her children a gift for the holidays, she turned to her community and found help with the organization she once volunteered for while in uniform.

"Toys for Tots is such an impactful service, especially for parents of young children and it's such a meaningful program," said Susan. "Services like food pantries helped us through a tough time in our lives, through all those trials I found the perseverance to start again and ultimately led me to my new career and renewed sense of commitment to helping others, especially those who have served their country in the armed forces."

When she started her career in Disney Parks nine years ago, she became part of the first leadership team of SALUTE, a Business Employee Resource Group that supports cast members who have a strong affinity with the military, where she now serves as the Membership Chair. Susan also continues working in her community both as part of the Disney SALUTE Veteran affinity group and on her own.

We want to give a hearty salute to you, Susan. Thank you for all you do!

Cappy Surette

LOYAL ESCORT MEMBER APPLICATION		
APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name:		
Date of birth:	Phone:	Cell:
Current address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Email:		
<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstated <input type="checkbox"/> Life ⁱ (Sponsor must be Life member)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 YR \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE <input type="checkbox"/> 40 AND UNDER - \$180 <input type="checkbox"/> 41-45 - \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> 46-60 - \$130 <input type="checkbox"/> 61-70 - \$105 <input type="checkbox"/> 71-80 - \$80 <input type="checkbox"/> 81+ \$55		
SPONSOR INFORMATION		
WMA Sponsor Name:		Recruited by ⁱⁱ :
Chapter Affiliation:		Do you live with sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> 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:
SIGNATURES		
Signature of member:		Date:

**Make checks payable to Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter
Mail to: Alec Cousino 70160 Campground Romeo, Mi 48065**

ⁱ Must provide Sponsor Life member number.

ⁱⁱ Loyal Escort Sponsor/Recruiter is Optional.



WMA

Women Marines Association National Membership Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name:					
Mailing Address:	Street			Apt/Unit #	
	City		State		Postal Code
Date of Birth:	(mm/dd/yyyy)		Primary Phone:	(xxx)xxx-xxxx	
Email:					

NEXT OF KIN CONTACT INFORMATION

NOK Name:					
Mailing Address	Street			Apt/Unit#:	
	City		State		Postal Code
Primary Phone:	(xxx)xxx-xxxx		Relationship:		

MILITARY INFORMATION

Service Start Date:	(mm/dd/yyyy)	Service End Date:	(mm/dd/yyyy)
Service Name(s):			
Plt./ Series/OCS:		MOS:	
Check box if you are a FMF Navy Service Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attention: Verification of honorable Marine Corps or Navy FMF service must be provided. This may include a DD 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate or Summary; and for those currently serving a letter on command stationary or copy of TBIR screen. Please redact any SSNs. Do not send ORIGINAL documents.	

'NOUNCEMENTS PREFERENCES

The quarterly newsletter from WMA called 'Nouncements is automatically sent to members in an electronic format. If you would prefer to also receive a hard copy of the 'Nouncements, please check the box.	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------

MEMBERSHIP SELECTION

Term Membership <input type="checkbox"/> (\$40 for 2-year Term)	Life Membership: (One-time fee based on Current Age)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$295: Age 30 & under	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$180: Age 50 – 59
		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$260: Age 31 – 39	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150: Age 60 – 65
		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$210: Age 40 – 49	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$120: Age 65 & over
Would you like information on a WMA Chapter within your area?					
Enrolled By / How did you hear about WMA:					

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 will abide by the WMA Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Signature of applicant: _____

Date: _____

Mail application with payment and military service record to:

Women Marines Association
401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600, Wakefield, MA, 01880 USA

Chapter Merchandise

Send chapter ads and ad removal requests to: Editor@womenmarines.org.

CLOTHING

WMA Apron - Chapter CA-11

Short, three pockets with vintage WMA logo

Cost: \$10.00 plus \$6.00 shipping

Contact: Soledad Kennedy, 4062 Capella St.
Lompoc, CA 93436

Fax/Office: (805) 733-2176 Cell: (805) 588-0650

Shirts, OD Green Crewneck (men's size) - Chapter OR-1

Footprint logo on back, flag on right arm, and a choice between two front logo options

Size S-XL cost: \$28 plus \$4.75 shipping

Size 2XL-3XL cost: \$30 plus \$4.75 shipping

Contact: OR1@womenmarines.org



Woman Marine Veteran Hats - Chapter X-7

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: TX7@womenmarines.org
(for email / PayPal payments)

BOOKS

Not "Just Another Cookbook" - Chapter NC-1

More than 100 recipes by grouping

Size: 6"x9" - Cost: \$5.75 (includes shipping)

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

JEWELRY

Charm "Semper Fi" - Chapter OR-1

Cost: \$5

Contact: OR1@womenmarines.org



TRAVEL MUGS

Travel Mug - Chapter CA-7 White aluminum with vintage green WMA logo on one side and gold "Oohrah Sisterhood Women Marines Association" centered - Size: 15 oz
Cost: \$15 (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 item in color



Arctic Tumblers - Chapter TX-7



With 100 years Or Proud Female
Veteran Marine Corps

Cost: \$20 plus \$5 shipping

Contact:

TX7@womenmarines.org
(for email / PayPal payments)



WWII Poster Mug - Chapter IN-1

Vintage women Marines recruitment poster art,
"Be a Marine - Free a Marine to Fight"

Cost: \$12 each plus \$7 shipping & handling

Make checks payable to IN-1

Contact: Kay Ross, (317) 698-6637
kayross@comcast.net



MO-3

IS ON THE MOVE

MERCH

Infant & Toddler Sizes:
Onesies: 0-3 mos / 3-6 mos / 6-9 mos
T-Shirts: 6mos, 12 mos, 18 mos, 2T, 3T

Youth Sizes:
XS (2-4)
S (6-8)
M (10-12)
L (14-16)

SUBMIT YOUR ORDER TO:
MO3@womenmarines.org
Include the quantity and size(s)
Complete Mailing Address:
First & Last Name, City, State, Zip

ORDER YOURS TODAY

\$
MONEY
CHECK

You will receive a confirmation email with the amount due and you will then be instructed on how to pay using CashApp, Money Order, or by check.

Chapter Merchandise

MISCELLANEOUS

FLAGS - Chapter CA-11

Car - Vintage WMA logo - clips to car window
Cost: \$10.00 plus \$6.00 shipping

Table - Vintage WMA logo with stand size 4"x6"
Cost: \$5.00 plus \$6.00 shipping

Contact: Soledad Kennedy, 4062 Capella St.
Lompoc, CA 93436
Fax/Office: (805) 733-2176 Cell: (805) 588-0650
usmcrfemale@yahoo.com
www.centralcoastwomenmarines.com

2020 Omaha UN-Convention **Coins**

\$15 each, includes shipping



Moto Dress Blue Planter/Vase

White rose bouquet centerpieces -
\$45, includes shipping

Please make checks payable to:
NE 1 Lady Leathernecks
8618 N 81st Ave., Omaha, NE 68122

Quantities are limited! Order soon !



Clear Vinyl Bag - Chapter NC-1

With long zipper, vintage green/white WMA logo
Size: 9"x12" - Cost: \$6.25 (includes shipping)

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

Ribbon Magnet - Chapter CA-7

"Proud to be a Marine"
Size: 8"x3" - Cost: \$6 (includes shipping)
make 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 item in color

Bumper Sticker - Chapter NM-1

"The Few, The Proud, The Women Marines"
Cost: \$1.50 (includes shipping)

Travel Neck Pouch - black w/two zippered sections on
one side, clear section on reverse with vintage WMA
logo, adjustable strap - Size: 6.5"x4.5"
Cost: \$5 (includes shipping)

License Plate Frame - weather
resistant white plastic "WOMAN
VETERAN" across top, "U.S. MA-
RINE CORPS" along bottom edge
Cost: \$20.00 (includes shipping)



Make checks payable for **all** merchandise to:
WMA Chapter NM-1

Contact: Laurel Hull, 28 Tejon Canyon Rd, Placitas, NM
87043 (505) 867-9172 prism@lobo.net

Woman Marine Plaque - Chapter NV-3

6 inches, wooden with vintage
WMA logo
Cost: \$21.00; \$31.00 if shipping &
handling included

Make checks or money orders
payable to: NV-3 Sagebrush Ma-
rines or go to chapter link to pay
electronically at: [https://
givebutter.com/Vintageplaque](https://givebutter.com/Vintageplaque)



Contact: Lucrecia D. Abrego, 10611 Auburn Springs
Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89166

WMA National Merchandise Sales – Your Purchases Support Our Association!

WMA Patch, Large. \$10.00
 WMA Life Member Pin. \$10.00
 WMA Cover Membership Pin. . . \$10.00
 WMA Logo Lapel Pin \$10.00

Gold EGA for WMA Cover. \$ 10.00
 WMA Afghan. \$ 55.00
 WMA Ceremonial Flag. \$200.00
 Chapter Ribbon (replacement). . . . \$ 20.00



Cover Membership Pin



WMA Vintage Logo Pin



Vintage WMA Afghan



WMA Ceremonial Flag 3' x 5'



WMA Cover with Chapter Embroidery and EGA. . . . \$55.00
 Cover with Chapter and LIFE embroidery. . . . \$60.00
 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") XXLlarge. (24 1/4" - 24 5/8")

Sale Items!!

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

Please specify your cover size, chapter information, if "Life" is requested, shipping address, and contact information (phone number and email).

Covers are custom ordered!
Please allow 4 – 6 weeks for delivery.

Chapter Designation is limited to 5 characters max, (i.e. CA-29 or USA 1)

Please verify the size and information you provide

COVERS ARE A SPECIAL ORDER AND NOT RETURNABLE

(if you measure near the top of the size bracket, you may want to order the next size up...)

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:

WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION
 WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS
 401 EDGEWATER PLACE, SUITE 600
 WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

Contact Info:
 Phone: 1-888-523-1943
 Email: Membership@womenmarines.org

WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION
WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS
401 EDGEWATER PLACE, SUITE 600
WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 1562

Next Stop Atlanta GA

2024

