



Missouri Women Veterans Newsletter



Volume 21012, Issue 28

www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/service/women

July-September 2012

Message from the Missouri Women Veterans Coordinator



I am very excited about this particular newsletter! I am working with UCM to put on an outstanding Women Veterans Conference Mark your calendar for **Sept. 14th** for a fun and educational conference. I hope to meet some new Veteran friends and visit with Veteran friends I have made. As you may have noticed I have been featuring a branch of the service each quarter and I'm happy to report that this quarter is the branch I proudly served in, the Air Force. I know summer is here and we all can get really busy, so please don't forget to register for the conference and send in your nominations for the Woman Veteran of the Year! Aim High!



6th Annual Missouri Women Veterans Conference

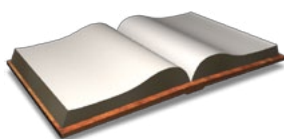


Missouri Veterans Commission and the University of Central Missouri will be hosting the Missouri Women Veterans conference in Warrensburg on September 14th 2012. The Conference will be filled with educational presentations regarding Veterans benefits, a variety of vendors, a time for networking, free lunch, and door prizes! If you would like to attend this event, please fill out and send in your registration form which is located on the last page of this newsletter or you can RSVP by clicking on the following link, www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/service/women/ Click on "Register online"

Please RSVP by Sept. 4, 2012 so we may have appropriate seating and a count for lunch.

Missouri Woman Veteran of the Year Deadline Approaching Fast

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Ladies, time is running out to submit an application for the Missouri Woman Veteran of the Year. Applications must be received or postmarked by August 15, 2012. The winner selected will receive special treatment at the Missouri Women Veterans Conference in Warrensburg on September 14th and be recognized in her home town newspaper. This award will be given to a Woman Veteran who has compiled a record of exemplary service as a Military Service Member, Veteran and as a Citizen in her community. Nominations may be submitted by a nominee or the Veteran herself. The application is attached to this newsletter or online at www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/docs/women/womenvet-nomination.pdf. I know there are many Women Veterans in the State of Missouri that are very deserving of being recognized for this award.



Female Airmen Aim High in the Air Force

While the C-5 was turning over its engines, a female crewman gave the G.I.s on board the usual information regarding seat belts, emergency exits, etc.

Finally, she said, 'Now sit back and enjoy your trip while your captain, Judith Campbell, and crew take you safely to Afghanistan '

An old Master Sergeant sitting in the eighth row thought to himself, 'Did I hear her right? Is the captain a woman? '

When the attendant came by he said 'Did I understand you right? Is the captain a woman?' 'Yes, said the attendant, 'In fact, this entire crew is female.'

NASWVC Conference May 2012

On May 15th - 17th I attended the National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators (NASWVC) representing the State of Missouri in Sacramento, California. This was the 13th Annual Conference which was founded by Navy Veteran, Linda Waldroop. All together 26 Women Veteran Coordinators (WVC) from all over the United States attended the conference including Alaska and Hawaii.

We had numerous guest speakers talking about various issues that affect Women Veterans such as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), MST (Military Sexual Trauma) and Women Veterans health care. We were honored to have retired Major General, Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Director of Dept. of Veteran Affairs Center for Women Veterans and retired Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, Foundation President of Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

Overall it was an educational and informative conference that gives me the opportunity to discover how I can reach out and assist my fellow Missouri Women Veterans. The picture to the right is of all those that attended the conference.



www.naswvc.com

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE WOMEN VETERAN COORDINATORS**
13TH ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
MAY 15- MAY 17, 2012

Photo by: Robin Jones



Saluting Our Women in Uniform

Josie Helem



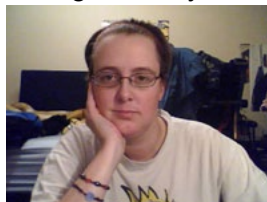
I joined the Army not knowing what to expect. I loved my job as a 76y10 Supply Specialist. Making sure that everyone has everything needed for deployment, training, and/or just an everyday base plan. I was groomed! I am one of the most skilled Quartermasters in the Country because of the armed forces. The Army gave me mandatory responsibility. It gave me the opportunity to continue my dream of serving the US citizens in my own way. It groomed me to continue to excel in the trucking industry. I will continue to serve the USA's citizens. The best part is that I learned to protect my Country skillfully, technically and proudly. Working with people that are skilled in so many ways enabled me to learn about the many ways you can serve your Country. I captured that dream through the trucking industry. I am one the most skilled truck drivers in this nation. Thanks to the United States Armed Forces for letting me join the largest family in the world.



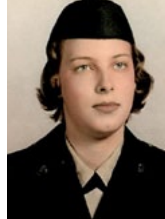
Elizabeth Picray



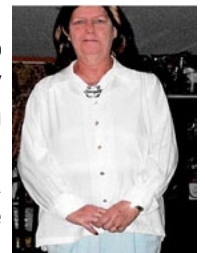
I joined the Navy in 2004 and served for six years. After seven months of boot camp and EM school, I was stationed aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln for the remainder of my contract. I did two deployments aboard the Lincoln. The first was a Pacific Rim cruise in 2006 with ports in Asia, and spent a week around the 4th of July in Pearl Harbor; the second was a deployment to the Persian Gulf. I am third generation Navy on both sides of my family (which is almost exclusively Navy), and the first woman to serve. I am now going to college with a goal of helping other veterans. I am currently the Assistant Department Service Officer for the American Legion of Missouri, working in the Columbia VA medical center, and continuing my education towards a career in veterans' social work. I attended Basic Training in Great Lakes, IL. I am currently attending Moberly Area Community College, Columbia MO campus and I have used my GI Bill to assist me with my tuition. I am proud to have served my Country, and to continue to serve my fellow service-members.



Crystal Jackson



My name is Crystal Jackson. I entered the Army in February, 1964. I went to basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. I only weighed 100 pounds at the time. I was the first woman in my family to join the military and I still hold that record today. I served at Fort Sam Houston. I was there from July 1964 - May 1965. I worked on the OB-GYN ward as an Award Clerk for three months where I was in charge of admitting expecting mothers. After I came home on leave and went back I was transferred to the Ear, Nose and Throat ward. It was a very bad place as the guys were starting to come back home from Vietnam with wounds. Sometimes all I did was hold a soldiers hand before he went to surgery. Some of the men said they really felt like I was an angel. I am very proud that I served our Country. I married a military man and had a good life with him for 43 years until he passed away.



Ylonda Mitchell



I joined the Army after my college graduation. I was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT), Ft. Campbell, KY. My unit was the 3rd Brigade, 187th Infantry Regiment (Rakkasans). I worked at HQ as a Personnel Specialist. Two months later Operation Iraqi Freedom was started. We deployed and I was a Radio Transmitter Operator for the brigade for a year. I was then selected to work as an Admn Spc for LTG (Retired) Michael L. Oates at the Division HQ. During this time I also worked as a HR Specialist for the Command Staff. I was honorably discharged in 2006. I am a Case Manager for the St. Louis County Veterans and Homeless Services Program. I work with homeless veterans and those at risk of facing homelessness. We provide oversight for the Homeless Veterans Burial Program and transportation program for mobility impaired veterans. I am a grad student of MU. I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, American Legion Post 404 and the Expressions of Praise Dance Ministry at Shalom Church.





Fascinating Facts

- There are over 2 million Women Veterans in the United States today
- In 2000, 159,000 Women Veterans were using the VA Health Care
- In 2011, 337,000 Women Veterans were using the VA Health Care
- 33% of Women Veterans are dealing with mental health issues
- 20% of Male Veterans are dealing with mental health issues
- 14.5% of Women make up Active Duty today
- 18% of Women make up National Guard/Reserves
- 11.6% of Women make up Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND)
- 248,515 Women Veterans are registered at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial
- 38,206 Women Veterans reside in the state of Missouri

Missouri Veterans Commission

3 Key Messages:

If you have ever served in the military have you:

Visited with a Veterans Service Officer?

Signed up for VA Health Care?

Joined a Veterans Service Organization?

Governor Nixon visits all seven Missouri Veterans Homes



Recently, Governor Nixon visited all seven of the Missouri Veterans Homes to sign a new legislation. House Bill 1731 increases the transfer amount from the Missouri Gaming Commission Fund to the Veterans' Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund, providing a dedicated annual funding source of \$32 million for the ongoing operations of Missouri Veterans homes. "More than 1,300 of Missouri's Veterans rely on our Veterans homes for outstanding care and medical services," Gov. Nixon said. "We must honor their sacrifice by ensuring that they receive the quality care they need and deserve. As part of a sustainable and long-term plan for our Veterans homes, this legislation provides a dedicated source for their funding, and I'm proud to sign it into law." To find out more information regarding the Missouri Veterans Homes please visit: www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/homes/

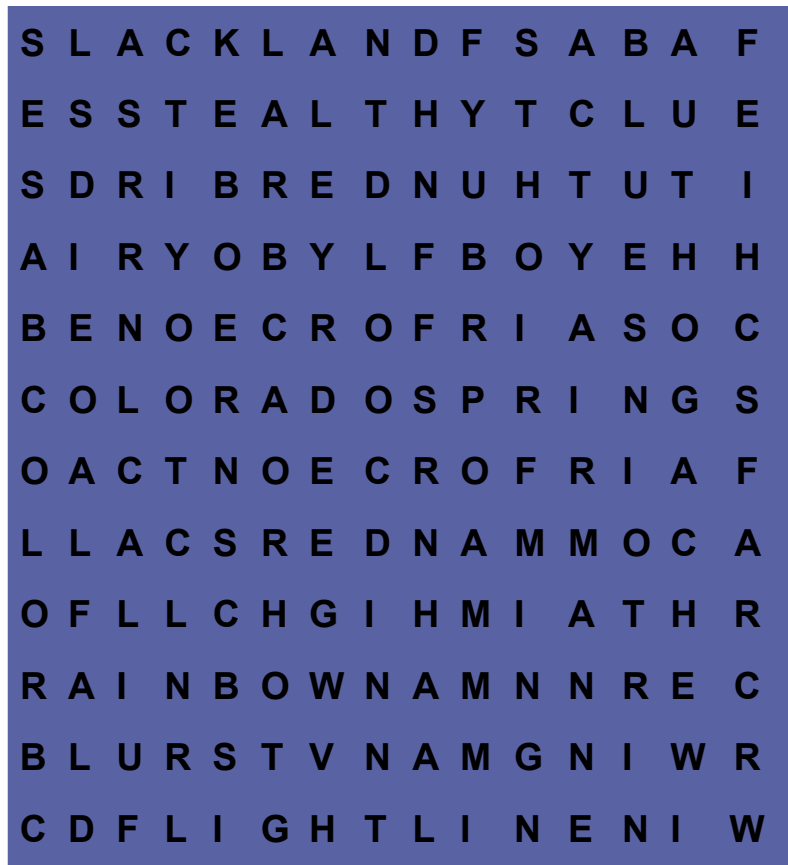
Happy Birthday Air Force!



September 18, 2012

If you have a question or comment, please contact me at:

Amy.Bennett@mvc.dps.mo.gov or
Missouri Veterans Commission
525 Jules, Room 320
St. Joseph, MO 64501
(816)387-2841



AFSC	CommandersCall
AimHigh	Flightline
AirForce	Flyboy
Airforceone	Lackland
Airman	Rainbow
Base	Stealth
Blues	Thunderbirds
Chief	Wingman
ColoradoSprings	

UPCOMING EVENTS



Aug. 9th-19th Missouri State Fair - Aug. 12th Show-Me Salutes-Military Appreciation Day at the Missouri State Fair-Free gate admission for active military, Veterans and delayed entry recruits with appropriate I.D.



September 14th- The 6th Annual Missouri Women Veterans Conference at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, registration at 9:00am



September 29th, 9am - 3pm Welcome Home celebration at VA Medical Center, Poplar Bluff,



September 30th-POW-MIA Day with the Cardinals
Honor our POW-MIAs at the Cardinals baseball game, starts at 1:15 pm

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mvc.dps.mo.gov





MISSOURI WOMEN VETERAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Personal information you provide may be used for secondary purposes [Privacy Law, s.15.04(1)(m)]

Missouri Veterans Commission will recognize a Missouri woman Veteran who has compiled a record of exemplary service as a military service member, a Veteran, and a citizen.

The award will be presented annually at the Women Veteran Conference beginning in 2012. Nominations may be submitted by a nominee or the Veteran herself, at any time throughout the year. They must be received by the month prior to the Women Veterans Conference.

Submit this signed nomination form to: Women Veteran Coordinator
Missouri Veterans Commission
525 Jules, Room 320
St. Joseph, MO 64501
(816) 387-2841

NOMINATOR'S NAME & ADDRESS: Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

VETERAN'S NAME & ADDRESS: Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Newspaper: _____

VETERAN'S INFORMATION: BRANCH(S) OF SERVICE (check all that apply): ☐ US Army ☐ US Marine Corps

☐ US Navy ☐ US Air Force ☐ US Coast Guard ☐ US Merchant Marines ☐ US Army Air Corps

☐ Other: _____

MILITARY SERVICE: From: _____ To: _____ Character of Discharge: _____

LIST ALL MILITARY AWARDS AND DECORATIONS (attach additional sheet if necessary):

LIST COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFICE(S) HELD (attach additional sheet if necessary):

LIST VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFICE(S) HELD (attach additional sheet if necessary):

PLEASE SPECIFY WHY THE NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE MISSOURI WOMAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR. In the justification, please cite specific examples of accomplishments toward enhancement of female Veterans in the past 12 months. You may also include past accomplishments, for example: any awards, publications, association/committee participation, community service, or participation in campus/civic activities.

NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



Please join our Registration of the
Missouri Women Veterans to continue to
receive this Free Newsletter and
Women Veteran Sticker



State of Missouri Women Veterans

Name: _____

Name you served under (if different from above) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email address: _____

Birth date: _____ / _____ / _____
Day Month Year

Place of Birth _____
City/State

Service (Circle one) USA USMC USN USAF USCG GUARD/RESERVE

Service dates: From _____ To _____
From _____ To _____

Receiving VA or Medical Benefits: Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what benefit: _____ (i.e. pension, comp., medical, etc.)

Have received benefits in the past: Yes _____ No _____

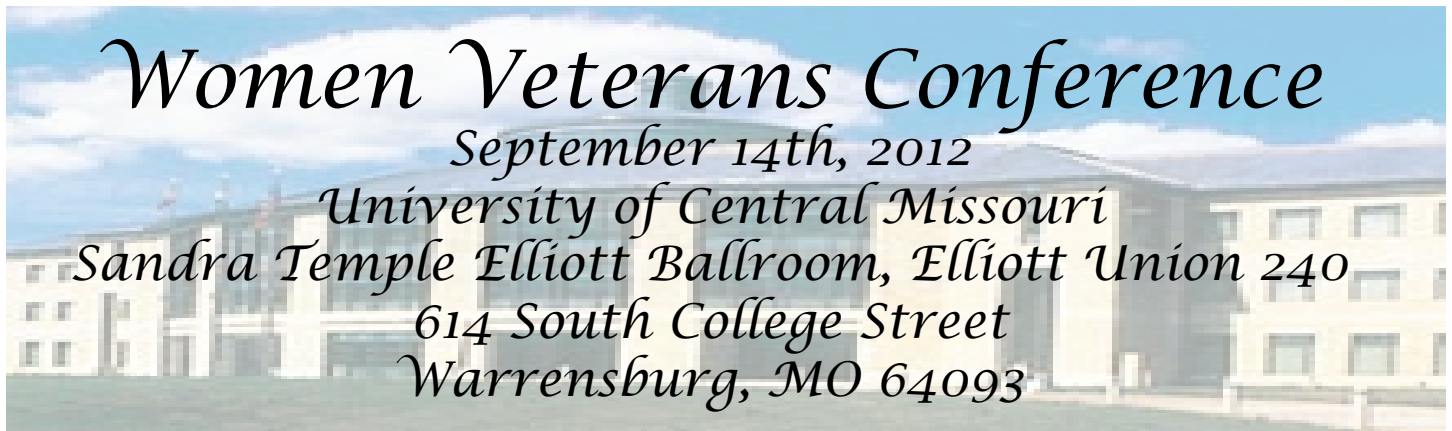
If yes, what benefit: _____

Would you like contact information and a schedule for a Veteran's Service Officer in your local area to explain your potential benefits? Yes _____ No _____

Do you wish to share this information with WIMSA (Women in Military Service for America Memorial) in Arlington VA? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to be featured in the next Women Veterans Newsletter? Yes _____ No _____

Missouri Veterans Commission
Amy Bennett, Women Veterans Coordinator
525 Jules, Room 320
St. Joseph, MO 64501
(816) 387-2841
Amy.Bennett@mvc.dps.mo.gov



This will be an information packed FREE event!

**Numerous Guest Speakers!
 Information Booths!**

Door Prizes

Display Tables

9:00 - 9:30 Registration and viewing table displays

9:30 - 10:00 Opening Ceremonies and Women Veteran of the Year Award

11:30 - Keynote Speaker Col. Theresa Rodriguez, 509th Medical Group Commander, Whiteman AFB

12:00 Lunch (provided)

10:00 - 2:30 Guest Speakers, including but not limited to, VA Hospitals, Veterans Homes, Veterans Cemeteries, Veteran Service Officer, Vet Center, and Stress Management



Display _____ Guest _____ (Display request must register and be approved)
 (Please RSVP no later than September 4, 2012)

Name: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____



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