



# Missouri Women Veterans Newsletter



Volume 2012, Issue 29

[www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/service/women](http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/service/women)

October - December 2012

## Message from the Women Veterans Coordinator



It's hard for me to believe that this is the last newsletter for the year 2012. Where did the time go? I have truly enjoyed this year as I have met so many Missouri Women Veterans. I am looking forward to 2013 as I'm hoping we continue to take strides and grow together as women Veterans. We have a unique bond and love to share our military stories with each other. As the leaves change and the snow falls, please don't forget to take time for you. If you haven't already done so this year, I encourage you to get your annual women exams and flu shots. To end with, if I can be of any assistance with any Veterans benefits or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season!



## Marge Scott is named the 2012 Missouri Woman Veteran of the Year



Marge is a lifetime member of DAV and VFW. She has been involved in many Veterans activities such as a bell ringer for the annual Veterans Day Parade, Chosen to be "Parade Marshall" and walked the parade route in her WAC uniform. She has also assisted in brick sales for the newest State Veterans Cemetery Memorial at Ft. Leonard Wood and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Waynesville. In addition, Marge also assisted in the Missouri Women Veterans Conference in 2011 by giving all Veterans, guests & vendors a free tour of the Pulaski County Museum. This is just to name a few of her accomplishments helping Veterans and volunteering in her community. She is a Proud Army Veteran and the first Missouri Woman Veteran of the Year presented by Missouri Veterans Commission.

## Missouri Women Veterans 2012 Conference

The annual Missouri Women Veterans Conference was held on September 14, 2012. This year the Missouri Veterans Commission partnered with the University of Central Missouri (UCM), Military and Veteran Services and held the conference in Warrensburg. The conference was a success with 19 vendors, UCM ROTC, and many speakers relating to women Veterans issues. We were honored to have key note speaker Col. Rodriguez from Whiteman AFB, who gave us an inspirational message. In addition to all of that, we had a special visit from UCM's mascot "MO" dressed in his fatigues!

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# Veterans Designation Now Available on Missouri Driver License and State ID

As part of Senate Bill 470, signed by Governor Nixon and effective on August 28, 2012, Veterans may now obtain a Veteran designation on their Missouri Driver License or State ID Card.

To get the Veterans designation, a Veteran needs to present at any Missouri license office a copy of the DD-214 showing a discharge status of "Honorable," "General," "Under Honorable Conditions," or "General under Honorable Conditions" and pay the applicable fees for the license or card. The Veterans designation, a ribbon with the word "Veteran" inside, will be printed on the back of the card. Additional information can be found online at <http://dor.mo.gov/faq/drivers/veterans.php>.

If the driver license is not due to expire within the next six months, the transaction would be processed as a duplicate with the same expiration date as the current license. If the driver license is due to expire within the next six months, the transaction would be processed as an early renewal, and the Veteran would be required to present acceptable documents to verify name, date of birth, place of birth, social security number, and Missouri residential address.

If a Veteran needs assistance in obtaining a copy of their DD-214, they are encouraged to either contact an MVC Veterans Service Officer by calling 1-866-VET-INFO, or online at <http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/service/serviceofficer/>. They can also check with their local Veterans Service Organizations as many posts have Service Officers available as well.



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## The History of the USS Missouri



USS *Missouri*, a 45,000 ton [Iowa class battleship](#) built by the New York Navy Yard, was commissioned on 11 June 1944. She spent the remainder of that year preparing for combat, transiting to the Pacific in November. Arriving in the war zone in January 1945, *Missouri* supported the Iwo Jima invasion, the Ryukyus campaign and raids on Japan's home islands during the following months. In May, she became Third Fleet flagship and was the site of the 2 September 1945 Japanese surrender ceremony that ended World War II.

Following the end of hostilities, *Missouri* returned to the United States, participating in a great naval review at New York in October 1945. In March 1946, she went to the Mediterranean on a diplomatic mission. Through the rest of the 1940's and into 1950, the battleship operated extensively in the Atlantic area. She was the centerpiece of a major grounding incident off Hampton Roads, Virginia, in January 1950 but was quickly repaired and returned to service.

*Missouri* was the only U.S. battleship on active duty in June 1950, when the Korean War began, and made two combat deployments to the Western Pacific. Following that action, and several training cruises to Europe, she decommissioned in February 1955. For the next three decades, she was in reserve at Bremerton, Washington, and became an important tourist attraction.

All four *Iowa* class battleships were reactivated in the 1980's, with *Missouri* re-commissioning in May 1986. Her next six years were busy ones, including, among other activities, a cruise around the World and a combat role in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. She decommissioned for the last time in March 1992. Stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in 1995, *Missouri* was transferred to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in June 1998 to become a memorial.

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## We Welcome Our Newest Female Veterans Service Officer

Jennifer Hudson our newest female Veterans Service Officer served in the U.S. Navy from 1988-1992. She spent those four years at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Jacksonville FL where she was a Yeoman for Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Command, Atlantic Fleet and with Helicopter Squadron 1. She has worked for the State of Missouri in working for Family Support Division, Child Support Enforcement for almost 11 years before joining Missouri Veterans Commission on August 1, 2012. She will be working out of the Forsyth, Kimberling City, and Branson offices. She is looking forward to working with her fellow Veterans.



# Saluting Our Women in Uniform

## Betty Clover



I can't pinpoint why I chose the Women's Army Corps over other branches of the armed services in 1950, but I was excited that it was going to be a free train trip "somewhere". I was ready for a change. I grew up in Missouri and after graduating high school, I watched a lot of former male classmates enter the military, "and I thought if they can go I can go, so I went." My first train trip took me to basic training at Fort Lee, VA. I enjoyed basic training, but I remember one captain who was not fond of women in the military. He reduced one of the youngest recruits to tears. The girl cried to me, "I want to tell my daddy on him." I consoled her and encouraged her to do just that if it would make her feel better. To the surprise of us all, Daddy showed up the next day with two stars on his shoulders. We never saw the captain again. I enjoyed the camaraderie, the guys were nice to us, and the food was good. I liked getting dressed up in uniform which included a jacket, shirt, tie, skirt, and unfortunately Army issued wool underwear to which I was allergic too. If I had to do it all over again, I would have stayed in.

## Shirley Walz



I attended a celebration of the 100 Year Anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps, the Navy Nurse Corps Museum strutted out 36 people modeling uniforms worn throughout their history. I thought I have worn 33 of those, I had a closet full before I retired. I served as a Navy Reservist for 33 years. It was a challenge to keep all of the devices, hats, shoes, belts, and purses organized and ready. I was commissioned into the Navy in December of 1962 and retired in 1995 as a Commander. It was an experience that began when Vietnam was heating up and ended with duty in the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. I attended indoctrination into the Navy at Newport, RI. There I learned about ships, aircraft, weapons and protocol. From there I went to Portsmouth Naval Hospital in VA. I went on to complete my Bachelor's degree in Nursing and a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling. I entered my military life with a positive attitude and left with the same plus lifetime friendships. I think the military teaches us, and certainly nursing does too, you have to look at strengths, we can all learn from each other.



## Kathy Sutphen



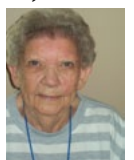
I graduated high school in 1966 and five days later I was at boot camp at Parris Island, SC. We slept on iron bunks, stored our possessions in wooden lockers and slept in rollers every night. Hair rollers were mandatory, weapon training was not. I would compare my PT to gym class, we did sit-ups, push-ups, running and swim classes. There was also plenty of marching and drills. My first duty station was in San Diego and I handled service records for the Communication Electronic School Battalion. My second was at HQ Marines Corps in Washington, D.C. to assist on mobilization. I enjoyed my times in the Marines. There was a lot of emphasis on appearance in uniform. I was sent away more than once for "teased" hair or the wrong color nail polish, it had to match the red cord on the cover of my hat. I am proud to have served in the Marines. "Once you get into the Marine Corps, it's never I." That's an important lesson in order to earn that Eagle, Globe and Anchor. Semper Fi.



## Annie Conger



I was born in Arkansas and later in life I moved to Memphis, Tennessee. I enlisted in Army Air Force, Women's Army Corps (WAC) on April 26, 1944 and was discharged on September 20, 1944. I went to basic training in Georgia; I was young so basic training was not really hard for me. I was stationed in Memphis, TN as a Private and Memphis was also my home town and it is where I met my husband. I was a machine operator for motor pool and I drove all different kinds of jeeps and trucks. On my days off from duty I would post on the bulletin board that I would do any of the ladies KP duty for \$5.00. I would also make my Bunkie's bed, iron skirt and blouses for .25 cents. I would also assist new troops with finding homes around the area as I was very familiar with the city. I enjoyed my time in the service and met many good girl friends that I have unfortunately lost touch with over the years. I enjoy canning pickles, I love to sew and making hot pads. I also have traveled extensively through my lifetime. I now reside in Missouri and enjoy sharing my time with my fellow Veterans.







## Mail Call

Q. I've heard about the VRAP as a new benefit for Veterans. Do you have any more information on it?

A. Veterans may qualify for additional education benefits through the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) which offers up to 12 months of retraining assistance to Veterans who meet all the following criteria:

- Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Be unemployed (as determined by Department of Labor (DoL))
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g., the Post
- 9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program.

Upon completion of the application, a certificate will be mailed to you. It will then be up to you to contact a school that you wish to attend for up to 12 months (in a high demand occupation) that will result in a Associate Degree, certification, non-college degree or certification in a *high demand occupation*.

### TO APPLY:

- 1.) Go to [www.google.com/](http://www.google.com/)
- 2.) Enter VONAPP in empty box
- 3.) Select ebenefits-Apply for benefits Online VONAPP
- 4.) Click on: "I am a new VONAPP User" and begin application process: takes 35-55 minutes

To complete the application, you will have to complete the VA Form: 22-1990R. You will also need the following additional information:

- 1.) Direct Deposit Information (routing & account number)
- 2.) DD-214 info: Admission and Discharge date, etc.
- 3.) Email address

## Did You Know?

In February, VA announced that it will now add up to seven days of medical care for newborns delivered by female Veterans who are receiving VA maternity care benefits to the VA medical benefits package. The newborn care includes routine post-delivery care and any other service deemed medically necessary. The effective date of the new benefit is Dec. 19, 2011, but it will apply retroactively to eligible Veterans who were provided newborn care on or after May 5, 2011. For more information, visit [www.womenshealth.va.gov/](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/).

KMZU Radio 100.7 FM is looking for Women Veterans to interview for the Voices of Veterans Program. If you are interested in sharing your memories, please contact Chelsea Wade at [Chelseaw@KMZU.com](mailto:Chelseaw@KMZU.com) or call Chelsea at 660-542-0404.

## Happy Birthday Navy!



October 13, 2012

### 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?

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

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

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Anchors Away  
 Blue Angels  
 Corpsman  
 Dungarees  
 Flight Deck  
 Navy Seal  
 Pearl Harbor  
 Sea Legs

Seaman  
 Shipmate  
 Skipper  
 Squid  
 Submarine  
 USS Missouri  
 Wave

## Upcoming Events

**Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm OR Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am** American Legion is looking for Female Veterans in the greater Kansas City Area to start an all Female Veteran Post, American legion Post 21, 16701 East Highway 40, Independence, MO 64055. All questions can be called or e-mailed to Shirley Janes at 314-853-4746 or [sjanes@yahoo.com](mailto:sjanes@yahoo.com)

**Oct. 13th, 11:00am-3:00pm Veterans Octoberfest**, The Pavilion, 713 Main St., Grain Valley, MO

**Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** Women's Memorial Celebrates 15 Years! For more information, please visit [15th Anniversary section](#) or call 800-222-2294/703-533-1155 for assistance.

**Nov. 5th-11th, Veterans Homecoming Week in Branson, MO** America's largest Veterans Day celebration, this seven-day tribute honors the veterans who have served as the stewards of freedom. For more information call 417-337-8387 or visit [www.bransonveteranswebsite.com](http://www.bransonveteranswebsite.com).

**Nov. 8th, 4:30pm-7:30pm, Women Veterans Mini-Reunion, FREE** Dinner for Women Veterans at the Golden Corral in Branson. RSVP by Nov. 1st at 417-230-2278

**Nov. 9th 8th Annual Rose Petal Ceremony and Women Veterans Tribute Luncheon**

**Times:** 11:00am - Rose Petal Ceremony, 12:00pm - Luncheon

**Location:** Stone Castle Hotel and Convention Center

**Phone:** (417)339-6823 for reservations

**Admission:** Luncheon Tribute Lunch : \$20.00 (reservations required); Rose Petal Ceremony is **FREE**

**Nov. 11th, 10:00am, Women Veterans "Ride the Ducks"** in the Veterans Day Parade in Branson, RSVP at 417-334-2296

**January 15, 2013** (Deadline for Scholarship) Business Women of Missouri (BWM) is offering scholarships. BWM encourages Veterans and Military to apply as they support Women in the Military. If you are attending school please apply. The scholarship can be found on this web site: [www.businesswomenmo.org/foundation/index.html](http://www.businesswomenmo.org/foundation/index.html)

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