



Missouri Women Veterans Newsletter



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January - March 2013

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On November 9, 2012, I attended the Branson's 9th Annual Rose Petal Memorial Service and Women Veterans Appreciation Lunch. I was honored to once again speak at the Rose Petal Ceremony and pay a tribute to all of the fallen women soldiers. I also had the pleasure of meeting Retired Colonel Merline Lovelace of the USAF. She was the guest speaker during the Women Veterans appreciation lunch. She discussed the importance of "telling our story." Col. Lovelace reminded us with the expansion of technology that more than ever people are sending e-mails, texting and using other forms of technology to communicate. Writing letters seems to be a thing of the past and therefore the stories of our history are not being properly documented.

In the state of Missouri we are fortunate to have a program called "Missouri Veterans History Project." This is a free service to Veterans and allows them to share their story. All Veterans will receive a video recording of their interview. In addition, all interviews become a part of the [Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress](#) in Washington, D.C. where they will be preserved and made available to researchers and the public. If you served during a war or conflict and are interested or know of a Veteran that would be interested please contact the Missouri Veterans History Project. Please provide your name, phone number, address and/or e-mail when you contact them. A volunteer will contact you within 2-3 weeks. Our military stories of the past and the present need to be told and shared with our future generations to come.

Missouri Veterans History Project

1400 Forum Blvd., Ste. 38, Box 461
Columbia, MO 65203

Phone: 573-522-4220

E-mail: info@mvhp.net

MVC Has A New Female Veterans Service Officer

Malinda Graves-Sampson is Missouri Veterans Commission new female Veterans Service Officer. She served Active Duty in the Navy from 1987-1991 and in the Navy Reserves from 1991-2000 as a Petty Officer 3rd Class. She has prior experience working with Veterans as she was a Veterans Representative at a career center. She is currently working on her Masters in Human Resources. Malinda started on Nov. 26th and will be working at the Veterans Home in St. Louis. Welcome Aboard Malinda!

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?



As I was reflecting back at the year I was recalling all of the wonderful events that took place in Missouri for Veterans last year. I would like to take this opportunity to look back at 2012 on just some of the wonderful highlights that happened for Veterans.

March 10th The U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau and The Black Archives of Mid-America presented an African-American Women in the Military: Past and Present, featuring an intergenerational panel of African-American women Veterans in Kansas City

March 22nd Governor Jay Nixon proclaimed "Women Veterans Recognition Day" in honor of Women's History Month at a Proclamation at the Capital in Jefferson City

May 12th The St. Louis Service Women Post 404 hosted a Women Veterans Stand Up

May 31st Governor Jay Nixon signed House Bill 1731 to establish a funding source for the ongoing operations of Missouri's Veterans Homes

August 28th Governor Jay Nixon signed Senate Bill 470 to allow Veterans to obtain a Veteran designation on their Missouri Driver's License or State ID Card

September 14th Marge Scott was named the 1st Missouri Woman Veteran of the Year at the Missouri Women Veterans Conference held at the University of Central (UCM) in Warrensburg, hosted by Missouri Veterans Commission and Military and Veteran Services of UCM

September 26th The Franklin County Honor Flight took a group of Missouri Veterans to Washington D.C. to honor their service (one WWII female Veteran was accompanied by her daughter who is currently serving)

October 13th The 2nd Annual Veterans Octoberfest was held in Grain Valley

October 19th Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) celebrated their 15 year anniversary

November 3rd The VAMC in Kansas City hosted a Women Veterans Luncheon and recognition program

November 5th The VA opened a new outpatient clinic in St. Joseph

November 6th The VA opened a new outpatient clinic in West Plains

November 7th The American Legion started a new all women post (Heartland Women Veterans Post 1107) in Kansas City

November 9th The Branson Task Force hosted the Branson's 9th Annual Rose Petal Memorial Service and Women Veterans Appreciation Lunch

November 11th and 12th Many Veterans Day Parades took place across the state

November 17th The St. Louis Service Women Post 404 hosted a "Tribute to Women Veterans"

November 17th The Kansas City VA hosted a Women Veterans Benefits Fair and Resource Expo

November 18th The Kansas City Chiefs honored Military and Veterans at their home game



Saluting Our Women in Uniform

Ona Backes



I was 21 years old when I enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). It was shortly after Pearl Harbor and I felt it was the right thing to do. After basic training I was sent to Cook Baker and then Butcher School. I remember the training was hard. I spent much of my time with a team that would open up new mess halls wherever a new WAAC Company was established. For the morning shift we had to get up at 3:00 a.m. to report to the mess hall. We had to haul coal for the stoves, measure ingredients by the pound and clean huge pots. I remember one of my more petite co-workers was standing on milk cartons to clean out a "monster pot" and fell in! They had to pull her out by her feet. During my enlistment I had been assigned to approximately 17 posts. Since I moved around so much my pay couldn't keep up with me. I acquired the nickname Sgt Money after receiving six months of back pay while stationed in Casper, WY. The men in the service treated us like ladies. I was discharged after the war. I then joined the Reserves and served until I got married in 1951. I am proud of my military service during war time.

La Donna Darks



I joined the Navy in 1965. I'd always had this vision of the Navy as I loved the water and boats and wanted to be a nurse. I went to boot camp in Bainbridge, MD, followed by freezing temperatures in Great Lakes, IL where I attended hospital corps school. After that I was sent off to a warmer client for my first duty station at Naval Dispensing in Corpus Christi, TX. It was during the Vietnam era and during my enlistment I started to develop more of a sense of what I was really doing, loyalty to my country and an understanding that this wasn't just a job. I left the Navy in 1968 to attend Nursing School and was accepted into the Navy Nurse Corps Candidate Program before graduating from college. Upon completion of the program I was commissioned as a Naval Ensign in 1972 and was sent to the Naval Hospital in Oakland, CA. I left active duty for the Reserves in 1974 to return back to school to earn my Bachelor's degree in Nursing. All together I served eight years active duty and 15 years in the reserves. I accomplished a lot during my Navy years and I continue to serve on mission work in places like Haiti.



Evelyn Bayer



I was working in a "Rosie-the-Riveter" type of job when I decided to join the military. I served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) from 1944-1945. I was stationed in Des Moines, IA and I remember very vividly how COLD it was there. I got lonely while in Des Moines, so I smuggled in a goldfish that was eventually discovered during inspection. That led to losing my pass privileges for a couple of weeks. (the fish got to live in the Lieutenant's office). My next duty assignment was Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Denver, CO. I was assigned to the dental services based on my previous experience in a dental office. While stationed in Denver I once again became a "smuggler." I was hiding a stray puppy under my coat upon return to post from a shopping trip. Fortunately, the guy on patrol decided to look the other way when he heard a little noise. After being discharged I returned to my home town, St. Louis, MO. I always try to volunteer to see what I can do. I believe we should think of Veterans more often than on holidays. Everyone of them I've met or visited have said "Thank you, so nice of you to come by."



Carol Thompson



"Back in the days," all the guys had to take the ASVAB our Jr. year of high school and gals could take it if they wanted to. I was the only gal to take it. My Grandparents signed the papers so I could enlist and five days after graduation I was in Basic at Ft Jackson, SC. I thought it was so much fun and exciting. The Army presented opportunities I would never have had otherwise. I grew up in a rural area in IL with no chance of education beyond high school. The Army gave me an opportunity to see the world. I have been to so many different countries. I saw relatives of mine in Germany that I probably would never have met. I served a little over four years then was discharged in Ft. Carson, CO. I used my GI Bill and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Electronic Engineering. I worked in that field for a while until I felt the call of God in my life and moved to the Chicago area to get a degree in Christian Education. I was sent to Columbia, MO to do Campus Ministry in 1990. I worked with the Lutheran Campus Ministries for 13 years before my health forced me to go on disability.





Q. I was told that the VA does not allow religious symbols, for example, the Christian cross, on grave markers at Veteran cemeteries, even if the family wanted it. I doubt this, but want to be certain that this is not true.

A. You are correct this is not true. Military headstones and markers must be inscribed with the name of the deceased Veteran, branch of service, and the year of their birth and death. They also may be inscribed with other optional information including an emblem of belief (there are several to choose from), and space permitting, additional text including rank, war service period and personalized words of endearment. Most funeral homes can assist with ordering the marker on a VA Form 40-1330 or the family can see a Veteran Service Officer to assist with the ordering of a marker. The Veterans DD214 or discharge papers along with the death certificate must also be presented at the time the marker is being ordered.

Q. My mom is a WWII Veteran and I'm looking for a nursing home for her to reside in. Does the Veterans Home only allow male Veterans?

A. No, that is not true. Women Veterans are just as welcome as male Veterans in the Missouri Veterans Home. To be eligible to reside in a Missouri Veterans Home, the Veteran must meet the following criteria:

- The Veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable
- The Veteran must have been a resident of the State of Missouri for at least 180 days at some point in his/her life
- The Veteran must have documentation from a physician that he/she needs skilled nursing home care
- The Veteran's health condition must be such that the Home has the resources to care for him/her. The final decision for admission is determined by a healthcare team comprised of the Administrator, Physician, Director of Nursing, Social Worker and other professionals as needed.

Currently only 4% of the Veterans residing in the Missouri Veterans Homes are women Veterans.

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

Upcoming Events

Feb. 1st (Deadline for Scholarship) Army Women's Foundation, The Scholarship is available to all Army women-Active Duty, Retired, National Guard, Reserve and their children. Eligibility Requirements and the application form are online at <http://www.awfdn.org/programs/legacyscholarships.shtml>. Contact the AWF at 804-734-3078 or at info@awfdn.org if you have any questions.

Feb. 1st (Deadline for Scholarship) Business Women of Missouri (BWM) is offering education scholarships. BWM encourages Veterans and Military to apply as they support Women in the Military. The scholarship application can be found on www.businesswomenmo.org/foundation/index.html

Feb. 15th-**FREE** "Valentines for Veterans" Concert performed by Aaron Tippin at 7:00 pm at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, For tickets call 573-778-4058 or 573-778-4276

April 3rd-Veterans Career Fair at Union Station in Kansas City, register at www.missourivets.com/2013KCvetfair.htm

April 5th- 6th Columbia VA Annual Salute to Women Veteran Events (**FREE**)- Elks Lodge #594 4747 E. Elk Park Dr., Columbia, MO. Friday Apr. 5th, 6pm -10pm Social hour/ Entertainment; Saturday Apr. 6th 8:30am- 4:00pm Keynote speakers & local Businesses regarding Veteran Benefits, Networking & Door Prizes & Lunch RSVP is required by Mar. 29, 2013, contact Women Veteran Program Manager Cindy Stivers 573-814-6457 or email Cynthia.stivers1@va.gov.

Check out our Women Veterans Page on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MissouriWomenVeterans>



Nomination form for the Missouri woman Veteran of the year award is located on pages 7-8.

35 Schools in Missouri are found Military Friendly

Today, many schools are still struggling to accommodate the needs of Veterans students, especially those that are women Veterans. According to the G.I. Jobs magazine more women Veterans are seeking degrees and using their GI Bill benefits greater than the male Veterans. Some campuses across the state such as the University of Central Missouri has a Military and Veteran center where Military Service members and Veterans can have a quiet place to study and be among their peers. The GI Bill can be used for education or on-the-job training. Currently there are 35 schools in the state of Missouri that are military friendly and they are:

Aquinas Institute of Theology	Moberly Area Community College
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary	North Central Missouri College
Avila University	Northwest Missouri State University
Calvary Bible College & Theological Seminary	Ozarks Technical Community College
Columbia College	Park University
Drury University	Saint Louis University
Evangel University	Southeast Missouri State University
Fontbonne University	Southwest Baptist University
Lindenwood University	Three Rivers College
Maryville University-St. Louis	University of Central Missouri
Midwest Institute	University of Missouri
Mineral Area College	University of Missouri-Kansas City
Missouri Baptist University	Vatterott Educational Centers, Inc
Missouri State University	Washington University in St. Louis
Missouri State University-West Plains	Webster University
Missouri Tech	Westminster College
Missouri Valley College	Whiteman AFB-State Fair Community College
Missouri Western State University	

D H S G A T G O D B A Y S T A G
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|--------------|--------------------|
| Belt | Handbag |
| Bob Haircut | Hobby Hat |
| Bucket Hat | Hosiery |
| Bun | Name Tapes |
| Class A | Neck Tab |
| Combat Boots | Scarlet Stripe |
| Desert Boots | Service Dress Coat |
| Dog Tags | Uniform |
| Dress Blues | Wool Skirt |
| Garrison Cap | |

Veterans Service Program Director, Doug Meyer
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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 _____

