



Missouri Women Veterans Newsletter



Volume 2013, Issue 32

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

July - August 2013

Missouri Women Veterans LUNCHEON & EXPO



Saturday, September 28, 2013
Capital Plaza
415 W McCarty St
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Special Guest: Lowry Finley Jackson, Army (Retired)
Women Currently Serving, and Women Veterans are
FREE

Guests \$10.00 for lunch
(make checks payable to Capital Plaza)

RSVP by September 20, 2013

Registration and Expo: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Reservations are required
(816) 387-2841 or
Amy.Bennett@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Hotel Discount Offered



The Capital Plaza hotel is offering a discount for the Women Veterans Luncheon & Expo. For those of you who would like to stay the night at The Capital Plaza on September 27th, they are offering a reduced rate of \$79. Please give the Capital Plaza Hotel a call to reserve your room at 573-635-1234. Please let them know you are under group code **13927MOV** to receive the reduced rate. This will be an educational and fun event and I hope to see many of you there.

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Who will be the 2013 Missouri Woman Veteran of the Year?



On September 28th, Marge Scott, 2012's Missouri Woman Veteran of the Year will pass the crown to the 2013 Missouri Woman Veteran of the year. The winner selected will be honored at the Women Veterans Luncheon and Expo on September 28th at the Capital Plaza in Jefferson City and she will also be recognized in her home town newspaper. Nominations for the 2013 Missouri Woman Veteran of the year must be received or postmarked by September 6, 2013. 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 can be obtained 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.

Tell 3 Women Veterans



Tell 3 Women—Pay Forward the Legacy is the latest initiative by the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial Foundation to help the nation's 2.5 million Women Veterans take their rightful place in history. The campaign asks each of us to embrace women's rich legacy of service and to cultivate and pass it forward by introducing three Women Veterans to the memorial and encouraging them to register.

The Foundation's annual goal is 10,000 registrations per year. In Brigadier General Vaught's latest letter to all WIMSA members, supporters, and friends she spoke of the fact that the Memorial has surpassed 250,000 registered women Veterans. She says "If you aren't registered yet, I hope you'll do so now and take your place in the pantheon of women's service and be a part of the second 250,000 members. Or, if you know of a servicewoman, past or present, help her get registered so that she too takes her place in history."

If you are not registered, please contact me directly at Amy.Bennett@mvc.dps.mo.gov or 816-387-2841 and I would be happy to assist you in registering. If you would like to make a donation to (WIMSA) please send it to: Women's Memorial Foundation, PO Box 96742, Washington, DC 20077-7771

VA Launches a Women Veterans Hotline

Women Veterans are currently one of the fastest growing population of Veterans. Over the past decade, the number of women using VA health care has more than doubled, from nearly 160,000 to more than 360,000 in 2012. Women now make up 15 percent of active duty and 18 percent of Guard/Reserves service members. Based on the upward trend of women in all branches of service, the number of women Veterans and female VA users is expected to double again in the next decade. The Veterans Administration has started a Women Veterans Hotline **1-855-VA-WOMEN** (1-855-829-6636). This is an incoming call center that receives and responds to questions from women Veterans, their families, and caregivers across the nation about available VA services and resources. This is yet another great VA benefit and another way of recognizing Women Veterans.

Missouri Veterans Commission Needs Your Help

The Missouri Veterans Commission and Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations are conducting a survey to better understand the needs of Veterans and their families. The survey is available online through July 31, 2013. It takes approximately 5 minutes to complete and is safe and secure. Just go to www.mvc.dps.mo.gov and click on the icon you see here.



Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MissouriWomenVeterans?ref=hl>



Saluting Our Women in Uniform

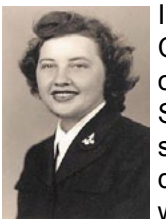
Ann Roberts



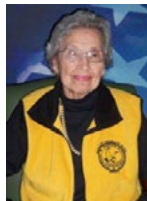
I came from a long line of military on my father's side of my family. Dad was a Navy man and so was his father. Listening to him telling of his war stories and listening to current war stories in the news, inspired me to enlist in the Navy during the Vietnam War era. I believed it was the most patriotic and inspiring thing to do in 1968. Boot-camp in the Navy was much better of an experience than my first and only duty station in Pensacola, FL because there wasn't any teasing of women as WAVES-to ride. Boot camp in Maryland was a place where I felt that I was a part of something, even though the daily duties were harder than I thought it would be. Still, I felt and acted like someone to be proud of in a time of turmoil in our Country. Pensacola was where I trained to become an aviation storekeeper. In this position I was among all Navy service men in the "Material Shop" where airplane and jet parts were ordered. I proudly served a year, ten months and 17 days. I had to leave the Navy because in 1969 I married a Navy serviceman and became pregnant. I was honorably discharged and began my life as a mother and I went to college to become a Special Education Teacher.



Mary (Kathleen) Fennewald



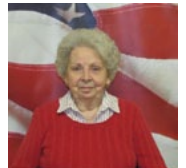
I joined the Navy in 1944 and went to Hunter College in Bronx, New York for six weeks of boot camp. After boot camp I was sent to Sampson, New York for eight weeks of postal school. After my schooling I went on a four-day train ride to San Francisco, California to work my assigned job in the Fleet Post Office. My job was to sort the mail, package and code it so the mail would be delivered to the correct naval ship in the Pacific. I worked for seven days and had the eighth day off. I had a great friendship with my roommate and we got along really well. We enjoyed going to listen to the bands and going to the movies. I decided to get out of the military in 1946 because I wanted to start a family. I was discharged at the rank of a MaM2c (Mailman 2nd Class). I received several medals while in the Navy to include: an Honorable Service Lapel Button, Honorable Discharge Emblem and an Honorable Discharge Pin. I returned to Missouri and met my husband and we had a family and we raised cattle and crops. Today I enjoy sewing, quilting, playing bingo and going on outings with my friends, family and fellow Veterans. I am a proud Veteran and happy to be using my VA benefits for which I am eligible for.



Bertha Johnson



I was born in Brooklyn, NY and attended an all girls Catholic School. After I graduated from high school, I worked as an AT&T operator in Brooklyn. A high school friend and I decided to join the USMC as the war was in full swing. I joined the Corps on March 8, 1943. After my schooling I was stationed at the USMC headquarters in Washington, D.C. While working there I met my future husband, Leonard Johnson. We were married on March 15, 1944. I was discharged in August 1944 at the rank of Sergeant. After the war we moved to Springfield, MO. In 1951 Leonard was activated for the Korean War and sent to Camp Pendleton, CA. I packed up the two kids and a dog in our 1948 Pontiac and traveled to California on Route 66. It was quite an adventure. We lived on Camp Pendleton in base housing for a year and returned to Springfield after he was deactivated. I went to nursing school at St. John's and became an LPN. I worked there at the hospital in the pediatric ward and in a few doctor's offices. In the 1960's the family bought a house boat and spent many happy hours on the weekends fishing and relaxing. I retired from working and became a stay at home wife. I am using my VA benefits and I'm proud to have served.



Normandy Myers



I grew up in Zalma, Missouri and I am the oldest of two children. My brother also served in the military. After high school I attended one year at Southeast Missouri State University. I then went to pursue my degree in nursing from Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. I served in the Navy from 1947 to 1949, joined the Navy Reserves from 1949 to 1951, and then re-entered the Navy from 1951 to 1953. I did not attend boot camp, instead I went into the Navy Nurse Corp. after passing the State Boards. I was stationed at St. Albans, New York on Long Island for 1 ½ years. I was awarded the Korean War Medal. My job in the military was as a nurse/R.N., with the rank of Lieutenant. My favorite memories during the military relate to being in St. Albans because I got to go to New York City all the time – to places like Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and Rockefeller Center. I decided to get out of the military because I wanted something different. I was a nurse at the VA Hospitals in St. Albans, New York and Portsmouth, Virginia. Today I enjoy socializing with my friends and arranging flowers. I am currently using my VA benefits and I am glad to have them.



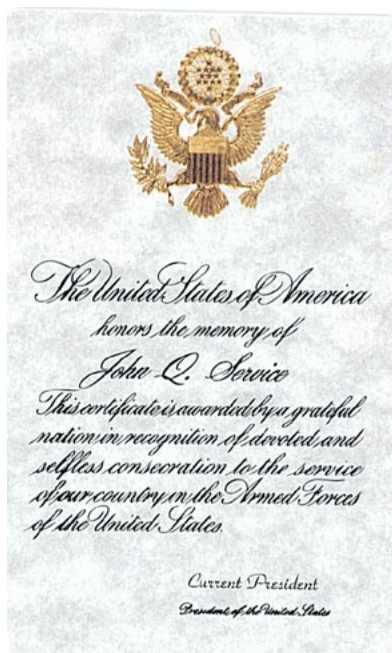


Mail Call

Q My Mother passed away in May of this year. She was a proud Veteran and served during WWII. I ordered her marker but is there any other recognition I could have as a keepsake for the family to remember her service to our Country?

A. Yes, there is a Presidential Memorial Certificate that is mailed to the next of kin signed by the current President to honor the memory of honorably discharged Veterans. This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all the subsequent Presidents. I have attached the link for the form as it gives the address to mail a copy of the Veterans Discharge, Death Certificate along with the form. Also, here is an example of what the Presidential Memorial Certificate looks like; it is a distinguished way to remember our Veterans.

<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf>



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



Fascinating Facts

Compensation benefits - In FY 2012, 300,937 Women Veterans received compensation benefits – an 8% increase from 2011.

Pension benefits- In FY 2012, 12,594 Women Veterans received pension benefits – a 3% increase from 2011.

Home Loan Guaranty- In FY 2012, 56,302 Women Veterans were guaranteed loans totaling \$12.5 billion – that's a 42% increase from 2011.

Education- In FY 2012, 106,953 Women Veterans accessed education benefits—a 17% increase from 2011.

VRAP (Veterans Retraining Assistance Program)- In FY 2012, 14,939 Women Veterans applied for the benefit (16.8% of total applicants).

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI)-In FY 2012, 55,550 VGLI policies belonged to Women Veterans a 3% increase from 2011.

Service members Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI)-In FY 2012, 119 Female Service members received a TSGLI benefit – a 35% increase from 2011.

According to the VA the Women Veterans population in Missouri is 44,894



**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?

Patriotic Word Scramble

1. MODEERF

2. BILYTER

3. SMITOTAPIR

4. FWOIERKS

5. LYUJ

6. EDARAP

7. GLAF

8. ERCAIMA



answers on bottom page 2

9. BVARYER

10. TYRNCOU

11. NROOH

12. SSRAT

13. PIESRTS

14. RANETEV

15. EEDGPL

16. NECNEPDENDIE AYD

UPCOMING EVENTS



August 6th-Women's Only Wellness (WOW) this is an eight-week session wellness program specifically designed for Women Veterans. The sessions will take place at the St. Joseph CBOC, for more information and to register contact: Mari Guerrero at 800-574-8387 ext. 53247

August 6th-8th – National Veterans Small Business Conference in St. Louis. For more information please visit: <http://www.nationalveteransconference.com/>

August 8th-18th Missouri State Fair in Sedalia

- **August 11th-Show-Me Salutes Military Appreciation Day**
Free gate admission, valid today only, for Active Military, Veterans and delayed entry recruits with appropriate I.D. and there will be a **Military Appreciation Ceremony**
“A Show-Me Salute to All Who Serve” and **Special Tribute to Army and Air National Guard** at 2 p.m. Mathewson Exhibition Center
- **August 15th-Celebrate Women in Agriculture**
Free gate admission, valid today only, for women of all ages

September 6th-Deadline to nominate a Missouri Woman Veteran for the 2013 Missouri Woman Veteran of the Year. The announcement will be made at the Women Veterans Luncheon in Jefferson City on Sept. 28th. (hint: be very specific when filling out the application)

September 28th-Women Veterans Luncheon & Expo in Jefferson City. (see front page for details)

Veterans Service Program Director, Doug Meyer
Senior Editor and Women Veterans Benefits Outreach Coordinator, Amy Bennett
Editorial Assistant, Design, and Layout, Pamela S. Luyk

www.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.

