



Missouri Women Veterans Newsletter



Volume 2012, Issue 26

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

January - March 2012

A Message from the Women Veterans Coordinator



Last year was a great year for Veterans! Here's some of the 2011's highlights: Governor Nixon did a Proclamation for Missouri Women Veterans; The VA assisted those Veterans with special assistance who were affected by the tornadoes in Joplin; the GI Bill was improved for Veterans continuing their education; the VA continually strives to better the benefits for women Veterans healthcare; The VA opened a new VA Outpatient Clinic in Washington, MO and President Obama signed into law two new tax credits to help those Veterans returning back into the workforce. I'm sure The New Year will have many more positive impacts for Veterans. In the new year I wish you all peace and prosperity. Happy New Year!

Women's History Month

Every year Women's History Month is recognized in March. Throughout history many service women were hardly ever recognized for their service to our Country. In the past military women fell under terms such as WAC-Women's Army Corps, WAVE-Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, SPARS-Semper Paratus and WAF-Women in the Air Force, MCWR-Marine Corp Women Reserves. There are so many women in military history with amazing stories who have paved the way for today's service women. Here's just to name a few:



The First Directors - WWII

- WAVES - Captain Mildred H. McAfee - Navy
- WAAC/WAC - Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby - Army
- SPARS - Lt Commander Dorothy C. Stratton - Coast Guard
- MCWR - Colonel Ruth Cheney Streeter - Marines
- WAF - 1948 - Colonel Geraldine Pratt May - Women in the Air Force

The First Women to attain Star Rank:

- Army - Brig. General Elizabeth P. Hoisington - 1970
- Navy - Rear Admiral Fran McKee - 1976
- Marines - Brig. General Margaret A. Brewer - 1978
- Air Force - Brig. General Jeanne M. Holm - 1971

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Please watch your local media and times for any Women History events or proclamations in March. If I hear of any events specifically pertaining to Women Veterans I will pass along the information.

(Submitted by Amy Bennett)

Veterans Week in Branson, MO

I attended the Veterans Homecoming Week in Branson MO in Nov. The Branson Task Force did a wonderful job planning many events throughout the week for Veterans. Every day there was at least a dozen activities for Veterans to attend. I was thrilled to know there were three events that were specifically for Women Veterans. The Rose Petal Ceremony/Women Veterans appreciation luncheon, Women Veterans mini-reunion and all women Veterans were invited to "Ride The Ducks" in the Veterans Day Parade (see picture below). I attended all three events and I was honored to be the key note speaker at the Rose Petal Memorial Service. I would encourage all Veterans to plan on visiting Branson during Veterans week in Nov. 2012. *(Submitted by Amy Bennett)*



Veterans Returning into the Workforce

Veterans returning back into the civilian life are having difficulty trying to find employment. Unfortunately, women Veterans are having a more difficult time finding employment than their male counterparts. This is due to many factors that are affecting women who served. The unemployment rate has steadily increased in recent years. The average unemployment rate in 2007 for the Gulf II women Veterans was 9.3% and males were only 5.6%. More recently the unemployment rate has increased to 16.6% for women Veterans and is only 8.6% for male Veterans.

More women are deploying today than ever in history. A large number of these women in the service are single mothers and had to leave their children with family or friends while they are deployed. When returning and reentering into the civilian life most women's aspiration are to reunite with their family, find a safe place for her and her children to live and find a secure job.

On November 21, 2011 President Obama signed into law Returning Heroes and Wounded Warrior Tax Credits.

The *Returning Heroes Tax Credit* is a new hiring tax credit that will provide an incentive for businesses to hire unemployed veterans.

- *Short-term unemployed:* A new credit of 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages (up to \$2,400) for employers who hire veterans who have been unemployed at least 4 weeks.
- *Long-term unemployed:* A new credit of 40 percent of the first \$14,000 of wages (up to \$5,600) for employers who hire veterans who have been unemployed longer than 6 months.

The *Wounded Warrior Tax Credit* will double the existing tax credit for long-term unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities.

- Maintain the existing Work Opportunity Tax Credit for veterans with service-connected disabilities (currently the maximum is \$4,800).
- A new credit of 40 percent of the first \$24,000 of wages (up to \$9,600) for firms that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been unemployed longer than 6 months.

These two Tax Credits should assist Veterans in finding employment and helping them transition back into civilian life. Another piece of information is to remember those skills you learned in the military that you can use in the civilian sector such as: leadership, time management, attention to detail and organizational skills.

First Woman to lead U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Attention on Deck! On June 3rd, 2011 - Rear Admiral Sandra Stosz became the first woman to lead the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the first to head any of the military services' academies. Stosz was installed as 40th superintendent of the New London, Conn., campus, replacing Rear Adm. J. Scott Burhoe, who led the school since 2007. The native of Takoma Park, Md., graduated from the academy in 1982, the third class to include women. "We've come a long way and I'm proud to be a role model," said Stosz. "But this really is part of a natural progression." Rear Adm. Sandra Stosz has set an exceptional standard for women in the military. <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/ondeadline/post/2011/06/first-woman-to-head-coast-guard-academy/1>



Remember Our Fallen



"Remembering Our Fallen" was created to honor the military members from Missouri who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Its legacy will be that these men and women will never be forgotten and that their names will be remembered and spoken. If you would like to visit the display that travels throughout the state of Missouri, please check the website for their schedule at www.rememberingourfallen.org To schedule the display to be placed in your community, church or business please contact Bill Williams at 402-612-0210.



Saluting our Women in Uniform

Terri Huffman



I served twenty years with the USAF. I entered the service and worked in Signals Intelligence in Italy. I ate everything I could. My next assignment was to Hawaii. Nice. I was then involuntarily retrained into Flight Medicine on C-130H airplanes. I was the squadrons first female. We worked out of Mildenhall England for four months every year. Those were good times. My next assignment was Wiesbaden Germany. I worked with the Executive Health Program along with the hostages repatriated from Lebanon. I learned from these men what it means to be alone and not know what your future may be. I worked with the NASA Space shuttle Program. The overseas abort sights we manned were in Africa. Words cannot describe the differences between the countries of our world. My final base was Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. Here I worked with a team of four to develop a new process for military examinations. This program is now DOD wide and is known as PHA. My nineteenth year I was diagnosed with brain cancer. My treatment at Wilford Hall Medical Center was outstanding. What they did then makes it possible for me to write this now.



Adrienne T.W. Callaway



I joined the Army on 27 Jan., 1982. I had basic training and AIT at Ft Jackson, SC where I received the basic training superior performance award and honor student during AIT. My 1st tour took me to 575th Personnel Service Company, Darmstadt, Germany. During my tour there I worked as an Officer Evaluation Clerk, I also attended PLDC in Bad Tolz, Germany. In my 11th month I was in small arms school in Vilseck, Germany. It was a challenge, seems I always forgot where 1 piece went when putting the weapon back together. My other tours included tours of Germany, U.S, and Korea. I worked in a merit of positions from Bn to Bde S1, in all HR sections. My awards include MSMx4; ARCOMx3; AAMx5; Army Good Conduct MDLx7, NDSMx2; Terrorism Svc. MDL; Korea Defense Svc MDL; Overseas Service Ribbonx4; NCO Prof Dev ribbonx3 and the Army Service Ribbon. I am married and have 2 daughters. My most rewarding part of my duty was the soldiers who still remain friends to this day and the Veterans I have met. There is always a story, smile and a hello. I retired on 1 Sept., 2005 from Ft. Hood, TX.



Kara Liechti



I served in the Army from June 2006-June 2010 as a Psychological Operations Specialist. I left for Basic Training a month after graduating high school. I went to Basic at Ft. Jackson, SC. After that I went to Ft. Bragg, NC for AIT. The next step in my Army experience was Airborne school at Ft. Benning, GA. I then went back to Ft. Bragg where I attended language school and learned Indonesian. I was then assigned to Bravo Company, 5th PSYOP Battalion. In May of 2008, I deployed to the Philippines for one year. There I participated in OEF-P (Operation Enduring Freedom Philippines). The Philippines is a hotbed of terrorist activity that doesn't get much media attention. It was there that I was promoted to Sgt. I returned to Ft. Bragg to finish out my enlistment in B CO 5th POB. I had the honor of serving with some of the most amazing people I have ever met. We were from across the country and had different backgrounds, but they were, and still are, my family. I am now attending Missouri Western State University in pursuit of a nursing degree and am currently carrying a 3.92 GPA. I attribute this to the life lessons I learned in the Army.



Sonja Christlieb



The Military has always been a part of my life. I am a fourth generation Great-granddaughter of the Revolution, the Civil War and granddaughter of a WWI, WWII, and Korean Veteran, the daughter of a retired first sergeant who is also a Vietnam veteran and I am the only family member to join the Navy. I graduated High School in Lebanon, Missouri in 1990 and joined the Navy on December 15, 1992 as a Quartermaster. I met the USS Puget Sound AD-38 in Norfolk, Virginia. I helped her navigate the blue and brown oceans of the Atlantic, Caribbean and complete a 15 Mediterranean port cruise in 1994. I left the Navy in 1995 to enjoy the start of my own family in Missouri. I received my Bachelor degree in Criminal Justice from Mountain State University and my Masters in Business from Webster University. I began working for Missouri Veterans Commission in December 2010 as a Veteran Service Officer in Pulaski and Texas counties. Being a Veteran Service Officer and a volunteer fire fighter allows me to continue my service to fellow Veterans, their families and my community.





Mail Call

Q. What is the proper protocol for a Veteran when the National Anthem is being played at an event or the colors are being presented?

A. According to Public Law 110-181 Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Q. Is there a document/piece of paper/anything that a woman Veteran can carry to show we truly ARE a veteran short of a copy of our DD-214?

A. The only identification at this time for a Missouri Veteran to use to prove they are a Veteran is their DD214, Retired Military ID card or ID Card that is issued if they are enrolled in the VA Health Care. I encourage all Veterans to enroll in VA Health Care.

Q. Since Social Security is receiving a raise in 2012, does that mean the VA will be increasing their rates also?

A. Yes, you will see a 3.6% increase in your rates starting January 1, 2012 if you are a service-connected Veteran, who's in receipt of compensation, or non-service connected pension, or a surviving spouse of a Veteran who's in receipt of death pension or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). If you have any questions regarding any of these benefits, please call your local Veteran Service Officer (VSO). The website to locate your local VSO is: <http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/>

If you have a question, 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



If you move or change your email address, please let me know so I can continue to share the newsletter and other important updates with you.

VA Statistics for Service Connected Compensation in Missouri

I understand and sympathize that many Veterans are frustrated with the VA system when they are in an appeal status on their service connected compensation. I recently attended a seminar given by the VA and they shared the statistics on how busy the regional VA office is in St. Louis, Missouri. Below is an estimate on how many Appeals and Notice of Disagreements are being handled in just the state of Missouri.

- 175 Appeal Cases Pending for the Traveling Board
- 6,500 Appeals in the State of Missouri and there's only seven Decision Review Officers working these claims
- 595 Cases Pending in Missouri for the Board of Veterans Affairs
- 4,251 Notice of Disagreements pending in St. Louis
- 2,064 Form 9's pending in St. Louis
- An appeal can take up to two years to be settled

(Submitted by Amy Bennett)

Happy Birthday Coasties!! January 28th



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?

S T E R N S T Q U A R Q S
 E D S W A B L U B A Y U E
 A D E A T D L A E A Y A M
 M U S T E R S R Y D K R P
 A C R C C A P T A I N T E
 N A E H E O A K E K O E R
 R D D S C B R R Y C T R P
 E L D M L A S N A E O D A
 C O A S T G U A R D P E R
 R A L B C F Q L R A G C A
 U B U L K H E A D G H K T
 I M P L K H E A D L U T U
 T N T S A Q Y A B K C I S



AYE AYE	QUARTERDECK
ABOARD	SEAMAN RECRUIT
BULKHEAD	SEMPER PARATUS
CAPTAIN	SICKBAY
COAST GUARD	SPARS
DECK	STERN
KNOT	SWAB
LADDER	WATCH
MUSTER	



To Do List for 2012

1. Submit your nominations for the Missouri Women Veteran of the year.
2. Like us (Missouri Veterans Commission) on Facebook
3. Enroll in the VA Health Care system
4. Set up an exercise schedule
5. Take time for yourself
6. Thank another Veteran for their service
7. Volunteer
8. Vote
9. Schedule your annual women exams
10. Join a service organization, such as American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3rd - National Wear Red Day.
 Wear red to show your support for women's heart month.

February 23rd-Mini Job Fair, Fort Leonard Wood-National Guard Armory, Intersection of Iowa and Alabama, Bldg 986. 11am-2pm.

March 25th-50th Anniversary Ceremony for Vietnam Veterans, American Legion Post #305, 201 N. Maple, Cole Camp, MO, 2pm-4pm

March 29th-April 1st-Branson Salutes Vietnam Veterans, Registration and Expo, Ceremony, Parade and Concert. For more information please visit their website at:
www.BransonVeteransEvents.com

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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
Amy.Bennett@mvc.dps.mo.gov

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 _____

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