

# TRI-COUNTY WOMEN



# VETERANS



2023 Yearbook

If your photos and/or bio are missing or need to be updated, please contact Terri Friend at [TerriTCWV@gmail.com](mailto:TerriTCWV@gmail.com)

## Our Vision

Women Veterans are **visible**, **recognized** and **appreciated** for their service and the sacrifices they made on behalf of our country.

## Our Mission

We are Women Veterans working toward **increasing our visibility** through education and participation with other groups.

We foster **camaraderie** through social and community activities and events. We **enrich the lives** of our members and others in our community through our wellness programs, volunteer service and financial support.



## YEARBOOK 2023

The year 2023 ushered in a new era for Tri-County Women Veterans. This was TCWV's first full year as 501c3 non-profit organization. Membership rose to a new high — over 330 women who had served in our nation's armed forces. Reflecting our new status, the TCWV Board of Directors created a Strategic Plan to guide the organization in the coming years.

The year's events kicked off with a Christmas/New Year's Party held on January 16 at the American Legion Post 347. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the food, festivities, entertaining elves, and the White Elephant present exchange. A patriotic-themed celebration on July 17 brought the joys of fellowship and White Elephant shenanigans to a very, very hot summer.

Seeking a natural alternative to traditional therapy, TCWV contracted with an equine therapy group: SADDLES Ranch/Code HORSE. Code HORSE offered a rich, therapeutic experience for women who struggle with unresolved issues to find peace, calm, and serenity. Fifteen members participated during the year.

A new venture widened awareness of TCWV throughout the state. TCWV hosted the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Conference, held June 23-25 at the Brownwood Hotel and Spa in the Villages. We raised the funds to cover all the food for the attendees, finding local sponsors to support the event.

As our Color Guard's reputation grew over the year, so did the number of requests for their involvement in veteran ceremonies and events. They participated in events throughout the three counties and as far away as St. Augustine.

By autumn, our attendance at the general meeting outgrew Palmer Country Club, where we've met for a number of years. For October and November, we held the meeting and potluck luncheon at American Legion Post 18 in Wildwood. In November, TCWV had the honor of hosting a book signing by Vice Admiral Sandra Stosz, author of *Breaking Ice & Breaking Glass: Leading in Uncharted Waters*. During her 40-year career in the Coast Guard, she was the first woman to command an icebreaker on the Great Lakes and to lead a U.S. armed forces service academy. The event was held at Sumter Senior Living, 1490 Killingsworth Way, The Villages, Florida.

We rung out the year with a Christmas celebration at Sumter Senior Living. That White Elephant made a return visit, and everyone enjoyed the festivities. On to another great year!

Our members participated in fundraising and social events throughout the year. The range of activities is apparent in these pictures.



### Current Board of Directors

President Betsy Nolan, Color Guard Commander Peggy Campbell, Second VP Flo Hurlburt, First VP Angie Flynn, Treasurer Deni Elwood and Secretary Kelly Dobson. (Third VP Joan Suelter not in photo)



2023 past Board of Directors  
Peggy Campbell, Betsy Nolan, Sue Roper, Angie Flynn & Kathy Contres

# History Committee

Sitting L-R:

Betsy Nolan,

Joan Pate'

Standing LR:

Kathy Starnes,

Clay Gish (Chair)



**Marketing Committee  
Flo Hurlburt (Chair), Kelly Dobson, Kathy Starnes, Betsy Nolan,  
Susan Padgett & Terri Friend**





Social Committee  
Joan Wentz (Chair), Valerie Carpenter, Angie Flynn, & Beth Rowley





## Golf Group

Kneeling L to R Sandie Hayes, Kathy Starnes  
 Standing L to R Marianne Estes, Joan Wentz,  
 Sandy Ellert, Susan Aungst, Betsy Nolan, Kay  
 Watkins, Dee Ebacher, Michelle Scheel, Anne  
 Lombardi holding golf club and Angie Flynn



## Golf Group

L to R Sandie Hayes, Joan Wentz, Kathy Starnes  
 (Golf Schedulers) and Lillie Battle, the founder of  
 our group.



## Golf Group

Sitting L to R Ann Lombardi, Beth Rowley, Kelly  
 Dobson, Kathy Contres, and Kathy Starnes.  
 Standing L to R Michelle Scheel, Deni Elwood, Lillie  
 Battle, Susan Aungst, and Sharie Russell

# Poker Run March 10, 2023



Winners!



# Women Veterans Day June 12, 2023





# US Air Force



# US Marine Corps





# US Army





# US Navy



# Florida Department of Veteran Affairs 75 years of Recognizing Women Veterans

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>







# Murder Mystery Fundraiser





Code H.O.R.S.E/  
S.A.D.L.E.S Ranch a  
nonprofit organization  
treating PTSD naturally,  
sustainable wellness  
with equine therapy.  
Addressing real life  
issues and challenges,  
through individual and  
family coaching,  
counseling, and  
consultation.



# Code H.O.R.S.E.



# Fundraising at Farmers Market



# Fundraising at Belle Glade Trivia



Sitting Joan Sullivan, Marianne Estes, Ellen Tierney, Valerie Carpenter, & Dee Ebacher. Standing Sue Roper, Besty Nolan, & Carol Kalinowski



Sitting: Crystal Martin, Betsy Nolan, Tess McCorkmick Dee Ebacher. Standing :Sue Roper, Marianne Estes & Carol Kalinowski.



Susan Aungst, Marianne Estes, ?, Valerie Carpenter, Carol Kalinowski, Ellen Tierney, Dee Ebacher and Ann Lombardi



Standing: Carol Kalinowski, Betsy Nolan, Sue Roper. Sitting: Janet Arnett, Kelly Morgan and Ellen Tierney.

# Parades

## St. Patrick Parade



## Heritage Parade



# Veterans Memorial Park

## Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

March 29, 2023



## Armed Forces Day

May 20, 2023. Thank you all for attending our VMP Armed Forces Day Ceremony! Proud Army Veteran Michelle Boshears was the guest speaker, and she was AWESOME! After the ceremony many of us went to Mission BBQ for free “chow” and another opportunity to enjoy the special camaraderie we have as PROUD WOMEN VETERANS!





# Veterans Memorial Park

Memorial Day  
May 29, 2023



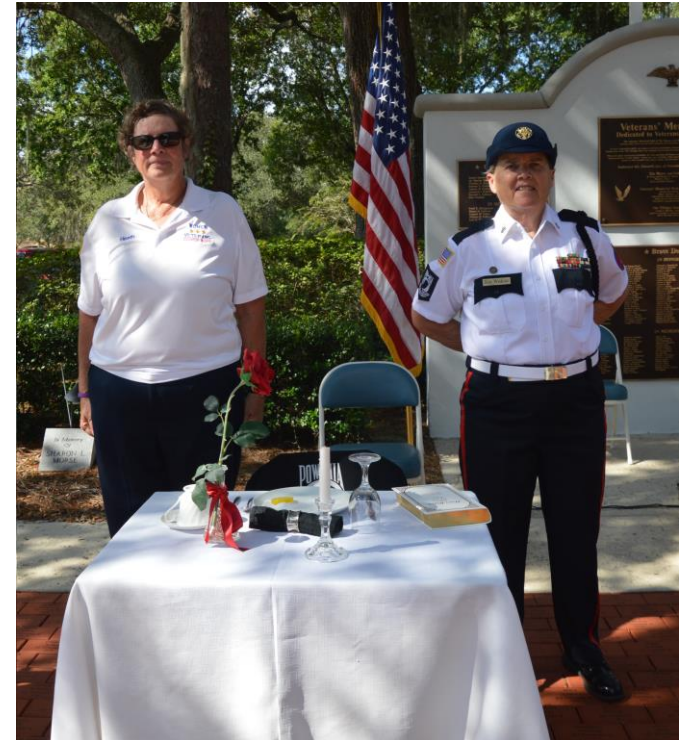
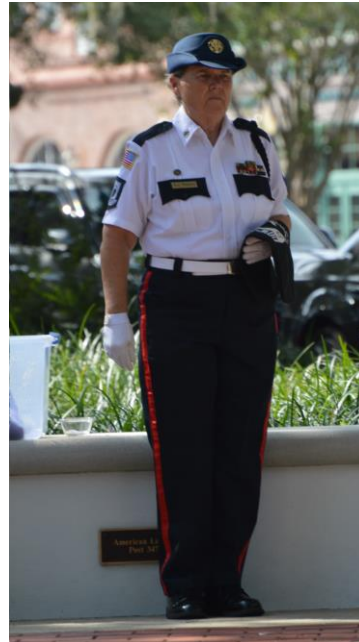
July 4, 2023



# Veterans Memorial Park

## POW – MIA

September 15, 2023



# Veterans Memorial Park – Veterans Day Nov. 11, 2023



# Veterans Memorial Park – Veterans Day 2023



Tri-County Women Veterans commemorate 82nd anniversary of Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor at The Veterans Memorial Park in The Villages. PROUD Army veteran and TCWV member Chaplain Christina Regule was the guest speaker.





# Guest Speakers

## Christina Regule



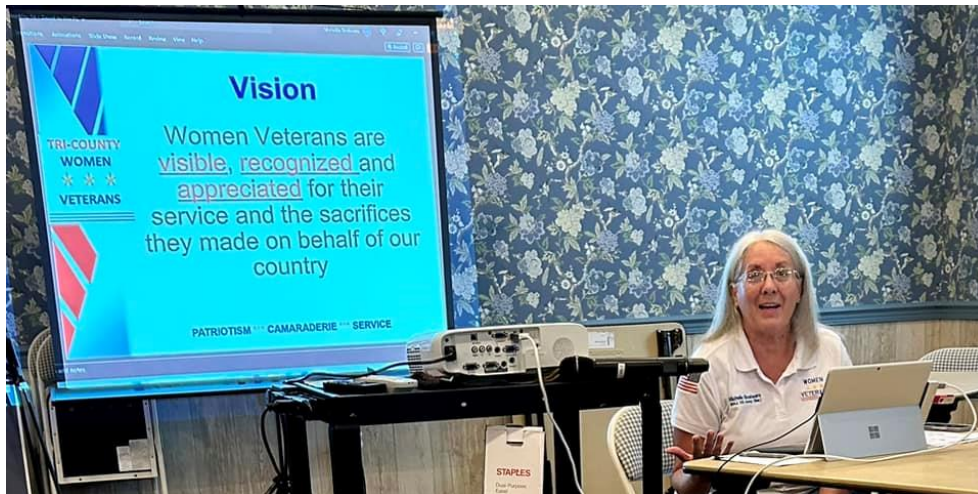
## Judith & Chance



Dorothy Ebacher taught attendees how to sign the Pledge of Allegiance. Not an easy task but she is a great instructor.



Navy veteran Dr. Carrie Dixon gave a fantastic "Empowering Mind, Body, Spirit" presentation to the women veterans.



"The Story Of Tri-County Women Veterans, Inc." presented by Michelle Boshears



“Let’s Party With Paint!” social event was truly a fun event. Thank you, Pat Pascoli, for organizing and let’s do it again!







# Bowling Fundraisers



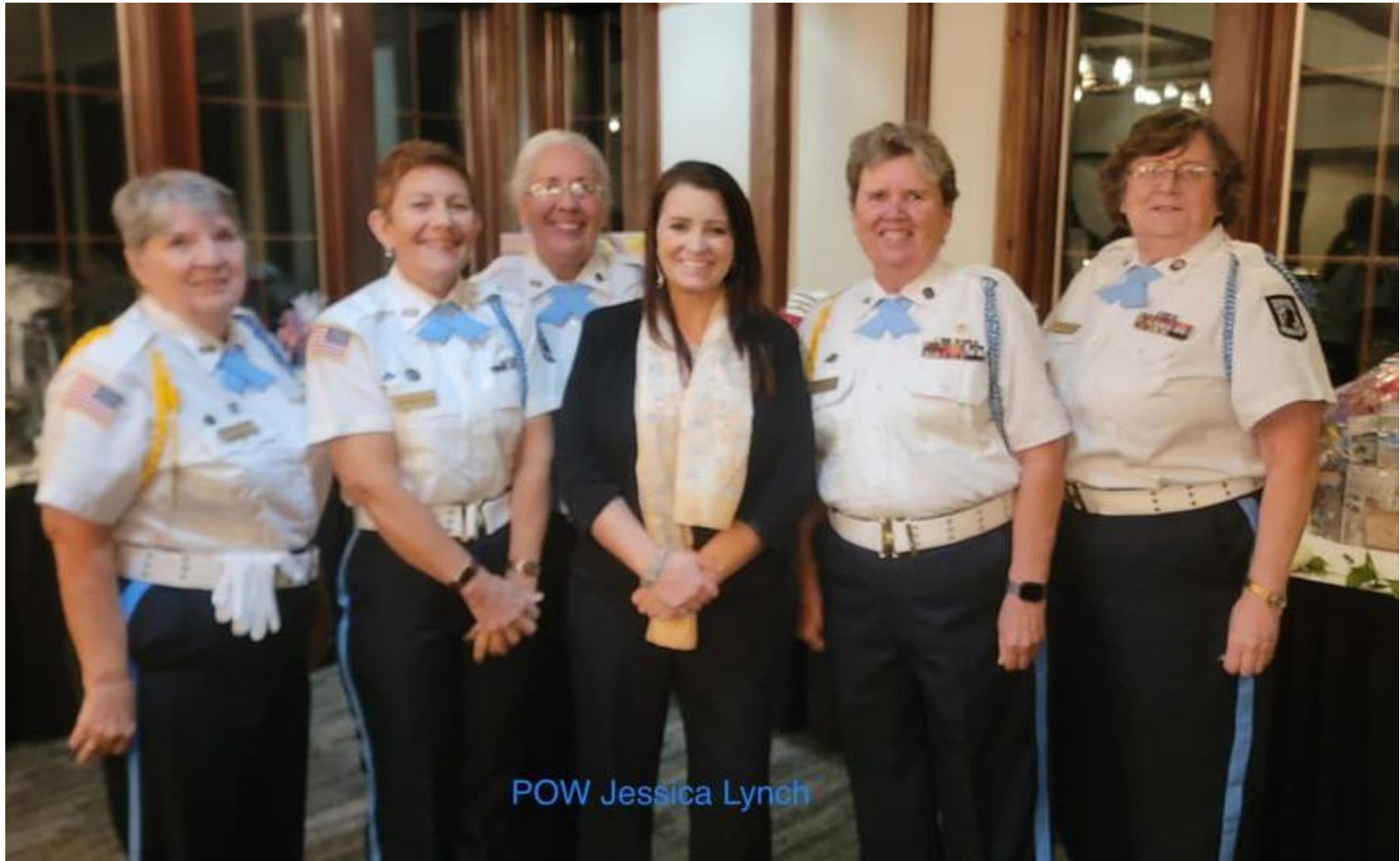


# Villagers Honor Flight Mission #59





Hope for Veterans - Military Women - Nov. 4, 2023, St Augustine  
Tri County Women Veterans Color Guard with POW Jessica Lynch

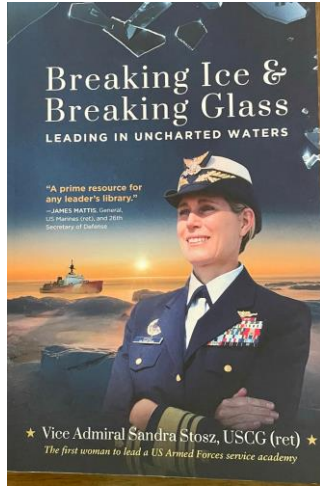


POW Jessica Lynch

# Night Golf at Saddlebrook



# Vice Admiral Sandra Stosz's Book Signing at Sumter Senior Living on November 29th



# Tri-County Women Veterans honoring Veterans with Wreaths Across America at Bushnell National Cemetery.





# Tri-County Women Veterans Christmas Party at Sumter Senior Living







## Jan Adams – Navy

Leaving employment for the State of Texas, Jan joined the Navy in 1975. She spent most of her career as an analyst and manager in C3I systems in Navy and Joint assignments, including the Pentagon Navy Command Center during Desert Storm and as Branch Chief, C3I Interoperability for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She held command three times, the most memorable being Commanding Officer of Naval Station Pascagoula, MS. As a Captain, she was national Operations Officer for the Military Entrance Processing Command when 9/11 struck. Jan graduated from Sam Houston State University, Naval Postgraduate School, and Syracuse National Decision-Making Seminar. She retired after 28 years to her native Houston, TX, before moving to The Villages in 2019.



## Gina Alderman – Navy

A native of Arkansas, Gina joined the Air Force at age 21. Serving as a Medical Administrative Specialist she received a BS Degree in Healthcare Management from Park University. Following in her father's footsteps, she applied to the Navy as a Hospital Administrator, Medical Service Corps. During her first Navy duty station, Gina received an MS in Management from Troy University, Pensacola, FL. She had 13 duty stations in the south & southeast, including a tour at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Gina was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal & 2 awards of the Navy Meritorious Service Medal. Following her retired from the Navy as a Commander (O-5), Gina moved to the Tampa Bay area with her husband, Navy Commander Lance Alderman. Gina & Lance created a veteran nonprofit, the Rugged Warrior Healing Coalition, LLC. Through the nonprofit, Gina has hosted a women veteran resilience retreat, & published 2 book anthologies written with other military veterans. The books are titled, "Veterans Unchained – breaking the chain of trauma one link at a time," and "Veterans Unchained – Lessons Learned." Gina is focused on supporting other veterans through connection & healing activities.



## DeVonna R. Allison – Marine Corps

My name is DeVonna R. Allison. I served in the Marines from 1981-87, having enlisted at the AFEES station in Los Angeles. I started as an admin files clerk and ended my career as an Admin Chief. I was proud to be a Marine though the atmosphere in the Corps was toxic toward women at the time. My husband Earl is also a Marine, having served for nine years, 1979-88. We have been married 41 years, have four children and four grandchildren. We raised our family in Michigan and retired to Ocala in 2019. I'm a writer and would be interested in connecting with any women veterans who also write. Semper Fi!"



## Jo-Ann Anglace – Navy

I joined the Navy in January 1965, as an 18-year-old. boot camp at Bainbridge, Maryland, Company 2, after boot I was sent to dental technician school in San Diego and then assigned to the Dental Clinic in Newport, RI. I enjoyed my time in the Navy, but things were different for women back then, I married, started a family & had to leave the Navy. I have a daughter Wendy who is a stay-at-home Mom & a son Bill who retired from the Army after 25 years as a first sergeant & now is an X-Ray technician. We have 4 grandchildren 2 boys & 2 girls, 2 step grandchildren & 6 great grandchildren. My husband Bob (also a Navy veteran) & I have been married 30 years. We met at a Ski Club in 1984, we led an active life of skiing, biking, both road & mountain. I worked for Aerosol Techniques in Research & Development, Owens IL in Quality Assurance. I took some college classes in 1979 registered at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT & received my Bachelor Science degree in Business Management in 1987. It was a long 8 1/2 years but something I'm very proud of. In 1988, I started a new job at Aquarion Water Company as a Lab Technician & was promoted to Customer Service Coordinator in Water Quality Management. I retired from Aquarion in 2005. We moved to The Villages in May of 2005. Bob worked for the VA in The Villages in Medical Records until 2017, we are both retired & have been enjoying our life in The Villages.



## Janet Arnett – Navy

From Cleveland, OH, Janet was commissioned Ensign Navy Nurse Corps July 1969. She served 3 years active duty, 8 years reserve then 20 active duty. Her duty stations include Women Officer Candidate School Newport, RI; NH Jacksonville, FL; NH Albany, GA; Branch Clinic, Barbers Point, HI; and NH San Diego's Clinical nurse. San Diego State University for Graduate School. She served as Education & Training Dept. Head at NH Okinawa, Japan and NH Oakland, CA. She served as Academic Director, NHCS Great Lakes, IL. Multiple reserve stations in CO, CA, FL, and ME. She retired as Captain with highest award MSN/w Bronze Star. Worst duty station was NH Albany, GA and the best and most fun NHCS, Great Lakes, IL. Currently Commander of Stonecrest Veterans Club.



## Nancy Atkinson - Navy

Nancy joined Navy Nurse Corps as a LTJG from Detroit, MI after 10 years civilian nursing in June 1973. She went to OIS, Newport, RI. She served as ICU/CCU nurse at NRMIC Portsmouth, VA; NH Beaufort, SC; NH Gitmo, Cuba; NRMIC Charleston, SC and NH 29 Palm, CA. She transferred Nov. '87 to Reserves Unit Charleston, SC as LCDR. Shae was in 7 different reserve units over a period of 12 years as the CO in last 3 units. Her last Reserve Unit, NRNH 1109 Greensboro, NC where she retired as Captain. Highest award is MSN. She met and married Robert, a Dental Officer at NH Beaufort. After retirement, she served one term President, NNCA. Nancy has one son, 3 step-daughters, and 7 grandchildren.



## Susan J. Aungst – Air Force

Susan was a Florida beach girl that ran into an opportunity, she accidentally knocked over the Air Force ROTC booth at Birmingham-Southern College and signed up. After graduating, she attended eight months of training in Biloxi, MS for Communication-Electronics. When asked where she wanted to go next she said, well, I've never been west of the Mississippi. So, Susan spent the next 20 years travelling the world. Some places were fun, others were hell holes. She excelled in the field of Combat Communications because it required being smart AND strong. Susan served in several deployments and major exercises. For her heroism under fire during Desert Storm, she was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Susan became a Villager in 2018 and joined the Tri-County Women Veterans.



## Sharon Baldwin – Army

Sharon was born and raised in Iowa. Her Father served in the US Air Force during the Korean War and planted the seed for military service. After High School Sharon enlisted in the US Army as a Flute/Piccolo player and served from 1983-1991 in Texas and Alaska. Following active-duty service, she enjoyed a 25-year career as an Air Traffic Controller with the Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense.



## Lillie Battle – Army

Lillie Battle enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in January 1973, commencing her service with a period of comprehensive training. Following her training, she undertook 2 tours in Germany, where she fulfilled responsibilities within the Personnel division. In early 1981, Ms. Battle was reassigned to the distinguished US Army Recruiting Command, assuming the role of a recruiter focused on engaging high school students. For approximately 2 years, she successfully recruited these students, before attaining a promotion to recruit nurses for the esteemed Army Nurse Corps. Demonstrating exceptional proficiency, Ms. Battle swiftly ascended to the esteemed position of Nurse Station Commander, leading & supervising a team of recruiters for over 12 years in the state of New Jersey. Her unwavering dedication & outstanding performance as a recruiter resulted in the esteemed honor of earning the Gold Recruiter Badge for excellence. This accomplishment allowed her to remain with the same battalion throughout the final 12 years of her illustrious military career, which proved particularly advantageous as she was single-handedly raising a young child, alone. Having served with distinction, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Battle retired from the US Army in August 1994, culminating a remarkable tenure marked by her unwavering commitment and exceptional achievements".



## Celeste Bisson – Air Force

Celeste F Bisson, Major, USAFR

Served 1983 to 2008

I've lived in the villages since 2004.



## Linda Wilbourn (Ware) Blunt – Air Force

Born in Fairfield, VA Linda enlisted at age 21 in Roanoke, VA after 3 ½ years of college. Linda's military service included: Air Force Disbursements Accounting Specialist 15 Mar 1968-12 Feb 1971. Basic Training from 15 Mar-7 May 1968, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX. Specialized schooling as finance specialist from May-Jul 1968, Air Force Technical Training Center, Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX. First assignment was to 380 Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAC) as a Finance Specialist, Plattsburg AFB NY. Reporting date 5 Aug 1968. Married Milton R. Blunt, former veteran, on 29 Nov 1969. Second assignment was Elmendorf ABF, Anchorage, Alaska as an Accountant Maintenance clerk & card punch operator in support of pay, travel & comptroller services. Her final promotion was to Sergeant on 1 Mar 1970. Honorable Discharge 12 Feb 1971. While enlisted, Linda sent a letter to President Nixon in Oct 1970 expressing the unfairness of privileges for military women. Receiving a phone call & written correspondence from the Pentagon. Linda was given assurance that the issue was being resolved for all military women. Linda's remaining career was in finance & accounting while raising two sons.



## Christine "Chris" Boetticher – Army

When Chris was attending Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she joined the Army Student Nurse Program. There were 11 other students, (a quarter of the senior nursing class), who took the oath of office with her. Following graduation, Chris was stationed at hospitals in Pennsylvania, Okinawa, and Maryland. It was at Carlisle Barracks, that she learned what it was to be a General Duty Nurse. For there, she was trained in all specialties that the hospital offered. Following her service, the GI bill afforded her the opportunity to obtain her MA in Education at San Francisco State University. She had a varied nursing career, holding both staff, supervisory, and educational positions. Chris has stayed busy in The Villages since 2004 enjoying a variety of activities, but she makes frequent trips to South Bend, IN to not only see her family but to root for the IRISH!



## Michelle Boshears – Army

Michelle aspired to an Army career at a young age. She was in the first ROTC class open to women at her High School and the first class of women to graduate from New Mexico Military Institute where she received her commission in 1979. Her career included contingency logistics at SHAPE HQ, Belgium; Company Commander at Ft. Lewis, WA; Logistics Executive Officer at AMC HQ in Alexandria, VA; Director of Logistics in Korea, and Director of Training at Ft. Lee, VA where she retired as a Major. One of Michelle's favorite career memories was jumping out of a balloon to earn her Belgian Jump Wings. She met her husband Steven, also a career Army Officer, at Ft. Leavenworth. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.



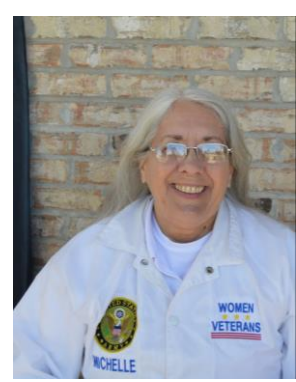
## Laverne Bradley – Marine Corps

Laverne enlisted in the Marines at the age of 20 and went to Parris Island, SC for boot camp. She served as a Corporal from 1968 to 1971 working in the federal buildings in Philadelphia, PA and Cincinnati OH. Laverne loves to learn and be active and was successful in earning an Associate Degree. She went on to be a pre-school teacher for 26 years. Laverne also worked at the Leesburg Hospital Learning Center for 13 years. Married for 25 years, she divorced in 1996. Laverne has two boys, Woody and Derek, 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She enjoys yoga, line dancing, and traveling. Laverne volunteers serving ice cream from the Holy Cow Ice Cream Truck at the Garden Worship Center.



## Julie Branson – Army

Julie was in the US Army from 1974-1977. She was first stationed at Ft. Knox, Ky managing supplies. She was later transferred to Frankfort, Germany. Julie made good use of her time in Germany and really enjoyed herself. Julie was frequently one of the few women in the Army and remembers being one of two women who were housed separate from the men's barracks. They were housed in the recreation area. Julie hails from Michigan and has been married to her husband, Bob, for 16 years. They love traveling in their RV motorhome and taking both long and short trips. She has a daughter and grandchildren in Michigan.







## Juliette Bridgeman – Army

Julie entered active duty to the Army Nurse Corps. In 1978 a direct commission at age 22 Nurses basic training in San Antonio, TX. Julie was assigned to Landstuhl Army Med Center in Germany, and William Beaumont Army Med Center, El Paso, TX with the focus on SICU and Women's Health. Then on to Ft. Bragg, NC to Nurse Practitioner School. In 1985 assigned to Ft. Campbell, KY as OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner, then Head Nurse Labor and Delivery. Discharged in 1988, a Captain, recalled a Major in the reserves during Desert Shield, In 1995 returning to Ft. Campbell, KY as a Nurse Practitioner for 23 as a DOD Civilian. Julie met her husband Greg in Germany, married 42 years, and has 2 sons.



## Carole Bruce – Marine Corps

Carole joined the Marine Corps in 1975 and went to boot camp and admin school at Parris Island, SC. In 24 years of service, she moved 13 times. She primarily did admin and legal work and spent several years as a court stenographer after a two-year college program in California. Carole was promoted to GySgt in 1985 and was selected to the Warrant Officer program in 1987. Prior to her retirement, she served as Adjutant, Legal and Personnel Officer. She retired in 1999 as CWO4. Carole's favorite duty stations were Okinawa, Japan; Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor and Marine Barracks, Puerto Rico. She moved to The Villages in 2016 and has a daughter Amy who lives in Raleigh, NC. Her hometown in Mechanicsburg, PA.



## Jill Bulmash – Army

Military Police Sergeant First Class (E7) Dates of Service: ARMY 1981-2006. Jill was born in Chicago, IL and joined the Army while employed full time as a Chicago police officer. She did most of her reserve duty as an Army Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor with the 5150<sup>th</sup> Marksmanship Training Unit out of Fort Sheridan IL., and as member of the 86<sup>th</sup> Arcom Pistol Team. After 22 years, Jill retired from the Chicago Police Department and then devoted herself to various full time active-duty tours with the Army. One such tour of duty just days after the 9-11 attack was a joint mission with the Army Corps of Engineers. This included Risk Assessments and installing Electronic Security Systems for Federal properties in multiple states. Her last tour before retirement was in 2003 at Camp Bucca, Iraq attached to the 724<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion. Currently, Jill lives in The Villages, FL, & is an active woodworker and member of the Villages Woodworking Club. She lives with her spouse Linda Friedman.



## Terry Burton – Coast Guard

California raised, Terry joined the Coast Guard in Honolulu, age 26 and served 1977 - 1988. After OCS, Terry served aboard USCGC Gallatin in NYC as deck watch officer and comms officer. Missions included chasing Caribbean drug runners, SAR during volcanic eruptions, firefighting a sinking cruise ship, investigating Atlantic foreign fishing fleets, Navy war games in Guantanamo Bay. In Miami, she handled telecoms in Florida and Caribbean, obtained a CS Master's from UM and managed a law enforcement system for ships and aircraft. Terry worked for American Airlines IT, Network manager at Hodges University and network admin/engineer for LabCorp, Fort Myers. She volunteered for 10 years as boat crew in the USCG Auxiliary. Terry and Ron live in The Villages, enjoy bicycle riding and cruising worldwide.



## Michelle Butler – Army

Michelle entered the United States Army in 1974 at a young age. She served three tours in West Germany which she loved and was also stationed several times at Fort Bragg North Carolina. Michelle holds the air borne, air assault, drill sergeant and the Fort Bragg recondo badge. She served two tours in Grana West Indies. Later she earned the Southwest Asian metal, the Kuwait Liberation metal along with other United States Army metals and awards. After serving 20 years in the Army Michelle taught public school for 21 years and is now happily retired in the Villages Florida.



## Kathi Cahall – Navy

Kathi grew up in Maryland; enlisted in the Navy at 34 while in Maine and completed her MBA in 1988. She served in the Antisubmarine Warfare Operations Center (ASWOC), Maine and Bermuda; and earned her Bluenose in Thule, Greenland. Other duty stations were Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NAVCOMTELSTA), Italy; and Jacksonville, FL; NAVCOMTELSTA Master Station, Spain; Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), Washington, DC. Temporary Duty was Navy Steel Band, New Orleans, Mardi Gras Security; Armed Forces Inaugural Committee in DC 2000-2001 and 2005; and Chief of Naval Operations. Kathi was hired by NCIS after retirement. She is a member of TCWV Color Guard, CERT, is CERT Foundation Treasurer, and enjoys golf, traveling, a book club and a knitting club.



## Karen Campbell – Army

Karen enlisted in the Army in 1978 and served 33 years. She went to Ft. Dix for basic and trained as a Topographic Surveyor at Ft. Belvoir, VA where she later returned as an instructor. In 1987, Karen transferred to the Reserves, holding training and leadership position, including selection after 9/11, as Command Sergeant Major of the USAR hospital. She retired in 2011 as a Sergeant Major. One of her many accomplishments was 2<sup>nd</sup> place Drill Sergeant of the Year for the Reserve Component! Karen's father was in the Air Force and her brothers served in the Marines, Navy and Army. In addition to her military service, she was a civilian at her Reserve unit. She has been married to her wife, Maria, for 8 years.



## Peggy Campbell – Navy

Peggy was born in Clearfield PA, entered bootcamp at NTC Bainbridge in 1968, three days after turning 18. Orders sent her to NAVSTA San Diego as OJT Storekeeper where she was discharged in 1970. Since retiring in Florida, she has found her niche in different leadership positions within the military veteran community, including Commander for the Veterans Memorial Park Honor Guard, founder and Commander Tri-County Women Veterans Color Guard and founder/President of Bainbridge WAVE organization. During the Honor Flight in June 2022, she presented the wreath at the ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She's been married 43 years to Ed. She has 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, 4 stepchildren, 18 step grands and great grans.



## Valerie Carpenter – Navy

Pittsburgh native Captain Valerie Carpenter's career path was often the result of being in the right place at the right time and a willingness to take a chance on the unknown. She joined the Navy in 1977, was one of the 1st women to be assigned to sea duty, the first Combat Systems Department Head onboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) and selected as the program manager for 2 major Enterprise Resource Planning systems. She retired from the Navy in September 2005. Continued to support the Navy as a civilian earning a Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2015. Retired in 2016 and relocated to The Villages in Florida. CAPT Carpenter is the wife of Bo Carpenter, and they have one son, Chris.



## Cheri Carpico – Navy

My enlistment began in 1976 and ended in my retirement in 1996. When I enlisted, I had three goals: stay in Navy for 20 years, wear gold after 12 years of good conduct and make Chief before I retired. I am proud to say that I met all my goals! I was a West Coast sailor except for a year on the USS Canopus AS-34 in Kings Bay Georgia. I served on two additional ships; USS Dixon AS-37 and USS McKee AS-41, both being in San Diego. All three ships were Submarine Tenders thus I was mostly associated with the Submarine Navy. I was lucky enough to be a crew member for a day on the Submarine USS William H. Bates SSN—680 at sea which was an Awesome experience! Loved my career!



## Sonya Carson – Air Force

Sonya enlisted in the Air Force at 19. She trained as a Medical Laboratory Specialist at Sheppard and Lackland AF bases. While active duty, she obtained an Associate of Medical Laboratory Technology and was promoted to SSgt. She returned to civilian life to raise a family and complete a BS in Biology and a Masters in Education. In 1990, she was commissioned into the AF. She was Chief, Laboratory Sciences at Cannon AFB, then handpicked to teach at Sheppard. From there, she was Chief, Diagnostics and Therapeutics Flight at Howard AFB, Panama. She was selected AF Clinical Manager of the Year. She was then stationed in Georgia and Germany, where she deployed for Iraqi Freedom. She retired from Wilford Hall Medical Center as Chief of the largest Core Laboratory in DOD.



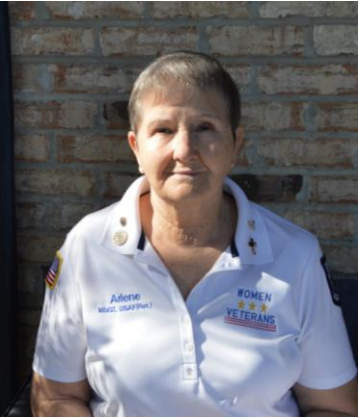
## Carolyn Chorak – Army

Carolyn entered the Women's Army Corps in 1975 at Ft. McClellan, AL. As women were fully integrated with men, her most memorable situation was being one of five female officers stationed at Ft. Bragg, CA. home of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and providing leadership to all her troops, while shepherding the first 100 enlisted women stationed there. Carolyn's MOS was Military Police, serving also as a Security Inspector, Nuclear Weapons Security Officer, and Company Commander. She later worked as a Public Affairs Officer. She had overseas duty in Germany and Japan. She retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after 21 years. After retiring she worked in Human Resources at Sea World and HEB, a grocery chain based in Texas.



## Arlene Clarke – Air Force

Arlene grew up in Ashville, NC & joined the Air Force at the age of 22 in 1975. She served in Texas, Germany, Colorado, NC, Sicily, Altus, SC, GA, IL, Retired from MacDill AFB, FL. The first 11 years as Financial Services in Military Pay, the last 11 years as Medical Officer Recruiter for the AF Reserves. Graduated from Air Force Education Command all levels of Professional Military Education in Residence, NCO Academy, Senior Non-Commissioned Officers & Total Quality Management Course. Medals awarded were AF Achievement Medal, Meritorious Service Medal: National Defense Medal: Armed Forces Reserve Medal Good Conduct Medal. She was proud to be named Medical Recruiter of the Year in 1996. Retired in 1997 as MSGT (E7). Continued her service as a Medical Recruiter for a company that recruited Nationwide for Pharmaceutical Sales Reps & then owned her own company recruiting all medical positions for Pharmaceutical Companies. She is married to Carl Clarke Col. USAF (Retired 33 yrs.) married for 25 years, has one son, 2 stepchildren, 2 grandchildren, & 4 step grandchildren. Hobbies; travel; golf & cards.



## Kathlene “Kathy” Contres – Navy

CAPT Kathlene Contres served in Navy from 1980-2020. Her duty stations included Washington D.C., Guam, Hawaii, San Diego, Long Beach, Buffalo, Millington, & FL. Her assignments were in Manpower, Personnel, & Training. Kathy’s Senior leadership positions included Commanding Officer of Navy Recruiting District Buffalo and the Pentagon. As the Navy’s highest-ranking Latina, Kathy was hand-selected as the Commandant of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute for her final assignment. One of her favorite duties was serving on President Obama’s Presidential Commission that studied & made recommendations to him regarding Diversity Leadership in the Military. She is the VP of Tri-County Women Veterans and actively supports other military focused organizations.



## Cynthia “Cindy” Cooper – Navy

Cindy was born in Iola, Kansas and was raised in Springfield, IL. She enlisted in the Navy at the age of 19. She did her basic training at the US Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, MD as well as training for her job a Radioman. She served all her time in the military in Washington D.C.. Her proudest moment was when she was made Recruit Chief Petty Officer of her bootcamp platoon. After discharge she went on to college and had a career in education as a teacher, guidance counselor, and Dean of Students. Cindy and wife Patty have been together for 17 years and have been married since 2015.



## Gloria Corbet – Army

With a Bachelors Degree in Chemistry, Gloria went into the Army in Aug. 1965, as a Second Lieutenant. She was 25 years old when she joined & completed Basic Officer Training at Ft. McClellan, AL. She went on to teach Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Warfare. She went to Okinawa for 18-months & Commanded the only WAC Detachment on the island. On returning to the US, she was sent to Computer School, & on to purchase computers & develop programs that projected needs into the future. She got a Masters Degree in 1975, and retired in Oct. 1985, after a career where she was able to do so many things that she never thought she would get to do as a female military officer.



## Dianna Cox – Air Force

Dianna entered the AF in Detroit, MI in July 1976. She was able to “test out” of technical school & go direct duty to Moody AFB, GA. She worked as a medical technician at a small military hospital. She stays connected with many she of her coworkers. Further assignments included Elmendorf, Anchorage, AK & Hill AFB, Ogden, UT. After 11 years ADAF, she joined the AF Reserves to complete her college degree. Reserves duty assignments were Hi AFB, UT, Portland, OR, & Davis Monthan, AZ. She went TDY with F-16 units, both on active duty & in the reserves. She retired after 34 years as a SMSgt. Her proudest moment was an incentive ride in an F-16 with her mentor pilot.



## Jennifer Croughwell – Air Force

Jennifer was born in Brooklyn, New York, but lived on both coasts of the US before settling in Las Vegas, Nevada. With Nellis AFB close by and Red Flag air combat exercises overhead, she decided the Air Force was for her. She went to USAFA, where she earned jump wings at Ft Benning, and obtained a degree in Astronautical Engineering. After graduation, she became a logistics officer at Homestead AFB and then Davis-Monthan AFB. While in the Air Force, she obtained an MBA. After serving, Jennifer stayed home to raise her two children, and then returned to school in 2009, earning a doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Illinois, Chicago. She is still a practicing pharmacist at the Orlando VA Medical Center. Jennifer swims with VAST and competes nationally. She is married to Ed and has lived in The Villages since 2017.



## Susan Cuyler– Army

Susan enlisted into the Army in 1983. Assignments consisted of Ft. Dix, NJ; Ft. Carson, CO; NTC, CA; Wurzburg Germany; Ft. Leonard Wood, MO; Ft. Eustis, VA; Sinai, Egypt Multinational Forward Observer & Recruiting Command Lansing, MI. Duties consisted of Drivers Training Inst., Brigade Admin NCO, Correctional Custody NCO, Drill Instructor, AIT Instructor, Drill Academy Leader, Truckmaster, First SGT, NBC, Battalion EO, Battalion S3 Training NCO, Recruiting NCO, SR. MEPS Guidance Counselor. Awards: Meritorious Service Medal (3); Army Achievement Medal (8); Army Good Conduct Medal (6); Nat'l. Defense Service Medal (2); Global War on Terrorism Medal; Non-Commission Officers Professional Ribbon (3); & Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service (3); Drill SGT Badge; Master Recruiting. Retired in 2005 as an E8/MSG



## Kim Cyr – Army

Kim Cyr enlisted in the US Army Reserve at 17 in communications as a split option (ie. basic training between junior & senior year of high school, specialty training after graduation). After graduation I attended the University of Vermont & entered ROTC as a Junior in my freshman year of college. After graduating College, I was branched transportation & stationed at Ft. Eustis VA. I was in rapid deployment units traveling to Honduras, Alaska, Germany, & Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm. After Desert Storm I joined the VA National Guard & then transferred to CT National Guard, initially a traditional part time soldier. However, within a year a fulltime opportunity arose in the CT National Guard where I held several positions (Operations Officer, S-1, J4, Counterdrug Coordinator, OCS Battalion Commander, Regimental Deputy, & emergency operations). I qualified for a second branch certification in Quartermaster. Along the way I earned a masters, met my husband (and my running partner), & had 3 children. I retired in 2010 from the National Guard with 23 years of active service & 6 years in the reserves.



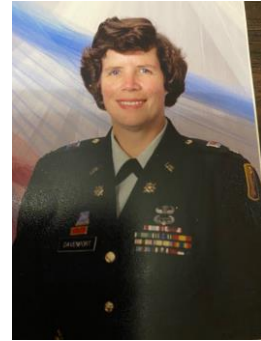
## Julia Dallman – Army

Julia served in the Army from 1983-2015. A native of Davenport, Iowa, joined the Army on the DEP at the age of 17. Served in the Signal Corps for 3 years then attended Austin Peay State University earning a BBA and a MS in Public and Community Health gaining a commission as a Medical Service Corps Officer. Served 32 years. Proudest jobs were Chief of Personnel at Madigan Army Hospital (1997-1999) and Walter Reed Army Hospital (2006-2007). Highest Award Bronze Star serving in Iraq 2009-2010. Taught JROTC for 3 years in Germany after retirement and currently works as a community Interpreter for the Deaf Community here in the Villages. My wife Susan is a high school biology teacher at the Village Charter School.



## Heath Nancy Davenport – Army

LT Colonel Heath Davenport began her military career in 1975 at Texas Tech University ROTC program, graduating in 1978 as Cadet Battalion Commander. An intelligence officer in the Army. Heath assignments included Field Station Augsburg, West Germany; National Training Center, Ft. Irwin; 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks (2 tours); US Army Pacific; 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; the Pentagon (2 tours) & Seoul, South Korea. In 1990, she deployed to Desert Storm as Assistant Operations Officer, responsible for night shift collection operations analysis & reporting in Iraq. She completed her career in 2003, serving in the Pentagon as Director of Army Intelligence Master Plan. She is a Scuba diving instructor, still enjoys playing sports and traveling and proudly serves on the American Legion Honor Guard.



## Nancy Densler – Army

Nancy was born & grew up in Lopatcong Township, NJ. She joined the service in 1978 after attending a year of college & joined on delayed entry, so she could still be in her best friend's wedding in July. Nancy attended Columbia, SC for Basic & Indianapolis, IN for AIT to be a computer operator (74D10). The rest of her time in Atlanta, Ga at Fort McPherson. Nancy worked 2nd shift in the computer room running a huge computer system that printed pay checks. After the service, she moved back to NJ & went to work at AT&T. She started in the computer room at Bell Labs working her way up to Programmer for the tax section. Nancy retired after 36 years on Nov 2, 2021, as a Lead Analyst for AT&T Business. Nancy enjoys spending time with my boyfriend of 12 years, playing pickle ball and golf.



## Carrie Dixon – Navy

Carrie was born in Mississippi & raised in Central Indiana. She graduated from Holy Cross School of Nursing in 1971. She entered the Navy as a registered nurse & served at The Naval Regional Medical Center in San Diego, CA. In 1985, she obtained a PHD in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. In 1987, she obtained her H.S.P.P independent psychology practice status. Her private practice consisted primarily of medicaid, forensic & veteran disability evaluations. She is a member of The American Legion, the National Association of Black Veterans & life member of the American Veterans. She is also a life member of the International Association of Black Psychologists & has actively served on the National, Regional & Chapter board of directors. She authored & choreographed an aerobics video entitled 'Spiritual Aerobics'. She has three adult children & three grandchildren. She enjoys vacationing, live theater, dancing, movies & socializing with family & friends.





## Kelly Dobson – Marine Corps

Kelly grew up in an Air Force family and spent most of her childhood in Florida. After completing Marine Corps boot camp and avionics basic school, she was assigned to MCAS Tustin, CA to work on helicopters as an electrician. Kelly later transferred to MCAS El Toro, CA to the famed VMA-214 Black Sheep squadron and deployed to Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. Her last assignment was at NAS Cecil Field, FL, with VMA-142 Flying Gators. Kelly and her husband Mark have been married over 40 years and have three sons. She acquired her Bachelors & Masters in Education and Education Specialist degree in Curriculum & Instruction. She served as adjunct professor at College of Southern Maryland, Director of Head Start & Assistant Principal in Maryland where she retired in 2020 after 24 years. Kelly continues to enrich others through her Sunshine Crafters social club by helping them to reach their paper crafting potential.



## Donna Dow – Navy

A native of central Maine, Donna joined the Navy at age 18 after a year in the delayed entry program during her senior year in high school. She completed basic training in Orlando, FL. After attending AZ Class “A” school in Meridian, MS, Donna was assigned to VT19 squadron. She then attended the B.O.O.S.T. Program in San Diego, CA., later returning to NAS Meridian, MS, assigned to COMTRAWING ONE until honorably discharged in 1986 as an E-5 (AZ2). She remained in MS working for Dynalectron Corp. until moving back to Maine, working in Human Resources. Donna and her husband, Phil, have 4 children and 3 grandchildren, and retired to The Villages in 2019. She joined the Tri County Women Veterans group the following year.



## Darlene Drazenovich – Army

Born in Pottsville, PA, Darlene joined the U.S. Army as a Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class in the Medical Field in 1978 & was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt in 1979 in the Medical Service Corps. She entered active duty in 1980 as a Signal Corps Officer & retired as a Major from the U.S. Army in 1997. She began her Civil Service career in 1996 with the NTIA as a Telecommunications Specialist & then Telecom Manager & Division Chief in the Office of Spectrum Management. She retired in 2017 after having participated as a U.S. delegate & later as Deputy Head of the U.S. Delegation to several Intl. Telecom Union treaty conferences on revising the Int. Radio Regulations. She received a BS from Drexel University, a MS from the University of Northern Colorado, & Doctor of Science from Robert Morris University in Information Systems & Communications. She published a thesis on the Use of Radar Data in Air Traffic Control & associated academic journals articles. Darlene moved to The Villages in 2016, & is a practicing Catholic, an active member of St. Timothy Catholic Church, & Coordinator of several Spiritual Ministries.



## Dorothy “Dee” Ebacher – Navy

Born on 11-8-1951 in Bismarck, ND. Oldest of 3 sisters & 4 brothers. Dorothy enlisted in the Navy, Nov. 1970 in Duluth, MN & attended Basic Training in Bainbridge, MD Jan. 1971. Dorothy’s Dad was Army National Guard, Brother Marine, another Brother Air Force & 2 Uncles Navy. After Basic, stationed Jacksonville, FL Personnel Administration and Secretary to Chief of Staff & Commodore. Service 1971 to 1974, discharged Jan. 1974 with the rank of YN3. Dorothy returned to Minnesota, took classes in Sign Language 1988 to 1992 and became a Sign Language Interpreter. She has 6 children & 12 grandchildren. Dorothy moved to Ft. Myers, FL 2009 & The Villages, 2016. Retired 2019. Hobbies are sewing, quilting & golf. She loved time in the Navy for the whole experience & retained lifetime friendships.



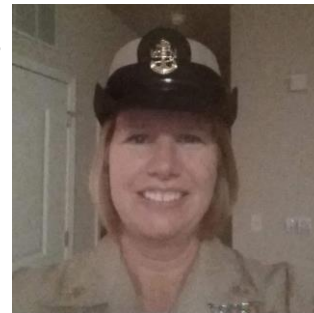
## Jan Edmondson – Air Force

Jan was born in Kentucky. She earned a BSN from Murray State University in 1975. Following graduation, she worked in the operating room in Louisville, Ky. She was commissioned in the AF in 1978 & earned a Masters in Health Services Management. She completed Squadron Officers School, Air Command & Staff College & a Quality Assurance Fellowship in the Office of Surgeon General. She was assigned to Shepherd AFB, TX., Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB (x2) & earned her flight nurse wings. Other assignments include, Wright Patterson AFB, Oh, Torrejon Air Base, Spain, Boling AFB, DC, & Langley AFB, VA. She was promoted to LTCol in 1994 & retired in 1996. She is most proud of her family heritage in the military, including a grandfather, father, 3 uncles, 2 cousins a niece, & her mother in the Cadet Nurse Corps. Jan married Mark Edmondson & have two children, Michael & Laurel & one granddaughter. She continued her career after retirement as Director, Surgical Services in Newport News, VA. She retired in 2005 & moved to The Villages. Jan’s hobbies include card making, scrapbooking, swimming, golf, watching sports & traveling.



## Sandra “Sandy” Ellert – Navy

Sandra "Sandy" Ellert grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota and joined the U.S. Navy at age 18 in 1979. As a Quartermaster (navigation) she was stationed in Italy, California, and Hawaii, she got out in 1988, was married with children and moved back to Minnesota to raise kids in one place near family. In civilian life she worked as a Staff Accountant at TREND enterprises for 22 years. After raising three children she joined the U.S. Navy Reserves in 2002 as a Disbursing Clerk/Personnel Specialist going on ADTs to California, Hawaii, Japan, New York, and England. In 2012 she was mobilized to active duty for three years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) serving Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) in North Carolina, BAF Afghanistan, and Washington DC. She retired in 2017 as a Chief Petty Officer with 24 years of service. She moved to Florida in 2021, is divorced and has three grown children, and 11 grandchildren, all in Minnesota. Two interests are travel and golf.



## Denise “Deni” Elwood – Navy

Deni served as an Air Traffic Controller in the Navy from 1971 to 1975. Post Navy, Deni raised a family and pursued a career in business, first earning the Bachelors Degree in Accounting, and later, her MBA from Columbus State University, Columbus, GA. She worked for 10 years at Blue Cross Blue Shield of GA as VP of Audit, and later VP of Claims & Customer Service; followed by a 20 yr. career as a Healthcare Management Consultant before moving to Florida. Deni is a golf enthusiast, loves horses, and is an accomplished artist. She is a women veteran advocate and serves on the Tri-County Women Veterans Board as Treasurer. Deni is married to Bill Elwood. They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren.



## Marianne Estes – Air Force

Marianne was born in Waukesha, WI on 2/23/56. She graduated from the University of WI, La Crosse with a BS degree in 1978. Upon graduation she was commissioned and served 24 years in the Air Force. Marianne retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2003 and worked as a Contracting Officer. Marianne comes from a family of 7 Air Force Officers. She moved to The Villages in 2017 where she is a member of the Tri-County Women Veterans, Honor Flight, Shoe Box and Villages for Veterans. Other activities include, swimming, golf & volleyball. Marianne was married in 1982 and has 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. Her greatest moment was commissioning her son as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant at the Air Force Academy.



## Sharon Fairchild – Air Force

Sharon is a native of Pittsburgh, where she enlisted in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. She worked in the following offices as an Information Management Specialist: Vehicle Maintenance, Supply, Commander's Office, Civil Engineering, Quality Assurance, and Aircraft Maintenance. Sharon helped in the Recruiting Office working at Air Shows, Technical Schools, and Special Events. She also worked in Flight Operations filling in for personnel deployed during Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. She received many awards and decorations during her 22 years of service. While serving in the Guard, she was an International Flight Attendant at US Airways/American Airlines for 25 years. That is where she met her husband, Norman, who was a Captain. Sharon is an avid slalom water-skiier, a professional snow ski instructor and a certified scuba diver. She and her husband are golfers residing in The Villages, FL.



## Barbara Fieldman – Navy

Born in Minnesota. Joined the Navy after attending Univ of Minn. to complete her dietetic internship as an ensign in the Medical Service Corps at Long Beach, CA. Completed tour at Long Beach Naval Regional Medical Center and was transferred to become a plank holder to open Orlando Naval Regional Medical Center Nutrition and Food Service department. After 10 years of active duty, joined the reserves and was later billeted to serve in Tampa, FL as the Blood Program Officer at US Central Command. Deployed in August, of 1990 to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Continued at US Central Command for Somalia Blood distribution. After 25 years in the reserves, retired as a Captain, Medical Service Corps. Recently retired after 45 years as a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist, Certified Diabetes Educator. Have 7 grandchildren in Ohio, Virginia, and Florida and 99-year-old mother in Minnesota, so traveling to see each is a part time adventure.



## Betty Finch – Air Force

Betty Finch of Glendale, CA enlisted in the California Air National Guard in 1980 at the age of 29 and was a member of the 146<sup>th</sup> Aero Medical Evac Unit as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt, flying in C130 aircraft. Betty was a Charge Lead Nurse during a joint exercise at El Toro Marine Corp. base with the Army MASH unit, simulating response options to an 8.0 earthquake. During this exercise, veterans were used as victims, which required Betty to creatively communicate true medical issues to aircraft personnel. Betty was trained as a surgical OR nurse. She was discharged shortly before Gulf One, leaving at the rank of Captain. She served overseas in medical, then security with the US Embassy before retiring to The Villages in 2019.



## Angela “Angie” Flynn – Army

Angie served from July 1985-September 1991. Graduated and commissioned from University of Massachusetts into the US Army. Duty stations included Ft. McClellan for Chemical Officer Schools, Ft. Benning’s 197th INF (Mech)(SEP), Platoon leader of Decontamination platoon, Infantry School Combat developments, Chemical officer of the Combat Aviation brigade 3AD, deployed to Operation Deserts Shield and Storm. In preparation for war penned a document about desert combat decontamination which became the theater standard. Awarded the Bronze star for duties in the Gulf. She left active duty after the war in September 1991. Later as an RN she worked in various specialties. She met then married her best friend Dick who she met at a combat PTSD support group. Currently she serves as Member at Large in TCWV. She believes in making women veterans seen, heard and respected.



## Milissa Fowler – Air Force

Milissa joined the US Air Force at the age of 18 immediately upon graduation for South Vermillion High School in Clinton, Indiana. Her first assignment was at McCord AFB in Tacoma, WA and went onto to finish her career with the Wyoming Air National Guard in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Milissa served in many capacities throughout her military career which included: contracting, logistics management, plans and programs, information technology and personnel. Following her retirement as the Chief of Personnel, Milissa went onto become the Director of Human Resources for an Engineering Firm in Colorado. Milissa has been married to her husband, Jamie, for 18 years and has one son, three bonus children, and two adorable grandsons. Her interests include scuba diving, golf, boating, playing cards, and traveling.



## Joyce Fraser – Navy

US Navy 1975 – 1979 Born and raised in St Louis MO. She was first stationed at the NAVSTA Norfolk BOQ. Her next assignment was Pearl Harbor HI Motor Pool as a driver and dispatcher; then as a Yeoman at the CINCPACFLT Flag Office. After returning home, Joyce received her AA in Data Processing and a BSBA in Marketing. She spent most of her career working as an application programmer for Army Logistics Systems. She and her husband Randy, retired Army EOD, moved to The Villages in 2018 to enjoy the sunshine and activities.



## Terri Friend – Navy

Terri Friend grew up in St. Louis, MO and joined the Navy in 1973. Her Dad served in WWII in Germany. She went to bootcamp in Orlando, FL and then stationed in Kingsville, TX working as a yeoman updating Pilot's logbooks for their training flights. She served 3 years active duty at NAS Moffett Field, CA working on T-56 Turbo Prop Engines for P3 Anti-Submarine Aircraft. She served another 4 years reserve at NAS Moffett Field, CA as an Aviation Machinists Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Then she worked at United Airlines for 30 years at the Maintenance Base in San Bruno, CA, Maintenance Base in Indianapolis, IN & Maintenance Hangar in Chicago, IL. In 2004, she became a Grand Lodge Representative for the International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers union. Terri received a BA Degree in Union Leadership and Administration in 2007 and retired in 2012. She moved to The Villages in Nov. 2022.



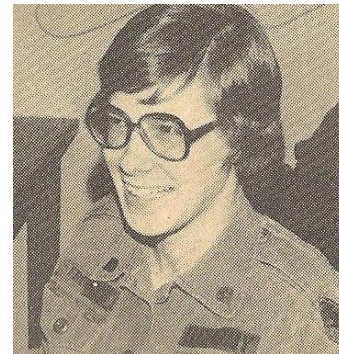
## Kathy Froehling – Army

Retired Colonel Kathy grew up in Oregon where she attended College and was in ROTC. Besides earning a BS Degree, she has two Masters Degrees. Her 16 years active duty & 14 years as a Reservist allowed her to utilize her education especially in Computer Sciences. Kathy was an information officer & Acquisition Level III Officer in both Project Management & IT. Kathy was on active duty during Operation Enduring Freedom. She spent time supporting intelligence for Central Command, specializing in developing and proliferating in countries the first ever biometrics-based detainee tracking systems. Kathy retired in 2018 as a DOD Senior Executive. She and Stuart, who is also a retired Army Colonel, found the perfect home, after too many moves, here in The Villages.



## Laura Fromback – Army

A native of Erie, PA, Laura maintained Army Pershing nuclear missile equipment at Redstone Arsenal, AL during her deployment. As computers were the “brains” of Pershing's guidance and control system, Laura's military background was key to her career in high tech. After her service, Laura's technologist career included a number of Fortune 500 companies. Now focused on modernizing the rules of women's safety, Laura and her wife, Deputy Sheriff (Ret) Joy Farrow have authored *Street Smart Safety for Women: Your Guide to Defensive Living*; scheduled for release by Health Communications, Inc (HCI) on October 3, 2023. The book provides valuable information on how women can keep themselves safe in a changing world.



## Paula Gardipee – Army

Paula was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and raised in Escanaba, Michigan. She joined the Army on 6 January 1977 and retired in 1997. She went to basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. MSgt Gardipee had a very diverse career in the Army ranging from Administrative Clerk to a Drill Sergeant at Fort Jackson to a Russian Linguist stationed in Germany. She, in fact, speaks English, French, Russian and German! Her favorite station was Monterey, California. When Paula retired, she became a schoolteacher in Wisconsin. What Paula would tell her 20-year-old self - “if you have children definitely recommend military service”.



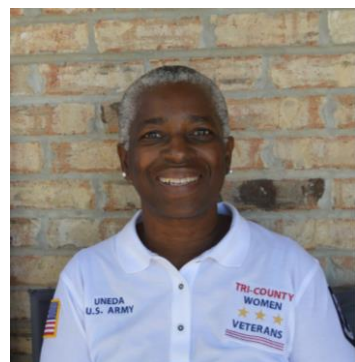
## Karen Giglio – Army

MSG Karen L. Giglio, retired. Enlisted 11/23/1982 US Army. Basic Training completed at Ft. Jackson, SC. Attended (91A) Combat Medical Training at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX. First Duty assignment, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, TX. Recommended for (91C) Practical Nurse Course and completed along with Combat Lifesaver Certification and NCO Academy at FT. Bliss, TX. Overseas assignments of Landstuhl General Hospital, Landstuhl, Germany. Flight Medic, ER and Recovery Room. Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital, Yongsam, Seoul, South Korea. Flight Medic, ER Reserve assignment: First Sargent, 341 Evac Hospital, Albuquerque, NM. Deployed Desert Storm with 114 Evac Hospital and FAST Team. Served @ KKMC, Saudi Arabia. Awards: 4 Army Achievement, 3 Army Accommodation, Good Conduct, Asian Conflict, Expert Weapon Badge, Combat Field Medical Badge.



## Uneda Gilbert-Hickman – Army

Dates of service: 1978 – 1981 - A native of NY, Uneda was in the last basic training class of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) at Fort McClellan, Alabama. She was a Clinical Specialist at Moncrief Army Hospital, Fort Jackson, SC for three years active duty, then in the Army Reserves for seven years. Uneda served as a Department of the Army LPN, completing her BA in Management/ Health Care, and Master's degrees in Management, Biblical Studies, and Ministry Leadership. She led civilian and federal Quality Management departments, ending her federal career as a VA Compliance Auditor. Married 38 years to Sampson Jones, a disabled, retired Gulf War Veteran who passed in 2020, Uneda recently married Cecil Hickman, a disabled Vietnam Veteran.





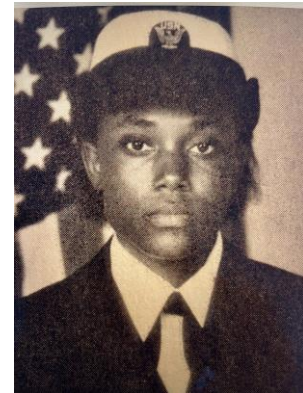
## Calash "Clay" Gish – Navy

Clay Gish enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1968 during the Vietnam War. She underwent basic training in wintry Bainbridge, Maryland, and then served a tour of duty in sunny California. As a cub reporter for The Golden Eagle News, hometown newspaper for Naval Air Station Lemoore and all the squadrons aboard aircraft carriers at sea, Clay covered a gamut of stories, from sailor commendations to grade school pageants to, sadly, plane crashes. Many of her stories were picked up by The Stars & Stripes and the AP and UPI national wires. Clay's experience as a Navy journalist launched her career as a writer, historian, professor, and museum exhibit designer. Her last museum before retirement was the Statue of Liberty Museum.



## Paula Glover – Navy

Paula Glover Dates of service: 1986 – 1990. Paula enlisted in the U. S. Navy right out of high school and completed her basic training in Orlando, FL. She was stationed at NAS Oceana, VA where she worked on the line taking care of F-16 tomcats (cleaning, maintaining & launching). The last two years were spent as an Aviation Storekeeper (maintaining supplies for aircrafts). It was a pleasure serving my country.



## Pam Glynn – Army

Pam grew up in El Paso, TX & entered the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing (WRAIN) scholarship program upon graduating from Irvin High School. This program finished with a BSN after finishing college from The University of Maryland – Baltimore. Pam initially served at Ft. Benning, GA, then to Ft. Ord, CA, for the Adult Med-Surg Ambulatory Care Nurse Practitioner course. After graduation, she was assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA. She left the service to begin raising a family, then later re-entered the Alaska Army National Guard in Anchorage, AK as an Adjutant General Officer. Following the AG Officer Advanced Course, Pam later was assigned as commander of the admin company in the 207<sup>th</sup> Group Support Battalion. She later re-entered active service in the Army Nurse Corps at Madigan AMC, Tacoma, WA. After leaving the service, Pam continued work as Director of Nursing of two home health agencies, then as a clinical research associate and project manager. She recently retired to The Villages with her husband.







## Diane Hallenbeck – Navy

Diane Rusnak Hallenbeck, a native of Pennsylvania, entered Naval Service in 1974 as a newly minted registered nurse with the intention of serving her country for two years. Instead, she retired 25 years later with the rank of Commander. She enjoyed an abundance of valuable clinical assignments & leadership positions. Her duty stations were primarily on the East Coast, with US Naval Hospital Rota, Spain as her favorite assignment. Diane is most grateful for the remarkable opportunities provided by the Navy as well as the lasting relationships formed by Navy life.



## Beth Hammer – Army

A graduate of New England Conservatory of Music, Beth auditioned in 1973 to be an Army musician in the WAC Band, the first of many successful auditions for different specialty bands for the Army and International Alliances. As a trombone and euphonium player, Beth broke many glass ceilings for female Army musicians in her career. Beth's talent as a trombone player and accomplished conductor took her to Belgium, Germany, Korea, Japan, and many major Army bases stateside. She lists among her biggest honors, conducting for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Beth served the last years of her 30-year career as the Senior Sergeant Major musician in the Army. She moved to The Villages in 2018, where she currently performs with three different resident bands.

## Sandie Hayes – Air Force

Sandie was inspired to serve her country by her 7<sup>th</sup> grade literature teacher. Upon completion of basic training, she attended technical training for NAVAIDS Maintenance at Kessler AFB, in Biloxi, MS. Eventually she retrained into the On-The-Job training field. In this capacity she served as a training manager for communications maintenance, AWACS Maintenance, Base Training, Field Training, Special Operations Maintenance and curriculum developer for Space Operations training. Her favorite position was with the OJT Advisory Service teaching Train the Trainer & other training & development courses. As a Master Instructor in Field Training, she averaged 800 students every year for the 7 years she taught at Elgin AFB. While on active duty she pursued her education & completed a MA in Human Resources Development.



## Miriam Henoach – Air Force

Miriam graduated high school and enlisted in the Air Force in 1957. She served at an Air Training Command base James Connolly AFB in Waco, TX. Miriam was assigned to the 3565<sup>th</sup> Maintenance & Supply Group as an Administrative Specialist to the HQ Commanding Officer. She played on the women's softball team, sang in the church choir, and enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow airman in the Airmen's Club during off duty hours. Post Air Force she utilized her GI Bill to pursue an educational career. Earning a PhD in Audiology from Wayne State University. She worked 10 years for the VA as a Research Audiologist; a Department head at Kaiser Permanente; and finally, as a Professor for 20 years at the University of North Texas.



## Cheryl Hill – Air Force

Cheryl, an Air Force veteran who served from 1974-1978, retired as a Master Sergeant. She attended basic training at Lackland AFB, TX with assignments at McChord AFB, WA; Homestead AFB, FL; University of Miami AFROTC, FL; Maxwell AFB, AL; Tinker AFB, OK and Barksdale AFB, LA. During her 24-year career, Cheryl received numerous commendations including awards from AFROTC/ Administration & Administration/Logistics for her role in assisting in the deployment of hundreds of personnel to the Gulf Wars. She also received the Exemplary Service Award for outstanding service in the Red Cross Rescue/Recovery efforts in the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing. One significant experience that Cheryl enjoyed was flying in an F-4 Fighter Jet. An avid softball player, Cheryl resides in The Villages.



## Barbara "BJ" Howard – Navy



## Flo Hurlburt – Air Force

Retired MSgt Florence Hurlburt grew up in Panama & Costa Rica before enlisting in the Air Force in 1970 in Jacksonville, FL. Flo was assigned to Tyndall, Offutt and Barksdale AFBs. She also served overseas in Stuttgart, Germany and was deployed during Desert Storm & Desert Focus before retiring in 1997. Over the course of her stellar career, Flo served as an Administration Specialist, Food & Sanitation Inspector, Veterinary Technician working with Military Working Dogs, Superintendent of Surgical Suite & Central Sterile Supply. Her military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and two Air Force Achievement Medals. Currently, she is very active with the Tri-County Women Veterans and the Veterans Memorial Park Honor Guard. Flo enjoys pickleball, Kayaking & golfing.



## Vicki Hutchinson – Navy

Raised in Lenox, Massachusetts, Vicki dropped out of college in the summer of 1969. She worked in New York City for several years before joining the Navy with her sister. Dates of Service: 1973-1977 U.S. Navy - Active Duty & 1977-1985 U.S. Navy Reserve – Weekend Warrior. She served as a Personnelman at NAS Jacksonville, FL and NAS North Island, San Diego, CA. Following release from active duty she returned to college, graduated from UCSD in 1979 and Quinnipiac University School of Law in 1982. She's been a criminal defense lawyer in Connecticut since 1982 and still practices law part time. Married to Bill, mother of three, grandmother of two.



## Lisa Johnson – Army

Lisa Johnson was in the last basic training recruits in Orlando, FL. Originally trained to be a corpsman in the Navy, she switched after 1.5 years to Army National Guard. Lisa was a medic for 10 years prior to becoming a commissioned officer in the nurse corps. Activated after 911 for 4 years to care for injured soldiers, she then returned to National Guard and currently retired from the Puerto Rico National Guard after serving 30 years. In her civilian life, she was a paramedic for 22 years and an ER nurse for 18 years before retiring to FL. She has 3 sons, one (Shawn) who is autistic, lives with her. She enjoys being outside, biking, running and pickleball.



## Carol Kalinowski – Navy

From Minneapolis, MN, Carol entered the Navy in 1969 and went to WAVE boot camp at Bainbridge, MD. She joined determined to become an Air Traffic Controller and was assigned to ACA school. After graduation she reported to NAS Glynco, GA. Carol then transferred to Instructor Duty and later moved with the school to NATTC Memphis, TN. During her tenure she was selected to the team tasked with designing the school's new curriculum. Carol transferred to NS Rota (CPO). She continued her career at Cecil Field, FL; Point Magu, CA (EAWS); FACSFAS, HI (SCPO) and San Diego, CA. Her position included Leading Chief and Command Senior Chief and received a Bachelors Degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. She retired with 26 years in 1995.



## Laura Kelly – Army

Warrant Officer 4 Laura Kelly served in the U.S. Army for 21 years (1988-2011 with one break in service). She flew several different aircraft -- UH-1 Huey, OH-58A/C Kiowa, CH-47D Chinook, and UH-60 Blackhawk -- during various historic (and exciting) times. Stationed in Europe for three tours, she witnessed the various transformations that occurred in Europe and the Middle East. CW4 Kelly served in Desert Storm flying UH-1H helicopters. She was also stationed stateside flying various aircraft in many diverse missions including Search and Rescue pilot in the Rocky Mountains, Counterdrug pilot in Washington D.C. area, and Assistant Safety Officer for Ft. Rucker (home of Army Aviation).



## Marilyn Kendall – Army

Marilyn J. Kendall, a native of Erie, Pennsylvania, earned her B.S. and Master's degrees in Education. After teaching five years, she accepted a direct commission to Lieutenant in the Women's Army Corps in 1975. Following basic training at Fort McClellan, AL, she was assigned to the Adjutant General Corps and held various positions in Korea and Germany. While assigned in Washington, DC, she had the honor of serving as White House Social Aide to President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan. She then assumed command of the Military Entrance Processing Station in Raleigh, NC and was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. She earned her Ed.D. while in the Army and, following her retirement as Major in 1995, she returned to Erie where she furthered her career in education as elementary school principal. A proud Army veteran, she spends seasonal time in Florida with friends and enjoys the performing arts.





## Chris Kennedy – Navy

Born: Euclid, Ohio; Lived multiple places in Geauga, Lake and Ashtabula Counties, Ohio Enlisted in 1971, at the age of 18, in Windsor, Ohio. Reported to RTC(W) Bainbridge, Maryland for bootcamp in June 1971, then to Radioman “A” school until January 1972. Duty stations ranged from Guam to Sicily, the Pentagon, USS Puget Sound (AD38), Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (for President Clinton’s first inauguration). After retiring as a Senior Chief Radioman, worked 20 years as Administrative Assistant to the Geauga County Sheriff. Widowed and most proud of her daughter and grandsons. Volunteers time to the WRTC Bainbridge WAVES annual reunion, and TCWV.



## Karen Knight – Army

LTC Knight, US Army Retired, is daughter of US Army Colonel, Retired. As Reservist, she served on active duty during the Viet Nam Conflict (73-75). She was one of the first four women officers graduating Engineering Officer Basic Course. She was Executive Officer and Commander, HQ WAC Company, Ft Monmouth, NJ. She was first women Army Reserve Commander, Executive Officer, Platoon Leader of 326th Chemical Smoke Company (80’s) Alabama. She commanded Chemical Radiological Unit in response to the Chernobyl Nuclear plant explosion (86). During Desert Shield/Desert Storm (90-91), working on Chemical Defense Agents, she served at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. LTC Knight is the Membership Chair for the Tri-County Women Veterans from 2017 to 2023.



## Carol Kornhoff – Army

Carol graduated from Judson College & received her Army ROTC commissioned through Marion Military Institute in 1976. Her assignments included numerous Quartermaster School courses, Ft. Lee, VA; Commissary Officer, 7<sup>th</sup> ATC Grafenwoehr and Wildflecken Germany; 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div., Ft. Stewart, GA; 2<sup>nd</sup> Armor Div. and II Corps, FT. Hood, TX; Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Cold Storage Facility, Kaiserslautern Germany; Staff Officer, Deputy Chief of Staff/G4, Pentagon. After retiring in 1998, Carol continued her career working for G4 at the Pentagon as a contractor & government civilian. She coordinated operation ration requirements with DLA for all 5 services during Desert Storm. She is married to Theodore Kornhoff also retired Army and has two children Elizabeth and Joseph.

## Barbara Ann Kyle – Marine Corps

Barb was born in Jersey City, NJ and enlisted in the Marines in 1961, at 19 years old. Her basic training was at Parris Island. Along with other women, Barb was trained to replace men assigned to desk jobs, in case the men were called into combat. She spent 2 years active duty and 2 years Reserve, where she was the only woman among hundreds of men. Her most awesome moment was seeing President Kennedy, after she stood in the hot sun for an hour in her dress uniform jacket, skirt, pumps, girdle & nylons. Barb returned to her previous secretarial job at Swift & Company. She and her husband, Walter, have been married 56 years. They have 3 kids and 3 grandkids.



## Alicia Langrell – Army

Master Sergeant Alicia Langrell served 20 years in the Army, from Nov. 1981 until she retired in Dec. 2001. She served in positions of increasing responsibility, culminating as Assistant Inspector General with Headquarters, US Army Cadet Command, Ft. Monroe, VA. During her career she earned a Meritorious Service Medal as well as several Army Commendation Medals. After retiring from active duty, Alicia continued her career as an Army Civilian. She retired from Civil Service as the Retirement & Central Processing Facility Supervisor for the US Army Garrison Benelux Site Schinnen in the Netherlands in Aug. 2016. Alicia married her husband John of 36 years in Augsburg, Germany. They moved to The Villages in 2019. Alicia and John love traveling and cruising.



## Janice “Jan” Lathouwers – Army

Born and raised in Colorado. Entered the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1969 under the College Junior Program. Stayed at Ft. McClellan, AL as a Platoon Officer training Basic Trainees. Later, moved to the Officer Training Detachment to train the new officers coming into the Army. Later assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell as a WAC Company Commander. Served in Germany with 3<sup>rd</sup> ID commanding two separate units. Most of my follow-on assignments were in Command training new troops, or Garrison Units. Last assignment was as a Chemical Officer once we received branch specialties. Retired after a little over 20 years and started a Quarter Horse Farm in Alabama. After 7 years, sold the horses and started raising Llamas. Traveled throughout the US conducting Llama workshops on neonatal care, driving, training and showing. Moved to The Villages in February 2001 and pursued softball, golf and Track and Field.



## Jan Lavoie – Army National Guard

Jan grew up in West Warwick, RI. Enlisted in the RI Army National Guard July 1977. Completed basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC. Jan continued her AIT training at FT Benjamin Harrison, IN as an Administrative Clerk Feb. 1978. Jan served in the Army National Guard full time in RI as an Operations/Training Specialist for the 6<sup>th</sup> SF Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> SF Group (1978-1986) She began her career with the USPS as a letter carrier while remaining in the Army National Guard as a Nuclear Biological & Chemical NCO, training soldiers in the use of NBC gear & conducted Gas Chamber exercises. Retired Feb. 1998 as a SSG/6. Retired in 2017 from USPS with 31 years of service. Two children and 3 grandchildren. The Villages resident since 2018.



## Karen Lebrun – Army

Karen was born in MA and joined the WAC's within the ranks of the US Army in 1975. After basic training at Ft. McClellan, AL Karen started training as Military Police. She then trained and served 3 years as a Chaplain Asst. with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division rank of SPC4 in Ansbach Germany. Her chapel team was the best part of her service. Her desire to become a nurse was accomplished after discharge. She earned 2 Master Degrees with one in nursing using her GI bill. Karen worked for the VA as a Chief Nurse Long Term Care for 25 years and was a nurse for 40 years. She and her husband have 2 daughters and have traveled to all 50 states.

## Ellie Lemke – Army

Ellie was born in Baldwin, Long Island, NY. At 18, she enlisted in the Army on 7 Aug 1962 and completed Basic Training at Ft. McClellan, AL. She continued her AIT Training at Ft. Meade, MD as an Administrative Clerk & served as the Administrative Assistant to the General there. She was also stationed in Darmstadt, Germany. She was honorably discharged on 23 Mar 1964. Her proudest moment was being Soldier of the Quarter. Ellie then earned her AA at Bristol Community College, BS from University of Massachusetts, and Masters in Special Education from Alabama A&M University. Ellie married her husband Michael on 9/6/1990 & moved to The Villages in 2009. They have 7 children, 20 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.



## Sharon Leonard – Navy

Sharon retired from the Navy as a Captain after 25 years. She was commissioned through Officer Candidate School as a General Unrestricted Line Officer. Serving as an Intelligence Officer & Editor of a safety magazine. Her primary duties were in personnel and human resources. Her most rewarding positions were as an instructor & company officer at OCS, molding young civilians into newly commissioned officers, & Commanding Officer of a recruiting district, starting young men & women on their path to becoming sailors. Sharon served overseas in Keflavik, Iceland. In her last tour she directed the Emergency Coordination Center which was activated in response to the bombing of the USS Cole & when the terrorist airplane struck the Pentagon.



## Ann Lombardi – Navy

Ann grew up in Vestal, NY and enlisted in the Navy in 1973, following a family tradition of military service. After bootcamp at NTC Orlando, FL she was sent to NAS Glynco in Brunswick, GA, then on to VT-86 at NAS Pensacola, FL. She worked in aircraft maintenance as an Aviation Maintenance Administrationman. Ann achieved the rank of E4, Third Class Petty Officer AZ3. She earned her Bachelors Degree while working for the University of South Alabama as a Computer Education Specialist. Fun Fact: it was at NAS Glynco that she met Deni Elwood & Carol Kalinowski. They all played on the Navy softball team & survived! Today they all live in the same neighborhood and are proud members of the Tri-County Women Veterans Group.



## Annette MacMillan – Navy

Annette, from Gaylord, MI entered basic training at NTC Bainbridge, MD which prepared her for a full career in the Navy. Originally trained as a Storekeeper, she had a variety of positions culminating as an instructor-supervisor of periscope photography. She enjoyed a productive and successful career and has an abundance of memories of friends & experiences. She retired as Leading Senior Chief, Instructor Supervisor, Sub Training Facility, Norfolk, after completing 20 years of Naval Service. Annette had assignments for San Diego to Virginia Beach, including overseas assignments in Wales & Rota Spain. Following retirement, she returned to Michigan where she had a successful career as a criminal investigator for the state of Michigan.







## Karen McClure – Air Force

Karen enlisted in the Air Force in 1977 and attended basic in San Antonio, TX. After basic Karen went to tech school at Chanute AFB, IL, where she trained as a Non-destructive Inspector learning to inspect F-111 Aardvark aircraft through processes of using a spectrometer, x-ray, eddy current & other electronic systems. While in Chanute, Karen also played in the Drum & Bugle band. After training, she was stationed at Cannon AFB in Clovis NM where she stayed for the remainder of her career. Karen was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant after serving 4 years. She has 2 children, a boy & a girl. Karen moved to The Villages in 2012 where she met her partner, Tom. She enjoys billiards, golf, and fine wine.

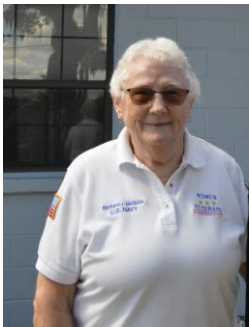
## Barbara McDermott – Navy

Barbara earned BSN and MSN at University of MN, worked as RN and nurse educator until she joined the Navy in 1990 (age35). She was sent to Nurse Anesthesia School at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. 1992-1996, with husband and 3 small children, moved to NC. She served as a CRNA at Naval Hospital Camp LeJeune, Marine Corps Base. During that time also served as an Anesthetist on USNS Comfort (hospital ship) & USS JFK (carrier). In 1996, she moved to Durham, NC and joined the Navy Reserve Center in Raleigh. As part of reserve duties gave anesthesia to veterans at the Durham VA hospital. Continued to work as a CRNA until retirement in 2020, and now resides in The Villages, FL with her husband, David.



## Barbara J. McGuire – Navy

Barbara grew up in Indiana. She is a Vietnam War Veteran who enlisted at age 20 in 1961 as a Navy WAVE. She also was a in the Navy Reserves from 1982-1984. Her basic training was at Bainbridge, MD and afterwards she attended PAMI CONUS at Bainbridge for training as a machine accountant using data processing equipment. She served at both Bainbridge and then at Pensacola, FL where she continued to work as a machine accountant. She was discharged with the National Defense Service Medal. She decided to make Florida her home & continued in the data processing field. Her brother served as a Seabee in Vietnam. Her proudest moment of service to our country is every time she has an opportunity to salute the flag.



## Charlene “Charlie” Minger – Navy

“Charlie” enlisted in the Navy in Chicago, IL 1969 during the Vietnam war. Basic sent her to Bainbridge, MD and her duty station was Jacksonville, FL Air Base as flight support. She did flight schedules, logbooks, testing pilots all under two WWII fighter pilots who were her Chiefs. Charlie met her husband, who was in the Air Force, they married, and she was unable to stay in the military because they decided to start their family. She continued her military service as a spouse of a career Air Force veteran. They raised three children and lived in Germany for 7 years and 28 years outside Washington D.C. In 2014 they retired to Pembroke Fairways. Charlie is Secretary of the Veterans Board in her community.



## Kathryn “Kathy” Montgomery – Navy

I joined the Navy after High School in Dover, PA. I became a Storekeeper, and saw duty in Norfolk, San Diego, Bermuda, Guam, and back to Norfolk. Best command was SACLANT, a NATO activity, most rewarding was the USS PUGET SOUND AD-38. Completed two Med cruises, deployed for Desert Storm, sitting pier side in Jeddah, sending parts and people all over the AOR to do repairs. I became qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, was Underway Damage Control Training Team, a Duty Section Leader as well as my primary job as the Stock Control LCPO. I achieved Master Chief (E-9) in 18 years. After retirement, received an AAS in Horticulture.



## Kristen A Montejo - Navy

Born & raised in Freeport Maine, Joined the Navy in Nov 1986. Attended Boot camp “K013” in Orlando FL. On to San Diego CA for Radioman “A” school. First duty station Adak Alaska 87-88 working at MT. Moffett transmitter Site. Next duty stations COMPSPRON three FWD deployed ship out of Guam 88-90, NAVCOMMU London England Staff duty 1990-1992, NAVCOMTELSTA Sicily 92 -94, NAVCOMTELSTA Bahrain staff duty 94-96, DEPMEDS NAVHOSPJAX FL 2000-03, TRASUPPCEN Hampton Roads VA 03-05, CID Dam Neck VA 05-07. Following her retirement from the military Kristen worked/Managed the Navy’s Motorcycle safety program from 2007 – 2011 then after completing her BS she got a Government HR representative for 6 years following. Finally finding her calling she was a plank owner for the USO’s Pathfinder program 2018 in Jacksonville FL. Eventually finding her way down to the Villages to assist her parents, she started working as a Veterans Service Officer. Within 3 years she took over as Office manager; first female to hold the position in an over 20 year job history. Kristen is married to her High School sweetheart Scott, they have one son Cote who is currently serving in the Navy. She enjoys outside activities such as Camping, kayaking, mountain bike rides and of course her motorcycle rides.



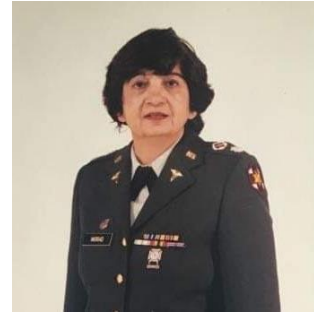
## Karen Ann (Anderson) Mook – Navy

Karen was born in Illinois, moved to Michigan. She graduated, enlisted in the Navy, January '62. Basic training was Banbridge, Maryland, and a year of Navy classes as a Machine Accountant. December, her duty station was the Beaufort South Carolina Naval Hospital. Operating several machines: key punch into 80 column cards, interpreter, sorter, and tabulator of the patient's hospital records. She was married, released from the Navy in April '64, and her son was born in July. Navy billet closed, and then Karen worked in civil service. Over the years they moved around the Midwest. Karen had many positions with the automation of computers, data entry, operator, programmer, PC repair, systems analyst, manager, part owner of a PC software company. Thank you, Navy.



## Eleanor Morad – Army

Lt.Col. Eleanor Morad trained generations of nurses and medical corpsmen as both a professor at the University of Massachusetts and as an officer in the reserves of the Army Nursing Corps. Joining the Army reserves in 1978, Eleanor served 21 years with the 399<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital stationed in Taunton, MA. Each year, Eleanor's unit bivouacked with the National Guard, treating those injured during training maneuvers. As part of a Peace Mission in Honduras, Eleanor and her unit staffed a hospital & clinic and helicoptered out to remote villages to treat those with no access to medical services. When her unit activated during the Gulf War, she continued to provide critical medical education for the young men & women headed to the war zone.



## Kelly Morgan – Navy

Kelly Morgan Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist. She served in Cubi Point, Philippines, Diego Garcia, NAS Sigonella, Sicily and NAS Pensacola, FL. She worked on shoe based arresting gear & took arresting gear for small winged aircraft whether it was due to a wet deck, blown tires, anything that would prevent them from landing safely on their own. In Pensacola, she helped with Blue Angels, during practices, runs for safe & emergency landings. Helped with touch & go's during field carrier landing practices for AC carrier landings. Also worked closely with fire fighters in case of AC fires or blown tire fires. Unfortunately, her time was cut short due to son's illness. She Loves the Navy, one of the best parts of her life.



## Linda Morrison – Army

Linda earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Ft. Hays, Kansas State University. She joined the Army in 1973 at age 22. She spent 20 years in service, first as a Finance & Accounting Officer, and later as a Public Affairs Officer. Her duty stations included Ft. Riley, KS; Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN; and Ft. Bragg, NC. Overseas assignments were in South Korea, Italy and Germany. Her final duties included developing policies for Army Public Relations, such as allowing news media to travel with military during combat. Since retirement, she has held a variety of fun jobs such as designing theatre promotions for Hollywood movies, leading construction crews for Habitat for Humanity, and working as a park ranger in Acadia National Park.



## Deb Muscha – Navy

USN 1977-81

Air Traffic Control

Puerto Rico, Texas, Tennessee.

From Kansas City MO.

Left military for federal career as ATCS. Retired 2011 moved to Oregon and Florida for retirement. Three children.



## Pat Nicometo – Navy

A native of South Dakota, Pat joined the Navy at age 19. She attended basic training at RTC Orlando & then training at Bainbridge, MD where she attended Radioman “A” School. She served at Communication Stations in Alameda CA, Guam, Japan, Hawaii, Naples IT, Department Master Chief at Recruit Training Command, Orlando FL. While there she was selected to rewrite curriculum & training standards & to lead one of the first female/male integrated training companies. She entered the Navy as an E-1 & retired as an E-9. She was selected as Command Master Chief & served in that capacity at NAVCOMTELSTA Sigonella, Sicily, IT & Personnel Support Activity (PSA) Jacksonville, FL where she was responsible for over 800 Sailors stationed in various bases throughout the SE portion of the US with bases as far north Jacksonville, NC, as far west as New Orleans, LA & south to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Prior to her retirement she earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Workforce Education & Development from Southern Illinois University. After her retirement from the Navy, she earned a dual Master’s degree in Human Resources Management & Human Resources Development from Webster University. Pat worked for Glynn County (Brunswick) Georgia as the Assistant Human Resources Director for 11 years until she retired for the last time in 2018. Pat has been married to Anthony (Nick) Nicometo, who is also a retired Navy Chief for 29 years & they are parents to the cutest little AussieDoodle named Jack.



## Betsy Nolan – Navy

Betsy served 26 years in the Navy. She was commissioned an Ensign in the Medical Service Corps in 1979 and retired as a Captain in 2005. Betsy attended Duquesne University and played for the women's volleyball & basketball teams. She was awarded MVP & Woman Athlete of the Year honors in 1975. She is a 1977 graduate of Duquesne's School of Pharmacy, a 1990 graduate of the University of West Florida's Masters of Business Administration program and a 1998 graduate of the Managed Care Pharmacy Fellowship program. Throughout her naval career, Betsy served in various positions within the pharmacy and medical service corps community, Her first role was Clinical Pharmacist, followed by Pharmacy Technician School Administrator, Pharmacy Benefit Manager, and lastly, Policy and Program Management, serving as the Navy Surgeon General's Chief Pharmacy Officer and member of the DoD Pharmacy Program Advisory Board. Betsy is a golf enthusiast and a women veteran advocate. She currently serves as the Tri-County Women Veteran's President.



## Carol O'Hagan – Navy

Born in Rhode Island, grew up in New Jersey, graduated Syracuse University. Active commands included NAS Pensacola. As a Selected Reservist she was the XO and CO of a Ship Intermediate Maintenance Activity unit. Most notably she was recalled to active duty as a Naval Historian with Navy Combat Documentation Detachment 206 where she collected the oral histories of the survivors from the attack on the Pentagon on 9-11. In 2007 the Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense used her and other oral histories to help them detail the event in the book Pentagon 9/11. Earned her M.Ed. degree and taught for 22 years. Married to a retired USMC aviator. They have three children.

## Susan Padgett – Air Force

Susan was born, raised & retired Air Force. At 20 years old, Susan joined the Air Force in North Carolina. Her basic training was in San Antonio, TX and tech school in Biloxi, MS. She trained admin & electronics. She was stationed in four different duty stations and retired from the Pentagon. Her proudest military moment was her promotion to E-6 and earning her Bachelor's Degree at the same time. After retiring she went back to work doing military contracts and retired from the Army Civil Service. When asked which service is the best, Air Force will always be her answer. Susan is married to Donna, and they live in The Villages.



## Patricia “Pat” Pascoli – Army

Army Reserves 1974- 1977. Headquarters-443 Field Depot/99th ARCOM, Pittsburgh, PA. Specialty: typing. I was born near Pittsburgh PA. I became a teacher and while taking a renewal class, the instructor mentioned that the military was heavily recruiting women to reach a compliance ratio and was offering extra rank. I entered as an E3 and left three years later as an E6. After 40 years of teaching and now single, I decided to retire and take a different turn in life. I sold my home, bought a used motorhome and headed down the road as a Workamper, a person who works a few hours/week for their site. I did that for the next ten years. Question: What are you proud of? I guess I helped open the door for more women in the ranks. It certainly wasn't because of my typing skills because White-Out was my friend!



## Joan Pate' – Navy

Born in Washington DC, raised in Maryland, second of ten children. Attended Easton Memorial School of Nursing; received BSN at University of Maryland prior to entering Navy Nurse Corps at age 24. Attained Masters of Science in Community Health & Administration while on active duty; served at military hospitals/clinics in South Carolina, Naval Academy, Spain, Virginia, Italy, Pennsylvania, California and USNS Mercy. Retired as a Captain/06 and 25 years of service; opened a Medical–Legal consulting practice in cases involving registered nurses. Authored numerous publications and presentations on professional liability and safeguarding nursing practice. Coached emerging nurse executives and novice writers through American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing for 19 years. Married to a Navy veteran for 36 years.



## Judith “Judy” Pendleton – Navy

Judy and her twin sister were raised in Detroit, MI at a Catholic Orphanage. She enlisted in the Navy at 18 in March 1962. Her basic training was in Bainbridge, MD and she was trained as a Communications Technician. First assignment was Security Station, Washington D.C. She served at 1964 NY World's Fair, & she was 1 of 5 women chosen to represent the Navy WAVES. Judy's last assignment was Headquarters Command Chief Pacific at Camp Smith, HI, Communications Center. Judy was first and only women at the center. Leaving the Navy, Judy worked in the Administration field and lived in 15 states. Judy has 2 children 4 grandchildren and 3 fish. Judy moved to The Villages in 2010, and lives in Spanish Springs.



## Debbie Perina – Marine Corps

Debbie was born in Brooklyn, NY. She enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 18 in 1976 and served 2 years and 2 months active duty. She went to 29 Palms for Basic Electronics School, and Keesler AFB for Microwave Equipment & Radio Repair. Debbie was stationed in Barstow, CA, and worked repairing ground radios. After discharge, Debbie went to college in San Diego before moving to Texas where she worked in the oilfield and a small Television Station. Debbie went back home to New York and continued in Television at Merrill Lynch, and then at CBS until 2018. She also received her BS in Physics Degree at St. Johns University. Debbie is married to Bob, and has one son, Everett.



## Constance “Connie” Plotkin – Army/ Air Force/Air National Guard/Navy Reserves

Connie joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1984 and was an ER nurse for 24 years; she also served in the Air Force, Air National Guard & Navy Reserves for a total of 29 years of military service. During Desert Storm she served for 7 months in the middle of the desert caring for Iraqi prisoners of war. Connie was also involved during Iraqi Freedom. She was in charge of the ER at Ft. Stewart, GA. She retired as a Major in 2008. Connie is from Rhode Island and met her husband, Gary, during Desert Storm. They celebrated their 30 years of marriage in June 2022. They have lived in The Village of Fenney for six years.



## Laurie Potter – Navy

Laurie grew up in Hawaii, moved to California for High School, graduating in 1975. She joined the Navy in January 1977. Her first duty station was Midway Island. After Yeoman A-School, she was stationed in Hawaii, Europe, East Coast and on a couple of ships in California. Laurie was quickly promoted through the ranks culminating as an E-9. She was then selected as the 1st female Command Master Chief of an F-18 Squadron in the Navy. Laurie played All Navy racquetball but took up golf upon retiring in January 1988. In September 2022, Laurie retired from her second career as a Mortgage Banker. She has a 6 handicap, and her retirement plan is to golf LPGA tournament courses all over the world!





## Karen Price – Army

Karen is a native of Baltimore, MD with a B.S. and M. Ed. Degree in secondary education. She joined the Army through a medical enlistment bonus program & attended basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ before completing laboratory school at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. She received her commission in 1987 & was branch qualified in the Adjutant General Corps & in Quartermaster. She retired as a Major in the 29th Division (Light) in the Maryland Army National Guard. Assignments included participation in Bright Star in Egypt & a foreign officer exchange program with the UK. She was the only woman assigned to a Scout Platoon with a British Reconnaissance unit. Most memorable accomplishment was commanding the same unit where she was an enlisted soldier. Following her retirement, she spent the last 10 years working for the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear Defense as a logistician & product support manager assisting in the design of equipment used to destroy chemical weapons. Hobbies include pickleball, flyfishing & playing guitar.



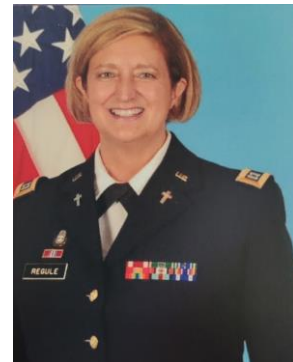
## Mary Ellen Radloff – Army

Mary Ellen Radloff enlisted in the Women's Army Corps in 1975 and served 3 years in administration. In 1979 she joined the Army Reserve and ROTC, being commissioned a Military Intelligence Officer in 1981 and returning to active duty. The highlight of her active-duty time was being assigned as the Brigade S2 of 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in Germany in the 1980s, when women weren't supposed to be assigned to combat maneuver units. While in Germany as a Company Commander, she met her husband, Udo Radloff, a fellow officer. They've been married for 36 years. In 1986, Mary Ellen transferred back to the Army Reserve, serving again as a Company Commander, deploying several times, and retiring in 2003 after returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom.



## Christina Regule – Army

Chaplain Christina was born and raised in Hermitage, PA. Her life has been centered around family, education, missionary work and public service. Christina commissioned into the Army Chaplaincy Corps in 2008 and served stateside in Texas, including a one-year deployment to Afghanistan, and Washington D.C. area. Her overseas assignments included Germany and Belgium. Her extensive education includes a Doctorate in Ministry & Strategic Leadership Renewal. Prior to her military service she was a teacher, music minister, missionary, researcher, and staff member at Regent University. Retired from the military in 2021, she desires to continue overseas mission ministry and chaplain ministry bringing people to God & God to people while nurturing the living, caring for the wounded, & honoring the fallen.



## Alicia Renner – Army

Alicia received a biology degree in 1975 and a direct officer commission in the Women's Army Corps. She earned her airborne wings in 1976 when classes first opened to female officers, then attended Ordnance Corps training including a nuclear weapons course. Alicia's first station was Korea. As the first female assigned as a Special Ammunition Supply Point Officer. She transferred to Germany, and as a Captain, commanded an ammunition ordnance company. She married a fellow officer and left the Army in 1982. She worked twelve years in a Hospital Laboratory, while having two daughters, then got a Master's Degree in Education and taught high school sciences & special education for 16 years. Alicia has run marathons, climbed Kilimanjaro, hiked and scuba dived around the world.



## Bonnie Richter – Air Force

Bonnie joined the Air Force at 19 (with Mom's approval). She was sent to Lackland AFB, TX, then on to Sheppard AFB, TX and trained in accounting. She never left the US. She then went to California and on to New York where her job was to pay all the bills. She was stationed at Stewart AFB in Newberg, NY. Her proudest moment was her entire time served. She was a straight shooter, so when her supervisor directed her to do a job that she wasn't REALLY trained, after she finished the task, she was given a Good Conduct Medal, which she found rather funny! She was discharged at Stewart AFB and got married the week before her discharge. Later worked at a bank, and The Institute of Continuing Legal Education.



## Karyn Rinaldi – Navy

Karyn graduated from Oklahoma University & joined the Navy Civil Engineer Corps in 1986. Her tours included Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, Norfolk Naval Base; Staff Civil Engineer, Submarine School Groton, CT; and two contracting positions at Public Works Center, Pearl Harbor, HI. She earned graduate degrees from University of Hawaii (MSCE, 1995) & University of New Haven (MBA, 1996). Her next tours included Officer in Charge, Naval Air Facility Midway Island; followed by Environmental Officer and Y@J Coordinator Positions, San Diego Naval Base; Maintenance Branch Head at the Navy Bureau of Medicine, Washington D.C.; and Base Engineer, Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL. She lives in Ocoee, FL and is on the Board of Directors of the Honor Flight Central Florida Hub.



## Garnet Robinson – Army

Garnet was a Medical Service Corps Officer commissioned after graduating as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the West Virginia University ROTC program. Her initial duty assignment was Ambulance Platoon Leader, then Company Commander in Germany. She departed Germany for flight school and became a MEDEVAC pilot flying the UH-1 “Huey” out of Fort Sam Houston, TX and Fort Benning, GA. Following her flight duties, Garnet served in various Resource Management positions within the Army Medical Department to include duty at Medical Command and The Office of The Surgeon General. Garnet retired as a Major, earning the Expert Field Medic Badge and Aviator Badge during her career. Garnet now enjoys time spent with her horse “Ruben.”



## Kenda Robinson – Navy

Kenda grew up in Michigan and joined the Navy right out of high school. She went to boot camp in Orlando Florida. Her job while in was (ASM) Aviation Support Mechanic. As a mechanic she worked on the ground support equipment that hooked up to aircraft for maintenance or towing. She enjoyed the travel the Navy afforded her; she was station at Jacksonville Fl., Mayport FL., Naples Italy, New York City. She served on two aircraft carriers, the USS Lexington and the USS John C. Stennis. Kenda was dual warfare qualified with Navy Surface and Air warfare pins. After retiring from the Navy, she attended the Central Florida College. She worked at Marion County as Computer Engineer for 19 years. Now she is a juggler.



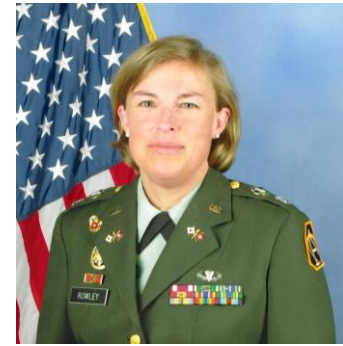
## Sue Roper – Navy

A native of south Florida, Sue joined the Navy Nurse Corps at age 22 following her graduation from Jackson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Miami. She acquired her BSN, followed by a Masters of Science in Education while in the Navy and served at military hospitals in Virginia, Japan, Tennessee, and Maryland. Following her retirement as a Commander, Sue served as an adjunct instructor at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA. and was editor of the Navy Nurse Corps Association newsletter for 13 years. She co-authored Ruff's War: A Navy Nurse on the Frontlines in Iraq. Sue is a President of Tri-County Women Veterans, Inc. and Vice President of Veterans Memorial Park of The Villages, FL., Sue is dedicated to enriching the lives of all military veterans.



## Beth Rowley – Army

Beth, from Massachusetts, joined the Army at 27. She earned her commission at the Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning. As a Signal Corps officer, she served a tour in Korea and Fort Gordon, GA. She served four years in Germany along with her husband Andy Smith. Returning to CONUS, Beth switched to the Army Acquisition Corps and served as a project manager specializing in supply chain management and worked on this effort with NATO. Upon retiring, Beth continued working in acquisition as a government civilian but left the workforce to spend more time with her husband and two sons, Taylor and Reilly, including homeschooling. Now Beth spends her time golfing, working out and volunteering time with American Legion Post 18, the Tri-County Women Veterans and The Villages Polo Booster Club.



## Sharie Russell – Army

US Army – commissioned 1974; served 21 years as a Military Police Officer. Retired as Lieutenant Colonel, 1995. Later worked as a contractor developing CBRN defense publications until retiring to The Villages in 2011. Sharie paved the way for women in the field of Army Law Enforcement in a series of increasingly responsible postings including Physical security assignments in Ft. Eustis, VA and Taegu, ROK; Provost Marshal, Ft. Story, VA; Company Commander, Ft. Irwin, CA; Mannheim, GE & CGSC, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. Army funded Masters Degree from Kansas State. Sharie served in multiple staff positions at the MP School & Training Brigade, Ft. McClellan, AL, culminating as Commander, 701<sup>st</sup> MP Battalion. Sharie's final posting was as Chief of the Military Police Assignment Branch, Alexandria, VA.



## Sally Scavone – Army

Growing up in Buffalo New York, Sally attended the SUNY Brockport to earn a BS Degree in Nursing. She trained as a Nurse Practitioner at Marymount Hospital in Cleveland Ohio and later received a Master's in Nursing from SUNY Buffalo. After working several jobs, she found her niche in teaching nursing. In 2006 an army recruiter came to recruit her students, and she joined the 865th Army Nurse Corp Reserve unit. She was mobilized in 2008-2009 to Brooke Army Medical Center where she worked as a staff nurse for a year. She was proud to be able to commission her son into the air force and later officiate at his promotion ceremony. She has been married to Jim for 47 years.





## Michelle Scheel – Air Force

Michelle Scheel entered the Air Force in May 1982 immediately after high school. She worked in Accounting and Finance before transferring to the Reserves and Air National Guard. She cross trained into paralegal. Michelle deployed to Afghanistan in 2007. She was the Senior Paralegal for the Air National Guard Information Technology, and the Law Office Manager for the Wyoming Air National Guard . She retired as a Senior Master Sergeant in 2012 with over 30 years service. Michelle is married with 4 children and 10 grandchildren.



## Kimberly “Kim” Scott – Air Force

Kimberly Scott joined the USAF in 1987 as one of only four active-duty clinical speech pathologists. Her career took her to medical settings in the US, United Kingdom, Germany and Turkey. She completed her PHD in Communication Sciences at the University of Florida in 1999 and was assigned to the AF Research Laboratory Bioacoustics Branch, Wright-Patterson AFB OH. After a six-month tour in Estonia as Operations Officer, Joint US Military Liaison Mission, she went to the AF Inspection Agency and Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center at Kirtland AFB NM. She concluded 20 years of service as a Clinical Speech Pathologist at Lackland AFB TX in 2007..



## Joanne Sheridan – Army

Major General Joanne Sheridan received her commission through Army ROTC in May 1983 at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She served on active-duty Feb. 1984 – Sept. 1988 in the 5<sup>th</sup> ID (M), Ft. Polk, LA and the 5<sup>th</sup> US Army Recruiting Battalion, Jackson, MS. She was appointed in the Louisiana Army National Guard in October 1988 and served in various command and staff positions culminating with her assignment as the Assistant Adjutant General. She deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008 as the Director, Project Management Officer on the Task Force to improve Business & Stability Operations. Her military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. She retired from the Louisiana National Guard in June 2018.



## Dana Sherman – Air Force

Dana was born in Montpelier, VT and was raised in Duxbury, VT. She enlisted in the Air Force when she was 21 years old. Dana went to basic training in San Antonio, TX and Radio Communications Analyst training in San Angelo, TX. She was stationed in San Vito AB, Italy; Osan AB, Korea; and Offutt AFB, NE. She worked as an Intelligence – Radio Communications Analyst for 5 and a half years and retrained as a Subsistence Operation Specialist for her last two and a half years. While in the service she was awarded the Good Conduct Ribbon, the National Defense Ribbon, and the Korean Defense Service Medal. Dana is married to Flo Hurlbut.



## Katherine “Kathy” Sherry – Navy

Kathy was born in Miami Beach, FL. She enlisted in the Navy in 1960, at the age of 18, and spent two years administering the GED to sailors. She left the service to attend business school and take the Civil Service Exam. She began a long civil service career where she performed various administrative functions at military bases around the world including Vietnam, Hawaii, Korea, Germany and several CONUS assignments. She later trained to become a supply analyst and worked at J4 USFK Korea. She retired as a GS-12. In 1984, Kathy entered the reserves and worked at the Navy Headquarters in Seoul. She completed C & GS as a civilian. Kathy retired after 20 years as a Chief Yeoman. She lives in the Village of Piedmont.



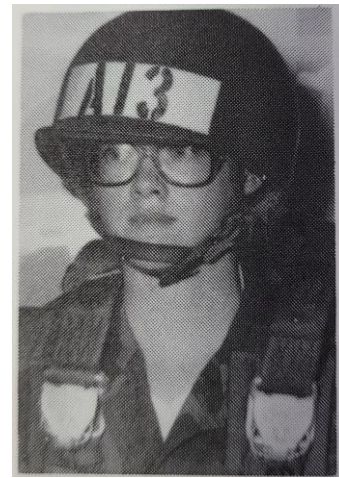
## Debra “Deb’ Simmons – Army

Debra was born in Chester, PA and grew up in Lancaster, PA. After high school graduation at 18 years old she enlisted in the Army in Harrisburg, PA in Jan. 1974 with hopes of “seeing the world”. She was sent to Ft. Houston, Anniston, AL for combat medical as an LPN. She received her nursing degree while serving 3 years in the Army and 6 years in the Army Reserves. She received the Good Conduct and National Defense Medals. She was discharged in GA and remained there working for 10 years in an ER. She has 3 brothers, 2 of which served in the Army. She married Charles Simmons in 1991, they have one son and one daughter.



## Karen Smith – Army

USA 1982 - 1986. A native of Pennsylvania, Karen was commissioned as 2LT, USA, from Clarion University where she also received a B.S. in Chemistry in 1982. She was assigned to Ft. Hood, TX, where she served as a Communications Platoon Leader for HQ Battery, 2nd Armored Division. Karen completed the Signal Officer Basic Course, Airborne School & NBC School. During this period, she was most proud of her team's participation in Exercise Golden Sabre, a multi-national event. The team was responsible for all communications at the Simulation Center and key to the success of the Exercise. After the Army, Karen worked as a senior lab tech for Air Products and Chemicals and then as a lead pharmacy tech. She is married to LTC Stan Smith, USA (Ret.) and they have 3 children, two of whom also served in the Army. Her daughter continues to serve as a Military Police Officer in the Army Reserve. They have 3 grandchildren. They are enjoying FL retirement, staying active every day.



## Patricia Spath – Navy

Chief Personnelman Patricia (Pat) Spath joined the Navy in Albany, NY. She had one tour of duty on the West Coast at NAS LEMOORE, CA. All other duties were on the East Coast or TAD to Europe or Asia. While recruiting at the Naval Recruiting District in Nashville, TN she was awarded the Officer Programs Recruiter of the Year and was the runner up the year before. Pat and her husband, John a retired Navy Captain, had 2 sons, 3 grand daughters and one great granddaughter. She has a BA in Sociology and needs 3 hours for an MA in Political Science. Pat has been to 140 countries, islands and territories in the world.



## Kathleen "Kathy" Starnes – Navy

US Navy Aug. 1979 YNC, Retired 2004. Duty stations: Pentagon; Naval Support Activity, Souda Bay, Greece; VQ-4, Patuxent River, MD; Keflavik, Iceland; San Diego, CA deployed to Guam and Japan; NROTC UVA, Charlottesville, VA; American Embassy/Port Liaison Abu Dhabi, UAE; RAF Molesworth, UK. After retirement, she worked as a contractor for Army RFID and CBP before retiring to The Villages. Although I had already finished college & worked as a school librarian, I feel my life started the day I enlisted. Met & married my husband in Greece. After he retired from the Navy, he moved with me for 11 more years. Held drivers' licenses in five countries, been to 18 and most states. Would do it over again! Villages residents since 2018.



## Rhonda Storey – Air Force

Born and raised in Waterloo NY. She enlisted in the Air Force at 20 in Oklahoma. After basic training in San Antonio, she was assigned to Tinker AFB, home of the Enola Gay. During her career, she was assigned to Germany, Nebraska, Colorado, Azores and Washington DC. She supported NATO, during the cold war, SAC, Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff (JSTPS) and what is now called Space Force. Her proudest day was when she was promoted to SMSgt (E-8). Rhonda's achievements are many. She earned an AS, BGS, BS and MA. Rhonda and Dennis reside in The Villages and are actively involved with Veterans and Disabled Veterans. They have 4 children and 9 grandchildren.



## Katherine “Sue” Strickland – Army

Sue began her military career at Walter Reed Army Center where she completed her Dietetic Internship and remained on staff for five years. She left active duty as a Captain but remained in the reserves while holding positions in civil service. In the reserves, Sue served as Food Service Officer for a 330-bed field hospital and nutritional consultant to the Army R&D Laboratory, Natick, MA. She retired after 20 years as a Lieutenant Colonel. As a civilian, Sue developed and directed health promotion programs for employees of the IRS and NIH, wrote Congressional biomedical research reports, & directed strategic planning for the National Cancer Institute. Sue and her husband of 53 years live in the Village of Dunedin. They have two children and four grandchildren.



## Joan Suelter – Navy

Joan grew up on Long Island NY, graduating from North Babylon High School June of 1965. As an identical twin, Joan understood the importance of following her own dreams, joined the Navy December 30, 1965, following in her father's footsteps. Joan recalls many wonderful opportunities during her service to our country. It's where she found her passion for golf and enjoyed horseback riding. She achieved the rank of CYN3, working in Communications. After her honorable discharge from the Navy, she embarked on a fulfilling corporate career, retiring in 2013. Joan & her husband Bob moved from Katy, TX, to The Villages, where she became a very active member of the American Legion. She is a past Commander of Post 347 Lady Lake.





## Joan Sullivan – Army

Colonel (Dr.) Joan Sullivan was born in Jamaica, NY. Her education includes MD, University of Tennessee; residency in OB/GYN, Cincinnati; M.S. Nursing, University of Florida; & B.S. Nursing, Georgetown University. She was commissioned as a Captain in the reserves in 1977. She deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005 as the Division Surgeon, 42<sup>nd</sup> ID, and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008 as a Task Force Phoenix Surgeon. One of her most memorable missions was providing medical support at the Twin Towers in the aftermath of 9-11. Her father served during WWII and her grandfather during WWI. Her military awards include the Bronze Star (2) and Legion of Merit (2). Colonel Sullivan retired as the State Surgeon, New York Army National Guard in 2014.



## Cindy Sunealitis – Navy

USN 1969 - 1975. Cindy joined the Navy after graduation from Cameron County High School, Emporium, PA. Upon completion of Navy Boot Camp, Bainbridge MD and Radioman "A" School, she was stationed at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville FL. After the Navy Cindy worked in a few different fields but spent most of her career with State Farm Insurance and retired from the company after 27 years. She graduated from Florida Southern College with B.S. in Personnel Management. Cindy was married for 44 years to Tom who passed away in 2016. Cindy is mother to Matthew, mother-in-law to Lacey and has two beautiful grandchildren, Luke and Ella. In her spare time, Cindy enjoys baking and cooking.



## Diane "Dixie" Thalwitzer – Air Force

Dixie was born in Astoria, IL and enlisted in the Air Force at age 18 in 1959. She served 3 years active duty and left because she married. In 1980 Dixie enlisted in the Navy for 9 months Active Reserve, and then made a lateral move back to the Air Force. One of Dixie's proudest moments was when her best friend pinned her when she was commissioned. Dixie was trained in Teletype and Crypto, Aerospace Medicine, and worked as a Medical Technician, and as an RN. She served at Patuxent River and was discharged from Stewart AFB in New York 1995. Dixie worked as a Nurse after being discharged and lived in Philadelphia before settling in Florida.





## Terry Thomas – Air Force

Terry is from Landsdale, PA. In June 1995 at the age of 38, Terry joined the Air National Guard serving until 2015. As a nurse, she was trained as a Air Medical Evaluation Officer learning to care for and transport military patients on airplanes. Following 9-11, she was called up as a Flight Nurse. Deployments included Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom/Nobel Eagle. Her unit carried soldiers to Walter Reed Army Medical Center Andrews Air Base, and Landstuhl Medical Center, Germany. Also under Lt. Colonel Thomas' command, Terry had the honor of caring for soldiers who had given the ultimate sacrifice. At age 50, Terry became a Chief Nurse with CCATT for 13 years.



## Laura “Hoggie” Thompson – Navy

Laura Thompson was born and raised in a small steel mill town, 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. Joining the Navy during the Vietnam war in 1969 at age of 19 , I was hoping to help my country. I served at Naval Station Newport, RI as a Personnelman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class until I married my husband in Louisville, KY when my enlistment expired in 1971. In my civilian life, I spent 25 years in Corporate Sales & Management with 2 major insurance companies & another 20 years self-employed as the owner-operator of 2 pet grooming salons. The 1<sup>st</sup> salon, “Pretty Coat Junction” was in Raleigh-Durham, NC that employed 5 people, & the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Pride & Groom” in Vaughn, NC. (This location was all Red-White & Blue). I retired 10 years ago to enjoy golfing, fishing & pickleball as well as oil painting & arts and crafts of all kinds.



## Ellen Tierney – Air Force

Ellen enlisted in 1972 at the age of 19 in the NY Air National Guard. After completing Nursing school, she was commissioned in OH ANG as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant . The highlight of her military career was at March AFB, CA as the Education and Staff Development Officer. During a Health Services Inspection her training program was rated Outstanding – “A model training program to be used by all”. She met her husband Tim during her time. Ellen retired as a Lt. Col. completing a 22-year career with the Air National Guard. Ellen and Tim moved to The Villages in 2010. She stays active as a member of the American Legion, Golf and many other social clubs in The Villages.



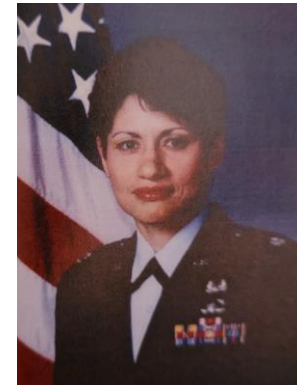
## Gail Tyree – Air Force

Gail grew up in Dayton, OH close to Wright Patterson Air Force base. She had visited the Air Force Museum several times & it was natural to join the Air Force after completing Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing. Gail served in South Carolina & Columbus, OH. At that time women could not be pregnant and serve. So, when pregnancy became obvious, she was honorably discharged. As an officer, she had to pay for meals on the maternity ward, her daughter cost \$5.80. She continued in nursing for the next 40 years, working in ICU, infection control and hospice. After retirement she worked “Days for Girls” (They make reusable feminine hygiene kits for 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries) Gail made 2 trips to Malawi, Africa with “Everyday Women” to teach sewing groups to make the hygiene kits. She was married 25 years & has one daughter & 4 grandchildren.



## Narda Vega – Air Force

Narda Vega, a proud veteran with 38+ years of Air Force service, served in active duty from 1978 to 2001 and as a civilian servant from 2002-2018. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she entered the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant and retired as a Lt. Colonel. During her career, she held numerous positions of leadership at the base and major command levels. She served in plans/programs, engineering, test & evaluation, program management, wing-level support and force development jobs. Her contingency experience includes Operation Desert Storm at Prince Sultan Air Force Base in Saudi Arabia where she served as a Deputy Support Group Commander. She is married to Reverend Truman Hartzog. They have three daughters and three grandsons.



## Teresa “Terri” Vickers-Salmon – Army

Terri was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. After graduating from high school in 1978, she enlisted in the Army. After attending Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO she went on the several schools to be trained as an Intelligence Analyst. Terri was stationed in Augsburg, Germany and also Ft. Bragg. After 5 years of active duty, she did 3 years in the Army Reserves. After being honorably discharged in 1987, she went on to be employed in several financial institutions. Terri has been married to her husband Mike 24 years and has one son and two grandsons. They have been in The Villages for 14 years where she enjoys golfing, sewing, playing pool and throwing darts.

## Kay Watkins – Navy

Kay was raised in Garden City, Michigan. At 18 she joined the Navy in 1971 and went to boot camp and Radioman school in Bainbridge, MD. Kay was stationed in Maryland, Washington D.C., San Diego, Misawa Japan, Hawaii, Orlando, Puerto Rico, Norfolk, Rota Spain, and USNS Saturn (T-AFS 10) in the Mediterranean Sea. She retired as Radioman Senior Chief Petty Officer in 1992. Her fondest memories was as a Company Commander in 1980-1983 for 10 companies in RTC Orlando. Using the GI Bill, in 1997 she received a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Old Dominion University. In 2003, Master of Science in Management and in 2017 a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences. She lives with her dog Bear, since moving to The Villages in 2019.



## Marian Watkins – Air Force

Dr. Marian Watkins, Major, USAF Retired. Dates of service 1968-1971, 1974-1980, 1980-1998. A native of Philadelphia, PA, Marian joined the US Air Force in 1968. While attending college she joined the Air Force Reserves from 1974-1980. After receiving her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, she reentered the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. Her first assignment was with a A10 Fighter Squadron at RAF Bentwaters, England. She later joined the Air Force Officer of Special Investigations, and was a commander at Mather AFB, California. As a special agent she had assignments at Bolling AFB, DC and The Pentagon. Marian obtained a master's degree in management, a second master's in education, and Doctor of Educational Leadership. Currently, Marian works as a travel consultant for Expedia Cruises in The Villages.



## Sunny Watson – Army

Sunny grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a Vietnam Era Veteran who served in the Army as a WAC from 1973-1975. Her basic training was at Ft. McClellan, AL. Her advanced training was at Ft. Sam Houston, TX for Dental Assisting. She served at Ft. Riley, KS with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division as a Spec. 4. Discharged with the National Defense Service Medal. After military service she attended college to obtain her Registered Nursing Degree, a degree in Biology, and a BA in Business Administration. Her family also served, Dad WWII Army Air Corps Philippines, Brother Vietnam Bronze Star recipient, Grandfather Mother's side WWII RAF Iceland, Uncle Mother's side WWII RAF North Africa. Married to George for 43 years. Proud to have served her country.



## Joan Wendel – Army



## Joan Wentz – Navy

Joan from Rockland, MA earned her nursing diploma from Peter Bent Brigham Hospital School of Nursing in Boston. She joined the Air Force in 1968, served at Wilford Hall Medical Center San Antonio, TX; Keesler Medical Center, Biloxi, MS until 1972. Furthered her education; BSN (LSU), MSN (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville) Nurse Practitioner at Barnes Jewish College of Nursing (St. Louis, MO). In 1985 Joan served in Bahrain with the 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Fleet Hospital to ever be deployed to a war zone. Joan's Father (WWII Pacific), Brother (Viet Nam) both Marine Corps. Joan is a widow and lives in The Villages, FL. She has a son who lives in Gainesville, FL.



## Nancy White – Navy

From Murray, Kentucky, Nancy joined the Navy WAVES in 1965. Completing Basic Training in Bainbridge, Maryland she received the American Spirit Honor Medal the highest honor awarded a recruit. Nancy attended Machine Accountant School; later the Navy changed the rating to Data Processing Technician. She served in the Norfolk, Virginia area & was Honorably Discharged at the Norfolk Naval Air Station in 1968 as an E-5, Data Processing Technician Second Class. After 33 years of federal service with the Dept. of the Navy, Nancy & her husband, Richard of 55 years, sold everything and purchased a 41-foot power boat & lived aboard full time for 7 ½ years. Their cruising adventures included: Two trips up the inside passage to Southeast Alaska; Circumnavigating the eastern U.S.; Cruising across the Erie Canal to the Thousand Islands & St. Lawrence River to Ottawa & Montreal; New York City, Chicago, St Louis, Chattanooga, Mobile Bay, Gulf of Mexico, Florida Keys, & the Intracoastal Waterway from Miami to Cape May & the Chesapeake Bay.



## Beth Ann Willey – Army

Born and raised in Vermont, Beth-Ann joined Vermont's Own 40<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard Band to put her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education to use utilizing her percussion skills serving in the areas of public outreach and troop morale, with various unit band configurations. She played bass clarinet in a woodwind quintet for a few years. For seven years she was the voice of the 40<sup>th</sup> Army Band as announcer for concert band performances throughout Vermont and when the 40<sup>th</sup> back filled for Army Bands at Fort Huachuca, AZ and Fort McPherson, GA. She played percussion in the Waterbury Community Band for 19 years, the VT Philharmonic Orchestra, and many other groups as scheduling allowed. Civilian job with the State of Vermont in various agencies and capacities. Dates of service: 1996 – 2016



## Kashi Yatto – Army

Kashi began her military career by joining the PA National Guard as a Private while she was a junior at Shippensburg State College. She graduated and was commissioned as a 2LT in the U.S. Army in 1980 and went on active duty. Her first duty station was in Stuttgart, Germany, where she developed her love for Europe and traveling. While never planning on a military career, it became her life's work with the different assignments, promotions, and opportunities. Kashi's assignments were primarily between Europe and Washington DC. She completed 3 master's degrees, attended the US Army War College, and retired as a Colonel from her last assignment at the National Defense University, Washington, DC, in 2010. She moved to The Villages in 2018 and continues to travel.





Ambassadors

Marion Grobe, Marguerite Desbrow, Jan Roper-Reiff & Dianna Wensdofer

## Marguerite Desbrow – Ambassador

Marguerite was born in Connecticut and raised in South Florida. She married her high school sweetheart Bob, and eventually moved to San Antonio, Texas for his job. Marguerite was a successful realtor in both Florida and Texas. They had two children, Darlene and Michael. Michael was a 20-year Air Force veteran, but sadly passed away and is resting in Fort Sam Houston cemetery. Marguerite and Bob moved to The Villages in 2012, enjoying retired life, especially dancing. When they were young, they won dance competitions and continued their passion until Bob passes in 2014. Marguerite has a love for veterans and devotes her time to the Villages Honor Flight, Villages Twirlers, and volunteering at the Wildwood Soup Kitchen. She is very involved with Tri-County Women Veterans and enjoys helping out as much as she can, working with business in support of fundraising activities.



## Marion Grobe - Ambassador

Marlon is married to Harold Grobe, a former U.S. Army reservist. Both born and bred New Yorkers and long-term residents of Long Island, they retired to The Villages in the summer of 2017. Prior to moving, Marion worked in a number of positions and industries, including IBM Corporation, consulting, and administrator of four departments in a large New York City law firm. In her last position, she owned her own business and managed several New York City chapters of large professional associations. Since moving to The Villages, Marion has worked with several non-profit organizations focusing on improving the lives of children and families in need and is currently an Ambassador for the Tri-County Women Veterans. She enjoys the camaraderie and professionalism of the women veterans.



## Jan Roper Reiff – Ambassador

Jan was born & raised in South Florida. Jan earned her Associates in Arts Degree in Journalism & then attended the University of South Florida in Tampa where she received her MS in Speech & Language Pathology. Her professional life included employment in hospitals, home health agencies, public & private schools, skilled nursing/rehab centers, clinics & private practice. Jan has been married to her husband Dave for 42 years. They have a son David, a daughter-in-law, Kimberly & 2 grandchildren, Asher & Evie. Jan & her husband live in Clermont. Now retired, Jan enjoys biking, walking, reading, knitting, fishing, thrift shopping, singing & attending concerts.



## Dianna Wensdofer – Ambassador

Born in London, England, my family immigrated to the United States in 1965, and I became a citizen. I met my husband, John, and we were married between boot camp and his tour of Vietnam in 1969. I was just 18 years old. Some years and 2 children later, I enrolled in college, highly motivated to learn nursing. During that time, I received the Irene Batista Award scholarship, was a member of the honor society at school, the National Honor Society, and became President of the Student Nursing Society. I started my career at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, going on to become an oncology certified R.N. Later I became President of the Oncology Nursing Society of Nassau & Suffolk, NY. When we moved to The Villages in 2006, I became an inpatient hospice nurse. Now I am retired & enjoy a variety of activities, including volunteer work with Tri-County Women Veterans.





## Carl Clarke – Ambassador

Carl grew up in Michigan graduating from U of M in 1965 with a BS in Electrical Engineering. Receiving his diploma in one hand and his Greetings in the other! Joined the Air Force, completed OTS went to the U of OK, to become a meteorologist. Completed Airborne Training & took a Special Ops. Weather trip to Laos, setting up a weather reporting network. Then onto Ft. Bragg N.C. as staff weather officer for 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, earning his Master Parachutist wings, then moved into the Civil Engineering career field. Last five years he became a Special Investigator for the Inspector General. Retired in 1998 as a Colonel. Married to Arlene 25 years, resides in The Villages since 2013.



# In Memoriam

## Doris Ruth Vail

**Captain Doris Vail:  
Female Navy  
Trailblazer**



Doris Ruth Vail, 87, of The Villages, Florida, died peacefully at home with her partner at her side on October 11, 2023. She moved to The Villages in 2016 with her lifetime partner, Helen M. Hardbower. Doris was born in Loveland, Colorado to the late Donald Vail and Dorothy Carey. Doris is preceded in death by her siblings, Donna Helwig and Dexter Vail. She is survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends whom she dearly loved.

She was active in the Tri-County Women's Veterans, and a member of The Rainbow Family and Friends. She had an adventurous spirit, loved people and life and enjoyed traveling, golfing, bowling and dancing. Her laugh and smile were as big as her heart.

Doris, in her 26 years of Naval service, retired as Captain, and was known for her success in pioneering women's opportunities in the Navy. She was presented with an award demonstrating superior performance in all phases of her duties, displaying unparalleled, comprehensive knowledge of Navy Manpower, Personnel and Training. The positive impact she had in this arena was of incalculable value to the Navy and will be felt for many years. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in special education from University of Denver. She received her doctoral degree from George Washington University. Among her other awards and decorations are Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Navy Legion of Merit award and Medal for outstanding achievements. In later years, she published a book detailing her achievements as the first female Navy Trailblazer.

## Barbara Gibson



Barbara Gibson - On Thursday September 21, 2023, Barbara passed away at Cornerstone Hospice in The Villages after a long fight with cancer. She moved to The Villages in 2005 to be with her life partner and wife, Penny Schritz. Barbara was born at Murphy NC to the late Buster Gibson, and Azalea Davis. She had seven sisters and one brother. She was the seventh child of nine. She is preceded in death by her siblings, Louise Wilkinson, Frances Truitt, Betty Jean Ridge, Norma Lee Truet, and Harley (Hoot) Gibson. She is survived by her sisters Dorothy (Dottie) Marlin, Mary Helen Effler, Susie Reed, and many nephews and nieces.

Barbara graduated from Murphy High School in 1959. She played trumpet in both marching band and the orchestra. She played many sports in high school as well in the Army, which she joined out of high school in 1959. She played softball, basketball, and bowling, and was on the "All Army" Bowling Team. She served her country in Baltimore Maryland, Germany, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Fort Gordon, Fort McClellan, and retired from Fort Devon's Massachusetts 1988 as a Sergeant First class.