

WHITE SHOE TIMES

Palmetto Chapter Navy Nurse Corps AssociationSummer 2021Volume 30No.1

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I wear a size 11. To some that may seem like big shoes. But compared to the ones I am filling not even close! So first and foremost, thank you to Alice Bova for the last <u>two</u> years of her passion, her presence, and her leadership of PCNNCA during perhaps the most difficult of times. It is comforting to know she will remain "on call" and

Jeff Bashford

helping to keep me on track as your new president for the next year (or two?). So onward we go!

My thanks to all who participated in our Zoom Spring "gathering"! We had about twenty RSVP-yeses and most if not all actually attended. In a few minutes block, each attendee updated how they were doing and reassuringly all had been vaccinated for COVID19 – a harbinger of a return to in person meeting in the coming year!! So, save the dates for our Fall Membership Meeting October 16th and the Xmas Party December 4th.

We kicked off the meeting with a brief on the 2022 NNCA Reunion Cruise. The nine day itinerary includes an overnight stopover in Charleston on 6-7 May and your PCNNCA Board is soliciting ideas for a greet and meet event while they are here. So, if you have any ideas and would like to join in the discussion please call write or text your input to me or any Board member. One bit of feedback to a question about the cruise – you must take the cruise from its origin in New Jersey, so you cannot join for the remainder of the cruise from Charleston.

Below is a link to a short infomercial about the NNCA 2022 Reunion Cruise.

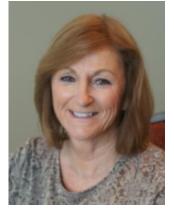
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zicvPiRtMJyU2Y6IOt6crscEZognfR_c/ view?usp=sharing

More details can be found on the NNCA website at <u>https://www.nnca.org/2022-nnca-reunion</u>

To take the cruise, you must be a member, and May was Membership Renewal Month, so it's a good time to log in and visit your NNCA.org "My Settings" database entry to verify your "renewal date" field right there under your name. If it's anything other than 2021 or later you may have forgotten to renew this spring. For those of you without that internet access, please check your personal records and be sure to stay current with your membership. Our Membership Committee folks (thank you Maryalice Morrow and new chairs Alice Cagnina and Wendy Nolan) are scrubbing the database and you may hear from them (if not already) if you missed the renewal date for 2021.

My challenge as your new "remote" President is to try to make the same personal connection with all PCNNCA members as did past Palmetto Coast located presidents. And I look forward to doing just that, especially with the help of my new VP (and past president) Becky Crichton on the local front in Charleston. So from the mountains to the coast, I look forward to a great year for all PCNNCA members and hope to "see" you all soon.

VICE PRESIDENT



Becky Crichton

Editor's Note: Our new Vice President is no stranger to your BOD, having been active with PCNNCA for *many* years, including service as our President in 2015. Aside from the challenges posed by COVID, Becky has had a challenging year dealing with a catastrophic flood, caring for friends in need, and un-retiring to work again with the Catholic Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy in Charleston after her replacement became incapacitated. We are lucky to have her return to our Chapter leadership team!



Wendy Nolan

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

(From Wendy Nolan, one of our newer members who some of you may not yet have met) Hi! It's great to finally be out and about. I am a co-chair for the Membership Board position. I have been a Chapter member for 3 years and a member of NNCA for many. My husband and I moved from New Jersey in 2018 and we are enjoying the Lowcountry life. I retired from a Managed Medicaid company 2 years ago ending my 42 years of active nursing. I am an active member and secretary of the Summerville Friends of the Library, active in various church groups, and enjoy going to the RiverDogs games. We have two grandchildren we love to visit with and two fur babies.



Alice Cagnina

(From Alice, our 2016 PCNNCA President) I have been a past president and am now co chairing membership responsibilities with Wendy. We have been going through membership records, reaching out to those who have lapsed over the last 5 years. A few responded positively so far..



Mary Ann Jarmulowicz

SECRETARY

Jerry Davidson and I have discussed the PCNNCA Membership Directory be transferred to the position of secretary. Jerry has completed all the work on the 2020 Directory, so he has made updating addresses for 2022 easy. The Directory is published and mailed to PCNNCA members in even years. Electronic copies are provided in odd years via email attachment or USPS mail copy for those who request mail. Updated addresses are sent as received via email if an address change occurs after publication so, it is important to get membership dues in quickly. Remember PCNNCA members are also members of NNCA. To renew online through NNCA go to

https://www.nnca.org/membership/appQ.htm . The NNCA general membership meeting was held via ZOOM May 8th. If you would like to view the NNCA general membership meeting it is available at https:// youtu.be/kgtWcfevZRE. Some of my take a ways from the meeting was the Daisy Foundation (Chapters partner with NNCA to sponsor Daisy awards to local military hospitals), Vietnam War 50th Commemorative Partner Program (NNCA soliciting volunteers), declining membership (membership as of December 2020 was 1221, "Why did people drop membership?", actions to increase membership), Social Media committee (Facebook, Instagram, Linked-in, Twitter and YouTube is under construction), privacy of members on various communication platforms, the NNCA merchandise committee is dissolved, and the Oral History committee to focus more on diversity (especially men in Navy Nursing in the 1960's and Afghanistan War stories). PCNNCA has a Facebook group and I have provided directions on how to access the PCNNCA Facebook group later in this newsletter. PCNNCA bylaws are printed with the Membership Directory and I will ask a review the PCNNCA Bylaws be placed on the agenda for the October general membership meeting. Hoping you all have a wonderful summer and plan on vacationing in 2021! I am planning a New England Cruise with a longstanding Navy Nurse Corps friend, Carol Carney, and her family at the end of September. It will be wonderful for me to see everyone face-to-face again at the general membership meeting. Zoom does not allow for sidebars and networking activities that we can do face-to-face.



Arlene Southerland

TREASURER and SUNSHINE CHAIRS

Treasurer Arlene Southerland reports that our CD matures

18 August. Because our checking account balance remains steady, I do not think we need to transfer funds from our CD to checking. The checking account balance is \$3,281.48 and our CD is \$5,338.00. Additional breakdown of our Chapter financials will be provided at the Fall 2021 General Membership Meeting.



Mary Houser

Mary Houser sends birthday greetings, as well as cards for illness and bereavement. Several of our members have had surgery, lost family members, and are dealing with medical issues. Please contact her if you know of a member in need.

ORAL HISTORY



Jennifer Gorman

We have not done any oral histories for over a year due to the COVID crisis. I would like to start going interviews again as soon as we can be back together for our meetings. Since I don't live there in Charleston, I am mostly planning to do them on the meeting weekends, when I usually stay in Charleston for a few days. For those who have not yet done so, I encourage you to complete the pre-interview form and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to me at 8 Hampton Drive, Weaverville, NC 28787. If you have any questions you can call me at (619) 569-7738. I'm enclosing the form in hopes that it can also be attached to the newsletter, but I will also send one to anyone who requests it via phone, mail or email. My email address is: jennifergormancapt@gmail.com. I encourage everyone to have an interview done. Even though you may think your history is not that interesting, believe me, it will be interesting to others.

Newsletter



Jerry Davidson

Greetings! Just as we thought things were getting back to normal, it looks like we may be preparing for another round of semi-isolation and mask wearing. As your newsletter editor, I have missed the task of running through photos of our get togethers and selecting a few for all to enjoy. We **will** be having an in person BOD meeting this month (August) and hopefully will plan an October General Membership Meeting at a site where we can safely enjoy each others company (not on a video screen)!

This issue contains a few articles that I believe will be of interest to all, and I continue to ask for your submissions of stories and pictures for our fall/winter issue. I hope you all stay healthy and safe, and encourage your friends and family to get vaccinated. If you had

COVID and are willing to share your experience with it, please write me. The last page of this newsletter has dates of future events and our social media info. Please take a look and mark your calendars especially for the Veterans Day parade! Until the new edition of our membership directory is completed, please note the member address and phone changes on page two. See you soon!



Meet the 2021-2022 NNCA Board of Directors

The 2021-2022 BOD members were announced at the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting. Please welcome our new Board:

Board Officers: President, Donna Styles; Vice President, Carol Zylstra, Roark-Parlier: Treasurer. Margaret Beaubien:

Board Members: Cindy Coyle; Pat Kenney; Carole Louis; Charlene McKee; Debby Nelson Holsworth. Executive Director, Mary Mahony. Story and photo on page 1.



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ ★ In case you missed it

Congratulations to our member Donna Styles on her election as President of the 2021-2022 NNCA Board of Directors!

New and Repeat Reminders

Please make the following changes in your 2020 PCNNCA Directory

- Mary T. Sullivan of Beaufort has an incorrect last digit in her phone number. It should read 843-263-0725, not 0723
- 2. Helen Holbrook has passed away
- 3. Barbara Davidson has passed away
- 4. Bette Shirley's new address is: 115 Mountain Springs Drive, Bostic, NC 28018-5729. Her phone number remains the same: 704-671-2059
- 5. Pat Tackitt's new address is 2270 Magnolia Meadows Dr., Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
- Mary Jo Young's revised address is: The Village at Summerville, Palmetto Unit, Room H-15, 201 W. 9th North Street, Summerville, SC 29483-6701
- 7. Marie Senzig's new address is: PO Box 231, Lyndon Station, WI 53944. Her email address is mssenzig@suddenlink.net
- Jeff Bashford's new address is: 3305A White Drive, Morehead City, NC 28557. New email address is ja.bashford15@gmail.com and mobile contact is 252-626-8777
- 9. Barbara Korns new email address is: bkorns16@gmail.com





PCNNCA member Barbara Marie Davidson, Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy, retired, also known as William Murray Davidson IV, age 77, died Saturday, March 13, 2021, at Memorial Health in Savannah.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, and a graduate from Savannah High School in 1961, Bill attended The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and graduated from Warren A. Candler School of Nursing in Savannah in 1967.

Bill was a retired lieutenant commander, U.S. Navy, with a total military time of 26 years, serving in the Vietnam War and Granada. Awards include National Defense, Vietnam Service, Combat Action,

Philippine Presidential Citation Award, as well as several others.

A registered nurse, Bill worked in a hospital setting for over 45 years, most recently at East Georgia Regional Medical Center in Statesboro for 19 years. He was also a bagpiper for over 55 years and currently a receptionist at Luxury Nails and Spa in Statesboro.

Barbara was a life member of the following organizations: Savannah Volunteer Guards, The Chatham Artillery, St. Andrews Society of Savannah, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans Association, Scottish American Military Society, Vietnam Veterans Association, Savannah Association of Flying Air National Guardsmen and Bulloch County Historical Society.

She was also a member of the following organizations: Dexter Allen Post 90 American Legion, Statesboro Lion's Club, Melvin Jones Fellow, Bulloch Lions Club, Coastal Scottish Heritage Society of Savannah and Scottish Heritage Society of S.E. Georgia, the Society of Colonial Wars in the state of Georgia, Pilot Club Statesboro, Georgia; Tri Ess, Sigma Epsilon, Sons of Confederate Veterans Association and the Navy Nurse Corps Association, Candler Nurses Alumni Association and Al-Anon.

Preceded in death by W. Murray Davidson III and Margaret Farmer Davidson and wife, LaGail H. Davidson. Surviving are three children and their families, William M. "Bo" Davidson V and Sydna of Statesboro and their family, Josiah and Sara Williams; Sarah D. Griffin and Thomas of Albany and their family, Rebakah and Rachael Griffin of Albany; and E. Bruce Davidson and Danielle of Pooler and their family, Chaely and Chloe Fountain; a brother, Bruce M. Davidson of Atlanta; a sister, Margaret D. Rogers of Ocala, Fla.; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Helen and Tripp Foy of Statesboro; Tri Tran and Dao Ho of Statesboro; sister-in-law, Suzanne Ingram of Soperton; sister-in-law, Laurianne Pullen of Soperton.

The family will receive visitors on Friday from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Statesboro.

The graveside service and burial took place on March 20, 2021 at Laurel Grove Cemetery, 802 West Anderson Street in Savannah. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Ogeechee Area Hospice, P.O. Box 531, Statesboro, Georgia 30459; or Trinity Episcopal Church, 4401 Country Club Road, Statesboro, GA 30458. Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com.



The passing of Helen Holbrook was noted in our n our Winter 2000 newsletter.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT: HONORING A PAST MEMBER I recently was blessed to represent the chapter at the Arlington National Cemetery interment of a long time PCNNCA member, CAPTAIN Helen Holbrook, NC, USN (RET). I did not know Helen personally but learned of her passing and scheduled interment from her pastor of many years, a personal friend of mine, at the First United Methodist Church of Morehead City in North Carolina. Having no surviving family members, I learned from her obit and pastor that she left behind a "dearest friend and sister in Christ" of some thirty years who was her companion in many adventures after retirement from Naval service. This friend shared stories with me of what she remembered of Helen's distinguished career, including as an air evac nurse during the Vietnam War, and retirement exploits they shared far and wide that included "navigating a 19-foot outboard from the Carolinas to Key West and hiking the entire Appalachian Trail." If you ever attended an Arlington funeral, you remember, it is a very moving experience, and one in which I was as much honored to be a part as I was pleased to be support for her friend. I hope you will enjoy the accompanying photos from the service. If you knew Helen and can fill in any gaps we may have of her Navy service, please let me know. One gap, indicative of how much she was revered by her staff at NAVHOSP Cherry Point, was filled in by the write up of a tongue-incheek roasting at her farewell there. I know you will enjoy that as well.









The Helen Holbrook Story (Ed note: tongue in cheek roast) CAPT Helen Holbrook, retiring Director of Nursing at the Naval Hospital Cherry Point, has had a long and illustrious career. Not generally known, however, is the story of this woman and her many achievements. Let's follow her through her life and review the highlights. • Born Helen Nurzikowski, her early life was spent in the small formica mining town of Pitfalls, Oregon, just outside of Portland. Not much is known of those early days due to

the lack of surviving witnesses, A playmate, Josephina Washcrotwicz, remembers her as a strong willed, but slightly built youngster who held her own with the "plow-pulling" hunks of women that her town was famous for. Helen remained the delicate flower, the sheer wisp of a woman even to this day. • Helen Nurzikowski, or "Nurz" as she preferred to be called, established a reputation as the local whiz-kid, establishing herself as the administrator of her own pet hospital. The hospital, "Helen's Home for Careless Cats" soon became the only money-making business in town and won her the recognition of the local doctor. Old Doc Valdez, a graduate of the renowned University of Guadalajara, noted Helen's compassion and skills and encouraged her to utilize these skills in helping others. • Then the "big one", WWII. Unable to go to nursing school, Helen joined he Army Air Corps as a bombardier, but was washed out after a parachuting accident. Despondent, she returned home to Pitfalls and Doc Valdez. Not long after this however, a fateful telegram arrived, and Helen was on her way to the Good Samaritan School of Nursing in Manana, Bolivia. Graduating there in the early 50's, she joined the new Air Force in its infancy. Helen fell into the snares of fast men, fast cars and fast nurses. Waking one morning in Boston, she realized that she could no longer handle dressing like a postal clerk. Late one night, she tunneled out of the Air Force compound, and using a reed to breathe, swam to a small naval vessel anchored in Boston Harbor. Instantly enamored by the sight of a sailor, she knew this would be her life. Changing her name to Holbrook (after a small fishing hole she remembered from Pitfalls) she signed up then and there. • Rising swiftly through the ranks, Helen excited every new duty station with her style. Chelsea, Bethesda, Rota and finally Cherry Point resounded with her commands. Always a leader, her nurses flocked around her, eager to do her bidding. Marines looked on in awe as they saw the determination of this woman-Nurzikowski-turned-Holbrook.
 Finally the day has come. But rest assured, retirement is but another stepping stone for this grey haired ball o' fire. She will never, never, never be forgotten in the hallowed, crumbling halls of Cherry Point.

Plans for the future? Well, reliable sources in the Space Agency allude to the possibility of the Captain playing a major role in the "Nurse in Space" program to see if human beings can plan schedules, write policies, arrange staffing, and in general, make the astronauts work harder while making them feel guilty about saying "no". Scheduled for a shuttle mission in the near future, Captain Helen Holbrook won't comment, just smile...





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Member News: Ginny Pritchard An update from Linda Daehn

Our member Ginny Pritchard resides at Savannah Grace Assisted Living in Mount Pleasant, SC. We helped Ginny celebrate her birthday on July 23 with cards, flowers and two kinds of cake.

Cards and visitors are welcome, but please call first before visiting to ensure Ginny is up for seeing you!

Call 843-388-2030, x2032, or 843-296-6771 (mobile)

Left: Ginny Pritchard with Alice Bova

Savannah Grace Assisted Living is: located at 1010 Lake Hunter Circle, Mt Pleasant, SC (turn onto Lake Hunter Circle from Johnny Dodds frontage road)



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Above: Ginny Pritchard, center, with 1 to r: Linda Daehn, Alice Bova and Arlene Southerland

Member News: Mary Jo Young

An update from Mary Ann Jarmulowicz

I had the pleasure of visiting Mary Jo Young on May 18, 2021. She gave me permission to update the Chapter Members on her status. She sold her home and moved to a nice cottage at The Village at Summerville, a Presbyterian Community of South Carolina. It offers assisted living and has a rehabilitation center. Shortly after moving, Mary Jo said she had a fall and hit her head on the nightstand. At the time of this publication (August), she is staying at the facilities rehabilitation center, undergoing rehabilitation to walk. The facility has relaxed visitation rules and is permitting visitors, but are limiting visits for 30 minutes. Please update her mailing address which is noted on page 4 of this newsletter.

If you have a chance to send correspondence, I am sure she would appreciate receiving mail. Scheduling a visit was easy. I called (843) 873-2550 to schedule my visit with her. She says "hello" to everyone. Like all of us, she is missing the face-to-face gatherings for our PCNNCA general membership meetings and missing all of us. I told Mary Jo that a face-to-face meeting is to be held in October. If she is able she will attend and looks forward to seeing everyone.

Partnership with Postal Inspection Service helps Veterans Avoid Scams

Published On: December 7th, 2020 VA's Office of Information Technology submitted this story.

VA's Privacy Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service – the law enforcement and crime prevention arm of the Postal Service – recently established a two-year agreement continuing their partnership to provide Veterans and their dependents important information on avoiding scams and protecting their personal information.

This partnership supports the postal inspection service's national anti-fraud campaign, "Operation Protect Veterans. This initiative alerts Veterans about scams targeting them and their families. It also supports VA's More Than a Number campaign, an identity protection program that provides information to educate Veterans and their beneficiaries on protecting themselves from identity theft.

Scams targeting Veterans range from the subtle to the audacious and may include:

- **Benefits buyout offers:** Scammers take advantage of Veterans' needs by offering a quick, upfront buyout of future disability or pension payments at a fraction of the value.
- VA phishing scamming: Posing as VA employees, fraudsters call Veterans to "phish" for Social Security numbers and personal financial information, which they use to access bank accounts or open fake credit card accounts.
- **Bogus employment offers:** When posting fake job descriptions to collect personal information from Veterans' job applications, scammers often also charge an employment fee.
- Fake charitable-giving requests: Often using plausible branding techniques, scammers make fraudulent claims about collecting charitable donations that do not actually benefit Veterans or wounded service members.
- * **Fraudulent records promotions:** Scammers try to charge Veterans fees to access military records or government forms information that is available for free through the National Archives (for military records) and VA.gov for local VA offices (for forms).

With their continued partnership, VA Privacy Service and USPIS share a common goal: educating Veterans and their families on simple precautions they can take to protect their identity. Whether it's mail fraud, bank fraud, or some other type of scheme, both the United States Postal Inspection Service and VA want to help Veterans and their dependents avoid becoming victims.

Compassionate Contact Corps Volunteers

As a Compassionate Contact Corps Volunteer, you are part of a network of family, friends, social service/health professionals and other concerned individuals who provide comfort and assistance to pre-identified Veterans through weekly non-clinical phone calls.

If you are interested in being a Compassionate Contact Corps Volunteer, please complete the following survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CompassionateCareCorps

If you know of Veterans who may benefit from Compassionate Contact Corps, please have them ask their Primary Care Provider or Social Worker for a referral into the program.

Updated Volunteer Status (as of July 2021 but subject to change)

The number of COVID positive patients in our facility and across the state continues to decline significantly. Acknowledging this, we are revising the restrictions around volunteers conducting patient visitation as a volunteer assignment. Please note that all volunteers, like employees, are asked to meet employee health and background check requirements, and to comply with any COVID mitigation requirements set forth to visit with patients, including self-screening, masking, and distancing, i.e. limits on the number of people in a patient room at one time.

Voluntary Service has brought back volunteer visitation with the following parameters:

- Only one volunteer per room at one time
- No more than two volunteers assisting with resident activities on the CLC at one time
- Pet therapy volunteers will not conduct rounds in waiting areas to avoid crowding

We know that our patients, particularly those Veterans who live in our Community Living Center, look forward to our seeing our volunteers during their visits, and we anticipate positive reactions from our patients as our volunteers return to this assignment.

As a health care leader, we will continually monitor the community, CDC and VA guidance for appropriate adjustments to ensure safety of our Veterans and staff at all times. If you have not completed your vaccine at this time, this continues to be the single most important part of the effort to provide safety to you, your family, the Veterans and our community.

Please contact Voluntary Service at **(843) 789-7230** or VHACHAVAVS@va.gov if you want to return to your regular volunteer role. We ask that you also provide your VA badge expiration date when you contact us so that we can give further instruction if any requirements (badge, training) need to be completed before you return.

July 2021: Ralph H. Johnson VAMC Donations Needed!

Individually packed snacks:

Fig bars, Nutrigrain bars, Kind bars, Nuts, Granola Bars, Skinny Pop, Rice Crips, Veggie Chips, Trail Mix, Goldfish, PB or Cheese Crackers, Breakfast Bars, etc.

Food Panty Needs: Hot and Cold Cereal, Rice, Pasta, Canned Spaghetti, Stew, Chill

Sweatpants (All Sizes)

Pants (All Sizes)

Knit Shorts (All Sizes)

Men's Tennis Shoes (10 and above - including half sizes)

Thank you for your continued support of Veterans in the Lowcountry!

Office of Community Engagement & Veteran Experience Ralph H. Johnson VAMC 109 Bee St., Charleston SC 29401 Office: 843-789-7230 Fax: 843-579-2761 Email: <u>vhachavavs@va.gov</u> <u>www.charleston.va.gov/giving</u>

WANTED

Medical Foster Home Caregivers for Veterans

The Ralph H. Johnson VA is looking for compassionate caregivers to provide a safe and home like environment to Veterans, as a nursing home alternative. Care for the Veteran would be provided in your home, with support from the VA and our medical Home Care team.

Caregivers must have prior caregiving experience (formal or informal) and have the compassion and motivation to provide 24/7 supervision to Veterans placed in their home.

For more information, contact the VA Medical Foster Home office at:

Charleston

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HIR HEROES MEET N

MFH Coordinator 843-252-3446 Admin Number 843-709-7812 MFH Coordinator 843-301-3825 Admin Number 843-637-7321



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center

Conway

Great news for our members and families who live in the Charleston area!



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center 109 Bee Street Charleston, SC 29401-5799

In Reply Refer To: 534/00

Dear Veteran Partner:

On June 8, The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center will be opening the new North Charleston VA Outpatient Clinic located at 6450 Rivers Ave. Veterans assigned to Primary Care Teams previously located at the main medical center or at the Trident VA Outpatient Clinic will now receive Primary Care Services at the new clinic where their team is being relocated. Dental Care Services will also be moving to the new North Charleston Clinic.

We are excited to open this new clinic for our Charleston area Veterans and we know you have been anticipating this move since our groundbreaking event in May 2019. The new location will provide approximately 75,000 square feet of clinical space with state-of-the art equipment to better serve our Veterans. It gives us more than 130 treatment rooms to offer primary care, dental, tele-dermatology, tele-retinal eye care, blood draw, select mental health services that support primary care, and radiology, including x-ray, CT, ultrasound, bone density and a future mobile MRI. The space also features a designated Women's Health area and gives us the opportunity to continue to grow and offer more services as needed.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, we are not able to offer a large-scale public grand opening event. However, we want to celebrate opening this clinic with you, the Veterans and the Charleston community. So, we will host a Virtual Grand Opening event that will feature a tour of the new clinic on June 7 at 12 p.m. on our facility's Facebook Page (facebook.com/VAMCCharleston).

I am excited for you to see our impressive new clinic and we look forward to providing future health care services there for our Veterans. They have earned the very best in health care and it is our goal, at every interaction, to give them nothing less.

Sincerely,

hour R. Jenacha

Scott R. Isaacks, FACHE Director



Save the date! At this time, the Charleston Veterans Day parade has been scheduled for November 6. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the date!



Ed note: At our PCNNCA Spring Membership ZOOM Meeting on 24 April 2021, our active duty member Candy Anderson provided a report on the state of Navy recruiting. Below is a summary of her comments, plus contact information if you have an interest in helping with candidate interviews.

Recruiting Duty

LCDR Candy Anderson reported that recruiting duty in Charleston has been difficult with COVID-19, but we've overcome and adapted by ramping up social media outreach. The Nurse Candidate Program has a \$10,000.00 sign on bonus, with a \$1000.00 monthly stipend. The program is for those graduating from a BSN program between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2024. Submitting a Nurse Corps package is best during the summer, the earlier the package is submitted the better it is for the individual.

There are typically 50-60 enlistment quotas, for one year and two year benefits. The Physician Student Scholarship Program (HPSP) has a \$20,000.00 sign on bonus, \$2,400/ month stipend with all tuition, books and equipment covered.

Direct accession is pushing for critical care specialty, psych NPs and nurse anesthetists. There are no quotas for medical surgical or emergency medicine. Wartime specialties as ortho, neuro, uro, colorectal and general surgery are still in demand. DHA is taking over most of military medicine affecting all manning numbers.

There were ramped up deployments initially for communities needing treatment and care for COVID-19, and now the push is assisting with vaccinations.

Candy reported she has people to complete candidate interviews but is always appreciative of help. If you would like to help with candidate interviews, please contact her at

candy.anderson@navy.mil or candy.anderson67@gmail.com

LCDR Candy S. Anderson Navy Medical Officer Recruiter Navy Talent Acquisition Group Carolinas NORS Charleston 1661 RedBank Rd, Bldg 302 Goose Creek, SC 29445 Cell: 843-714-3302 Fax: 843-794-7870

USS Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123)

Newly completed destroyer USS Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123) was christened at the Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., April 24.

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer holds special meaning for Navy Medicine. The ship's namesake — Lenah Higbee — entered service in 1908 becoming part of the "Sacred Twenty," the first nurses (and women) in the U.S. Navy. She is the first woman to receive the Navy Cross, and became the second superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps in January 1911.

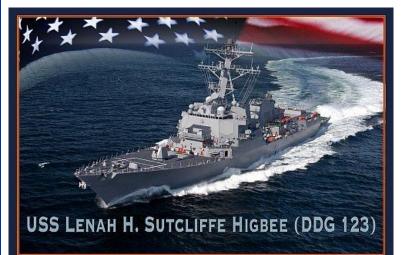
Ray Mabus, the 75th Secretary of the Navy, was the keynote speaker.

"This christening is a signal event in the life of a warship deeply engrained in naval tradition when a ship officially bears the name it will carry during its time in the fleet," Mabus said. "The story and the legacy of Lenah Higbee, and what she represents, will live on for decades around the world through this ship's voyages and through the lives of the crew who sail aboard her."

DDG 123 sponsors are Louisa Dixon, Virginia Munford and Pickett Wilson, three women who



Former Ingalls Shipbuiding President Brian Cuccias and DDG 123 Prospective Commanding Officer Douglas Brayton watch as ship sponsors Virginia Munford, Pickett Wilson and Louisa Dixon officially christen guided missile destroyer Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123). (Photo by Derek Fountain/HII)



played an important role during Mabus' term as governor of Mississippi. Munford spoke on behalf of the three sponsors.

"As we help dedicate this ship for service, let us all join together in the fervent hope and prayer that *Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee*'s primary mission will be to preserve the peace for future generations," Munford said.

Rear Adm. Cynthia Kuehner, commander of the Naval Medical Forces Support Command, spoke on behalf of the chief of naval operations.

"I know that USS *Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee* will protect and defend our nation with the same

zeal, courage and valiant resolve of the Navy nurse for whom she is named," Kuehner said. "Superintendent Higbee's legacy is a heroic account of a fearless pioneer, a leader among men and women, an advocate and an agent for necessary change, a visionary, a teacher, a scholar, a scientist, an author, an innovator, a strategist. A Navy nurse."

2021 NAVY NURSE CORPS BIRTHDAY





Jeff Bashford was asked to step up as the "oldest," along with the "youngest", a USUSHS Anesthesia student visiting us for a few months, in the cake cutting at Carolina East Medical Center in New Bern, NC. There are seven current/former/retired Navy Nurses working there on the front lines

above right and right: PCNNCA members were joined in the cake cutting by a contingent of staff at the Naval Health Clinic at the Naval Weapons Station Charleston









left: Brazil Army jungle school mascot in the Amazon

below left: Lt Kim Hess and I on a MC helo during Operation Bright Star in 1987

below: On the bridge of Comfort talking to the XO of the refueling ship



2021 CALENDAR OF REMAINING EVENTS

We are hopeful that our October General Membership Meeting will be conducted in person. Some suggestions have already been received as to possible locations in light of the most recent COVID surge. We will keep you informed as decisions are made and notify you as each Chapter event approaches.

August 14

BOD Meeting, Mount Pleasant, SC

October 16 General Membership Meeting Location to be determined

November 6

Ralph H. Johnson VAMC-2021 Veterans Day Parade Downtown Charleston, SC

December 4

Christmas Party and Holiday Luncheon Wild Dunes Homeowners Beach Club, Isle of Palms, SC



If you haven't already, join our PCNNCA Facebook group and stay connected! Share your photos, stories and important information. We are a "closed FaceBook group" so if you would like to join, request to be a "friend" by emailing Mary Ann at jarmulowiczma@cs.com