



THE OAKLEAF

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VETERAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Vacant

BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Season’s Greetings to All!

As the Christmas Season is approaching, I first want to acknowledge the passing of several NNCASC Members. Former longtime Board of Directors member **Sandy Holmes** passed away in Escondido on November 3, 2024. Sandy spearheaded our Veterans and Community Outreach function and was responsible for raising thousands of dollars in support of various veteran’s services. We have missed her presence at our meetings in the past several years as she dealt with health issues. Former Bay Area Chapter of NNCA member **Pat York**, who had joined NNCASC this past year with the closure of the Bay Area Chapter, passed away on November 18, 2024, in San Ramon, CA. We honor Pat and extend our sincerest condolences to her family and our friends of the former Bay Area Chapter. Finally, I want to mention the reported passing of **Melissa George** who lived for many years in Orange County both while on active duty and in retirement. We have not been able to confirm her death from any death notice, only a verbal report that she passed away in July 2024. Melissa was a longtime NNCASC member who preferred remote affiliation with our organization. I had the privilege of working with Melissa – she was an extremely intelligent and competent officer. Members of NNCASC are planning to honor both Sandy and Pat in services or gatherings. I hope we will be able to do the same for Melissa in the future. Please keep the families of these Navy Nurses in your prayers.

After a four-year gap in the position, we welcome **Sheree Scott** as our **NNCASC Secretary!** Sheree is already assisting our board to modernize record-keeping and document sharing. Sheree, we appreciate your willingness to serve and look forward to working with you.



TREASURER'S REPORT
 Third Quarter 2024
 Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU)
 Balance as of September 30, 2024

Although I am not sure of our final number (maybe 24), NNCASC had a good showing on the September/October NNCA Reunion Cruise from Boston to several port stops in eastern Canada. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with former colleagues (some from 35-40 years ago) in a vacation setting. Several spouses and other family members attended as well. NNCA is planning another reunion for its 40th anniversary in 2027 and is seeking volunteers to help plan for this event. Ideas in discussion include another cruise, perhaps from Seattle to San Diego, or a land-based event in the Western US. **THANK YOU** to **Judy Brooks, Linda Shinn, and Debby Nelson- Holsworth** (all former Bay Area Chapter members), who have volunteered to participate in reunion planning. Let me know if you would like to help with this effort.

NFCU Checking	\$ 4470.11
Share Savings	\$ 88.07
NFCU Savings-Scholarship	\$ 11,709.22
NFCU MM General/Memorial	\$ 22,523.35
<u>Morgan Stanley Investment</u>	<u>\$ 216,548.47</u>
TOTAL ON HAND	\$ 255,339.22



Our 1st Quarter follow-on **Zoom Call will be on Thursday, 23 January 2025 at 1800 (6PM) Pacific Time** following the next General/Luncheon Meeting on Wednesday, 22 January 2025. Watch for an e-mail invitation that will go to all Members. **Please sign up** if you want to attend the Zoom Meeting. The first 15 minutes or so will be time to socialize, similar to our in-person meetings. The Zoom Meeting will use the same agenda as the in-person General/Luncheon Meeting and is intended for those who are remote to Southern California and those who are unable to attend in-person.

NNCASC Board approved and made an end of year \$750 donation to **“Wreaths Across America”** to help provide wreaths on veterans’ graves at Fort Rosecrans, Miramar, and Riverside National Cemeteries on December 14, 2024. For more information go to: www.wreathscrossamerica.org

Finally, I wish each of you a blessed Holiday Season and hope you take time to truly enjoy family and friends.
 Your comments are always welcome at email: jhourigan@roadrunner.com

NNCASC also made an end of year \$500 donation to the **Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation** in support of a \$35 monetary gift for each of the 204 residents. NNCASC also made a \$500 donation to **STEP** (Support the Enlisted Project) and \$500 to **Interfaith Community Outreach**.

NNCASC also acknowledges **Dove Coltharp** for her very generous donation to NNCASC to support the chapter and Homes for Our Troops and to **Arlene Mills** for her recent donation.

Jane Hourigan



MARKETING, RECRUITMENT, SUSTAINMENT REPORT

Greetings,

This time of year, is typically a “quiet period” for membership activity. Our total new and rejoining membership for the year is **11**, and there were **15** prior BANNCA members who joined our chapter. That brings our total membership number to **180** for 2024.

January through May of 2025 we will be in the thrust of our 2025–2026 NNCA/NNCASC membership drive. NNCASC Chapter dues are **\$20/year**; total dues for NNCA and NNCASC are **\$55**. The NNCASC Board decided that starting in January 2025 the dues for any new member would be complimentary. (This is in line with what NNCA does for a new member) At our January 25, 2025 luncheon meeting we will have all the pre-filled membership forms to give to anyone who attends. Shortly thereafter, all other membership forms will be mailed out. You continue to have the option to renew both your NNCA & NNCASC membership electronically by going to the NNCA.org website. If you choose to renew online, please remember to also renew with our local chapter (So California); this detail is often overlooked. As always, your prompt replies and returns are appreciated!!

Last year the NNCA website was updated. I encourage you to take the time to take a look at this site www.NNCA.org The format is different and full of current, valuable information. This is also the perfect time to be sure your important contact information is correct for any future NNCA Directory revisions. Click on the ‘Member Login’ site; your username will be the email address that NNCA has on file for you, and you will need to create a password. Be sure to also indicate how you would like to receive both NNCA & NNCASC publications, electronically or in print.

Each and every one of our chapter members brings much experience, talent, amazing stories and valuable Navy Nurse Corps history to share. Sustaining our membership numbers is a vital and ongoing effort; so we hope everyone continues to encourage more new memberships in the future. We do have a few potential new members, “waiting in the wings”, so we’re hopeful that they will join next year.

Thanks again to everyone for reaching out whenever and wherever possible. The combined efforts made by all will make our organization stronger. If anyone is interested in volunteering to serve on a committee or on the Board, please let us know. As always, please reach out to either of us if we can be of any assistance.



We have Nurse Corps Veteran license plate holders and NNCASC Chapter patches for sale. Please contact Nancy Johnson if you are interested.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season!!

Georgene B. Waecker
MRS Committee Chair
760-722-0724
george19@cox.net

Nancy Johnson
MRS Committee Co-Chair
858-761-7420
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IN MEMORIAM



Longtime NNCASC member, friend, and colleague, **Sandra Kirkpatrick Holmes**, born September 18, 1943 in Chester, Pennsylvania, “died peacefully at her home with her son, Kirk, and pastor by her side on November 3, 2024. She was a beloved mother, fierce patriot, loyal wife, and devoted University of Michigan alumnus and fan. She is now at home with her maker, the many dogs that loved her, and her beloved husband, Dick...”

Sandy is survived and loved by her son, Kirk, and his wife, Becca, her grandsons, Neil and Archer, her brother, Jim Kirkpatrick, her cousins, nieces, grand-nieces.

A Celebration of Resurrection and Life was held for Sandy at First United Methodist Church in Escondido, CA on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Several NNCASC members attended. Sandy was an active member of the NNCASC chapter spearheading our Veterans Community Outreach for many years.

Sandy will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full honors at a later date. The family asks to please help keep Sandy’s memory alive by sharing your stories and photos of her at: www.sandyholmes.life

Excerpts taken from “A Celebration of Life” of Captain Sandra A. Holmes and website www.sandyholmes.life



Patricia “Pat” Ann York, new NNCASC member and former longtime member of the BANNCA chapter, passed away on November 18, 2024, at the age of 87 in San Ramon. Born on January 9, 1937, Pat devoted her life to her family, her community, her profession and her country. She was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps where she began her career in nursing. She served as a dedicated nurse for more than 30 years.

Pat was laid to rest on December 4, 2024 at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

Lorrie Sammons, former BANNCA President, shared that Pat enjoyed their lunch meetings, including the tour of the NAS Alameda Museum, and holidays at the Brass Door. Pat generously supported the BANNCA chapter and provided memorabilia for their displays.

Pat is survived by her husband, David, her two sons, and five grandsons.

Excerpts taken from obituary at:
<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/obituaries/patricia-ann-york-san-ramon-ca/>



Betty Jean Greene, former NNCASC member, passed away peacefully on November 15, 2024 in San Diego, CA. She was born in Washington, DC on November 5, 1940. She earned her nursing degree at the University of Maryland. She served in the U.S. Navy from 1962-1967, serving in Yokosuka, Japan where, as a Lieutenant in 1965, she met her husband, Ed, a LTJG. After leaving the Navy, Betty worked at Scripps Hospital and as a civilian nurse at Bethesda Naval Hospital. She retired in 1990 after 40 years of dedicated service.

Excerpts taken from obituary at:

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/obituaries/betty-jean-greene-san-diego-ca/>

CARING & SHARING

NNCASC offers condolences to member Barb Beeby on the death of her sister, Debbie, who passed away on October 27, 2024.

Please also keep in your thoughts and prayers: Diane Kuhnly, Linda Drabek, Judy Hill, Debbie Guthridge-Lind, Eileen Hutton, Mary Mottet, and Fran Noble.

Please notify President Jane Hourigan as soon as anyone hears or learns of the passing of a NNCASC member, local Navy Nurse Corps Officer, or one of their immediate family members. Notify Casey Meehan at 858-450-7141 or e-mail her at maryk38@gmail.com if you know of local Navy Nurses who are ill or hospitalized.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

contributed by DJ Lavoie

Captain Sandy Kirkpatrick Holmes, NC,
USN, Ret. 1964-1990

Sandy was born in 1942 in Chester, PA. She graduated with a BSN from the University of Michigan, School of Nursing in 1964 and a MSN in Continuing Education and Adult Med-Surg from the Medical College of Georgia in 1981. When asked about joining the Navy she said, "It is kind of a goofy story" because she needed money to buy a car while a senior student at the University of Michigan. After exploring the Army, she discovered the Navy Nurse Corps Candidate Program and the rest is history! Her first duty was Naval Hospital Oakland where she was introduced to orthopedic nursing which she kept returning to over the years. When she got to Oakland, the old buildings reminded her of the old barracks in Newport and the fire hazard they must have been. Her second tour at Oakland was in the new hospital. That was a challenge as the patients were no longer on large open wards but in semi-private rooms. Her other duty stations included: Recruiting in San Francisco, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Guam, and Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, where she was stationed with her husband, Dick, whom she had met while on recruiting duty in San Francisco.



Dick & Sandy Holmes

Sandy also had duty at Health Sciences Education & Training Command (HSETC), Bethesda, MD. That proved to be challenging and frustrating as the chain of command was different from hospitals and getting to know and

understand a new vocabulary with all the acronyms, was challenging. Her son, Kirk, was born four months after she arrived.

The most memorable changes she experienced were duty with the first male Nurse Corps officers, uniform changes from stiff white dresses to polyester, and not working night duty for 30 days! Sandy shared many stories from her 26 years of service... Night duty in Subic Bay was the scariest, [one Navy Nurse] being responsible for the whole hospital. Guam was hot and humid and the 80 bed wards overwhelming. The patients, though challenging, were fun. She often wondered why none of them ever crashed their wheel chairs when rolling down the hill off the compound!

Although each duty station had its own challenges, she “loved each one of them, eventually”! Sandy shared her experiences in a 1968 AJN article “Battle Casualty: Amputee” and Readers Digest in 1970, “Hey, Hero”, as well as lecturing about casualty care to various groups.

[Excerpts from Oral History interview of 03/14/2022]

Sandy’s Oral History interview, along with others, can be found at the Library of Congress website:

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/veterans-history-project-collection/>

**2024-2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

December 14	Wreaths Across America
December 31	Last day to VOTE for NNCA Board of Directors
January 22	NNCASC Luncheon BoujieMana Aero Ct.
January 23	Zoom Meeting
February 11	NNCASC Board Meeting
March 1	Operation Dresscode (dates for clothing drive TBA Jan 2025)

Oral History Project Notice:

The committee is down a couple people to perform interviews at the present time. Scheduling “in person” interviews may be put on hold for a while until more committee members are available to perform interviews. Zoom interviews are, however, more easily managed.

We are encouraging anyone interested in learning more or being a part of our committee to contact us. We would love to hear from you. This committee is such a fun and rewarding experience.

Candace Curlee - ccurlee@sbcglobal.net

DJ Lavoie - bobndjl@hotmail.com

Barbara Beeby - bjbeeby@sbcglobal.net

Judy Harris jlharris@earthlink.net

Dee Cannon dee_cannon@outlook.com

VETERANS COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Heather Arbogast, RN, BSN, AMB-BC, MHA, was the guest speaker at the NNCASC October 5th luncheon at Cocina del Charro. Heather is the Women Veterans Program Manager at the

San Diego Veterans Administration Healthcare System. She provided information on Women’s Services Comprehensive Care including Military Sexual Trauma, Mental Health, Maternity Care, Nutrition Services and other resources. She also spoke of “Pathway to Care”, a monthly lunch and learn series - a drop-in, virtual 1 hour sessions where they discuss a different health concern, its treatment, and how to access care.

For more information on the VA Women’s Veteran Program, go to:

<https://www.va.gov/san-diego-health-care/health-services/women-veteran-care/>



NNCASC member **Dolly Brown** was selected to go on the September 27-September 29, 2024 San Diego Honor Flight to Washington, DC. She was one of two women veterans on the flight of 90 WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans.



Dolly returning “home” from her Honor Flight. Her son, John, accompanied her.

Honor Flight, a non-profit organization, typically takes two trips per year, in the spring and fall. On the trip, veterans visit the WWII, Lincoln, Korea, Vietnam, Air Force, and Marine Corps Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery for the Changing of the Guard Ceremony, tour the National Museum of the U.S. Navy, and women veterans visit the Military Women’s Memorial. The veteran travels at no cost to them. The organization has taken over 1,700 veterans on the flight since 2010.

The next Honor Flight is scheduled for April 25-27, 2025. They anticipate flying 90-100 WWII, Korea, and Vietnam era veterans plus veterans from any era with a terminal illness. To submit an application, go to:

www.honorflightsandiego.org.

You can also call: 1-800-655-6997.

MILITARY WOMEN’S LUNCHEON

The 34th Annual Military Women’s Luncheon was held Saturday, October 19, 2024 at the Veterans Association of North County (VANC) in Oceanside. Over 100 military women and guests attended the very popular event. It was an opportunity for active duty, retired, reserve and former military women to enjoy camaraderie, share their stories, their challenges, to network and enjoy a meal together. Military women who have passed away since the last luncheon were remembered in the program including NNCASC members: Dawn Benson, Kay Parks and Melissa George.

The program this year featured keynote speaker, our own NNCASC member, **RDML Cindy Kuehner**, USN, Retired. Thank you to the MWL Planning Committee especially MC RanDee McLain Malone, Holly Shaffner, and our own Jane Hourigan. If you are interested in volunteering for the committee to help plan future events, please e-mail: sdmilitarywomensluncheon@gmail.com



Throughout the event, opportunity drawings were held for donated gifts. NNCASC donated four Fall seasonal gift baskets and a gift certificate. Special thanks to all the Board members who donated items and/or money for the baskets.

NNCASC JANUARY LUNCHEON



NEW VENUE

We look forward to our next luncheon at a new venue **Wednesday, January 22, 2025** at **BoujieMana, 3545 Aero Court, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92123**. There is a reservation form, with additional information, including choices of wraps and sandwiches, in this newsletter. Please **RSVP by Friday, January 16, 2025** with check for **\$30** per person to avoid congestion at check-in.

The restaurant is located in the Kearny Mesa/Serra Mesa area of San Diego near the 15, 163, and 805. There is a large apartment construction going on near the restaurant but plenty of parking. Suggest using your GPS and/or mapquest since members are coming from various locations throughout the county..

Our guest of honor speaker will be our own **Casey Meehan, NNCASC Member of the Year**, who will briefly share some of her Vietnam experiences.

CALL FOR NNCASC LUNCHEON CHAIR

Please consider joining the NNCASC Board of Directors and serving as Luncheon Chair. Tina Hooker has been serving in this role for **over ten years** and has requested relief. She will assist the new Chair into the role. Please let me know if you might be interested: jhourigan@roadrunner.com

NNCA REUNION CRUISE 2024

contributed by Sandie Pearson

Our reunion was certainly a time to remember, renew past friendships as well as meeting those who we may not have been stationed with, but certainly served together in our wonderful Nurse Corps!

Our embarkation port of Boston was a crisp and



overcast day but you wouldn't know it as we began to recognize old friends as folks were getting in line to board. It was a sight to see smiling faces and hugs

abound bringing sunshine into our day. My spouse, an MSC, was in awe at how our NC truly came together for a reunion and that he recognized many nurses he had also served with during his career!

As I boarded, I saw our own NNCASC friendly faces as Jane Hourigan and her spouse Pat boarded, Becky, Cindy Perry, Veronica Armstrong-Evans, Lisa Arnold and her spouse Ken Oleno, Judy Brooks, Darlene Burke and her spouse Gary Strasmann, Joanne Fritsch, Ann Holler and spouse Ed Holler, Debbie Nelson-Holsworth and spouse Charles Holsworth, Christine Harris, Caren Prather, Ellen Woltman, Sandra Peppard and her spouse Michael, Ellen Citrano and spouse Bob Citrano, Kathy Rief, Karen Ormsby and Linda Shinn.

Our first social had over 200 NC officers and spouses come together with a constant hum of sharing stories and lots of laughter! I don't think we even knew we left port, but we were well on our way to visit the following ports over the next 7 days: Corner Brook Newfoundland, Charlottetown, St. John's New Brunswick, Bay of Fundy, Sydney Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. We hoped to catch the foliage changes but alas we were slightly early but still many on the cruise who hiked trails or ziplined down from a mountain, as I did, enjoyed the view of colorful trees from up above!

The NNCA presented a most memorable "In Memoriam" service which can be viewed on the NNCA YouTube channel. Go to the www.nnca.org website to access the service and also photos of the reunion.

NNCASC WELL REPRESENTED AT MILITARY WOMEN'S LUNCHEON



Back row l-r: Casey Meehan, Sandie Pearson, Nancy Owen, Barb Beeby, Cindy Perry, Becky Nulty, Karen Foore., Ava Kurtz, Judith Brooks, Easty Law, Front Row l-r: Tina Hooker, RDML (ret.) Cindy Kuehner, Amanda Jack (AD & potential new member), George Waecker, Jane Eberlein, Jane Hourigan



(l-r) Casey Meehan, Holly Shaffner (USCG veteran), Randi Tidmore, (USMC veteran), RDML Cindy Kuehner



Camilla Bicknell & Ellen Citrano



VETERANS DAY PARADE 2024

contributed by Mary Rushton

The Navy Nurse Corps Association of Southern CA participated again in this year's Veterans Day Parade 2024 in downtown San Diego on November 11th. This year we had a trailer with chairs, towed by Ric Rushton. Some of us wore uniforms and others wore patriotic colors. Mary Rushton wore scrubs from her days in Labor & Delivery, Nancy Owen wore her khaki uniform from her deployment in Zagreb, Croatia with the United Nations [this year was the 30th anniversary for Fleet Hospital Six's participation in Operation Provide Promise]. Marilyn A. Day wore service dress blues and looked spectacular! President Jane Hourigan, Jane Eberlein, Easty Law, Sandie Pearson, and Angela Acfalle showed our proud and patriotic veteran spirit.

Ric and Mary decorated the trailer and their neighbor provided the chairs. Mary also provided heart-shaped lollipops which were distributed to the kids and some adults by Angela. The crowds greeted us with cheers, clapping and many a "thank you". It was a beautiful San Diego day down on the waterfront and a very festive atmosphere! As a side note: Mary's mother made the uniform in the 2nd picture for her 2 year old grand-daughter. She wore it when Ric returned from deployment in 1981.



(l-r) Jane Hourigan, Nancy Owen, Marilyn A. Day, Sandie Pearson, Mary Rushton, Jane Eberlein, Easty Law, Angela Acfalle



NNCASC LUNCHEON MEETING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, January 22, 2025
LOCATION: **BOUJEMANA**
 3545 AERO COURT SUITE B
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
 PHONE: 760-826-8543
TIME: SOCIAL HOUR: 1100

Make reservations by Thursday, January 16, 2025

Call Tina Hooker at 858-571-2874 or e-mail at: tinahook@att.net
 for any questions or if you need to cancel

Make checks payable to NNCASC

Send reservations & checks to:

Tina Hooker
 6237 Caminito Juanico
 San Diego, CA 92111

RESERVATION LUNCHEON MEETING

Please make reservations for _____ persons.
 Check enclosed for \$_____ at **\$30.00** per person.

MENU CHOICES: (1) Turkey/Provolone Wrap with roasted aioli & spinach herb; (2) Southwest Chicken Wrap/Monterrey Jack Cheese, Chipotle Aioli, Corn Salsa; (3) Roast Beef and Herbed Goat Cheese Sandwich on Sourdough Bread; (4) Vegetarian Option

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING	CIRCLE STATUS	MENU CHOICE (1, 2, 3, 4)
_____	AD RET FORMER	_____
_____	AD RET FORMER	_____
_____	GUEST	_____



Navy Nurse Corps Association of Southern California
Nancy Owen, Newsletter Editor
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Coronado, CA 92118



Replica of plaque dedicated November 13, 2021 at Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial