

NNCA NEWS

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

ONCE A NAVY NURSE, ALWAYS A NAVY NURSE

Volume 38 No. 3 | March 2025

NNCA Announces the 2025 Board of Director Selections



Mary Ann Jarmulowicz
(South Carolina, PCNNCA)



Cynthia (Cindy) Kuehner
(California, NNCASC)



Lisa Henning Raimondo
(Maryland, WMANNCA)

Congratulations to our new Board of Director members: Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Cynthia Kuehner, and Lisa Raimondo! Thanks so much to the talented slate of candidates who volunteered to serve on the NNCA Board of Directors. We had a slate of highly qualified and dedicated members. Please consider becoming a candidate for the 2026 slate!

Alice Bova and Linda Daehn from the Palmetto Chapter met on January 12, 2025, to tabulate the votes. Linda Daehn, Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee (Ballot) notified NNCA Board President Cynthia Sweeney of the elected candidates that same day.

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President's Corner - Cindy Sweeney

Since our last newsletter, your board of directors (BOD), and committees have continued the work of the NNCA. We have a strong group of leaders within this organization, using their collective experience to move NNCA forward. The 2027 Reunion Planning Committee representing a cross-section of chapters, and under the leadership of Tina Ortiz, is forming up what will be an amazing experience to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the founding of NNCA! Stay tuned for the details!



In November, under the leadership of Vince Starks, we created a strategic plan that will guide our work to achieve our desired outcomes. With the strategic plan in place, your board and committee chairs, under the leadership of our Treasurer, Brian Dawson, developed a budget to provide the resources needed to accomplish our strategic goals and provide investment for the future.

In December our new BOD members were voted in. Thank you to Donna Styles and Pat Kenney for their leadership as the nominating committee and to Linda Daehn and her team in the management of the vote count. We are fortunate to have a membership rich in leadership experience and willing to step up to serve the NNCA. Our slate of candidates included CAPT Jackie Sharpe NC USN (Ret), who passed away on December 13, 2024. It is with sadness that we acknowledge her passing but with great appreciation for her willingness to serve the NNCA. Jackie's dedication to service is a common trait of those supporting the NNCA. We welcome our new board members, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Cindy Kuehner, and Lisa Raimondo. Each of these board members brings their unique experiences to this leadership role. We are excited to have them join the board!

With each welcome for a new board member, there is a farewell to a departing board member. NNCA has been blessed with the energy and dedication of Rosie Perdue as the uplink to Oral History and Museum/Memorabilia. She has provided procedures that will allow us to maximize our resources to capture our history. As Secretary, Veronica Armstrong-Evans was responsible for capturing the content of the board meetings and for communications within the BOD to keep us on task. Without the leadership of Vince Starks, we would not have the strategic roadmap to guide our actions. He has shared processes that will improve the work of our committees throughout the organization. These individuals have contributed generously as thought leaders in the mission of NNCA. We know that though they leave these positions, they will find new avenues to contribute to the work of NNCA.

In January Sara Marks joined us as the NNCA Newsletter editor. Sara brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to this role. She and Dot O'Very shared the role of editor to create this March newsletter as an interactive means of orientation! Dot's thoughtful creativity and insight

NNCA NEWS

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Board of Directors, 2025 - Current

Cynthia Sweeney, MD – President

Jennifer Vedral-Baron, TN – Vice President

Veronica Armstrong, CA – Secretary

Brian Dawson, FL – Treasurer

Michelle McKenzie, TN

Tina Ortiz, FL

Sandra Pearson, CA

Rosie Perdue, VA

Vince Starks, IA

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GCNNCA Shirley Lewis-Brown

LLNNCA Harriet Palmer-Willis

MSNNCA Ellen Hodges

MWNNCA Betty Jean Mahaffey

NENNA Tom Wilson

NNCASC Jane Hourigan

NWNNCA Nadyne Krienke

PCNNCA Melanie Frank

SCNNCA Mike Beimer

WMANNCA Christine Boltz

continued on pg. 3

President's Corner continued...

are felt as much as seen in every communication, project, and committee, she participated in. We hope Dot's talents will not wander too far from the NNCA!

Please mark your calendars for the NNCA Annual Meeting of the Membership on April 16 at 7:00 pm. This will be a virtual event. The first face-to-face meeting of the Board, Chapter Presidents, and Committee Chairs, since COVID

will take place April 4 and 5 in Franklin, TN. It will also be available virtually.

As you can see there is a strong theme of leadership within this column. We are always standing on the shoulders of those who led us! We welcome your active participation in NNCA!

~ Cindy

Executive Director - Mary Mahony

We are amazed at how quickly time passes with each new newsletter edition. Although the time between editions may seem short, the accomplishments of our Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and News Editor have been truly impressive. What once involved only a few meetings per year has now evolved into more frequent, smaller group sessions, all working tirelessly on behalf of the association.



That said, there is still much work ahead, particularly in memorabilia and oral histories. If you are interested in contributing, we would love for you to join the teams working to enhance the virtual museum, collect histories, or expand membership. Please reach out to us via our website (<https://nnca.org/about/contact-us/>).

As we welcomed the New Year, we were proud to begin with 1,101 active members. In 2024, we gained 63 new members (58 of whom joined online) and saw 98 past members rejoin. This growth can largely be attributed to the success of the Fall Reunion Cruise and the tireless efforts of the Marketing Committee to raise our profile. However, we need your help! Please continue spreading the word and encourage your Navy Nurse colleagues to join so we can continue thriving as an organization.

A quick reminder: our current membership year runs from May 1, 2025, to May 1, 2026. When you submit your online or paper application, please make sure that your preferences for how your name, address, phone number, and email address are displayed are up to date. For paper forms, remember to select whether you prefer a printed or online version of the directory and newsletters. Members can also review and update these preferences via their profile page on the Members Only site.

As you'll see later in this newsletter, the membership fees have changed. This marks the first fee increase since 2012. We've also listened to many of you who expressed

interest in a lifetime membership option. After extensive research and calculations, we've introduced a new fee structure with several options, so you can select the one that best fits your needs.

Planning for the 40th reunion officially kicked off last November with a highly productive brainstorming session. Since then, we've met monthly, with different members taking on various tasks. The result is a two-part event designed to appeal to land lovers and sea-faring adventurers. We're planning a land-based gathering in the Seattle, WA area, followed by a cruise for those who wish to extend their stay. As we build momentum, we hope more members will want to get involved in planning the reunion, from selecting speakers to organizing programs and activities. If you're interested in participating or have ideas, please contact us at nnca40th@nnca.org.

Finally, we have many individuals to thank for making the past year a success. First, a big thank you to Dot O'Very, who is passing the torch to Sara Marks as News Editor. Dot has been instrumental in getting our message out, attending nearly every Marketing Committee call, and having an in-depth understanding of our organization. While we'll miss her, we're excited to welcome Sara, who brings editorial experience from her work with MOAA.

We also want to acknowledge Cindy Coyle, who is stepping down from her role as Marketing Committee Chair. Cindy's tireless work began in 2021 when she took on the position and quickly set to work on the first marketing plan. She wrote a comprehensive Request for Proposal for website development and spearheaded the search for a marketing contractor, ultimately leading to the design of our new website and increased traffic. Her contributions will have a lasting impact on our organization. Thank you, Cindy!

Lastly, we bid farewell to outgoing Board members Rose Perdue, Veronica Armstrong-Evans, and Vince Starks. We are grateful for their dedication and service to the Board. You may have taken on more than you expected, but your contributions have made a lasting difference.

~ Mary

NNCA 40th Anniversary Reunion in 2027

—Submitted by Tina Ortiz, Chairperson

Plans for our 2027 NNCA 40th Anniversary Reunion are underway! Under the leadership of Board member Tina Ortiz, our twenty-plus planning committee members are already making progress. At our second meeting on 19 December, the committee decided to celebrate the NNCA's 40th Anniversary at our "birthplace," Seattle, Washington.

The committee is busy exploring exciting venues and events in the Seattle area. The intent is to host the Reunion activities in Seattle over a two to three-day time frame. Many options are under consideration, including a featured guest speaker at a luncheon or evening gala as well

as several meet and greet opportunities so members can catch up with shipmates and make new friends.

We are also exploring post-Reunion cruise options as our Fall Foliage cruise was such a huge success this past fall. We are soliciting pricing from several cruise management companies with an eye to a pacific coast or Seattle Sound itinerary.

We are still seeking members to join the committee or one of the subcommittees. Share your thoughts with your Chapter representative soon, or email

Tina and the committee at NNCA40th@nnca.org.



Editor Column

Departing Editor Dot O'Very

As military members we don't say "good-bye" but "see you later." I leave my position as NNCA News editor with many fond memories and deep gratitude for the new and rekindled friendships I have formed through the editing process. I admit I was one of those members who joined the NNCA just to read the newsletter and go on the occasional cruise; no interest whatsoever in the ongoing management of the NNCA. But that was before I became the editor and learned about the incredible talent and



dedication of our membership and leadership team who, through monumental volunteer efforts, sustain our organization. Now, I know better, and am committed to helping to sustain the most important benefits of membership – camaraderie and the retention and sharing of our legacy as Navy Nurses through our oral history and memorabilia programs.

I want to sincerely thank the countless authors who have contributed to each of the eighteen or so newsletters I have been honored to edit. Your support was instrumental to the publication of each NNCA News edition.

Thank You ~ see ya later, Shipmates!

~ Dot

Incoming Editor Sara Marks

I am delighted to step up as your NNCA Newsletter editor. Dot and I worked this newsletter together as a team. You'll notice a different look and design with the new application I'm learning. In preparing for my role as editor I've been clearing out my home office. It's much easier to work in an uncluttered and organized space. Amazing to notice the things that I don't need any-



more since my retirement from the Navy almost 12 years ago! How did all those things accumulate!? Thank you Dot for your outstanding work over the last six years and your generous help during this turnover. Fellow nurses, I look forward to your stories, updates and articles.

"There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." -- Will Rogers

~ Sara

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Alice Miller, World War II Veteran, Recognized by the Northcoast Veterans Museum

—Submitted by Dot O'Very

NNCA was notified of this story by Andre Sobocinski, Historian, Communications Directorate, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), that was originally published in the Fremont News-Messenger, Port Clinton News Herald. We did not receive permission from the publisher to reprint the article, but we wanted to recognize a milestone achievement for one of our fellow Navy Nurses. Alice Miller, 104 years young, was recognized by the Northcoast Veteran's Museum as they completed a display of her World War II U.S. Navy nurse's uniform, her medals and several photos on January 22, 2025. Alice resides at the Valley View Health Campus senior living facility in Fremont, OH.



Alice shared that she had been stationed on the USS SOLACE from April 1945 to March 1946. During that time, the ship was ported off the coast of Okinawa, Japan and cared for the wounded men from the last battle of that island. When the battle ended, the ship was relocated to Norfolk, VA, where she continued to work on the ship until it was decommissioned.

She recalled that the burn wounds were the worst and most frequent injuries and that as much as she hated the war and the consequent casualties, she loved the Navy. In the article, Alice recalls images and memories that she says are as vivid as if they were occurring right now.

Another highlight of her career was meeting American War Correspondent Ernie Pyle and obtaining his autograph on a one dollar bill.

The Northcoast Veteran's Museum is at 411 North Main, Gibsonburg, OH.

We salute LT Miller and thank her for her service and for sharing her memorabilia and stories!

An Interview with Diane Carlson Evans submitted

—By Dot O'Very

On January 23, 2025, your NNCA President and newsletter editors had the privilege of interviewing Diane Carlson Evans, a recipient of the Presidential Citizens Award in recognition of her efforts which resulted in the creation and dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the National Mall in Washington DC. The opportunity to interview Diane presented itself when MWNNCA President, Jean Mahaffey shared details about the award presentation and a feature broadcast on her local Minneapolis news channel. Initially, I hesitated to reach out to Diane, as I thought a very busy and renowned person like Diane would not have time to engage in an interview. I was most definitely wrong! Diane not only immediately agreed to the interview, she kept the three of us spell-bound for two hours, sharing the incredible journey of her achievements on behalf of her sister veterans.

Our conversation began with the recognition of the significance of Diane's receipt of the Presidential Citizens Award. Diane shared that she is likely the only military nurse to receive this honor since its inception under President Nixon. The group discussed the historical significance of recognizing nurses, especially those who served during the Vietnam War era when they faced such negativity for volunteering, and upon their return home. Diane shared her surgeon husband's disbelief at the mistreatment of nurses during that era.

Diane discussed the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War Memorial in the early days (1980s), even amongst the male veterans. Their dissatisfaction led to the creation of a separate statue which they felt better represented the men who fought in Vietnam. The statue is known as the Three Soldiers or the Three Servicemen and resides on the National Mall not far from The Wall. Diane shared that witnessing this process stirred a burning ember within her. On the Vietnam War Memorial are the names of eight nurses who died in Vietnam. Of the 2.7 million Americans who served in Vietnam are the unique stories of over 265,000 women who had served during Vietnam. "The Three Soldiers" statue did not represent their sacrifice and valor. Diane shared that each time she viewed The Wall or listened to discussions about recognizing veteran services, she also thought of the families of all those names

that would never see their loved ones again. Did they know that a nurse held their loved one's hand, representing to them the compassion and presence of their mother, spouse or sweetheart while comforting them? In Diane's mind and heart, she realized the need for a monument to recognize the service of the women and to serve as a reminder to the families of the deceased and wounded that there was a nurse there to care for and comfort them.

As she realized this need, she also wondered, how could a full-time mom with four young children and a job make a difference? Diane shared that while she may not have had public speaking, philanthropy and marketing experience, she had grown up on a farm and certainly knew the value of teamwork, hard work and had the ability to strategize – all skills she had either grown up with or learned in the chaos of Vietnam. Much of this journey is described in her book, *Healing Wounds, A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10-Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C.*

In assessing the need, she recognized that this memorial would need to include and be representative of the many women who had served during Vietnam, not just nurses. She built a team of allies, including Red Cross volunteers, Women Army Corps (WAC) members, leaders of each branch of the military service and any woman veteran who had served in any service.

With her team of allies assembled, they garnered Congressional approval for placing a memorial at the desired site near The Wall. But this did not include approval for the art of the monument. That would be another series of battles and eventually, triumph. Diane talked about the challenge of learning the language of Congress, the various Art Boards and Committees and the navigation of many hurdles over the next ten years.

Diane described the design features for the memorial that she felt were critical to best represent the diversity, emotion, courage, and strength of the women who served. She emphasized the important role the memorial would play in recognizing their service, but also the value in healing the hidden wounds of war.

She faced opposition on many fronts – often unanticipated and perhaps, disappointing, but she refused to give up. A turning point in the journey occurred when Diane and four women service members appeared on the program "60 Minutes" with newsman, Morley Safer. Each nurse shared their experiences. The segment garnered significant public support, with many people reaching out to the nurses and donating to the foundation established

to create the memorial. Diane shared a touching reunion between nurse Maggie Arriola, one of the "60 Minutes" interviewees and a horribly wounded service member whom she had cared for during the war. She had no idea if he had survived or not. Miraculously, following the airing of the "60 Minutes" episode, the soldier she had described reached out to the news channel and they were able to connect. A monumental moment of healing for many.

She eventually gained support from high-ranking officials like Colonel Jane Carson, NC USA Ret, Admiral William J. Crowe, USN Ret and Rear Admiral Francis Shea Buckley, NC, USN Ret, all trailblazers in their respective fields and in the project. At this point, Diane emphasized that she and her team remained committed to taking what they deserved, not settling for "second best." Persistence overcomes resistance and the ever-present commitment to helping sister veterans heal was their guiding focus.

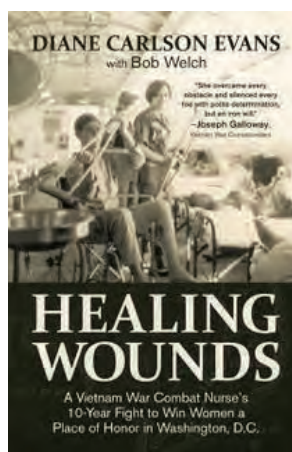
The next challenge was the selection of the memorial monument when they realized the original sculpture created by Rodger Brodin would not be approved by the Arts Board. They solicited input and received submissions from over 350 artists. In discussion of how the Vietnam Women's Memorial statue came to be, Diane described how she and her team faced resistance and criticism from some members of the board and the Fine Arts Commission but remained committed to their vision of a statue portraying women. The statue was designed and built by Glenna Goodacre, who was inspired by the stories of women veterans. She incorporated elements of futility, anguish, hope and healing into the design. The statue was unveiled at the dedication ceremony in 1993, and it has since become a symbol of the compassion and bravery demonstrated by the women serving in the Vietnam War. The team's persistence and dedication to their cause were key factors in the successful completion of the project.

We asked Diane about her contributions to Kristin Hannah's book *The Women*, a New York Times best seller, currently in production as a movie. The book tells the story of a nurse serving in Vietnam in the 1960's. Diane shared that she was asked to not only contribute her experiences in Vietnam but also asked to read the manuscript for accuracy. In reading the manuscript, her nightmares of that time were again triggered. Through a variety of expert sources that Diane provided to the author the accuracy of the book was assured. It has been the subject of many Book Club discussions, providing the opportunity for those outside the military to appreciate the service and the associated discrimination of women who served during the Vietnam conflict.

Sara asked if Diane had any recommendations for our current and future generations of nurses who are preparing for deployments. Diane shared her experiences as a nurse during the war, highlighting the lack of preparation and support for nurses at that time. She also discussed the challenges faced by nurses, including sexual assault and the stigma associated with it. Sara shared her experiences as a nurse in the Navy, including her deployment to Kuwait which underscored that those challenges continue to be faced by women serving in a war zone. The conversation highlighted the importance of creating a safe environment for military personnel and the need for better preparation and support for nurses preparing for deployment.

As our conversation wound down, Cindy queried Diane about the leadership lessons and experiences she could share. Diane emphasized the importance of finding allies, persistence, and giving credit to those who deserve it. She emphasized the concept of shared governance to generate and embed investment in the mission from all participants. Diane also discussed her approach to leadership, including letting go of grudges and focusing on the positive aspects of her work.

Diane reiterated that the goal of the journey had always been and still is four-fold: the establishment of the Memorial, ongoing conduct of a “sister” search to identify other women veterans who have been lost since their return to “civilization,” the education of the public about the contributions of women in the military and the facilitation of research to ensure that our story is not lost but rather advances the healing of our sister veterans through their story telling.



—Diane’s book, *Healing Wounds*, A Vietnam War Combat Nurse’s 10-Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C.



—The Vietnam Women’s Memorial adorned with red roses – a tradition that is coordinated every five years in conjunction with a Veterans Day reunion and storytelling at the Memorial that was initiated by WMANNCA member, Sue Miller.

Here is the link to a story/article that was written by Richard Reeve about the Presidential Citation Award and the experiences of Diane and Jean aired on the local Minneapolis station KSTP, January 3, 2025 - 5:24 PM, <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/honoring-my-sister-veterans-minnesota-native-receives-presidential-citizens-medal-for-her-service/>.

The original statue created by Rodger Brodin, *The Nurse*, was purchased by the Wisconsin Chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The statue lives at The Highground Veterans Memorial Park, where she pays tribute to all women who have served our nation.

Reunion with 1971 USS SANCTUARY Roommate

—Submitted by Jean Mahaffey

Cathy Guiliani Andrews and I were stationed on the USS SANCTUARY during the Vietnam War and hadn’t seen or communicated with each other since 1971! I saw her picture on a Wisconsin Honor Flight and contacted her. We were able to reconnect and share many memories from our time on the ship and in Vietnam.

This certainly reinforces the longstanding friendships formed in Navy Nursing.



—Cathy and Jean with their deployment book



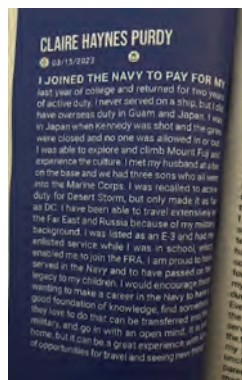
WMANNCA Member, Claire Purdy Recognized at Hospice Veterans Honor Salute

—Submitted by Cynthia Sweeney, NNCA President

NNCA President Cynthia Sweeney shares that she recently participated in the Hospice Veterans Honor Program “Honor Salute” for retired Navy Nurse Claire Purdy. Claire, who is now 88, joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1958 and retired in 1992. She is a current Washington Metro Area NNCA (WMANNCA) member who had a long friendship with two other NNCA members, Darby Reynolds (dec) and Bobbie Hovis (dec), having served during the Vietnam War. At the ceremony, Cindy presented her with a copy of her service record which our Executive Director was able to locate. Claire was thrilled with the service record as she had forgotten some of her duty stations and was excited to share this new-found resource of her military service with her family.

(Editor note: NNCA was notified on January 24, 2025 that Claire had passed, having died peacefully at her home. WMANNCA member Ann Ross shares a memory of Claire: “I certainly do remember Claire. Claire and I were

in WN1 together in 1959 and then in 1963 were stationed together in Yokosuka, Japan. I talked to Claire on Monday when I heard she was in Hospice. We had a fun conversation reminiscing about our adventures in Japan. I wanted to try out the Tokyo subway system but it was all in Japanese. Claire was the only Navy Nurse that was willing to go with me. We had a great time and didn’t even get lost. I am so glad that I didn’t put off calling her.” ~Ann)



—Claire’s biography printed in the Fleet Reserve Association Brochure



—Claire with her family members and Cindy Sweeney on the day of the Honor Salute celebration.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter (MUSNAVC) Legislative Update

—Submitted by Joe Gollasch, MUSNAVC President

When MOAA Speaks, Congress listens. As the legislative slate was reset for the 119th Congress, MOAA member engagement has become even more vital to achieving our advocacy objectives. Your advocacy ensures that MOAA and the broader community of military and veteran service organizations (MSOs/ VSOs) maintain momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans.

We also need your help to build support for new objectives and emerging issues, often via immediate action, to respond to the sporadic nature of the legislative process. Register as an advocate in our Legis-

lative Action Center. If you’re already registered, send the link to a family member or friend. Remember, the Legislative Action Center is open to all who support the uniformed services community.

From April 7th through April 10th, many MOAA advocates will be in Washington, DC for Advocacy in Action 2025. Among the benefits being prioritized are to advocate for veterans exposed to toxic materials during their service, for access-to-care in the DoD Healthcare system, to improve VA Health Care, and to control new TRICARE or TRICARE Pharmacy Program fees.

Your support and participation are imperative for success. Contact your representatives via the Legislative Action Center, <https://moaa.quorum.us>.



WMANNCA Sponsors Virtual Meeting to Present a Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Update

—Submitted by Christine Boltz

On February 3, 2025, the Washington Metro Area NNCA (WMANNCA) Chapter hosted a presentation by the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) featuring RDML Dawn Cutler, USN Ret, who provided an overview of the society and various programs offered, such as financial assistance. Following this overview, Rosemary Perdue, Director of Nursing, NMCRS Visiting Nurse Program, explained the Visiting Nurse program and the new Mother-Baby initiative. The group plans to start a pilot in March 2025, focusing on three geographic areas: Portsmouth, VA, Groton, CT, and Great Lakes, IL. The pilot will involve strengthening prenatal relationships, using evidence-based screen-



—NMCRS Nurse Lindsay at home visit with new military family

ing tools, and addressing various maternal and infant concerns. NMCRS has partnered with Plumtree Baby to include the 'Settling in with Baby Book' which offers modern, evidence-based resources for pregnancy, childbirth, and early parenting.

There are many ways to support the NMCRS at the local level, including:

- ❑ Making referrals of active duty Sailors and Marines and their family members to NMCRS for services
- ❑ Volunteering, either as a presenter for one of their outreach programs or at a local NMCRS Thrift Shop
- ❑ Send donations of clothing, baby items or small household items to the NMCRS Thrift Shop
- ❑ Remember NMCRS in your charitable giving plans



To learn more about the NMCRS go to: <https://www.nmcrs.org/>.

Watch for news of future virtual presentations hosted by NNCA Chapter organizations - a great way to stay connected and informed!

Pausing to Honor the Leadership of Military Nurses

—Submitted by your NNCA Editors

NNCA President, Cynthia Divens Sweeney, DNP, RN, FAAN published an article on military leadership in the November 2024 edition of JONA: The Journal of Nursing Administration. The article, *Pausing to Honor the Leadership of Military Nurses*, which reflected upon Veterans Day, allows us to acknowledge the service of our nurse colleagues who have served or are currently serving in the US military. It is a moment to reflect on their leadership and experiences as military nurses.

In her article, Cindy addressed key aspects of military nursing that influence and develop leadership skills that distinguish our military nurses from our non-military counterparts. She did this by incorporating the voices of some of her veteran mentors in their own words.

Not one to be satisfied with "good enough," Cindy went the extra mile and received permission from the publisher of JONA for our NNCA members to download a free copy of the article throughout the month of February.



We hope that each of you had the opportunity to download and read Cindy's inspiring article.

Membership Fee Update: Ensuring Continued Excellence and Growth

—Submitted by Mary Mahony, Executive Director

Spring has arrived, bringing with it a sense of renewal and new beginnings. As we embrace this refreshing season, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated members for your continued commitment to our organization. Your support has been instrumental in advancing our mission and fostering a vibrant, engaged community.

Since our founding, we have worked tirelessly to provide exceptional value to our members through programs, resources, and community initiatives. While we have maintained our membership fee at \$35 since 2012, this modest rate no longer aligns with the rising costs associated with delivering the quality experiences and services our members have come to expect.

Why the Increase?

After careful consideration, we have decided to increase the annual membership fee to \$50, effective 01 May 2025. This adjustment will allow us to:

- Expand and enhance the programs, services, and benefits offered to members.
- Support the rising operational costs necessary to maintain the quality of our offerings.
- Invest in new initiatives that align with our mission and goals.

We are committed to transparency and believe this decision is crucial to sustaining and improving the value of your membership.

Payment Options:

We understand that changes to fees can sometimes require careful consideration, so we're pleased to offer a variety of flexible payment options to suit your preferences:

- Annual Payment: Pay once a year for uninterrupted access to all membership benefits.
- Multi-Year Payment with Discount: Save by committing to a 2-year or 3-year membership plan. Our discounted rates offer substantial savings over time.
- Lifetime Membership: Make a one-time payment for lifetime access to all current and future membership benefits, ensuring that you will never have to worry about renewal fees again.

Lifetime Membership Option

In addition to the updated annual fee, we are introducing an exciting new opportunity for members to invest in their long-term connection to our organization. Members now

have the option to purchase a **lifetime membership**, allowing them to enjoy all benefits and privileges without the need for annual renewals.

This one-time payment option ensures that you remain an integral part of our community for years to come while shielding you from future fee adjustments.

Age Range	Lifetime Fee (\$) @ \$50 & 15% discount
25-29	\$ 2465.00
30-34	\$ 2252.50
35-39	\$ 2040.00
40-44	\$ 1827.50
45-49	\$ 1615.00
50-54	\$ 1402.50
55-59	\$ 1190.00
60-64	\$ 977.50
65-69	\$ 765.00
70-74	\$ 552.50
75-79	\$ 340.00
80-84	\$ 127.50

Continuing to Serve You

We deeply value the trust and loyalty of our members, and this adjustment is a reflection of our commitment to ensuring the organization remains robust and innovative. The last fee increase was over a decade ago, and we have worked hard to maintain affordability while delivering outstanding services. This update positions us to continue our mission of serving you better.

Your Feedback Matters

Spring is a time of growth, and your involvement is key to shaping the future of our community. We welcome your input and encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding this change. Additionally, we invite you to share your ideas on how we can further enrich the membership experience and increase participation.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our community. Together, we look forward to a future of continued excellence and growth.



Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

General Fund Donors			
Amick, Cecil	Cummings, Linda	Landy, Patsy	Pearson, Sandra
Amick, Cecil	Curlee, Candace	Law, Diane	Portz, Patricia
Annunziato, Stella	Daehn, Linda	Lindell, Marilyn	Redford-Vogler, Susan
Barker, Deborah	Edgar, Marilyn	Longway, Cynthia	Riddell, June
Bashford, Jeff	Erickson-O'Brien, Myreda	Lutz, Mary Lou	Roberts-Houle, Jean
Becker, Kathy	Escobedo, Rose	Madison, Rick	Samelak, Diane
Beeby, Barbara	Ford, Janet	Mangler, David	Savage, Elizabeth
Bibeau, Patrice	Fraley, James	Mattern, Diane	Schulte, Linda
Blake, Linda	French, Cynthia	McClure, Bonnie	Sellers, Heather
Boltz, Christine	Greene, Judith	McKinzie, Dorothy	Sherrard, Marty
Bonnet-Langston, Kathleen	Grenier-Minasian, Virginia	McKown, F. Carroll	Simpson, Peggy
Boston, Randal	Griffin, Susan	McLean, Barbara	Smith, Denise
Brandley, Rita Terri	Hamilton, Dorothea	Megonnell, Joann	Smith, T.
Brennan, Rama	Hankel, Elaine	Merring, Judy	Speirs, Carol
Broussard, Vicki	Harrison-Wells, Alvina	Metzler, Bernadette	Spring, Pollyann
Brown, James	Harrison, Carol	Michael, Dorothy	Statzer, Rita
Burke, Claire	Hathaway, Rebecca	Miller, Daniel	Taylor, Judith
Byrnes, George	Hendel, Donna	Mills, Arlene	Thompson-Bowers, Jean
Cagnina, Alice	Hill, Joanne	Moran, Jan	Toohig, Celia
Carlton, Carolyn	Hirako, Sharon	Moses-Stanley, Melanie	Tussey, Susan
Carter, Catherine	Holm, Beverly	Murphy, Kathryn	Van Ort, Suzanne
Chonka, Anne	Huddleston, Judith	Nash, Clarice	Varenholt, Sue
Ciesielka, Caroline	Huskey, Bobby	Nash, Linda	Verduyseyne, Jane
Ciurlik, Margaret	Jarvis, Sallyanne	Nolan, Wendy	VorderBruegge, Jayne
Clemence, Carolyn	Jonak, Paula	O'Neal, Kathleen	Wareham, Julie
Cook, Dorothy	Karrat, Victoria	Olson, Teri	White, Therese
Cookson, Sharyn	Kelley, Patricia	Owings, Mildred	Widhalm, Susan
Cox, Rebecca	Kenney-Gutshall, Kim	Pare, Kathy	Wiley, Norma
Coyle, Cynthia	Kenney, Patricia	Pate, Mary Ellen	Winchester, Nancy
Crockett, Margaret	Korns, Barbara	Patterson, Carol	Wise, Jamie

History Fund Donors	
Centko, Marietta	IMO Mary Cornell, Linda Miller
Christopher-Bross, Maureen	IMO LT Jacqueline Jacquet Melvin
Clifford, Betty	
Devney, Anne	
Droll, Michael	
Eady, Mary Lee	
Featherkile, April	IMO Pinky Glass, Mary Began
Hackbarth, Diana	
Kerdus, Mary	
Lewis-Brown, Shirley	
Lindelof, Sandra	IMO Darby Reynolds
Lively, Jeannette	
Lukasik, Susan	
Nelson, Anne Marie	IMO Dorothy G. Leonard
Smith, Gail	IMO CAPT Darby Reynolds
Taylor, Milton	
Willard, Carole	IMO Adm Mary Hall



General Fund Donors In Memory of Others	
Bohn, Randolph	IMO Pinky Glass
Brown, Sherry	IMO Margaret Armstrong
Carney, Carol	IMO Dorothy Leonard
Cooper, Judith	IMO CAPT P. D. Cooper, MC, USN
Donahue, Mary	IMO Rear Admiral Frances Shea-Buckley
Follander, Barbara	IMO Norene Loose, LT, NC, USN
Fridley, Julianne	IMO LCDR Gary R. Fridley
Fritch, Joanne	IHO CAPT Lorrie Sammons
Haskins, Carol	IHO Margery Crist, CAPT, NC, RET
Hourigan, Jane	IMO Patricia Millington
Johnson, Kathleen	IMO CAPT Pinky Glass, NC, USN, RET
Karrat, Victoria	IMO Elissa Speckmann
Keil, Anna Marie	IMO Lola Blanton
Kershner, Audrey	IMO Julia Barnes & Doris Stender Artz
Lebel-Edmons, Helen	IMO CDR Kit Tate
Mayer, Jill	IMO Pat Hurst
McClain, Dennis	IMO John Hiltabidel
McGiffin, Jean	IMO Geri Hudak, Jeanne McKenzie Jordan, Barbara Sobotik
Mitchell, Mary	IMO ADM Frances Shea & other deceased USS Repose Nurses
Newman, Valerie	IMO Sue McCumber, Miki Iwata
Pattinson, Judy	IMO Rae Leff
Pendrick, Paula	IMO Barb Leary
Skupski, Frances	IMO CAPT Cheri Bare
Smith, Jo	IMO Pat Sovich
Smith, Ruth	IMO Joan Bermeitinger
Stokes, James	IMO Roland Mitchover
Thomas, Thelma	IMO Erve Ames, Dick Gierman, Blair Wallace

Memorabilia Fund Donors	
Ancelard, Madeline	IMO Frances Shea
Bold, Joan	
Cailteux-Zevallos, Barbara	
Centko, Marietta	IMO Mary Cornell, Linda Miller
Curlee, Grace	IMO Grace Ann Lane
Doyle, Karen Anne	
Dumas, Mary Anne	
Hamilton, Dorothea	
Hicks, Patricia	IMO Gerry Hudak
Hudson, Marilyn	
Kroetch, Mary	
Lewis-Brown, Shirley	
Lynch, Jeanette	
O'Byrne, Carole	
O'Very, Dorothy	
Phillips, Rosa	IMO Mary Frances Lopez Edge
Rossi, Maria V	
Shebuski-Tolton, Ellen	
Tulich, Joan	IMO CAPT Dorothy Leonard
Vering, Trudy	
White, Sylvia	IMO Joan Pasek
Wiley, Norma	

Nurse Appreciation Fund;
New Category to Recognize
Nursing Excellence such as
the NNCA Awards and
The DAISY Award

Daehn, Linda

Perdue, Rosemary

Memorial Fund Donors	
Amick, Cecil	
Andrews, Coral	
Arnold, Mary	IMO Elissa Speckmann
Bagbey, Stanley	IMO Pat Mailander, Suzy Hyatt, A Darby Reynolds, Bobbie K Clinton Sandy Holmes and Jerre Swanson Tucker Darr
Blazina, Carolyn	IMO CAPT Dorothy Leonard / CAPT Diane Acrell
Bohn, Carol	IMO Maria Carroll
Caffrey, Gloria	IMO Florence Beatty; IHO ADM Alene Duerk
Caffrey, John	IMO Geraldine Mooney, Florence Beatty, IHO ADM Alene Duerk
Connors, Margaret	
Daehn, Linda	IMO Marie Senzig
Emerson, David	IMO Richard Gierman, Faye Thorp-Scott, "Dottie" Yelle
Gardner, Mary Anne	
Giza, Pamela	
Griffis, Nancy	IMO Joyce Vickers
Hoskins, Mary	IMO CDR Joan E. Matera
Jamison, Beatrice	
Kelly, JoAnn	IMO Barbara Yohanan, Frances Davison
Logeman, Judy	
Makdad, Rebecca	Alison D Kuhlmeier
Marsh, Sharon	IMO Frances Frazier, Emily Sanford
Nation, Margaret	
O'Brien, Barbara	
O'Very, Dorothy	IMO Barney Barendse
Pate, Joan	IMO Audrey & Arthur Butler
Probst, Gale	IMO Joan B. "Pinky" Glass
Riebe, Maryann	IMO LT Pat O'Brien Gandt
Roadhouse, Ida	IMO Mary Sattazahn
Rock, June	IMO Katherine Wilson
Thorp, Kathleen	INMEMORIAM - CAPT Laura McClay & CAPT Anita Bacher
Wasneechak, Daniel	
Wilson, Catherine	IMO ADM Mary Hall
Workman, Patricia	IMO all deceased Navy Nurses

folio was not as robust, with an annual percentage yield of approximately four and one half percent. Our Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) Jumbo Money Market account had an annual percentage yield of 1.68%.

In an effort to grow our investments, the Board voted to close our Wells Fargo investments and move those funds along with funds from our NFCU Jumbo Money Market account to our Osborne Partners investment portfolio. We added \$116,001.65 from our Wells Fargo investments and \$116,555.00 from NFCU Jumbo Money Market to our Osborne Partners investment portfolio. We now have approximately \$767,000.00 invested with Osborne Partners in a safe growth portfolio. Our long-term goal is that the growth of this portfolio will help offset the budget deficits we have faced over the past several years.

As we continue to market our association to recruit and gain new members as well as solicit donations, sustained financial stability will be critical in the future. Today our financial future is strong; with continued sound financial planning and wise investments, we will sustain the Navy Nurse Corps Association for decades into the future.

As Navy Nurses we all support and care for those in our communities and around the world in need because that's what we have always done! I wish everyone a safe and healthy 2025, full of love, joy and happiness. I'm proud to be a member of and associated with such exceptional people, nurses and Naval Officers.

NNCA Committee News

Financial Report

—Submitted by Brian Dawson, Treasurer

NNCA finances are in excellent condition. We continue to receive small donations that are added to the general fund to support programs and activities. Our Operating Budget is sound and allowed us to meet all obligations throughout the 2024 budget cycle. The 2025 budgets were approved by the Board and distributed to all Goal Champions. It was noted during the 2025 budget request process that we continue to run at a deficit with respect to contributions versus expenses over the past several years. In an effort to correct that we are looking to grow the return on our investments.

At the end of our 2024 budget cycle we achieved substantial growth in our Osborne Partners investment portfolio, earning an annual percentage yield of approximately seven percent. The growth of our Wells Fargo investment port-



Marketing Committee

—Submitted by Cynthia Coyle, Chairperson

The Marketing Committee continues to meet to evaluate the effectiveness of our marketing efforts and to plan next steps. Our current contract with our marketing company expired at the end of January so we are carefully assessing the best use of allocated funds from the budget. As

noted in the Recruitment and Retention Committee report, our focus remains on growing membership and increasing general awareness of the importance of our organization and our work in preservation of the Navy Nurse Corps legacy we have built.



Recruitment and Retention Committee

—Submitted by Linda Grant, Chairperson

Welcome to 2025! We continue to work diligently on several fronts to 'get the word out' to both members and potential members regarding NNCA. Starting in early July, our online digital campaign began on various media platforms. Message ads and videos on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube ran through December. While observations of this campaign demonstrated overall good performance on these sites, evaluation of the effectiveness of these activities is ongoing. Our goal is to see increased membership and donations. Additionally, updates continue to be made on the NNCA website to ensure information is up to date and all pages and actions are working as planned.

A survey was sent to members with the November newsletter. Survey responses were due for submission by December 31st. The purpose of the survey was to provide members with the chance to share candid thoughts to help make the NNCA the best organization it can be. We all play a crucial role in influencing the future of our organization. For those who completed and sent in their survey, a big thank you. The results of the survey will be provided to the NNCA Board for review and action and a summary

shared in a feature newsletter.

As I reported in the last newsletter, NNCA was involved in Nurses Week and Navy Nurse Corps Birthday activities in May of 2024 at two MTFs. Various materials were developed and displayed to educate attendees about and to promote NNCA. These pilots were highly successful and an important step in facility engagement with the goal of increasing visibility, exposure and goodwill. The Recruitment and Retention Committee, which is comprised of members from each Chapter, is now the NNCA resource link for this program rather than the Marketing Committee. The intent is to expand the NNCA relationship with MTFs through our local NNCA Chapters. The Recruitment and Retention Committee will reach out to each Chapter (via your Chapter representatives) for event planning. Initial planning began in January, so now is the time to become engaged. We're looking forward to making these events a success as we look forward to the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday and Nurses Week.

If you have any ideas, questions, or would like to assist the Recruitment and Retention Committee in any way, please contact your Chapter membership chair or Linda Grant at membership@nnca.org.

NNCA Annual Meeting of the Membership Save the Date!

**Wednesday
April 16, 2025
7:00 pm**

**Virtual Invite will be sent 30
days in advance of the
meeting**



Memorabilia Committee Update

—Submitted by Sherry Dotson, Chairperson

NNCA is in the process of adding a collection of thirty-three paintings to the virtual museum. They are paintings that depict the lives of eleven Navy nurses who were captured by the Japanese in the Philippines during WWII. The paintings follow the nurses' lives from pre-war service in the Philippines to their capture in January 1942 and ordeal as prisoners of war. The nurses were imprisoned first at Santo Tomas and later at Los Banos in Manila with more than 2,000 other Allied civilians and military personnel. The series concludes with the dramatic rescue of the nurses and other POWs by the 11th Airborne Division in February 1945.

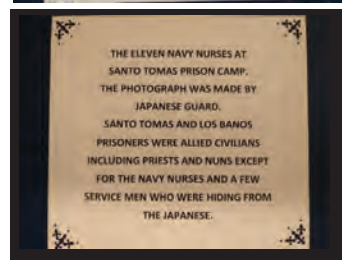
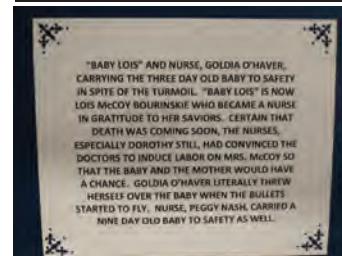
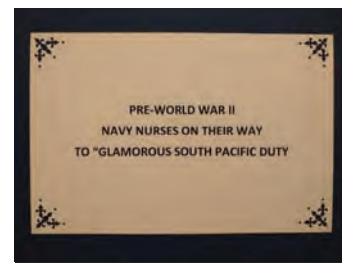
The paintings have been previously displayed under the titles 'Guests of the Emperor' and 'Angels Came at Dawn' referring to a prisoner's description of the paratroopers floating on white silk as they jumped from the aircraft. The rescue was accomplished on the very morning that the Japanese had intended to execute all the prisoners. All the nurses survived the war to return home. Their heroism and bravery is only now beginning to be told. Despite their captivity, they operated what amounted to a US Navy Hospital behind enemy lines, ministering to the sick and wounded. This is a tale of uncommon valor by American women whose background would never have prepared them for their ordeal.

Thirty-two of the canvases describe the nurses' ordeal. One additional canvas is of a Navy Nurse on the USS BOUNTIFUL post-captivity. They were painted by Dr. Ralph Thomas McLaughlin, a retired Navy heart surgeon who served during the Vietnam War. The artist's father, Dr. Richard Francis McLaughlin, was also a Navy physician who served on the medical ship USS BOUNTIFUL

during WWII. Although the paintings appear to be primitive or impressionistic, the artist describes them as "expressionistic because they tell a story rather than study it." In addition to the paintings, there is a 6" x 8" card describing each painting.

The paintings were donated to NNCASC by the family of Dr. McLaughlin after his passing in 2017. NNCASC has been storing these paintings since that time and feels they should be preserved in the NNCA collection and be available for viewing by all members of NNCA in the virtual museum.

The gallery below includes three of the McLaughlin paintings with their corresponding narrative.



Strategic Plan Update

—Submitted by Vince Starks, Board Member

The NNCA Board met in November to review and update the NNCA Strategic Plan. Below is a summary of the Board actions.

2025-2026 Strategic Goals:

- #1. Organizational Sustainability, Goal Tender, Sandra Pearson
- #2. Shared Traditions and Legacy, Goal Tender, Rosemary Perdue

#3. Foster an Environment of Camaraderie and Fellowship, Goal Tender, Tina Ortiz

- This year's strategic goals remain unchanged from the previous year's priorities as NNCA achieved significant success in goal #1.
- Goals #2-3 required supportive outcomes from goal #1 which were partially achieved over the past year.
- A formal review will be forthcoming at this year's annual Board meeting in April 2025.

Oral History Committee

—Submitted by Maria Harbeson, Chairperson

In the last issue of the NNCA newsletter, the legacy video of LT Mary Rose Harrington-Nelson (WWII Navy Nurse, POW Japan for three years) was highlighted. These legacy videos were completed by Southern CA Chapter (NNCASC) Oral History Committee and conducted by Navy Nurse Corps Historian Jan Herman. They cross four eras of war, conflict and peacetime operations. The interviews cover fascinating accounts from LT Mary Rose Harrington-Nelson (WWII), CAPT Juel Loughney (Vietnam to Desert Storm) and an exclusive oral history by Rear Admiral Bruzek-Kohler, the 21st Director of the Navy Nurse Corps who served from 1974-2010 (OIF/OEF). The Oral History Project contains stories from in-person and virtual interviews and is intended to capture stories from ALL of our Navy Nurses.

In this issue we feature the oral history of Juel Loughney which is posted on our webpage at: <https://nnca.org/oral-histories/> (select the Navy Nurses in WW II link).

YOU are a part of this history and every story counts! In order to capture the complete history of our Navy Nurses throughout generations, we need to hear about YOUR experience. We also need your help by joining our team of interviewers and learning the process of recording these histories.

To schedule an interview, contact an Oral History Committee member, your Chapter Oral History Chair, or email history@nnca.org. You may access the Interview Guidelines on the NNCA website.

Let's make 2025 the year to Tell Our Story, Our Navy Nurse Story, Your Story.

Warrior Canine Connection (WCC)

—Submitted by Pam Giza



Existing Service Dogs in Training (SDiTs) include: Kay (Bauer/Jan 22), Veronica (Rubin/Apr 23), Stu (Miller/Jun 23), Erica (Nicoletti/24), and Flaherty (Feb 24). CDR Susan Swinehart's namesake is still pending.

The newest SDiT is WCC's Sandra, named in honor of our NNCA Board Member, Sandra Hearn-Pearson and was just posted on the WCC social media pages! Here are the links to Sandra's name announcement!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=641756931533109&set=a.179988877709919>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DE2UtqhPU2y/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7285294716433104896>

Twitter/X: <https://x.com/WarriorCanineCn/status/1879528974885204171>

WCC's Sandra has also been added to our "Hall of Heroes" on our website: <https://warriorcanineconnection.org/service-dogs/hall-of-heroes/s-through-u/>

Pam recently picked up an 8 week old puppy, Roz, as we still serve as starter parents. There were an additional THREE litters of puppies (all yellow Labs) who were in the nursery!! I remember when they had THREE total dogs.

WCC NEEDS PUPPY PARENTS AND PUPPY SITTERS! WCC volunteers come in all shapes and sizes! For those who live in the DC Metro Area, another way to support WCC is to volunteer as a Puppy Parent/Raiser or Puppy Sitter. The application process is the same for both parents and sitters; change your role based on your preference. You can find more information under the "get involved" tab at: <https://warriorcanineconnection.org/>

If you are interested in adopting one of the career change dogs destined to a life of love with a veteran, here is the link: <https://warriorcanineconnection.org/service-dogs/adopting-a-release-dog/>.





FNNCA

Florida, except the Panhandle

Submitted by Denise Johnson

Despite the recent land-fall of Hurricane Milton, the Florida NNCA (FNNCA) held its Fall Meeting at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa on November 2, 2024.

We were gifted to hear the remarkable story of SSG Mark Lalli who survived a Blackhawk helicopter crash in Iraq and spent nearly 30 months recovering in the Spinal Cord Injury/Traumatic Brain Injury Center (SCI/TBI) Unit. Despite his paralysis and other non-visible injuries, he continues to inspire others as an adaptive sports cyclist and is a husband and proud father of two. The group was able to get a personal tour of the center and new wing of the hospital by one of our own Angie Nimmo.



—Fall Meeting attendees

We followed the meeting with our annual participation in the Jacksonville Veterans Day parade decking out in our red, white and blue while showing off our new banner and logo.



—Fall Meeting Guest speaker, SSG Mark Lalli

In December we participated in the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony with representation at both the Jacksonville and Saint Augustine National Cemeteries, and closed out the year by awarding two scholarships (from 28 applicants) to LTJG Purushottam Neupin and MM1 Cesar "Ryan" Bendita.

We are looking forward to celebrating Nurses Week at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville and holding our Spring Meeting at the Stonewood Grill in Daytona Beach on May 17, 2025.



—Jacksonville Veterans Day parade participants



—FNNCA President Denise Johnson participating in Wreaths Across America at Jacksonville National Cemetery



GCNNCA

Northwest Florida, Alabama
Mississippi, Louisiana

**Submitted by Martha Hicks
for Shirley Lewis-Brown**

Members of the Gulf Coast NNCA (GCNNCA) participated in the Milton, FL Veterans Day celebrations. Pictured is GCNNCA member, Martha Hicks who presented the NNCA-sponsored Navy Memorial Wreath to the Veterans Memorial Park. Due to inclement weather the service was held at the Clyde L. Gracey Community Center.



—Martha Hicks presents the NNCA-sponsored Navy Memorial Wreath at the Veterans Day event

President, Shirley Lewis-Brown shares that members participated in the annual Veterans Day Parade at Pensacola, FL. Member Trumin Brown drove the truck adorned with the GCNNCA magnets, accompanied by his wife, Debbie, GCNNCA members Sue Varenholt, Susan Ulloa and her grandson. It was a great parade even though the heavens opened with rain immediately before the start of the parade.

GCNNCA members congratulate their member, Michael Kohler, as he is sworn in as the District 2, Escambia County Commissioner and as the Chairman of the Board for the 2024-2025 year. "We are so proud of his contributions to our County." For more details about Mike's background and



new role, go to: <https://myescambia.com/open-government/districts/district-2>.



—GCNNCA members join the annual Veterans Day Parade in Pensacola, FL.



—Mike Kohler accepting gavel as Chairman of the Board for District 2 Escambia County



LLNNCA
Colorado, Wyoming,
New Mexico & Nebraska

Submitted by Marti Crockett for Harriet Palmer-Willis

Marti Crockett and the United Veterans of Colorado Foundation (UVCF) supported the Colorado Military Retiree Appreciation Day at Buckley Space Force Base in September. Initially expecting 300 attendees, the event attracted 750 participants, far surpassing the previous year's 250. UVCF provided hamburgers and hotdogs, supplemented by pizza from another sponsor. Marti engaged with attendees, promoting UVCF's mission and gathering insights to help develop grant proposals for future funding. The event emphasized UVCF's growing impact and the need for continued support for veterans and military retirees in Colorado.



—Marti Crockett at the Colorado Military Retiree Appreciation Day at Buckley Space Force Base

Marti Crockett, in partnership with the United Veterans of Colorado (UVC) and Mt. Carmel staff, hosted a successful veteran job fair at Mt. Carmel. The event attracted 125 veterans, offering employment opportunities, career guidance, and resources. Following the job fair a Meet and Greet with UVC members fostered community connections. This collaboration emphasized professional development and personal support, highlighting the community's dedication to assisting veterans.

The United Veterans of Colorado Foundation, along with the Coalition President Marti Crockett and Navy nurses Mo Christopher and Liz



—Marti Crockett participated in the veteran job fair at Mt. Carmel

Tovado, visited the Eastern Colorado Health Care System (ECHCS) in December to spread holiday cheer to veterans in inpatient care. They distributed gift bags filled with personal items, snacks, and festive treats, offering appreciation and support during a potentially isolating time. Navy nurses provided emotional support and health check-ins, reinforcing care and compassion for veterans. ECHCS Interim Director Amir Faroqui expressed gratitude for their efforts, highlighting the importance of creating a supportive environment. This initiative, part of the Foundation's mission to improve Veterans lives, emphasized the impact of small acts of kindness, fostering warmth, connection, and hope during the holiday season.



—(left to right): Liz Tovado, Mo Christopher-Bross, UVC Grace, Hospital Director Amir Faroqui, Marti Crockett, Don Bross.



—Nine LLNNCA Navy nurses gathered for lunch at South Suburban Country Club in August 2024, enjoying camaraderie and shared memories. Back row: L-R Liz Tovado, Terry Shade, Margie Bezdek, Mo Christopher Bross, Judy Taylor, Marti Crockett; Front row: L-R Carol Brautigam, Dorothy Ryan, Nancy Larson



—LLNCA members traveled to Loveland, CO to enjoy lunch in Nov 2024. Left side, front to back: Nancy Larson, Terry Shade, Dorothy Ryan, Teri Olson; Right side, front to back: Mo Christopher Bross, Deana Gallegos, Marge Schafer, Kathy Wolfe



Submitted by Ellen Hodges

Mid-South NNCA (MSNNCA) is seeking Candidates to serve on the MSNNCA Board of Directors. After serving 10-13 years on the MSNNCA Board of Directors, current office holders have chosen NOT to seek re-election. Therefore, the following positions are available for your consideration as a candidate: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. Any member interested in running for one of these positions should contact me at msnnca@nnca.org for questions, additional information, and to share your intention to run for office. I need to know no later than April 25, 2025 so that a ballot may be prepared and sent to all voting members. Election for the MSNNCA Board of Directors positions will be held in May 2025.



Submitted by Carole O'Byrne for Jean Mahaffey

On Saturday, September 14, a very special event was held at the Veterans Memorial Park in Blaine, MN. The park is a beautiful tribute to veterans that recognizes multiple conflicts, Purple Heart recipients, Gold Star families and women veterans. It is the only monument in the state of Minnesota honoring women veterans separately. A re-

cent expansion of the Memorial Park added a Brick Dedication Wall which was unveiled on September 14. Keeping with the theme of the inclusion of women veterans, Kay Bauer and Army nurse Jeri Longfellow were chosen to unveil the Brick Wall. As part of the general unveiling, Kay and Jeri were honored by the unveiling of their own personalized bricks.

For Veterans Day, Jean Mahaffey and Kay Bauer participated in a panel of military nurses addressing student nurses at our local Metro State University. The panel objective was to describe the role of the military nurse during conflict and peace time. Two of the Army nurses served in country in Vietnam and the other Army nurse served as a nurse anesthesia provider during later conflicts in the Middle East and in Germany. Jean and Kay served in Vietnam while in the Navy and are members of the Midwest Navy Nurse Corps Association.



—Veterans Memorial Park, Kay Bauer and Jeri Longfellow

Dee Albert and Carole O'Byrne made a return visit to the Eagan High School Veterans Day Program. The program excels in honoring veterans as well as recognizing each branch of service. This year was special for Dee since she was surprised to see and reconnect with a Navy veteran friend who first directed her to the Eagan High School program.

On December 14, Midwest NNCA (MWNNCA) members participated in Wreaths Across America, placing wreaths at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Member Sherry Murray represented the Chapter as the lone member who braved a blustery, cold and damp day.



—Jean Mahaffey (2nd from L) and Kay Bauer (4th from L) join Army nurses and Metro State University in St Paul to discuss Women in the Military

In closing, our Chapter lost a long-time member, John Eschenbaum, who died at his home in Sisaket, Thailand on July 17, 2023. He was buried in his home state of South Dakota. John joined the Nurse Corps in 1968 and served at USNH Pensacola until his discharge in 1970. Although his service time at Pensacola meant he cared for many Vietnam casualties returning to a hospital close to their home of record, he did not serve in Vietnam.



—Dee Albert with Navy friend



—Sherry Murray at Fort Snelling National Cemetery

After leaving active service in 1970, John joined the Naval Reserve that year. He worked in Minneapolis as a RN while going to the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia. John retired from the Reserves in 1996 as a CRNA with the rank of CDR. Fair Winds and Following Seas, John.



NENNCA

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont
New Hampshire, Connecticut & New York

Submitted by Thomas Wilson

Happy New Year from the New England Chapter!

The Chapter held its Fall luncheon on November 16th at the Lobster Pot Restaurant, Bristol, RI. Attending the luncheon were members and the 2024 New England NNCA (NENNCA) scholarship recipients and their families. The Chapter awarded three scholarships (BSN, MSN, DNP) of \$1000 each and a copy of the Navy Nurse Corps Book *"In and Out of Harm's Way."*



The NENNCA Chapter once again participated in Wreaths Across America on December 14, 2024.

The Board continues to meet quarterly. A general membership meeting was conducted virtually November 12th.

—NENNCA President Tom Wilson, presents Navy wreath and serves as Guest Speaker at the St Michael's Cemetery in Ansonia, CT.



—Scholarship recipients and past and present NENNCA Officers and Board members.



NNCASC

California, Nevada & Arizona

Submitted by Nancy Owen for Jane Hourigan

NNCA Southern California (NNCASC) held their Fall luncheon on October 5, 2024 at Cocina del Charro. The guest speaker was Heather Arbogast, RN, BSN, AMB-BC, MHA. Heather is the Women Veterans Program Manager at the San Diego Veterans Administration Healthcare System.

NNCASC members attended the 34th Annual San Diego Military Women's Luncheon on October 19, 2024 at the Veterans Association of North County. Over 100 women veterans and guests attended.



—Luncheon attendees: Back row left to right: Casey Meehan, Sandie Pearson, Nancy Owen, Barb Beeby, Cindy Perry, Becky Nulty, Karen Foore, Ava Kurtz, Judith Brooks, Easty Law; Front Row left to right: Tina Hooker, RDML Cindy Kuehner, Amanda Jack, George Waecker, Jane Eberlein, Jane Hourigan

The guest speaker was our own

NNCASC member RDML Cynthia Kuehner, NC USN Ret. A NNCASC member group photo was taken, including a potential new active duty member, Amanda Jack.

NNCASC member Dolly Brown went on the San Diego Honor Flight and returned from Washington, DC on October 20th. Dolly was one of two women veterans on the flight of WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans. She had a wonderful trip as did her son, John, who accompanied her.



—Dolly returning “home” from her Honor Flight with son, John

NNCASC participated again in the Veterans Day Parade 2024 in downtown San Diego on November 11, 2024. Some of our members wore uniforms and other wore patriotic colors. We had our banner displayed on a trailer this year towed by NNCASC member Mary Rushton’s husband, Ric. The large crowds lining the street greeted us with cheers and “thank yous” for our service.

Our chapter honors the memory of longtime NNCA and NNCASC member, friend and colleague Sandra Kirkpatrick Holmes. She was born September 18, 1943 and died peacefully at 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. A Celebration of Life was held for Sandy at First United Methodist Church in Escondido, CA on December 7, 2024. The family asks to please help keep Sandy’s memory alive by sharing your stories and photos of her at: www.sandyholmes.life

NNCASC held its first luncheon of 2025 at a new venue, “Boujje-mana” in San Diego on January 22, 2025. Thirty seven enthusiastic members, guests, and potential members attended. Casey Meehan, long time NNCASC member, was honored as our 2024 “Member of the Year” for her many contributions to our Chapter and to NNCA. She also shared her experiences as a Navy Nurse in the ICU at NSA Danang, Vietnam in 1968.



—NNCASC President Jane Hourigan presents Casey Meehan with Member of the Year certificate



—NNCASC Veterans Day participants - Left to Right: President Jane Hourigan, Nancy Owen, Marilyn Day, Sandie Pearson, Mary Rushton, Jane Eberlein, Easty Law, Angela Acfalle



—Sandra Kirkpatrick Holmes



—NNCASC Winter luncheon attendees



NWNNCA
 Washington, Oregon,
 Idaho & Montana

Submitted by Dot O’Very for Nadyne Krienke

The Northwest NNCA (NWNNCA) held their annual fall meeting in southern Washington in October. We all had a wonderful time at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site followed by a luncheon at the historic Grant House. Members enjoyed learning about this location on the north bank of the Columbia River, in sight of snowy mountain peaks and a vibrant urban landscape. From a frontier fur trading post to a powerful military legacy, the magic of flight, and the origin of the American Pacific Northwest, the park covers four unique sites focused on the Hudson’s Bay Company and the early history of what became Fort Vancouver, an Army post active during WW I, the Civilian Conservation Corps, WW II, and Vietnam.

The Chapter has created a new NWNNCA logo (note logo

in column header above). Many thanks to all members who participated in design concepts and selection. Members of the Northwest NNCA Board of Directors donned the attire of Santa's Elves to support a Chili-Cookoff fundraiser for the Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (OPCC), a Charitable Care Safety Net Clinic at the home of Vice-President, Bonnie Bulach.

The next General Member meeting will be April 26, 2025 at a TBD Seattle metro area location.

The NWNNA is excited at the selection of the Seattle area as the location for the NNCA 40th Anniversary Reunion. We look forward to welcoming our fellow NNCA shipmates to our "hometown."



—Some of the October General Meeting attendees in front of the Grant House: Karen McNamara, Anne Mulligan, Joline DeVos, Cathy Carter, Chicky McKinzie, Fran Connor, Bonnie Bulach, Nadyne Krienke, Dot O'Very



—Dot O'Very participates in Wreaths Across America at Vancouver Barracks National Cemetery.



—NWNNA members with the historic Hudson's Bay Fort in the background

—Left to right: Bonnie Bulach, Anne Mulligan, Nadyne Krienke, Cathy Carter, Fran Connor, Jamie Hammer.



PCNNCA
 North Carolina, South Carolina
 & Georgia

Submitted by Jerry Davidson & Peggy Williams

Greetings of the Season to all Palmetto Chapter NNCA (PCNNCA) members and friends! Highlights from recent PCNNCA activities:

Wreaths Across America (WAA), Dec 2024, PCNNCA members participated in the laying of wreaths in National Cemeteries located in New Bern, NC and Beaufort, SC. Over 6,700 wreaths were laid at New Bern, covering all headstones in the cemetery! Also of note, there are 1050 unknowns (Civil War era) in this cemetery.

A big Thank You to all who came to our annual Holiday Luncheon and brought wonderful selections of food and drink. It was, as always, a terrific meal and a time of enjoyable fellowship; an afternoon to relax for a bit in the midst of a shortened and frenetic holiday season. Several of you came early to help set up the room and decorate. Others picked up some of our folks who couldn't drive and brought them to the clubhouse. You brought additional tables, serving equipment, paper products, etc. that all helped to make the day a success. And in the end, your help in breaking down and cleaning up was greatly appreciated! By the way, who likes to eat with plastic ware? Did you know that our stainless cutlery was donated to the group by Peggy Williams and Linda Daehn. It makes for a nicer meal every year.



—Jeff Bashford at New Bern, NC National Cemetery

Your generosity for our homeless vets has always been tremendous. Over 100 pairs of socks and hundreds of toiletry items and clothing were brought to the party. They were delivered to the volunteer office at the Charleston VA before Christmas for distribution during the holiday.

Member Yvonne Jordan wanted to tell everyone that she misses you and would enjoy hearing from you. She is currently in an assisted living facility in Georgia having made the decision to move there from SC to be closer to

family. The facility is called the Oaks at Stockbridge in Stockbridge, GA. 475 Country Club Dr, Stockbridge, GA 30281.

The PCNNCA Board of Directors met on January 11, 2025. One of our objectives is to coordinate our General Membership meeting dates with NNCA's ZOOM availability. We feel this outreach effort will assist us in providing timely information to and from our members in SC, NC, and GA.

Warrior Canine Connection – Name nomination for Mary Ann Jarmulowicz is currently on a wait list.



—Debra Casavant and Harriet Coffee at Beaufort NC National Cemetery



—PCNNCA Holiday Party attendees

PCNNCA members Linda Daehn and Alice Bova counted ballots for the NNCA 2025 Board of Directors selections.

PCNNCA is participating in the NNCA 2027 Reunion Planning Monthly Meetings. Reach out to Melanie Frank, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Alice Cagnina, Mary Alice Morro, or Peggy Williams if you have input for the reunion.

Upcoming Veteran Volunteer Activities:

Memorial Day Veterans Parade in Beaufort, SC: Mary Ann Veteran's Day Parade, Charleston, SC: November, Jerry Wreaths Across America- December Mary Ann The next General Membership meeting will be in the April/ May time frame.

PCNNCA In Memoriam: Henrietta Mae "Hank" Wildeboer

was called to the Lord early morning December 29, 2024, Hank was with friends. Hank was cofounder and Officer of PCNNCA in 1991. She held the first term as Treasurer of the Palmetto Chapter Of the Navy Nurse Corps Association.

Editor Note – item correction from the November 2024 edition of the PCNNCA Chapter updates: Mary Edna Sullivan notified me that the photo caption where Yvonne Jordan is identified as the oldest PCNNCA member is incorrect. Elinor (not Elenor as printed in caption) Kessel, in the same photo, is the oldest member. Thank you, Edna, for the correction!



—Ralph Johnson VA staff accepts donation of comfort items for VA patients



—Hank Wildeboer (photo for NNCA Service Award in 2022)



WMANNCA

Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware & The District of Columbia

Submitted by Christine Boltz

The Washington Metro Area NNCA (WMANNCA) thanks the Fall luncheon planning team of Cindy Sweeney, Maria Harbeson and Boo Lahman. Participants enjoyed a historical tour of the U.S. Naval Academy in addition to lunch at the Naval Academy Club on 9 November. We had a nice crowd to hear Kim LeBel share her personal story of "Struggling Well." Kim related her life-changing experience in Afghanistan and the life-saving impact provided by the Boulder Crest Foundation. A special thank you to Carolyn Kirkland who encouraged her to pursue one of Boulder Crest's programs. More information is available at: <https://bouldercrest.org/>.

On November 12 at A.T. Augusta Military Medical Center, NNCA President Cynthia Sweeney presented 2nd Lt. Richard Geib with the DAISY Award, an honor that reflects his compassionate and exceptional nursing care. Also present were 37 amazing DAISY Award nominees along with the Award recipient! Congratulations to all for the incredible care and dedication they bring to patients every day. A special thank you to nurses who make a difference!



—Luncheon attendees: left to right: Jeannie Roy, Victoria Tyson, Suzanne Odell, Maria Harbeson, Amy Rosacker, Sue Miller, Kim Lebel, Boo Lahman, Colleen Gallagher Thomas, Patrice Bibeau, and Kathy Thorp.

WMANNCA participated in Wreaths Across America at the US Naval Academy Cemetery and Arlington National Cemetery. WMANNCA is a supporting sponsor of the annual wreath-laying ceremonies, dedicated to the objectives of Remember, Honor, Teach.



—Luncheon Guest speaker, Kim LeBel

In addition to participating in wreath laying activities, a few WMANNCA members along with other NNCA members were also cheering on our midshipmen at the annual Army-Navy game. Go NAVY! Beat Army!



—Cynthia Sweeney, NNCA President/Vice President of Nursing, Emerita of the DAISY Foundation and 2nd Lt Richard Geib.

We have a virtual meeting scheduled for February 3 at 7pm ET with the featured topic, Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society. An invitation was emailed to all NNCA members in mid-January.

Our next Chapter Luncheon is planned for Saturday, March 29, 2025 at a Virginia location.




—WMANNCA members and friends at the US Naval Academy Cemetery; Front row: Kathy T; Back row left to right: Marie Schafer, friend, Cindy Coyle, friend, Boo Lahman, Jeannie Roy, Maggie Balacki



—WMANNCA members and friends at the Nurses' Section of Arlington National Cemetery; left to right: Rosie Perdue, Grace Aaron, Shelley Savage, Sally Fowler, Jenny Vedral-Baron, Mary Kroetch and Ginny Beeson.



— NNCA/WMANNCA members cheering at the Army-Navy game; left to right: Deb McCain, Anne Mitchell, Deb Roy and Kathy Thorp



The NNCA Annual Board of Directors meeting will be held in Franklin, TN on April 4-5, 2025.

If you are interested in joining in person or virtually, please contact Mary Mahony at ExecDir@nnca.org for details.



NNCA
Navy Nurse Corp Association
PO Box 908
Vonore, TN 37885

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In Memoriam

To report a death, contact the
Executive Director at ExecDir@nnca.org

Full Name	State	Dates Served	Wars/ Conflicts	Date of Death	Age	Full Name	State	Dates Served	Wars/ Conflicts	Date of Death	Age
Nettie Arm+	PA	48-52	K	8/19/2024	98	Josephine Honish+	NV	57-77		6/3/2022	92
Marguerite Barchet+	WA	52-73		10/16/2023	93	Vivian Key	GA	66-69	V	6/30/2024	81
Antra Boyd	OR	96-01		9/25/2024	54	Gloria Knight+	MD	61-82		5/15/2020	90
Paul Buck	TN			3/2/2014	59	Patricia Lietz	WI			9/6/2020	91
Clark Christensen	VA	64-85	V	10/13/2024	81	Catherine Mendel	KY	52-55	K	6/26/2024	95
Barbara Connolly*	DC	57-62		2/14/2024	97	Patricia Mendez	CA	84-89		6/15/1989	28
Judith Cooper+	WA	63-69	V	11/2/2024	85	JerryAnn "Jas" Nellestein	MO	79-93		11/30/2023	65
Richard Dunn	MI	71-94		2/14/2024	85	Bonnie Nienas-Fortlage	ND	72		4/11/2014	64
Lucille Emond+	FL	57-80	V	4/27/2024	89	David Noland	LA		OEF, OIF, G, P	6/29/2014	50
Hattie Elam	GA	61-91	V	1/27/2025	89	Helen Pryles	GA	44-50	WWII	9/6/2024	102
John Eschenbaum*	SD	68-96		7/17/2023	76	Claire Purdy+	MD	58-92	V,G	1/24/2025	87
Germaine Foster	SC		G	12/23/2017	54	Marie Senzig*	NC	80-08	G	10/16/2024	66
Paula Waldorf Gallagher	NH	70-		11/8/2024	78	Todd Stein	MN	91-22	OEF, OIF, G, P	8/1/2023	55
Yvonne Girio	PA		V	2/28/2023	81	Caroline Stoll	SC	68-92		2/10/2025	89
Betty Jean Greene*	CA	62-67		11/15/2024	84	Joan Tulich*	TX	62-82	V	11/28/2024	91
Deborah Gregory*	MT	87-07	G	7/8/2017	52	Eugenia Varboncoeur*	CA				
Mary Hancock	CA	43-45	WWII	8/8/2024	105	Henrietta Wildeboer+	SC	65-85	V	12/24/2024	88
Sandra Holmes*	CA	64-90	V	11/3/2024	81	Patricia York*	CA	59-61		11/18/2024	87

(Charter = +, Member = *)