

NNCA

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

NEWS

ONCE A NAVY NURSE, ALWAYS A NAVY NURSE

Volume 38 No. 1 July 2024

Please welcome the 2024 NNCA Board of Directors!

The NNCA membership has selected the following Board of Director members: Brian Dawson, Michelle McKenzie, and Sandra Pearson. They are replacing outgoing members Margaret Beaubien, Cynthia Coyle, and Charlene McKee. We say a sincere **thank you** to our outgoing members and a **hearty welcome** to our new members. Officers for the 2024-2025 year will be Cynthia Sweeney, President, Jenny Vedral-Barron, Vice President, Veronica Armstrong, Secretary and Brian Dawson, Treasurer.



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President's Corner

Cindy Sweeney

During Nurses Week I had the opportunity to speak to a group of nurses as part of their celebrations and recognitions. I shared with them Mark Twain's sentiment that, "... the two most important days in a person's life are the day you are born and the day you figure out why." As nurses who have served in the military, I believe that we share a common concept as to the 'why.' It is a sense of service and commitment to a purpose that is greater than us as individuals. Nurses Week is a time to reflect on who we are, what we do, and why we do it – and to Celebrate it! This past year has been a year of focused messaging for NNCA as we invested in getting our message out about who we are, what we do and why we do it! We were invited to participate in Nurses Week festivities at two major MTF's – Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) and Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD). These were pilot programs to collaborate, engage and bring awareness of the NNCA to our active-duty colleagues. Our Marketing Committee, led by Cindy Coyle, was relentless in making Nurses Week a memorable one for all involved. We were able to connect and share our history in many ways, including the use of memorabilia from our museum and a unique presence within the celebrations at both facilities. The results were new friendships and new members – the energy that will propel NNCA for the future.

Our future as an organization continues a very positive trajectory with our newly elected Board members, Sandie Pearson as the Marketing uplink, Brian Dawson as our Treasurer and Michelle McKenzie as our Board Member-at-Large. This transition is always met with a mix of emotions as we thank our Board members who rolled off the board in May – Cindy Coyle, Margaret Beaubien and Charlene McKee. We know they will continue to contribute to the work of NNCA. A new committee, The Social Media Committee, was created by the Board to focus on promoting the NNCA using social media. Val Acosta was appointed by the Board to lead this effort. Anyone interested in joining Val in this new effort is encouraged to do so. Dot O'Very has been our very dedicated newsletter editor. Her 5-year term has come to an end. If you are interested in this paid position, please let us know.

Volunteering to work on a committee or on the Board of Directors is a win-win opportunity for all. In the coming weeks the process for forming up our slate of candidates for the 2025 elections will begin. A heartfelt thank you to Christine Boltz and to Kim Lyons for their diligent work in creating a quality slate of candidates over the years. Taking their place will be Pat Kenney and Donna Styles, both past presidents and active NNCA members. The NNCA engine cannot run without the people who make the gears turn! Please consider stepping up to be a part of our wonderful leadership team. We are truly blessed with talent and commitment at NNCA and throughout our Chapters.

For now, enjoy a safe and happy summer. As we celebrate our nation's independence, we know that the freedoms we enjoy as a nation come at a cost. As Navy Nurses we have witnessed that cost in the lives of our patients and their families. My personal thanks to each of you for who you are, what you have done and why you did it.

Remember, 'Once a Navy Nurse - Always a Navy Nurse'!

I look forward to seeing many of you on the 2024 Reunion cruise in September!

~ Cindy

NNCA NEWS

PO Box 908
Vonore, TN 37885
877-662-2674

NNCA Web Page: NNCA.org
www.facebook.com/NNCA1987

Executive Director, Mary Mahony
ExecDir@nnca.org
Editor, Dot O'Very
Editor@nnca.org

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Board of Directors, 2024-2025

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Jennifer Vedral-Baron, TN – Vice President
Veronica Armstrong, CA – Secretary
Brian Dawson, FL – Treasurer
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Tina Ortiz, FL - Camaraderie and Fellowship
Sandra Pearson, CA - Organizational Sustainability
Rosie Perdue, VA - Shared Traditions and Legacy
Vince Starks, IA—Strategic Planning

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Christine Boltz
Linda Daehn
Carol Hinger
Barbara O'Brien

NNCA Chapter Presidents

FNNCA	Denise Johnson
GCNNCA	Shirley Lewis-Brown
LLNNCA	Harriet Palmer-Willis
MSNNCA	Ellen Hodges
MWNNCA	Betty Jean Mahaffey
NENNCA	Tom Wilson
NNCASC	Jane Hourigan
NWNNCA	Nadyne Krienke
PCNNCA	Peggy Williams
SCNNCA	Mike Beimer
WMANNCA	Christine Boltz



Executive Director

Mary Mahony



Editor

Dot O'Very

As we step into the vibrant embrace of summer, I'm delighted to reflect on the myriad of remarkable events and ongoing initiatives flourishing within our community.

This Spring has been an exceptional journey for the NNCA family. Witnessing the exuberant celebration of Nurses Week and the 116th anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps across chapters and commands has been nothing short of awe-inspiring. Each moment has been infused with profound significance and camaraderie, especially as we've shared in the joy of the next generation experiencing our Corps birthday through the lens of social media.

Looking ahead to September, we eagerly anticipate a voyage of fellowship. With over 130 cabins booked and more than 250 members and guests set to embark on our reunion cruise, it promises to be a testament to the enduring bonds shared among NNCA members. My heartfelt gratitude goes to those meticulously planning what I'm certain will be an unforgettable event.

As of now, over 69% of our members have renewed their memberships. Your steadfast support is the lifeblood of our organization. I extend a special acknowledgment to the Chapter Membership Chairs who have been tirelessly working behind the scenes to manage the herculean task of processing renewals at the chapter level – your dedication is truly remarkable!

To our newest members, I urge you to connect with the Oral History Committee and share your story. The Oral History project stands as a cornerstone of our efforts to document and honor the experiences of our members. With over 180 stories collected to date and new avenues for accessing these narratives, we warmly invite members to contribute their stories and engage with this rich tapestry of history.

As we revel in the warmth of summer and embrace the promise of brighter days ahead, let us continue to cherish the connections that bind us together as members of the NNCA family. Here's to a summer filled with joy, fulfillment, and the enduring spirit of camaraderie!

~Mary

What a month of celebration! Spring has sprung early, just as Punxsutawney Phil predicted. And this year, our Chapters have had the opportunity to fully participate in Nurses Week and Navy Nurse Corps Birthday celebrations at military treatment facilities across the continent. Our new tagline, Once a Navy Nurse, Always a Navy Nurse! fully embodies the camaraderie that you will see in photos and stories throughout this edition of the NNCA News. And we still look forward to our NNCA Reunion Cruise this fall. This Reunion will be a bit different from those of the past, with the focus on sharing memories, making new memories and new friends and less emphasis on the business of the organization. I look forward to catching up with "old" pals and meeting new friends.

Gordon and I are preparing for another trip to Sicily to spend time with my former landlady, Sylvia, with whom I've maintained contact for all these years. Another testimony to the power of the friendships we develop and nurture during our Navy Days. Sylvia fostered and mentored many Navy Nurses who were stationed at Sigonella. I can assure those of you fortunate enough to have known her, that even at the ripe young age of 94, she remains a "party" animal and a gracious hostess!

This edition of the News includes summaries of our organization's business activities. Not always an exciting read, it is important to keep our membership aware of the progress of the organization. We've made great leaps on several fronts including protecting our finances and branching out to exciting marketing and recruiting activities. Our Board also extended the reach of our Virtual Museum by "checking out" several items to share in Nurses Week displays at several locations. There have been great improvements to our website and a new Committee has formed – the Social Media Committee will be spearheaded by Valerie Acosta who hails from south Florida.

If you have not yet done so, please go to our social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube – like us and follow us!

Happy Birthday Navy Nurses; remember our fallen comrades on Memorial Day and Happy 4th of July!

~ Dot



Seeking the next NNCA News Editor!

My time as editor has been both challenging and fulfilling, but it is time for me to pass the baton. My tenure ends in July 2024; the next editor will assume the role in August 2024 for a three-year term.

This is a compensated position.

I will be happy to coach my replacement.

Please reach out to me at editor@nnca.org or to our Executive Director, Mary Mahony at ExecDir@nnca.org.



NNCA Committee News

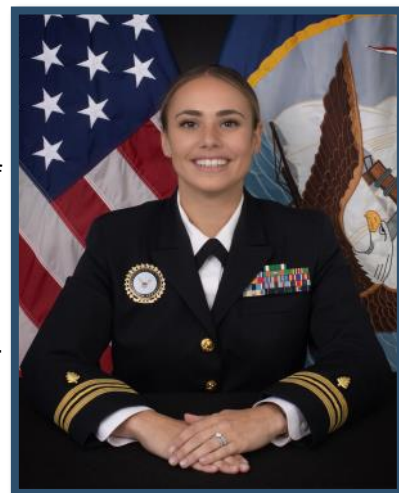
2024 NNCA Award Selectees submitted by Maryalice Morro



The 2024 Awards Cycle resulted in the selection of several exceptional members for the following awards. Please join us in thanking them and celebrating their recognition for their numerous and extensive contributions to the Nurse Corps, the NNCA and their local Chapters. Full award citations are available at <https://nnca.org/navy-nurses-recognized/awards/>

Admiral Alene B. Duerk Award ~ LCDR Taylor Anzidie, NC, USN

LCDR Taylor Anzidie is currently assigned as Division Officer and Medical Officer Recruiter, RTAG New England where she manages fifty centers of influence across five states. She actively seeks opportunities to further the profession of nursing and ensure readiness for Navy Nurses. In addition to her full and part time roles, LCDR Anzidie is completing her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the University of Pennsylvania Nursing School. As part of her doctorate work she has created a tool that measures the frequency and exposure of critical care skills for active-duty nurses in a civilian-military partnership to assure wartime readiness skills and identify gaps. She presented this tool to the Nurse Corps leadership in March and was asked to present her work to the Navy active duty and reserve flag officers with the goal of adoption Navy wide. LCDR Taylor Anzidie is a Navy Nurse Corps officer who will be impacting our profession and our Navy Nurse Corps for many years to come. Her contributions to the Navy, Navy Nurse Corps and the nursing profession perfectly exemplify the tenets of the Admiral Alene B. Duerk Award.



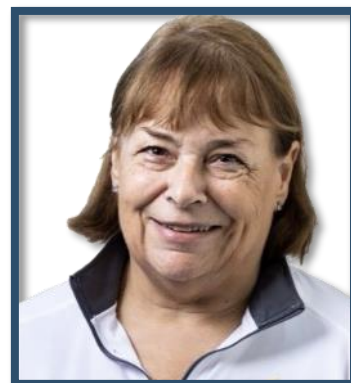
NNCA Meritorious Recognition ~ Catherine Wilson Cox (WMANNCA)



Catherine Wilson Cox is a proud "plank owner" of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Navy Nurse Corps Association (GCNNCA) and a current member of the Washington Metro Area of the Navy Nurse Corps Association (WMANNCA). She is currently Associate Professor (with tenure) and Coordinator of the Veterans' Bachelor of Science Nursing program at George Washington University School of Nursing in Washington, DC and Ashburn, VA. She was funded four times by the TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP) in 2001, 2004, 2021 and 2023. Her research focused on the experiences and outcomes of military/veteran nursing students. In addition, she served as the Navy Reserve Representative to the TSNRP Advisory Council from 2008-2012. In recognition of her contributions that advanced the science of military nursing, she was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). Her outstanding and honorable achievements led to her appointment to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) where she is currently serving as a member of the Well-Being and Treatment Subcommittee. She is most deserving of the NNCA Meritorious Recognition Award.

Professional Nursing Award ~ Ana Stoehr (WMANNCA)

Ana Stoehr, Vice President of the Washington Metro Area NNCA (WMANNCA) and a member of the NNCA 2022 Reunion Committee, boasts a remarkable career in military and civilian leadership alongside rich expertise in nursing academia. Her Navy tenure saw her excel in various nursing roles globally including groundbreaking initiatives like implementing the first Same Day Surgery in the US Navy Health System. Post-Navy, Ana's leadership extended to the Virginia League for Nursing, where she significantly increased membership and established an annual conference. Beyond her professional endeavors, Ana actively engages in community service, supporting veterans through organizations like TAPS and the Northern Virginia Veterans Association. As a dedicated faculty member at George Mason University, Ana's contributions are vast, ranging from mentoring students and faculty to serving on multiple committees. With an impressive array of achievements and contributions, Ana Stoehr is undeniably deserving of the NNCA Professional Nursing Award.





Luisa Power Award ~ Irene Weaver (NENNCA)



Irene Weaver epitomizes active leadership and volunteerism, shaping the NNCA's future success through her dedication. As New England NNCA (NENNCA) President from 2019-2023, she expanded the Chapter, organized major events, and fostered camaraderie. Through her roles as editor and organizer, Irene preserved the Nurse Corps legacy and facilitated open communication within the Chapter. Her business acumen ensured financial stability and revitalized the nursing scholarship program. Irene's commitment extends beyond NNCA; she empowers nurses as an instructor and contributes to her community through various roles. Notably, her initiatives in the veteran communities, such as expanding The DAISY Award and implementing the Wreaths Across America program, reflect her profound dedication. Irene Weaver's selfless service embodies the values of Navy Nursing, Naval Heritage, and community making her a deserving recipient of the Luisa Power Award.

Luisa Power Award ~ Carole O'Byrne (MWNNCA)

Carole O'Byrne, the devoted secretary of the Midwest NNCA (MWNNCA) for over six years, meticulously documents member and officer meetings, ensuring all members are informed. A charter member, she played a pivotal role in the organization's development and member recruitment. Carole actively engages with NNCA by providing Chapter news and exemplifies compassion by leading the Nightingale Tribute at veteran funerals. Outside NNCA, she contributes to her community by participating in Veterans Day events, visiting members in hospitals and nursing homes and providing support to friends in need, displaying her caring nature and medical expertise. Carole's unwavering dedication to MWNNCA and her community makes her a commendable representative of NNCA.



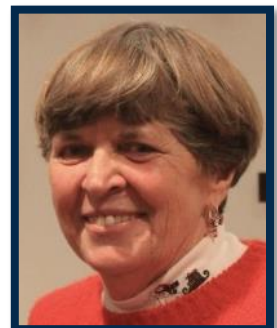
NNCA Mary G. Stewart Leadership Award ~ Rebecca Nulty (NNCASC)



Rebecca Nulty has exemplified extraordinary leadership as President of the Southern CA Chapter (NNCASC) for twelve years. She spearheaded the creation of a monument honoring Navy Nurses at Miramar National Cemetery and ensured active support for members in times of illness and bereavement. Under her guidance, the NNCA oral history program flourished, documenting over 150 interviews for the Library of Congress. Rebecca's forward-thinking approach established a solid financial foundation for the Chapter, increasing annual nursing scholarships from \$2,000 to \$10,000. She revamped Chapter operations, implemented proactive membership recruitment strategies, and expanded the Chapter's online presence through social media. Additionally, Rebecca orchestrated engaging Veterans programs and facilitated significant financial contributions to deserving organizations. Her unwavering dedication to the NNCA and NNCASC has left an indelible mark, making her a deserving nominee for this distinguished leadership award.

NNCA Service Award ~ Arlene Southerland (PCNNCA)

Arlene Southerland of the Palmetto Chapter NNCA (PCNNCA) has been selected for the NNCA Service Award in recognition of her unwavering dedication to the NNCA for over twenty-five years. From pivotal roles in PCNNCA leadership to her invaluable contributions at the national level, Arlene has been a cornerstone volunteer. Her adept management of PCNNCA's finances, along with her active involvement in community initiatives, exemplifies her commitment to service and fiscal responsibility. Arlene's extensive involvement, spanning from local veterans' events to her roles in various associations, showcases her exceptional leadership, work ethic, and dedication to noble causes. She is a highly deserving recipient of the NNCA Service Award.



NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise 2024

To date, over 250 members and their guests will be sailing with us. Updates and passenger lists have been regularly posted on NNCA.org. Preplanning checklists are posted on NNCA.org and WhatsApp. All communications while onboard will be sent via WhatsApp. The Biennial Memorial Service and the NNCA President's Update will be held in the ship's theater September 27th from 0800-0930. Online check-in starts 21 days prior to sailing and must be completed 3 days prior to sailing.



Finance Committee submitted by Margaret Beaubien and Brian Dawson

This last note will close out my term as Treasurer, and act as a welcome to Brian Dawson who will replace me as the NNCA Treasurer. He officially took over as of our annual BOD meeting at the end of April. He and I have been working together to make this a seamless transition and I am sure you will support him in these efforts as well as you have supported me.

The start of 2024 saw us take a major page out of our policy and procedure manual and place a good portion of funds with an investment management company, Osborne Partners. They are based in the San Francisco Bay area and have a significant history in the area of investment management, which includes non-profit organizations such as ours. For those that were able to attend the annual meeting Cindy Sweeney spoke to the faith we have in the strategy they put forth for the organization. To date we have done well.

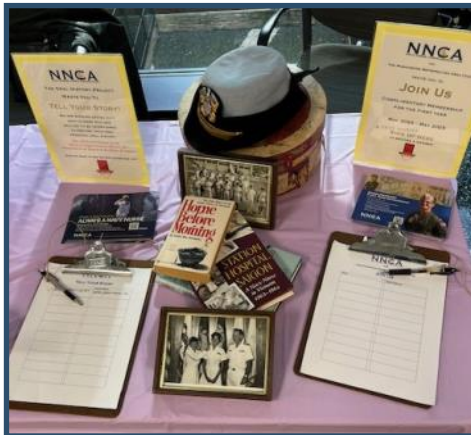
Our investments through Wells Fargo which continued to have a roller coaster ride throughout 2023 have stabilized somewhat at this point. We remain positive about our current portfolio of investments.

Marketing will continue to consume more dollars above the normal expenditures in the next year. However, it is anticipated that this will be offset by bringing in additional members and donations including potential sponsors.

Remember to let family and friends know that a donation to the NNCA is a great way to celebrate you and the legacy you share as a Navy Nurse!

Marketing Committee submitted by Cynthia Coyle

Post card front and back:



NNCA's Pilot Project for Nurses Week and the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday

As NNCA embarks on new marketing initiatives, pilot projects are essential to keep the name NNCA in the public eye. A pilot project was implemented this year to do just this.

The NNCA Marketing Committee budgeted funds in 2024 for a pilot project to focus on Nurses Week and the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday events at 2-3 large military treatment facilities. We worked with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Naval Medical Center San Diego. With the assistance of the local Chapters WMANNCA and NNCASC, and the facility points of contact, planning incorporated the NNCA into the events at both hospitals. NNCA supported with funds for the following activities:

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

- ◇ May 8 – Bagel breakfast
- ◇ May 10 – Ice Cream Social
- ◇ May 13 – Gift Basket for Door Prize

Naval Medical Center San Diego

- ◇ May 7 – Nurse Appreciation Key Chains with NNCA logo engraved
- ◇ May 8 – Sandwiches & Cookies
- ◇ May 10 – Mini Cinnabons & Cake
- ◇ May 10 – NNCA & NNCASC Gift Baskets for Door Prizes

Memorabilia and Virtual Museum Promotion

In addition to funding support for the events NNCA increased awareness of our Memorabilia Project at both locations. NNCA checked out numerous museum items from Virtual Museum storage to display at the WRNMMC Awards Ceremony on May 10th and at the Navy Nurse Birthday Celebration on 13 May. The NNCASC also displayed their memorabilia and uniforms on both the 8 and 10 May activities. The memorabilia items were well received by the active duty nurses at both facilities.



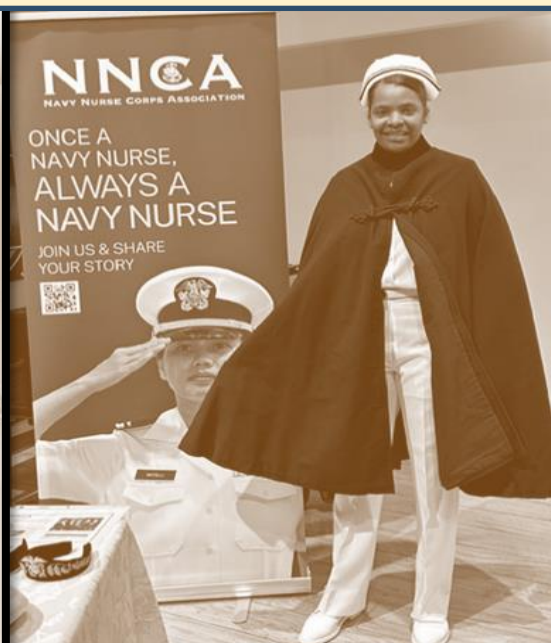
Promotional Video and Oral History Video

The NNCA promotional video was played at both the Awards Ceremony and the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday Celebration while the Oral History video was played in a continuous loop throughout the day.

Posters and Postcards

NNCA worked with WAX (our marketing agency) to create promotional banners and postcards with QR codes to the NNCA website. Both were in full display at all events as well as shared with other Chapters to support their local Nurse Corps Birthday events. If your Chapter would like to use these materials at future events contact Marketing@nnca.org.

Photo Captions: (above): NNCA memorabilia display at WRNMMC; (below left): LTJG Meredith Marcum wins the NNCA door prize at the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday celebration at WRNMMC; (below center): CDR Teresa Dent, NC, USN, CNO Naval Detachment models the WWII Cape and nursing cap; (below right): LCDR Johnson (former WMANNCA Scholarship winner) with NNCA banner at bagel breakfast



Initial Results of Pilot Project

Visibility and Exposure - All event programs included NNCA's logo and short description of the organization, NNCA banners were front and center at every event, forty plus new member joins.

Lessons Learned

Marketing Goal to increase visibility of NNCA and support Navy nurses during Nurses Week and the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday met the mark at target facilities as well as other Chapter locations.

Memorabilia Committee submitted by Sherry Dotson

The most recent addition to the museum is the Navy Nurse Corps 100th Anniversary Quilt. The quilt was made by a team of retired Nurse Corps officers and highlights the names and tenure of the Senior Leadership of the Navy Nurse Corps for the first one hundred years. The quilt was donated to WMANNCA by the creators and was displayed at the 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2008. (Editor note: see story on page 10). The Committee continues to work on the Museum on the new website to make sure that items are correctly described.

The virtual museum is available on the new website. It is still under construction, and we welcome any comments or recommendations on how to improve it.

If you have a memorabilia donation, please contact your Chapter Memorabilia Representative, a National Memorabilia Committee Member/Chair, or the Memorabilia Board Goaltender. We are also looking for members who would be interested in serving on the committee. If interested, contact the national representatives at memorabilia@nnca.org.

Oral History Committee submitted by Maria Harbeson

The Oral History Team has been busy capturing and processing oral histories by phone interview, in person and virtually. Nineteen Oral Histories (OH) were performed this year. The Committee continues to establish a comprehensive Master List of all Navy Nurse Corps Oral Histories performed past and present with the location of the videos and files.

If you are interested in preserving YOUR story and joining the tapestry of our amazing history, please contact the oral history team at history@nnca.org and one of our team members will contact you. Our history team will guide you through the process.

If you are interested in assisting and learning to conduct oral histories please contact your local Chapter or our team and we will instruct you. We are seeking volunteers to assist on the Fall Cruise with oral histories! Join Us!

Recruitment and Retention submitted by Linda Grant

Several Chapter committee chairs met virtually on April 29, 2024. Our guest speaker was Cynthia Coyle, Chairperson of the NNCA Marketing Committee. This committee is working diligently with a civilian marketing company to develop tools and processes to draw attention to NNCA. This is critical to recruiting and retention efforts. Several tools have already been developed and others are in the pipeline. We will be working closely with the Marketing Committee to provide information on both what the Chapters need and what is necessary in the decision-making process. Additionally, our efforts will be centered around what will bring people into the organization, keep them engaged, provide value, and ultimately convince them to stay.

While many members have had challenges working with MTFs, there has been positive movement in the right direction. NNCA was involved in Nurses Week activities this year at two different MTFs. This marks a distinct change and is very exciting. The hope is to involve more facilities in the future. Continuing to invite active duty nurses to meetings and contact with Senior Nurse Executives remains a valuable activity, as well as reaching out to new retirees through various veteran groups and activities. Social platform visibility, scholarships, The DAISY Award, and publishing articles about NNCA for local newsletters are other examples of ways to 'get the word out' and attract members.

The new [Navy Nurse Corps Association - Preserving History & Sharing Stories \(nnca.org\)](https://nnca.org) website is up and running, with content being added regularly. There is a lot of interesting information, many pictures, stories, and videos. This is a wonderful resource and, if you haven't already checked it out, please do so.

The Committee will continue to meet, analyze, and monitor recruitment and retention data to track our progress. If you have ideas, questions, or would like to assist, please contact your Chapter membership chair or Linda Grant at membership@nnca.org.



Save the Date!
NNCA Board of Directors meeting
Location in or near Nashville, TN. April 11-12, 2025
NNCA Annual Meeting of the Membership
Virtual, April 16, 2025, 7pm EDT

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter (MUSNAVC) Legislative Update submitted by Joe Gollasch, MUSNAVC President

Advocacy in Action 2024 saw over a hundred MOAA leaders, staff, and Chapter leaders, from across the country descend on Washington, DC to visit all 535 congressional representatives. The event was a huge success with each House and Senate representative being engaged. Many thanks to all who participated by sending emails, calling, and visiting your local offices.

There are several healthcare issues which remain on the MOAA radar screen. Access to care is a concern and MOAA recommends a full Defense Health Agency (DHA) evaluation of access-to-care standards and a DHA report providing access-to-care data from each inpatient MTF. Recognizing capacity constraints in both MTFs and the TRICARE network, MOAA has advocated for TRICARE plan flexibility to allow beneficiaries to access care where it is available. We must also protect TRICARE for Life associated costs for retirees. Preventive health care services for women and mental health care issues are also in the forefront. The more our lawmakers hear from their constituents, in addition to MOAA's advocacy team, the greater the chance they will push for our key priorities and benefits you have earned. You can find the latest on other MOAA legislative priorities at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#). You do not have to be a MOAA member to use this site. Stay informed and get involved. Never Stop Serving.

NNCA and the Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) submitted by Pam Giza

NNCA partnered with WCC in May of 2018. Since then, eighteen Navy Nurses have been selected as namesakes! Here is an update on the current WCC/NNCA Service Dogs in Training (SDiT). See related story on page 13.

Active component: Pam II (CAPT Pamela Giza/Jun '22): Has completed her training as a mobility service dog and will participate in the formal graduation in September. In the meantime, Pam II is going through the process of being matched with a veteran for skill set and compatibility. Sometimes these relationships take a while to develop, but often a dog and the veteran just "click" right from the start. It's a beautiful thing to witness! The details of Pam II's match will not be made public until the graduation ceremony. <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorCanineConnection/posts/184500080592132>

Stu (CAPT Susan Stuart Miller/May '23): Stu is a sweet dog and doing great with her new puppy raisers. She is currently doing a three-week rotation at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICOE) on the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bethesda campus and helping Veterans in their recovery process. <https://www.facebook.com/100070964244473/posts/296112729430866/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

Veronica (CDR Veronica Rubin/Apr '23): Still in training, doing well but no updates available at this time. <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorCanineConnection/posts/pfbid0fH6evbHQPsdVitSP7ViJdcFmjzKM9byobHRip3kbED5cm75MwT7z4Bh8fA8T9ptGl>

Erica (LCDR Erica Nicoletti/no info): My apologies for missing this NNCA WCC namesake last edition. Erica is still in training, doing well, but no updates. Here is the original announcement link: <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorCanineConnection/posts/pfbid0352Hj9G8SAy42UekTdAUgmVqgEBNuuyfiymVsiopmCbDAL6JBqLGtziUdozivF4oFI>



Flaherty (RADM Karen Flaherty/Feb 24): The newest kid on our block! I just happened to be at WCC HQ returning an SDiT when I learned that WCC Flaherty was being picked up by her puppy parents (PP). The PP's indulged me in giving Flaherty a personal pep talk and a hug before she was on her way to her new temporary home.

Photo left: Pam giving WCC puppy Flaherty a pep talk!

Fair Winds and Following Seas: Beadle (CAPT Annette Beadle/MAY '22): Has just been placed as a Military Family Support Dog. She completed her team training and made the drive home to California to start her new career. Beadle is quickly becoming the best friend of the family's two young boys, aged 5 and 10. She provides comfort to the 5-year-old by helping him sleep through the night. Her trainer noted: "She is one of the sweetest, most intuitive dogs I had the pleasure of training."

New nominations/naming pending: WCC has received CDR Susan Swinehart's nomination and anticipates a naming very soon.

WCC NEEDS NAMES! It is easy to submit a namesake nomination and WCC is always looking for names, especially female! Nominations may be submitted directly by the Chapters, the Oral History and Memorabilia Committees via this link: [Namesake Nomination Form \(tfaforms.net\)](#). A few nomination tips:

- 1) You must have either the member's or family's permission to submit a nominee.
- 2) Share an inspiring story of courage, compassion or support that will resonate with a wounded service member; and
- 3) Provide the nomination information to the NNCA WCC Liaison for tracking.



Navy Nurses in the News

NNCA Members Celebrate Nurses Week and the 116th Birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps Across the Nation

This year, NNCA Chapters and members had the opportunity to share friendship and camaraderie at locations throughout our Nation during Nurses Week and on our 116th Navy Nurse Corps Birthday. In addition to Chapter events, the NNCA Board dedicated focused efforts to support events at our two largest military treatment facilities, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Naval Medical Center San Diego (see Cynthia Coyle's input in her Marketing Committee update on page 6).



Photos:

(top left): WMANNCA member Ana Stoehr supports coffee and bagels at WRNMMC

(top right) Members of NWNCA gather to celebrate the 116th birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps, left to right, back row: Madeline Ancelard, Jamie Hammer, Trudy Vering, Marla Patterson, Toni Lebel-Edmons; middle row: Fran Connor, Dot O'Very, Barbara O'Brien, front row: Bonnie Bulach, Anne Mulligan, Cathy Carter

(middle right): GCNNCA members and nurses celebrate Nurses Week at Naval Hospital Pensacola

(bottom left): NNCASC members display and share Navy Nurse Corps memorabilia with Navy Nurses during Nurses week at Naval Medical Center San Diego. (left to right): Rose Marie Castellanos, Candace Curlee, Tina Hooker, Becky Nulty, Jane Hourigan, Tom Colgan, Sandra Pearson, Nancy Owen

(bottom right, left to right): NMCSN nurses LT Claire Piccirilli, ENS Michelle Marshall, ENS Cynthia Newman, LTJG Gemelin Lozada, LTJG Nicole Maldonado, LTJG Janney Cao, and LT José Santos





Navy Nurse Corps 100th Anniversary Leadership Quilt submitted by Dot O'Very

This quilt was made to honor the women who served as leaders for the first 100 years of the Navy Nurse Corps. In 2006, a group of retired nurse corps officers, and members of the NNCA Karen Doyle, Veronica Rubin, Mary Ann Elssesser, and Kelly Kout identified an opportunity to support the centennial celebration. They decided to make a quilt that highlighted the names of the Senior Leadership in the Navy Nurse Corps for the first one hundred years (*K. A. Doyle, personal communication with Fran Connor, April 5, 2023*). It was displayed at the 100th anniversary celebration in Washington D.C. in May 2008. It was financially supported by many Navy Nurses and the Washington Metro Area NNCA (WMANNCA). This year it was submitted to the NNCA Memorabilia collection and was displayed during the Nurses Week celebration at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC).



Fran Connor, member of the Northwest NNCA (NWNCA), undertook the monumental task of creating a book to memorialize the creation and beauty of the quilt. This book expands upon the quilt design with photographs a synopsis of the nurse leaders. The quilters used a standard 8-pointed STAR Quilt pattern and wanted to use colors that were significant to the Navy Nurse Corps: blue, gold and red were selected. First, as members of the Navy themselves and representing a large population of the patients they serve, they selected blue and gold for the Navy. Navy Medicine also provides care to the United States Marine Corps, whose primary colors include red and gold. The first nurses to serve on ships, during the Civil War, were Red Cross Nurses, they are represented by the red (*K. A. Doyle, personal communication with Fran Connor, April 5, 2023*).

If you are interested in purchasing the book, it can be ordered at <https://www.blurb.com/b/12005313-united-states-navy-nurse-corps-leadership-quilt>. A \$1.00 fee will be added to the purchase price at the time of order. This fee will be donated to the NWNCA Scholarship fund.

Thank you to the quilting team and Fran for creating and preserving another significant Navy Nurse Corps milestone – our 100th anniversary!

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth The DAISY Awards 2023-2024

The NNCA co-sponsors The DAISY Award with the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Professional Nurses Group. We recently received summaries and photos of the following awards.

May 2023 - RN Kenneshia Williams of the Mother – Baby Unit was recognized for experience and expertise that helped her recognize a newborn in distress and initiate life-saving care.

October 2023—ENS Korey Danico and ENS Remi Larson on the 4J MSW for showing concern about a patient's past Naval career, his medical history and the support he had after discharge, showing remarkable compassion and kindness.

November 2023 – RN Stephanie Goodrich, nurse discharge planner for the medical-surgical units received recognition for compassion and dedication to the wellbeing of the patients with complex care issues.



Photos (left) CAPT McMullen, NMCP Chief Nursing Officer congratulates ENS Korey Danico

(middle): CAPT McMullen, NMCP Chief Nursing Officer congratulates ENS Remi Larson

(right): RN Stephanie Goodrich receives award from LCDR Evans, Department Head, Wards H and J



December 2023 - ENS Justin Heath works on the Medical-Surgical Ward, 4J. He received The DAISY Award for his compassion, kindness, and empathy in caring for a patient admitted with Alzheimer's Disease and supportive care toward the family.

January 2024 - RN Jacqueline Crawley who works in the NICU was recognized for compassionate and family centered care every shift and for her astute nursing judgement and critical thinking skills that allowed her to advocate for her patient safely and confidently.

Congratulations to all of the NMCP The DAISY Awardees!

Photos (left): ENS Justin Heath receives award from CAPT McMullen, NMCP Chief Nursing Officer

(right): CAPT McMullen, NMCP Chief Nursing Officer congratulates RN Jacqueline Crawley

A Rich Legacy and Tradition

Editor's Note: the next two stories are about two of our Navy Nurses who were also NNCA members whom we lost this year, Ann Darby Reynolds and Bobbi Hovis. The inclusion of their stories is a testament to our NNCA tradition of maintaining the legacy of our rich heritage and to honor our Vietnam Veterans. Fair Winds and Following Seas Darby and Bobbi. The third story is of a Navy Nurse who is 106 and was recently featured in her local community newspaper. Louise Terwilliger was a veteran of World War II. Although she was not a member of NNCA (she is now!) we believe she is our oldest Navy Nurse. And last, but not least, is the story of current NNCA member, Alice Darrow, who just celebrated her 105th birthday! Happy Birthday, Alice! These are the stories I love publishing in our NNCA News and the reason I have so enjoyed my adventure as editor. I have never met any of these women but I feel as though I know them. They inspire and bring great pride in our history as Navy Nurses. Once a Navy Nurse, Always a Navy Nurse!

In Memoriam of Bobbi Hovis submitted by Sue Miller

Bobbi Hovis was a veteran leader of the Navy Nurse Corps and a mentor to many Navy Nurses. In March of each year, she attended the Welcome Home Maryland Veterans event, proudly wearing her medals. At the inaugural event she even had her picture taken with then Governor Hogan. Bobbi was a licensed pilot and celebrated her birthday each year by flying an airplane on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This annual activity continued into her nineties until her vision precluded the activity. Bobbi could



tell you everything about airplanes and served as an air evac nurse during the Korean War. She was one of the stars of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War, with her own larger than life banner. She also was interviewed for a Maryland Public Television/Public Broadcast Service documentary of Marylanders who served during the Vietnam War. Bobbi even volunteered to be interviewed by high school students in Annapolis who were documenting the experiences of Vietnam Vets. Bobbi was a trailblazer and sought out every chance to teach and talk about her Navy Nurse Corps experience.

Her legacy will live on!

Photos (top left): Bobbi with then Governor Hogan at the Inaugural Welcome Home Maryland Vietnam Veterans Event,

(top right): Bobbi and Sue Miller standing in front of her larger-than-life banner for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War,

(bottom left): display of Bobbi's military items at the Erie Historical Society with her cousins in the forefront,

(bottom right): Bobbi, Sue Miller, Jan Herman (Navy Medicine Historian), and Fran Minakowski (MPT friend) from lunch in 2023



The Power of Nurses, Puppies and Healing submitted by Cynthia A. S. Haigwood Coyle



"It doesn't matter if the wound happened on the battlefield or off the battlefield," says retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Adam M. Boccher, "The scars are deep, traumatic, and debilitating whether it is the result of a wound suffered in the line of duty during conflict, or if it is the result of sexual abuse, traumatic brain injury from a car accident or PTSD."

Adam Boccher entered the U.S. Air Force immediately after high school following in the service tradition of his father and grandfather who both served in the Army. Initially, Adam served in the U.S. Air Force Military Police. He pursued a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, took the Military Investigative Police course and attended the Air Force Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI) Academy to become an AFOSI agent. He deployed three times in 16 years (twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq). Working primarily in the dark of night, with night goggles and on counter insurgency missions, each deployment exposed him to high-risk situations, gunfire, rockets, and explosions.

He started to experience signs of anxiety and sleep disturbances, but did not understand that he should seek help. The problem began to take a toll on his professional and personal life. In 2018, he was admitted to the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) unit at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for medical evaluations and therapeutic interventions. During his 5-week stay, he experienced extraordinary care from all providers, but was particularly grateful for the nurses on that unit. He believes that they had a profound influence on the progress he made while there.

"The nurses allowed me to speak without judgment, they provided emotional support and encouraged me to trust the process," he said. Adam was diagnosed with TBI, PTSD and RIM Sleep Behavior Disorder.

Dr. Robert Koffman, CAPT, MC, USN, ret., who served as the Chief Medical Advisor for the Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) suggested to Adam that he might benefit from the adoption of a WCC service dog. Initially, Adam felt unworthy as there were so many veterans in need. Over time, he decided to apply.

Adam was contacted by the WCC and invited to "interview" potential service dog candidates. There were three dogs available that day and it was the third dog that was named for Captain Ann Darby Reynolds, NC, USN, Ret. that caught his attention. Adam stated, "Darby was a perfect combination of business and affection. We connected immediately. She was tuned into my anxiety. Before Darby entered my life, I was extremely closed off, unable to open up to other people. I suffered from many episodes of anxiety that left me frozen in the moment. Darby knows how to disrupt the 40-yard stare, she nuzzles my clenched hands to remind me to relax, and she snuggles with me to reassure me that all is well."



With time, Adam has been able to decrease some of his medications. As a family, he, his wife and two children have been able to share many activities together including art projects where even Darby has done some painting on canvass. Adam's quality of life is improving. He was thrilled that Darby came into his life and the fact that she was named for a Navy Nurse was just the icing on the cake. He takes a lot of pride in telling people about his "Darby Doo" and the woman whose name she bears.

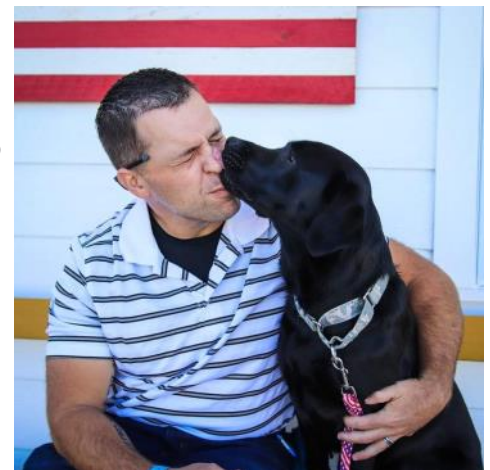
CAPT Reynolds was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy Nurse Corps in 1962. She served as a staff nurse at the Naval Hospital Pensacola, FL, and was later sent to Camp Lejeune, NC to help with an influenza epidemic. When home on leave on Christmas Eve 1963, she received a special delivery letter notifying her of new orders to Navy Station Hospital Saigon, Vietnam. The following Christmas Eve, 1964, CAPT Reynolds was one of four Navy Nurses injured when a 200 lb.

bomb detonated at their quarters in Vietnam. They were the first women to be injured and the only Navy Nurses to receive the Purple Heart during the Vietnam War. In 1988, after 26.5 years of active service, CAPT Reynolds completed her military career as the Director of Nursing Services at Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, NC.

When hearing of WCC Darby's graduation, CAPT Reynolds shared, "I feel so honored to have a service dog named after me. For years I have watched these dogs and how they have helped our wounded Veterans. The Warrior Canine Connection is a wonderful organization and very much needed."

Adam knew from the very start that his pairing with WCC's Darby was meant to be. "I can definitely describe my matching process with Darby and why it was so special. It was all very natural, and I remember going home that evening and telling my wife, 'I know Darby's it. She's it. She's gotta be the one!' When the WCC staff called and told me that Darby and I were matched it was just amazing. She's special. She's so special!"

We would like to acknowledge and thank MSgt Boccher for his service to our country and also let him know "He is so special, too!"





Recognition of Our Oldest Navy Nurse

(Editor Note: Oldest Navy Nurse status identified by NNCA and was not part of the original article; the story below was reprinted with permission of Nick Gatz, Falls Church News).

Military Women's Memorial Ambassador, retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Carol Rhan, presenting Louise Terwilliger with the Living Legend award. (Photo: Courtesy Kensington)



In a heartfelt ceremony held last Sunday, April 7, The Kensington Falls Church proudly celebrated the extraordinary life of Louise Terwilliger, a remarkable woman whose service to our nation during World War II has left an indelible mark on history. At the age of 106, Louise Terwilliger was honored as a Living Legend by the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation.

Originally from Boston, Louise Terwilliger joined the Navy Reserve at the young age of 24, receiving her commission as a Navy Nurse in August 1941. Throughout her years of service, she displayed unwavering commitment and courage, serving at various naval hospitals across the country. From the Naval Training Center in Norman, Oklahoma, to the Naval Hospital on Mare Island near San Francisco, and even at Naval Base Hospital No. 8 in Pearl Harbor, Louise tended to the sick and wounded with compassion and skill.

The presentation of the Living Legend Proclamation at The Kensington Falls Church was a momentous occasion, attended by residents and honored guests alike. Military Women's Memorial Ambassador, retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Carol Rhan, had the privilege of formally presenting

Louise Terwilliger with this well-deserved recognition.

The Kensington's Spring Fling Champagne Brunch provided the perfect backdrop for this special event, bringing together community members to pay tribute to a true trailblazer whose legacy will inspire generations to come.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Louise Terwilliger, a living testament to the courage and resilience of our nation's military women. Her story serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who have the privilege of knowing her.

The original story is available at: <https://www.fcnp.com/2024/04/11/kensington-honors-louise-terwilliger-a-living-legend/>



NNCASC Member Celebrates her 105th Birthday with NNCA Friends and Family submitted by Lorrie Sammons

NNCA of Southern CA (NNCASC) member Alice Darrow celebrated her 105th birthday! Alice is our most senior NNCA member. Family and friends gathered for a surprise event at the home she shares with her daughter's family in Danville, California. Good conversation, fun trivia games, and a delicious buffet and cupcakes were highlights of the afternoon. Alice shared that she was in preparation for her next cruise - off to Greece and beyond! Happy Birthday, Alice, and buon viaggio!



Alice, a WWII Navy Nurse, has been featured by local Veteran Service Organizations and has been highlighted on local news networks. Alice enjoys sharing her compelling story of care for her patient and future husband at Mare Island Naval Hospital following his injuries incurred during the attack on Pearl Harbor, including displaying the bullet that was removed from her his heart in an unprecedented surgery following his Pearl Harbor injury.

Photos (far left): Alice with her birthday cake

(center left): Former BANNCA President Lorrie Sammons celebrating with Alice

Updates from the 2024 NNCA Annual Board Meeting

Strategic Plan Update 2024

During the 2024 annual Board of Directors meeting, NNCA Strategic Planning Uplink Vince Starks led the Board through a review and revision of the NNCA Strategic Plan. Key changes were made to update the three primary goals and to revise our Tagline to "Once a Navy Nurse, Always a Navy Nurse!" Our three primary goals are Organizational Sustainability, goal tender Sandra Hearn, Shared Traditions And Legacy, goal tender Rosie Perdue, and Camaraderie And Fellowship, goal tender Tina Ortiz. Details of the Strategic Plan and the updated Goal statements are viewable at <https://nnca.org/governing-documents/>. Access requires that you log in to the website as a member.

Board of Director Meeting Minutes

This is a condensed version of the Board of Director (BOD) minutes. The full minutes are available at: <https://nnca.org/get-involved/meetings/> The 2024 NNCA BOD meeting was held virtually on April 26-27, 2024. The meeting was led by President Cynthia Sweeney.

NNCA Board Updates 2024

President Sweeney thanked outgoing Board Members Margaret Beaubien – Treasurer, Cynthia Coyle – Marketing and Charlene McKee – Board member at Large. Continuing Board Members will include Cynthia Sweeney – President, Jenny Vedral-Baron – Vice-President, Veronica Armstrong-Evans – Secretary, Tina Ortiz – Recruitment and Retention, Rosemary Perdue – Oral History and Memorabilia, and Vince Starks – Strategic Plan Caretaker.

Strategic Plan Update

Vince Starks coordinated a separate strategic plan meeting on 25 January. A summary was reviewed and approved at the BOD meeting. See the summary at the top of this page. Please contact the Executive Director if you are interested in working on one of these three goals. For Strategic Plan details go to nnca.org; log in to Members Only section and select Governance Documents.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee - Margaret Beaubien is in the process of turnover to Brian Dawson. This year the Investment Policy was updated. NNCA has hired an investment firm, Osborne Partners Investment (Fiduciary) to guide and assist with wise and meaningful investment of donated funds. They were recommended by The DAISY Foundation and will provide education for us on financial planning, especially in planning of donation goals. 2023-24 Budget trends show significant investment in our Website development and Marketing initiatives. The annual review of the budget has been completed without issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee - MaryAlice Morro announced the seven awardees to the membership. Full Award citations are available at <https://nnca.org/navy-nurses-recognized/awards/>. Congratulations to all of our selectees and thank you for your commitment to NNCA and Navy Nursing.

Nominating Committee – Christine Boltz and Kim Lyons identified a slate of six nominations. Three new Board Members were selected to join the 2024-2025 Board of Directors. Of 1100 members, 288 ballots were cast, 122 by mail and 166 online. This showed a slight increase from 2023. A huge thank you to Kim and Christine for their service these past years as they leave the committee. They will be replaced by Pat Kenney and Donna Styles. Also a big thank to Linda Daehn and the Palmetto Chapter for their continued support as the vote counters for these past 20 years! We hope you continue this record!

Oral History Committee – Maria Harbeson, Five Oral Histories (OH) were transcribed by Pat Rushton. Five OH were conducted by Brenda Baker in FL, one telephone interview was conducted by Pat Rushton. Fifteen OH were sent to JoAnn Smith for review and formatting to the NNCA website, including conflict oriented oral histories conducted by Pat Rushton. The team consisting of JoAnn Smith, Lissa Barker, Maureen Christopher, Mary Kerdus and Bonnie McClure are formatting the transcripts to be uploaded to the NNCA website.

Memorabilia Committee – Sherry Dotson, HAI completed the digitization of the remaining photographs in the Memorabilia collection. Taking the memorabilia on the road to Walter Reed Military National Military Medical Center for Nurses Week!

NNCA News – Dot O'Very, A proposal was presented to the board by Cynthia Coyle to select Val Acosta as the new Social Media Chair and was approved. Welcome, Val Acosta! The Social Media Committee needs volunteers! Social Media continues to grow in viewership, we post on Facebook, Instagram and Linked-In. We are in need a NNCA News Editor!

Recruitment and Retention – Linda Grant, Current membership as of December 2023 is 1065 Retired, Former, AD, Reserve. Loss of membership over the past year is 52 members, in 2022 loss was 80 members. Future plans include continuance of free membership at the NNCA level for the first year for all new members. Other planned activities include encourage gift memberships, provide a presence at MTFs when possible to raise awareness of NNCA and Chapters, involvement in veteran organizations through participation in military and community events, support The Daisy Awards, and sharing newsletters.

Warrior Canine Connection Program Pam Giza, Submitted annual activity of 13 selected and one pending namesake nomination.

Marketing – Cynthia Coyle, The BOD awarded a new contract to a marketing firm to assist with creation and implementation of a marketing plan and initiatives including a Pilot Project for Nurses Week and Nurse Corps Birthday activities at WRNMMC and NMCS. Other initiatives included production and posting of two recruitment videos, two display banners, and postcards for the above Pilot Project. All are viewable at nnca.org.

Chapter Reports

Bay Area NNCA (San Francisco Bay area), President Lorrie Sammons, 28 members. Key updates: provided complementary introductory membership for all prior BANNCA Chapter members to the NNCASC. Designated remaining funds for an Oak Knoll Hospital tribute, participated in the Women Veteran's Tea, Wreaths Across America, Army Navy Game, Veteran's Day and more. The Chapter dissolved, but will retain its legacy of valued relationships, significant service, and involvement in our extended military community – all of which form memories we share proudly and with affection.

Florida NNCA (FL ex Panhandle), President Denise Johnson, 90 members. Key updates: Participated in Wreaths Across America, Haven Hospice Veteran Recognition. Held 2 meetings/year, published two newsletters/year. Completed five Oral Histories, supported 4 The DAISY Awards.

Gulf Coast NNCA (Panhandle, AL, LA, MS), President Shirley Lewis-Brown, 38 members. Key updates: Visits to the Armed Forces home, placing flags in an African American Cemetery, Veterans Day Parade. Held three meetings/year including a member Christmas gift exchange party, published two newsletters. Other activities included participation in Nurses Week at NH Pensacola and the Blessing of the Hands.

Land Locked NNCA (CO, NE, NM, WY), President Harriet Palmer-Willis, 38 members. Key updates: Participated in Wreaths Across America, Honor Bell. Meet socially several times/year. Other activities included USO support, members active in volunteering in various veteran activities.

Midsouth NNCA (TN and environs), President Ellen Hodges, 19 members. Key updates: Community/ veteran organizations involvement, members volunteer within a variety of organizations such as MOAA and the Warrior Canine Connection. Held two meetings per year.

Midwest NNCA (IA, MN, ND, SD, western WI), President Jean Mahaffey, 23 members. Key updates: Participate in Wreaths Across America and on the DAISY committee at the VA hospital. Hold quarterly meetings (zoom and face to face, currently member Oral Histories presented at meetings).

New England NNCA (New England States), President Tom Wilson, 45 members. Key updates: Participated in Wreaths Across America, USS Constitution's Women's Cruise. Held quarterly meetings - BOD meetings, in person and Zoom membership meetings. Conducting Oral Histories, awarded two scholarships, supported The DAISY Awards at NHCNE and Bristol VA, published two newsletters/year. Hosting the 2024 NNCA Reunion Cruise!

NNCA of Southern CA (Ventura County and South), President Jane Hourigan, 163 members. Key updates: Participated in Honor Flights, Veterans Village, Operation Dress Code. Held quarterly meetings - luncheons and BOD meetings. Completed nine Oral Histories, support The DAISY Awards and awarded five scholarships. Welcome to BANNCA members.

Northwest NNCA (AK, ID, OR, MT, WA), President Nadyne Krienke, 52 members (increase from last year). Key updates: Have hosted several speakers for their meetings, two meetings each year with Zoom and face to face, Publish two newsletters each year. Awarded three scholarships.

Palmetto Chapter NNCA (GA, NC, SC), President Peggy Williams, 54 members. Key updates: Participated in the 50th Anniversary Welcome Home Vietnam Vets, provided donations for homeless Vets, Nightingale tribute at funerals, honor guard, Veterans Day Parade, Wreaths Across America. Held two meetings/year, two BOD meetings/year, and published two newsletters/year.

South Central NNCA (AR, NM, OK, TX), President Mike Beamer, 42 members. Key updates: Challenged by large geographical catchment area, limited Navy facilities except for San Antonio and Corpus Christi areas. Hoping to host in-person meeting in 2024.

Washington Metro Area NNCA (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV), President Christine Boltz, 146 members. Key updates: Participate in Operation Welcome Home, Wreaths Across America, Quilts of Valor, and Honor Flights. Held three meetings, conducted three Oral Histories. Other activities included award of two scholarships for graduate education, support The DAISY Awards at A. T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC) and WRNMMC, published four newsletters/year.



Future Meetings And Wrap-Up

2024 Reunion: September 26 – October 3 - The 2024 NNCA Reunion has over 250 members and friends signed up to cruise. The last payment is due May 29. Thank you to Irene Weaver and Kim Lyons from NENNCA for coordination of this event! For details, go to nnca.org, complete member login and select Reunions tab.

We are in the beginning phase of planning our 2027 Anniversary Reunion. We need Planning committee members. Location and dates have not yet been determined. If you are interested and available to help with the Planning Committee, send a note to ExecDir@nnca.org.

Strategic Plan: Fall 2024 TBD

2025 Board of Directors Meeting (in-person) - April 11/12; TBD, greater Nashville area

Annual Meeting of the Membership: April 16, 2025, 7pm ET (virtual)



Chapter News



**Florida
(FNNCA)**
FL, except the
Panhandle

Submitted by Denise Johnson

FNNCA had a robust weekend celebrating the 116th birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps on 10 May at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. We recognized our new DAISY Awardee LT Pierre, for his outstanding care of a new mother and family on their mother infant unit. They cut the traditional Nurse Corps cake with over thirty active nurse corps officers in attendance. We shared our new NNCA "Once a Nurse, Always a Nurse" postcards that speak to our purpose to preserve our legacy by collecting oral histories, offering scholarships, volunteering in our communities and gathering to enjoy our camaraderie.



Photo (left to right): LT Vladimir Pierre receives The DAISY Award from LT King at NH Jacksonville

FNNCA held our Spring meeting in Daytona on 11 May with 32 attendees. We were gifted to hear from Lynn Geiser, founder of Hope 4 Veterans



(www.Hope4Veterans.org), an organization focusing on giving hope to our military women and their families.

Brenda Baker was awarded as the 2023 recipient of the FNNCA Sue Smoker Hummel Service Award for her significant contribution to our oral history program.

Photo: Denise (left) presents award to Brenda (right)

Gathering modifications and voted on by the membership, we unveiled our new FNNCA logo and look forward to sharing it with a production

service for printing shirts, hats etc. Our most Senior member Becky Baker and junior member Samantha Drake, one of our scholarship awardees last year, cut our own annual celebratory 116th birthday cake.

Photo: new FNNCA logo next to our most Senior member Becky Baker and junior member Samantha Drake

We look forward to having our Fall Meeting in Tampa and seeing many of you on the upcoming reunion cruise.





Gulf Coast (GCNNCA) FL Panhandle, AL, LA, MS

Submitted by Martha Hicks and Shirley Lewis-Brown

The GCNNCA held their spring meeting April 19, 2024 at the Hangar American Grill in Milton. We want to welcome CAPT Glenn A. Bradford, Chief Nurse Officer, at Naval Hospital Pensacola, our new member to the Chapter. The Veteran



Women's pin was distributed to all attending the luncheon by Susan Ulloa and Shirley Lewis-Brown.

GCNNCA participated in Nurses Week events from 6 to 12 May. Activities included coffee and donuts, Blessing of the Hands, BBQ luncheon, key note speaker was RDML Engel, Birthday cake cutting and social on 13 May.



Photos: (top right) GCNNCA members at spring luncheon; (bottom three): GCNNCA members join NHP staff for Nurses Week

Recruitment efforts continue and postcards were placed at the Hangar restaurant. The recruitment cards are blue and contain gold and white letters.



GCNNCA supported the Memorial Day celebration at Barrancas Cemetery on 27 May. They are one of the veteran organizations that have supported and participated in the event for the past five years. Martha Hicks represented GCNNCA by reciting deceased nurse members

names. Her speech included that Nightingale tribute for the fallen Navy Nurses commemorating and recognizing the nurses' contributions and dedication to saving lives.

Photos (above): Martha represents GCNNCA at the Barrancas Memorial Day celebration.

(below): Martha displays flowers at Ft Barrancas National Cemetery



All members are invited to participate in the November 11, 2024 Veterans Parade in Pensacola (Escambia County) and Milton, Florida (Santa Rosa County). Martha Hicks, Carla Bestor and Shatze Clemmons will attend and place a wreath at the Veterans memorial in Milton.



Midwest (MWNNCA) IA, MN, ND, SD, western WI

Submitted by Carole O'Byrne and Jean Mahaffey

Although the Midwest enjoyed a mild winter, the warmer temps and lovely flowers are welcome changes. Our planned Chapter meeting this spring was held on 11 May allowing us to celebrate the 116th birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps.



We continue to use a hybrid format for our meetings making our gatherings available to members from Oregon, Missouri and even Thailand! We are fortunate that the Minneapolis Veterans' Home allows space and technology needed for our meetings. Kudos to the staff for catering our lunch and all the assistance they provide to us. This year, President Jean Mahaffey provided an especially delicious cake for the special Nurse Corps birthday.

Photo (left): Cake cutting (left to right) Kay Bauer and Lorene Gillicksen

Photo (below): Meeting attendees (front to back, left side of table) Lorene Gillicksen, Dee Albert, Sherry Murray, Kay Bauer, Kathie Adam, (right side of table) Anne Ringquist, Carole O'Byrne, Gwyn Lang, Marcia Belisle



For this notable event, our Chapter's founder and first president, Kay Bauer, discussed the process she completed from conception of the Midwest Chapter through the labor required to deliver the finished product. Thanks to guidance from the National Board and a long time Navy reserve affiliation who provided Nurse Corps addresses of potential members.

The Chapter officially met in 2004 for the first time. Since virtual meetings were not possible then, members living a distance from the Twin Cities seldom had the time to travel for a meeting. The Midwest Chapter has come a long way since it began 20 years ago.

Member Kathie Adam suggested we discuss and select two charitable organizations to support with donations of \$250 each. For this year, members chose the Twin Cities Honor Flight Organization organized by Jana and Jerry Keyser for the past 25 years and the Minnesota



Assistance Council for Veterans (MAVC) that provides free medical equipment in good condition.

Photo (bottom, left column): Jean Mahaffey presents MWNNCS donation check to Jerry and Jana Kyser, Coordinators of the Twin Cities Honor Flight.

Recently Sherry Murray, who has been a years-long associate member of the Minnesota Marine Corps League (Sherry is married to retired Marine John Murray who is a member of the Minnesota Marine Corps League) received the League's award as the associate member of the year. The Midwest Chapter congratulates Sherry on her outstanding voluntary work as an Associate member of the Marine Corps League.



Photo: Sherry Murray receiving award

A surprise item on our May agenda was awarding a Chapter member the NNCA Luisa Power Award for significant volunteer contributions to the NNCA. Thanks to the secretive sub-



mission of my name to the NNCA Board by President Mahaffey, Vice-President Belisle and other members, I was selected. The beautiful pin and certificate combined with the words of thanks are expressions of gratitude I never anticipated. My sincerest appreciation and gratitude to everyone.

Photo: Vice-President Belisle presenting the

Luisa Power volunteer pin and certificate to Carole O'Byrne

Lastly, although our meeting was joyous, it was touched by sadness due to the death of a Charter member and NNCA advocate, Barb Barrett. Barb was a dedicated member who thrived in the Chapter activities and as a volunteer to locate and record veterans' stories for the Library of Congress history project. She loved the Navy and was devoted to the Nurse Corps.



Join the new Social Media Committee!

The new Social Media Committee is seeking a few good men or women to assist with development and posting of social media messages that highlight NNCA and Chapter activities. If you are a user of Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or YouTube and would be interested in joining this key marketing initiative, please contact either Dot O'Very at editor@nnca.org or Mary Mahony at execdir@nnca.org



New England (NENNA) New England States

Submitted by Thomas Wilson

Greetings from New England...we have weathered a mild New England winter, are looking forward to a beautiful New England spring and a Wicked Great summer, enjoying our beautiful beaches, outdoor nature playgrounds and of course lobster salad sandwiches with drawn butter or mayo...your choice.

Our Chapter membership remains steady. We may be small, but we continue to be active. The Chapter continues to award two nursing scholarships. This month (May), New England universities were notified of our nursing scholarships and application process. Two scholarships will be awarded in October to BSN and MSN candidates.

Hail and Farewell:

Hail: Incoming Senior Nurse, NHCNE CAPT Jill Skeets arriving from NAVLEADETHCTR NPT RI. CAPT Skeets is a Chapter member and has attended Chapter events. We look forward to partnering with her and NHCNE.

Hail: Active Duty, LT Jaeda Ewings as our New Treasurer. A joint member of WMANNCA and NENNA, she is pursuing her master's degree under DUINS.

Farewell: Senior Nurse at NHCNE, CAPT Gryn is retiring June 1st aboard the USS Constitution. CAPT Gryn has participated in our luncheon/business meetings and is a positive influence in supporting our Chapter.

The Board met twice this year. A general membership meeting was conducted virtually on 4 May. Unfortunately, our 10 May luncheon was cancelled due to member scheduling issues/competition.



Chapter members were invited by NHCNE to participate in the Command's Nurses Week activities. A good time was had by all. It was a great opportunity to honor our profession of nursing while socializing with active duty and former nurses of our Nurse Corps.

Photo (left to right): Naval Healthcare New England CAPT Kristin R. Hodapp and Chapter Member Margaret Zarek

NENNA Sponsors The DAISY Awards at NMRTC New England and at the Bristol Rhode Island Veterans Home.



Photos (above, left to right): LCDR Cheree Nagle, LT Ryan Tate – The DAISY Award Nominee, RN Kathrine Russell – The DAISY Award selectee, LTJG Rhonda Fredericks, RN Jessica Lussier, CAPT Eric Gryn, RN Susan Geagan

(below, left to right): The Bristol Rhode Island Veterans Home 2024 The DAISY Award recipient Bobbi Flowers-Lemay RN and Paul Murgo, Administrator



Congratulations to our outgoing Chapter President, Irene Weaver for being awarded the NNCA's Luisa Power Award!

The NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise is sponsored by the NENNA and will be September 26 to October 3, 2024.



Follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/NNCA1987>



Southern CA (NNCASC) Ventura County and South CA

Submitted by Nancy Owen

On March 21, 2024, at Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial, NNCASC members attended the third Annual Women's History Brunch in honor of military women past and present. This year the focus was on women of the Coast Guard. The keynote speaker was Commander Ellen M. Motoi of the U.S. Coast Guard. Over 100 military women and guests attended the event and were treated to a flyover by Coast Guard helicopters.



Photo (left-right): Barb Beeby, Nancy Owen, Georgene Waecker, Casey Meehan, Becky Nulty, Jane Hourigan

Our quarterly NNCASC luncheon was held 20 April at Cocina del Charro. We had 42 members and guests attend. We celebrated an early 116th Navy Nurse Corps Birthday at the luncheon. Active duty Navy Nurse LTJG Ava Kurtz from NMCS D and NNCASC member Rose Marie Castellanos, 95 years young (photo right), performed the ceremonial cake cutting.



At the luncheon, President Jane Hourigan surprised and recognized past President Becky Nulty (photo left) with the announcement that she had been selected for the NNCA Mary G. Stewart Leadership Award.

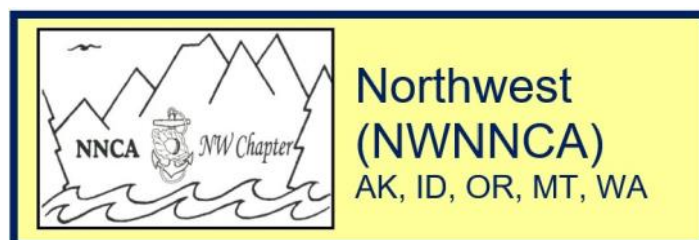
A virtual general meeting was held on 23

April to welcome former BANNCA members to NNCASC and to provide an opportunity for area members to meet and share information. NNCASC plans to continue this hybrid format after each general meeting.

NNCASC, with support from NNCA, participated in Nurses Week activities at NMCS D including the showing of a NNCA short documentary and oral history composite of Navy Nurses who had served during the Vietnam era. Memorabilia, including past uniform items, insignias, photos, and books was also on display.



Photo (left to right): Rose Marie Castellanos, Candace Curlee, Tina Hooker, Becky Nulty, Jane Hourigan, Tom Colgan, Sandra Pearson, Nancy Owen



Submitted by Bonnie Bulach and Nadyne Krienke

The spring general membership meeting was held at The Old Spaghetti Factory Restaurant in Lynnwood, WA on 20 April. Our guest speaker was Gerard "Jerry" Mohan, CDR, NC, USN, Ret, FNP. Jerry gave a touching presentation on Forgotten International, and the medical support provided to a refugee village in Uganda. He built a medical clinic in the name of



his brother, a dedicated physician, with the help of the local minister, Godfrey. The clinic supports patients of all ages and operates by donations. For those wanting to donate the website is ForgottenInternational.org.

Happy 116th Birthday Navy Nurse Corps! Bonnie brought a cake, youngest and most senior members present obliged by cutting the cake and the group commemorated the day with a photo.

Photo: Jamie Hammer and Madeline Ancelard cut the birthday cake.



Scholarship - Joline DeVos and her committee are awaiting submissions for this year's awards.

ROTC Award - Madeline Ancelard contacted the NROTC units at the University of Idaho (UI), Oregon State University, Corvallis (OSU), and the University of Washington (UW). There are no NROTC students graduating in our region this year.

Toni Edmonds shared the process of burial at sea. She talked about Kit Tate's burial off the coast of Alaska that occurred on May 7, 2023 aboard the USS Momsen. [DVIDS - Images - Burial at Sea Ceremony \[Image 1 of 21\] \(dvidshub.net\)](#). She also discussed the importance of making your burial wishes known to your family and to begin the process early. Examples of decisions included what to do with items on your 'I love me' wall. She displayed three of Kit's memorabilia items and asked that members who take the items provide a donation to the scholarship fund. All three items found new homes.

Burial at Sea Poem

In ocean waters no poppies blow,
No crosses stand in ordered row,
There young hearts sleep beneath the wave,
The spirited, the good, the brave,

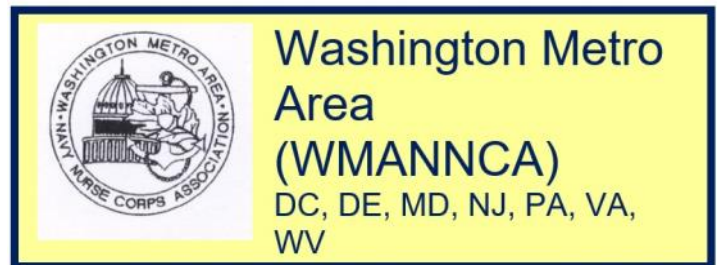
But stars a constant vigil keep
For them who lie beneath the deep.
'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer
On certain spot and think. "He's there."
But you can to the ocean go...
See whitecaps marching row on row;
Know one for him will always ride,
In and out with every tide.
And when your span of life is passed,
He'll meet you at the "Captain's Mast."
And they who mourn on distant shore
For sailors who'll come home no more,
Can dry their tears and pray for these
Who rest beneath the heaving seas...
For stars that shine and winds that blow
And whitecaps marching row on row.
And they can never lonely be
For when they lived... they chose the sea.
- Unknown

Marla Patterson reminded the group that the new Next Generation Uniformed Services ID Card is available, so please update your cards along with the enhanced driver's license.

Officer elections for President, Secretary and Membership Chair will be held at the Fall General Meeting in October. If anyone is interested, please send any one the Board members a message.

Bonnie still has bottle opener coins for sale if anyone would like to purchase to pass out at the Reunion cruise.

The fall 2024 Chapter General Meeting will be Saturday, October 19th at a southern WA/northern OR location.



Submitted by S. Ann Ross and Christine Boltz

The Washington Metro Area of NNCA held their Spring Luncheon at Goodwin House Alexandria (GHA), a Senior Lifecare Community in Alexandria, VA and also the home of a member. The luncheon Guest of Honor was Cathy Farmer, RN, MSN, the Director of Clinical Services for the Health Care Center at GHA which is based on a state-of-the-art concept of decentralization in rehab and long term nursing care services. After a pleasant lunch with much visiting, Mrs. Farmer answered questions about the facility's nursing care and staffing and then led a small group on a tour of two of the units. It was a very pleasant and educational day.

Nurses Week activities this year at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) were enhanced thanks to the memorabilia items from the NNCA collection and WMANNCA member contributions, providing a nice backdrop and history lesson. On 8 May, we partnered with NNCA to cohost bagels/coffee at two locations in the morning.



Photo: Cynthia Sweeney and Christine Boltz tend the memorabilia table during bagels and coffee

At noon there was a Nurses Award Ceremony: Honoring Nurses Past and Present and cake cutting ceremony in the Clark Auditorium. Several command awards were

given to nurses and nursing staff including two DAISY Awards. The DAISY Award recipients were Ms. Carolyn Benloss, RN from 5 West and Ms. Dorit "DeeDee" Wodaage-Wells from NICU.

Photo: The DAISY Award recipient RN Benloss with COL Wendy Woodall



Photo: RN Wodaage-Wells receives The DAISY Award from COL Wendy Woodall



At A.T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC), formerly Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, on 10 May the Nurses Week closing Ceremony included The DAISY Award presentation to Ms. Chrystal Davis, who works in the Special Care Nursery. Cindy Sweeney, NNCA President provided remarks and presented the award. LT Jenmarie

Archer, ATAMMC DAISY Coordinator/WMANNCA 2024 Scholarship recipient coordinates this popular recognition program. There are many nominees each award cycle.



Photo (left to right): ATAMMC DAISY Award ceremony, COL Jovitta Chandler, DNS, COL Elba M. Villacorta, ATAMMC Director, Ms. Chrystal Davis, Awardee, Cindy Sweeney, CAPT Jacqueline Williams, ADNS

On Monday 13 May at WRNMMC the NNCA memorabilia was again on display including the Navy Nurse Corps 100th Birthday Quilt, WWII uniform cape, old uniforms, covers, shoes, and several books, magazines, and photos in Clark Auditorium. In addition to the speaker CAPT Raymond Bonds, Nurse Corps Career Planner at the ceremonial cake cutting, Cindy Sweeney offered remarks about Nurse Corps history and the memorabilia on display.



Photo (left to right): WMANNCA members Cindy Coyle, Charlene Foley (friend of Cynthia Sweeney), Cynthia Sweeney, Maggie Balacki, Judy Brinckerhoff, Veronica Rubin, Dee Bogart, and Christine Boltz.

Save the Date! August 13, 2024, time TBD

NNCA and WMANNCA are coordinating an exceptional presentation by Dr. Cynda H. Rushton, PHD, MSN, BSN, RN, FAAN, Professor of Clinical Ethics at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

Dr. Rushton is an expert on clinical ethics and moral resilience in nursing.

This will be a virtual presentation on August 13, 2024, time TBD.

More details to follow via email Flash message from NNCA.



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

Name	State	Dates Served	War Service	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age
Baldwin, Patricia	GA	72-98	V, G	3/4/2024	6/7/1950	73
Barrett, Barbara*	MN	67-69	V	3/24/2024	10/12/1945	78
Beagle, Jo Ann+	CA	54-60	K	6/6/2023	2/20/1933	90
Davis, Josephine+	PA		WWII	5/6/2024	3/20/1920	104
Himes, Ethel	CO	31-54	WWII, K	10/26/1996	9/24/1906	90
Hovis, Bobbi+	MD	47-67	K, V	5/5/2024	8/31/1925	98
Killman, Judith*	TN	77-03	G	3/17/2024	2/4/1944	80
Kjenstad, James	CA	69-	V	5/26/2024	4/9/1948	76
Langley, Ann*	VA	64-95	V, G	4/6/2024	11/1/1942	81
Reisdorf, Stephanie	VA	87-17	G	12/14/2023	10/31/1956	67
Reynolds, Ann Darby+	NH	62-88	V	2/25/2024	9/12/1939	84
Sandoval, Evelyn*	MD		WWII, K	12/6/2018	2/25/1923	95
Spanier, Bernice*	IL	66-86	V	10/26/2023	8/1/1934	89
Speckmann, Elissa*	MD	66-92	V, G	3/2/2024	3/9/1932	92
Wooldridge, Robert	WA	62-91	V	2/16/2024	2/16/1943	81
(+=Charter, *=member)						

NNCA

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

NEWS

ONCE A NAVY NURSE, ALWAYS A NAVY NURSE

Volume 38 No. 2 November 2024

NNCA Presents the Board of Directors Candidates for 2024

The NNCA Nominating Committee, Donna Styles, Pat Kenney and Linda Daehn present the following five candidates for consideration for the NNCA Board of Directors (BOD). A big thank you to members indicating their desire to serve on the National Board and communicating this interest. The BOD members are elected for a three-year term. Those elected will start their term in May 2025 and complete it in May 2028. Please vote for three of the five candidates, either online or by using the enclosed ballot, which must be returned postmarked no later than December 31, 2024, in the envelope provided. A link for online voting is available on the NNCA.org website. You must enter your username and password to access the voting site. Online voting will close at midnight EST on December 31, 2024. All mailed ballots must be postmarked by December 31, 2024.

Mary Ann Jarmulowicz (South Carolina, PCNNCA)



Mary Ann Jarmulowicz has served as the Palmetto Coast (PCNNCA) Chapter President, Vice-President, and Secretary (present). During her military service, she held multiple leadership positions, achieved credentials as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner, and obtained a Masters in Adult Gerontological Nursing before retiring at the rank of Commander. Subsequently, she attained a PhD in Education.

Mary Ann retired from a career in education as the Program Director for Nursing, Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL). During her tenure, TCL graduated one of the largest cohorts of ADN graduates with a successful NCLEX pass rate. In 2014, while an associate professor, she received the NNCA Professional Nursing Award. She continues part time work as a Content Developer for Kaplan, Inc.

Her volunteer work supports the South Carolina Nurse Honor Guard, Lowcountry, and the Operation Patriot Forward Operation Base (OPFOB). She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and the South Carolina Nursing Association.

Cynthia (Cindy) Kuehner (California, NNCASC)

Cindy Kuehner, DNP, NEA-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, is a career Navy Nurse. Her final position in naval service was dual-hatted, as the Commander, Naval Medical Forces Support Command, and the 26th Director, U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. Cindy's naval career spanned nearly 34 years and led her to assignments all over the globe. She served as Commanding Officer of the Navy's largest overseas Navy hospital (2017-2019) and as the first nurse to serve as the Executive Officer of Naval Medical Center, San Diego (2015-2017). Her military deployments included both Operation Iraqi Freedom (Fallujah, Iraq, 2004) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Khost, Afghanistan, 2010).



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Cindy and her husband (also a retired Navy veteran) raised their three children during their dual active-duty service and are proud of their family's multi-generational military service. In retirement, Cindy is keen on continuing to serve in alignment with her professional expertise and commitment to Navy Nursing and the health of military and veteran communities.

Lisa Henning Raimondo (Maryland, WMANNCA)



Lisa joined the Navy in 1984 after receiving her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Highlights of her thirty-year career include tours as the Congressional Fellow in the office of Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Nurse Corps Policy and Practice and executive medicine positions.

Prior to retiring, Lisa was Chief of Staff at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and led teams in the treatment of wounded warriors with TBI and psychological health conditions.

Lisa works as Healthcare Operations Manager, Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. in support of Creative Forces®: The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Military Healing Arts Network. She coordinates programming associated with the delivery of care by twenty Creative Arts Therapists at DoD and VA partner sites nationwide.

Lisa and her husband Philip (fellow veteran, USNA '83 graduate) reside in Davidsonville, MD where they sponsor midshipmen.

Jacqueline E. Sharpe (Virginia, WMANNCA)

Jacqueline Sharpe, PhD, RN, CHES, is a career Nursing Educator. Passionate about the Navy, nursing and advancing nursing education she has dedicated over 29 years of service to the Navy Nurse Corps. During her time on active duty, she held several clinical and leadership positions. Upon her retirement, she continued to advance nursing education to better assist other nurses on their educational journey.

Currently she is an Assistant Professor in the BSHS Program at Hampton University School of Nursing and has authored multiple publications. Navy Awards include Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (3) and a multitude of civilian professional and community awards.



Ana Stoehr (Virginia, WMANNCA)



Ana Stoehr is the Vice President of the Washington Metro Area NNCA (WMANNCA) Chapter and served on the NNCA 2022 Reunion committee. Ana has a variety of military and civilian leadership experiences. Highlights while in the Navy included charge nurse of multiple patient care units, military sick call, and oversight of twelve operating rooms.

Following naval service, Ana was President of the Virginia League for Nursing for five years. During her tenure membership increased thirty percent and she established an annual membership conference.

Currently as faculty at George Mason University, she has held several roles, including Coordinator of the Graduate Nursing Administration Program with responsibilities that encompass teaching, student placement, and advising. She transitioned to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Nursing Education, responsible for over 300 students in three programs (Tradition, Accelerated and RN-BSN) with an additional assignment as the liaison with an Army ROTC unit and coordinator for the school's veteran state funding program.



On September 26, 2024, over 240 Navy Nurses, family and friends set sail aboard the Norwegian Cruise Ship Jade. As always with Navy Nurses, there were MANY sea stories and MUCH laughter shared amongst Shipmates.

Once a Navy Nurse, Always a Navy Nurse!
Thank you to our NENNCA Coordinators, Kim Lyons and Irene Weaver and our Master of Ceremonies, Trish Culver and her photographer spouse, Larry!

Photo gallery begins on page 5; Photo slide show at nnca.org



President's Corner

Cindy Sweeney

The NNCA Reunion Cruise of 2024 was a wonderful gathering! A special thank you to the New England Chapter of NNCA and Kim Lyons and Irene Weaver who coordinated this effort for over 250 members! Those who joined us enjoyed the fall foliage from Boston to Nova Scotia as well as gatherings to welcome everyone and to pay homage in memorial to our members who have passed. It left everyone enthusiastic to plan for our 2027 reunion, marking the 40th anniversary of the NNCA!!

On August 13th, the WMANNCA and NNCA co-sponsored the virtual presentation "Building Resiliency, Self-Stewardship and Integrity for the Future of Nursing Practice." Dr. Cynda Rushton, a recognized international expert on resilience, ethical practice, and self-care provided insights based on recent research findings to improve resilience and ultimately retain the best in our nursing workforce. The session recording is available to our members on the nnca.org website. We are grateful to Dr. Rushton for sharing her passion and wisdom on this topic with us.

Recently I led my book club in the discussion of "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. This book portrays the stories of military nurses who served in the Vietnam conflict through one character, twenty-year-old Frankie. None of the attendees had served in the military or were nurses. But this discussion and storytelling deeply touched them. For the discussion, I drew from the stories of our Navy Nurses who had served in Vietnam and shared their stories through our oral history collaborative. The day after the meeting I received several notes of thanks communicating how deeply these participants were touched and how much "they did not know about women and service in Vietnam." It underscored for me the importance of capturing and sharing our oral histories. One of my favorite quotes from the book is a reminder to each of us, no matter where we served or when "We were there!". So, please share your story, because you were there!

The NNCA sent a letter of endorsement for former U.S. Army Captain Diane Carlson Evans, nominated by Sen. Jon Tester, chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, for the Presidential Medal of Freedom in recognition of her contributions to the country both during and after her time in uniform. Diane served as an Army nurse for six years during the height of the Vietnam War and is the founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation which established the only memorial dedicated to honoring military women on the National Mall. Kristin Hannah acknowledged Diane as a source for 'The Women'. We are monitoring the outcome and hopeful that she will receive the award in 2025

November 11th is an opportunity to reflect and honor our military service and those who went before us. In the November issue of the Journal of Nursing Administration, you will find an article I wrote to bring greater awareness to Veteran's Day and the leadership of military nurses. Thank you all for your service!

Kenney has put together a slate of leaders for your consideration for the 2025 BOD. Please read their bios and vote for three who will round out our board of directors to lead NNCA and serve you, our members!

Remember to encourage those who have not joined NNCA and are eligible to do so! It is through our members that we fuel the work of the NNCA!

~ Cindy

NNCA NEWS

PO Box 908 Vonore, TN 37885

877-662-2674

NNCA Web Page: NNCA.org
www.facebook.com/NNCA1987

Executive Director, Mary Mahony
 ExecDir@nnca.org
 Editor, Dot O'Very, Editor@nnca.org

The NNCA News is published in March, July and November.

The submission deadlines are January 20th, May 20th and September 20th

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Board of Directors, 2024-2025

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 Veronica Armstrong, CA – Secretary
 Brian Dawson, CO – Treasurer
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NNCASC	Jane Hourigan
NWNNCA	Nadyne Krienke
PCNNCA	Peggy Williams
SCNNCA	Mike Beimer
WMANNCA	Christine Boltz



Executive Director

Mary Mahony

By now, many of you have seen or heard that our recent fall foliage cruise from Boston to Canada was a tremendous success! The trip was filled with laughter, nostalgia, and breathtaking scenery, giving us the perfect chance to reconnect with friends from past duty stations while exploring several stunning ports. Don't forget to check out our platforms—we're currently sharing photos from the cruise!

Even more exciting, we're already looking ahead to our 40th anniversary celebration in 2027. Over a dozen enthusiastic volunteers have already stepped up to start planning this milestone event. If you'd like to contribute to the planning or share your ideas for making this celebration truly unforgettable, please reach out to us at execdir@nnca.org. We'd love to hear from you!

A special thank you goes out to our Chapter Membership Coordinators and everyone who responded to our renewal emails and letters! As we wrap up our membership drive, we're delighted to report that 87% of our members have renewed, with 38% renewing online. If you have suggestions for improving the renewal process, don't hesitate to email me directly. We're open to ideas for enhancing efficiency.

In addition to the upcoming election for the next Board of Directors, we are seeking your valuable input via a membership survey. For those who receive a paper newsletter, you'll find the survey included in your packet along with a return envelope. Please be mindful that your vote and survey should be mailed to different addresses, so ensure they're placed in the correct envelopes. If you receive your newsletter by email, you will receive the survey in a separate electronic message.

As the holiday season approaches, we're excited to announce that National Wreaths Across America Day will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2024. NNCA will join over two million volunteers and supporters at more than 4,600 locations to Remember, Honor, and Teach. Several of our Chapters are sponsoring annual wreath-laying ceremonies, and you can support their efforts by purchasing wreaths through the NNCA website at <https://nnca.org/partner/wreaths-across-america/>. If any additional Chapters are interested in sponsoring ceremonies, please contact Wreaths Across America (WAA) directly, and we'll ensure your Chapter is listed on the NNCA website.

I also want to echo what you may have seen in earlier communications about the editor position. Dot has been an outstanding editor, sharing a wealth of information across various formats and platforms. If you're looking for a way to contribute to the organization, I encourage you to consider this role and throw your hat into the ring!

Wishing each of you a wonderful holiday season and expressing my heartfelt gratitude for your membership and dedication to this organization. Thank you for your continued support and engagement!

~ Mary



Editor

Dot O'Very

On the plane, headed to Boston. Very much looking forward to seeing "old" friends I've not seen in many years and meeting "new" friends with whom I've communicated over the past five years in my role as editor. This remains one of my favorite parts of the editor position, making new old friends. You will find photos of our cruisers in the Chapter updates as well as in the Nurses in the News section of this newsletter.

I offer a huge thank you to the many faithful correspondents who have helped build story-filled newsletters.

It is still September, so I remain mindful that September is Suicide Awareness month. Our veteran community has a historically high suicide rate so awareness and intervention are paramount. A recent post to our Fall Reunion Cruise WhatsApp communication string brought this risk front and center while demonstrating how a task as simple as sending a text can be the step that changes a life. Keep the national 988 number in your phones so you can share it in times of need.

This edition of the newsletter showcases our newest candidates for the NNCA Board of Directors as well as the great work our Committee chairs are spearheading on behalf of the membership. While many Chapters continue to struggle to increase membership there are clear indications that the marketing and social media initiatives are having an impact. Please invite all of your family and friends to Like and Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages. And, equally as important, if you enjoy using social media please join our new Social Media Committee. We need your talents and enthusiasm!

Wishing all our cruisers buon viaggio and our members a colorful fall and quiet winter!

~ Dot



Seeking the next NNCA News Editor!

My time as editor has been both challenging and fulfilling, but it is time for me to pass the baton. My tenure has ended; it is time for the next editor to assume the role for a three-year term.

This is a compensated position.

I will be happy to coach my replacement.

Please reach out to me at editor@nnca.org or to our Executive Director,

Mary Mahony at ExecDir@nnca.org.







Top Photo: **Florida NNCA (FNNCA)** - Florida, excluding the panhandle

Middle Photo: **Land Locked NNCA (LLNNCA)** - Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Nebraska

Bottom Photo: **New England NNCA (NENNCA)** - Six New England states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, & Vermont) and New York



Top photo: **NNCA of Southern CA (NNCASC)** - California, Nevada and Arizona

Center Photo: **Northwest NNCA (NWNNA)** - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska

Bottom Photo: **Palmetto Chapter of NNCA (PCNNCA)** - North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia



Washington Metro Area NNCA (WMANNCA) - Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the District of Columbia

Chapters not photographed: **Gulf Coast NNCA (GCNNCA)** - Northwest Florida (panhandle), Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana; **Mid-South NNCA (MSNNCA)** - Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and contiguous areas of neighboring states; **Mid-West NNCA (MWNNCA)** - North and South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and the western half of Wisconsin using a north-south line through Madison; **South Central NNCA (SCNNCA)** - Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas



NNCA Vietnam Veterans



**Are You a Social Media Guru Who Likes to Stay Connected?
Join our New Social Media Committee!**

We're looking for NNCA members who enjoy staying engaged and informed via social media platforms to join our new Social Media Committee. Currently our active SM platforms include Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. Our goal is to increase the awareness of NNCA via social media and to entice new members to join our organization. If you're interested, contact Committee Chair Valerie Acosta at socmed@nnca.org or our Editor, Dot O'Very at editor@nnca.org.



NNCA Committee News

Treasurers' Report submitted by Brian Dawson

I am pleased to report that NNCA finances are in excellent condition. We continue to receive small donations that are added to the general fund to support programs and activities. The stock market has been stable during the last quarter of the year and our Osborne Partners and Wells Fargo investments have been growing steadily. Our current holdings, aside from our operating budget, are over \$1.2 Million with an operating budget of over \$49,000. Our Osborne Partners portfolio has performed better over this quarter and over the past year than Wells Fargo. I will discuss with the Finance Committee during our next meeting the suggestion of moving the majority of our Wells Fargo portfolio to Osborne Partners and the remaining into our Navy Federal Jumbo Money Market Savings account.

As we continue to market our association to recruit and gain new members the ongoing work on the redesign of the website is critical to improve visibility of our organization. Increasing visibility is part of our mission to sustain our organization into the future. It is also crucial that we continually evaluate our spending on these marketing initiatives to ensure that the money spent expands and maintains our membership. We must continue to provide long term fiscal planning to maintain our historic items, photographs, grow our oral history library along with other assets currently stored in our museum.

Our financial future is strong and will sustain the Navy Nurse Corps Association into the future with continued sound financial planning and wise investments. As we move toward the conclusion of another year and look toward the future the Navy Nurse Corps Association is financially sound. I wish all of you a safe and relaxing fall. I'm proud to be a member and associated with such exceptional people, nurses and Naval Officers. Below are the current (to date) financial statements.



NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
December 31, 2023

<u>ASSETS</u>	
Current Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,172,513
Marketable securities, at fair market value	104,177
Inventory	2,361
Total Current Assets	<u>1,279,052</u>
Property and Equipment	2,727
Office machines and equipment	(2,727)
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-
Property and equipment, net	-
Intangible Assets	739
Software	(739)
Less: Accumulated amortization	-
Intangible Assets, net	-
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,279,052</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	
Liabilities:	
Credit Card	-
Total Liabilities	<u>-</u>
Net assets:	
Temporarily restricted	\$ -
Unrestricted	<u>1,279,052</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,279,052</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 1,279,052</u>

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES - CASH BASIS
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Total</u>
Advertising	\$ -	\$ 8,465	\$ 8,465
Contract services	-	89,556	89,556
Fees, including bank fees	73	9,746	9,819
Insurance	-	2,033	2,033
Museum expenses	11,617	-	11,617
Professional fees	-	2,075	2,075
Postage and shipping	-	1,781	1,781
Printing	-	2,642	2,642
Rent	9,650	-	9,650
Supplies	-	1,886	1,886
Telephone and internet	971	2,915	3,886
Web Hosting & Design	-	1,907	1,907
Total	<u>\$ 22,311</u>	<u>\$ 123,006</u>	<u>\$ 145,317</u>

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue and support:			
Public support:			
Contributions	\$ 90,773	\$ -	\$ 90,773
Sale of merchandise, net of direct costs	50	-	50
Total public support	<u>90,823</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>90,823</u>
Revenues and other gains:			
Membership dues & donations	54,985	-	54,985
Interest and dividend income	2,479	-	2,479
Gain/(Loss) on marketable securities	11,263	-	11,263
Total revenues and other gains	<u>68,727</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>68,727</u>
Total revenues and support	<u>159,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>159,550</u>
Expenses:			
Program	22,311	-	22,311
Management and general	123,015	-	123,015
Total expenses	<u>145,326</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>145,326</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in net assets	14,225	-	14,225
Net assets:			
Beginning of year	1,264,827	-	1,264,827
End of year	<u>\$ 1,279,052</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$ 1,279,052</u>

Marketing Committee - Keeping an Eye on the Results submitted by Cynthia Coyle, Chairperson

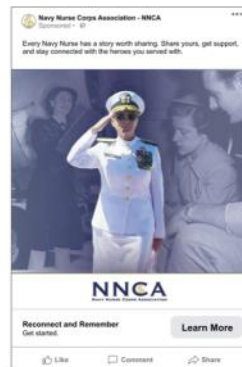
The Marketing Subcommittee meets weekly with our marketing agency (WAX). Google Ads were implemented on July 1, 2024, and are ongoing. To build awareness of the NNCA and increase membership and donations WAX has launched a 6-month campaign that will:

- Position NNCA as a preeminent organization carrying on traditions, preserving the rich history of Navy nurses and creating treasured moments and memories
- Focus on camaraderie and the benefits of supporting NNCA to inspire individuals to join and/or donate
- Use Navy Nurse stories, testimonials, and/or images to enhance the positive perception of NNCA and its offerings
- Tout the NNCA as a worthwhile way to show gratitude or memorialize a loved one through donations

Target audiences for these ads are potential new members, donors, and storytellers. As national ads are expensive, NNCA chose to target regions of the country (known as geofencing) to include Navy towns such as San Diego, CA, Bethesda, MD, Washington DC, Norfolk, VA, Camp Lejeune, NC and the New England areas. The media tactic is a digital campaign consisting of YouTube, Facebook/Instagram, and LinkedIn messages. Advertising supports two basic campaign messages:

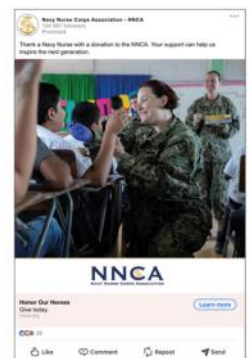
Campaign Message 1: Where Heroes Reconnect.

Facebook Ads



Campaign Message 1: Where Heroes Reconnect.

LinkedIn Ads



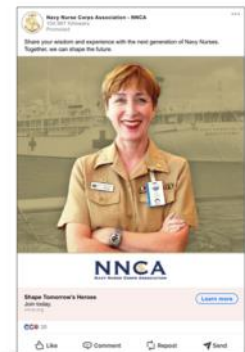
Campaign Message 2: Honor the Past. Shape the Future.

Facebook Ads



Campaign Message 2: Honor the Past. Shape the Future.

LinkedIn Ads



Results as of August 31, 2024

The advertising has resulted in a significant increase in visits to our website. Since the first step in marketing is to create awareness of our brand, the higher traffic on our website is very encouraging. The WAX contract is in effect until December 2024. NNCA's goal is to increase NNCA membership and donor contributions. The Marketing subcommittee will determine if the investment shows increased awareness and membership statistics. The subcommittee will take time to evaluate our next steps before the WAX contract ends.

Overall performance to date: August is the first month following the learning phase of the Ads platforms. On YouTube, we saw a 14.7% increase in videos played to 100% completion compared to last month. Facebook Click Through Rate (CTR) remains above the benchmark of 5.38%, compared to the industry average of 1.39% for hospital/health systems. On LinkedIn, there was a decrease in Cost Per Click (CPC) and a 14% increase in the number of clicks.

Memorabilia Committee submitted by Sherry Dotson, Chairperson

The Memorabilia Committee has recently reviewed an amazing collection of thirty-three oil paintings received by the Navy Nurse Corps Association of Southern California. These paintings tell the story of the eleven Navy Nurses who were captured by the Japanese in the Philippines during World War II and held as POWs in Los Banos near Manila until 1945.

The artist, Ralph Thomas McLaughlin, is a now deceased Navy physician. Look for an article about these paintings in the next NNCA newsletter.

If you have a memorabilia donation, please contact your Chapter Memorabilia Representative, a National Memorabilia Committee Member/Chair, or the Memorabilia Board Goaltender.

We are also looking for members who would be interested in serving on the committee. If interested, contact the national representatives at memorabilia@nnca.org.

Oral History Committee submitted by Maria Harbeson, Chairperson

In the next few newsletters, we will be including links to three legacy videos completed by the NNCASC Chapter Oral History members and conducted by Navy Nurse Corps Historian Jan Herman. These videos span 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 Christine Bruzek-Kohler, 21st Director of the Navy Nurse Corps (1974-2010, OIF/OEF). Bravo Zulu to these diligent members for keeping our Navy Nurse Corps history vibrant! LT Harrington-Nelson's oral history is at: [Our Stories - NNCA](#) - select the Navy Nurses in WW II link.

We need participants and look forward to capturing MANY MORE Navy nurse interviews. To schedule your own interview, contact any OH Committee member, your Chapter Oral History Chair, or email history@nnca.org. You may access the Interview Guidelines on the NNCA website, please include a small photo of yourself, in uniform if possible.

We also need assistance recording histories. To join our team of interviewers and learn the interview process please contact any OH Committee member, your Chapter Oral History Chair, or email history@nnca.org. The Oral History Project contains stories from in-person, telephonic and virtual interviews. Our goal is to capture stories from Navy Nurses that encompass our varied and fascinating history, ideally from ALL NNCA members. Thank you for the hard work performed by our Committee members, Chapter representatives and Advisor!

Recruitment and Retention Committee submitted by Linda Grant, Chairperson

Efforts are ongoing to both attract new members and retain those already part of NNCA. The status quo is no longer effective and we must broaden the scope of our activities for both recruitment and retention to remain a viable organization. The Recruitment and Retention Committee is working closely with the Marketing Committee to develop a plan that brings clarity to not only what we can do, but how to do it and why.

A civilian marketing company is supporting us in the creative development of materials, surveys, and most recently, our online digital presence. You may have noticed NNCA has a significantly increased presence on several social media platforms. Starting July 3rd through this December, a digital campaign (see Marketing Committee article, page 11) began with message ads and videos on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. The initial observations of the campaign show good numbers of views. There are 'refreshes' to be made on an ongoing basis depending on what reports show. This is very exciting and important to our recruitment and retention efforts. If you haven't already, please look for NNCA on these platforms, 'like' us (when able), spread the word, and encourage folks to check us out. Visit our NNCA website often; content is frequently updated. Digital is the best way to reach so many people nowadays, let's maximize our efforts.

As you know from the July newsletter, NNCA was involved in Nurses Week activities in May of this year at two MTFs. These pilots were considered successful. Promotional banners, postcards with a QR code for easy access to the NNCA website, and other materials were used to showcase NNCA. In the future, the Recruitment and Retention Committee will be responsible for this program. It is hoped that NNCA involvement in 2025 Nurses Week activities will expand to include more MTFs. This will require engagement from committee members to be successful. By January, we will begin the planning phase.

You will soon be receiving member surveys. Please take a few moments to answer these few questions. Your candid thoughts are crucial to the future of the NNCA. If you have any ideas, questions, or would like to assist, please contact your Chapter Membership Chair or Linda Grant at membership@nnca.org.

Recruitment and Retention committee members meet on board the NCL Jade — now that's dedication! (Left to right): Jane Hourigan, Cathy Carter, Tina Ortiz (Board Uplink for Committee), Linda Grant (Committee Chair), Christine Boltz, Denise Johnson, Sue Miller





Enclosed with this newsletter is the first of a two-phase member survey. As a fellow Navy nurse, we know how much the NNCA means to our community. That's why your feedback is so important to us. The NNCA member survey is a chance for you to share your candid thoughts and help us make the NNCA an even better organization.

Your input will help us continue to provide the programs and support that are most beneficial to members like you. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit this short survey and play a crucial role in shaping our future. Please return the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope provided or complete the email survey online by December 31, 2024.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the NNCA and our shared legacy.

Navy Nurses in the News

A Wedding First at the Naval Academy Chapel

On August 3rd, the 20th Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, RADM (Ret.) Nancy Lescavage married RADM (Ret.) George Voelker, a career submarine officer, at the Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis. This was the first time that two officers who had already achieved flag rank were married in the Chapel.



The NNCA congratulates the Bride and Groom!



Building Resiliency, Self-Stewardship And Integrity For The Future Of Nursing Practice submitted by Christine Boltz

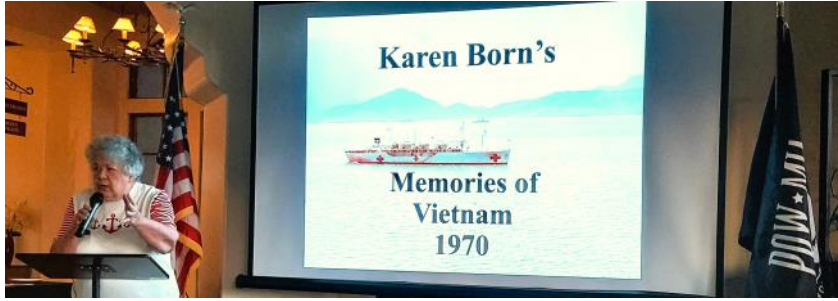
WMANNCA in conjunction with NNCA and the R3 Resilient Nurses Initiative cosponsored an informative and meaningful virtual presentation, Building Resiliency, Self-Stewardship and Integrity for the Future of Nursing Practice on 13 August. Our presenter, Cynda Hylton Rushton, PhD, RN, FAAN, (the Anne and George L. Bunting Professor of Clinical Ethics at the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics,) shared the key components of the Maryland State Initiative R³ Resilience Project which is focused on enhancing the resilience, renewal, and retention of nurses in Maryland.

Dr. Rushton discussed key themes of the research which focused on addressing burnout, moral distress, and stress among nurses by fostering a culture of ethical practice. She also shared study outcomes and consequent curriculum enhancements that are resources available to staff nurses, nurse leaders and nursing educators to improve well-being and professional integrity. These findings may be applied to any practice setting.

Though a Maryland state initiative, the findings can be generalized to settings outside the state of Maryland. The report findings and resources are available at: <https://nursing.jhu.edu/faculty-research/research/centers/r3/r3-nurse-report/>. The recording of the presentation is at: <https://nnca.org/news-messages/new-messages/>



NNCASC Vietnam War Veteran Speaks at the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley Dinner submitted by Lorrie Sammons



NNCA is a partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner Program. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families.

Southern CA NNCA (NNCASC) member Karen Born was the invited speaker for the August 1, 2024, dinner meeting of the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley

(VNVDV). In the beautiful setting of the Bridges Golf Club, overlooking the expansive golf course during an unseasonable hot spell, an audience of over seventy followed Karen's story of her service on the USNS SANCTUARY off the shore of I-Corps in 1970. Karen was the first speaker in the 30-plus years of the organization to present the experience of a military woman in the theater of operations. Attendees learned of the challenges of medical care, patient transport, living conditions onboard AH-17, as well as activities to maintain morale throughout her tour of duty.

Photos:
(Above) Karen begins the telling of her memories;
(Left) Karen with photo of Huey approaching the USNS SANCTUARY;
(Right) Navy nurses who attended Karen's presentation: Renee Sheehan, Lorrie Sammons, Karen Born, Marilyn Boyd



Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter (MUSNAVC) Legislative Update submitted by LTC(Ret.) Joe Gollasch, MUSNAVC President

During the month of August our representatives were in their home states and districts for the congressional summer recess. This was a time for constituents to reach out and to let their legislators know what issues are important to them and ask for their support. Many members elevated concerns on Junior Enlisted Pay Raise, Restoring Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), and Concurrent Receipt (Major Richard Star Act), which are all MOAA priorities.

It is hard to believe that we are very close to the end of the 118th Congress. That means that any legislation which is not passed by December will have to be re-introduced by the new Congress in 2025. It is critical that lawmakers continue to hear about important issues, especially as we approach the start of the 119th Congress.

MUSNAVC is focused on several healthcare issues which the Defense Health Agency is considering. Access-to-care standards, recognizing capacity constraints in both MTFs and the TRICARE network, Quality of Care, and Deployment Readiness are among the concerns. Read this article about Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/07/31/defense-departments-4-part-plan-right-military-health-system.html>.

The more our lawmakers hear from their constituents the greater the chance they will push for our key priorities and benefits you have earned. You are urged to visit our Legislation Early Push and our new Women's Healthcare section on our website <https://www.musnavc.org/>.

Finally, stay informed and get involved. Never Stop Serving.



NNCA and the Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) submitted by Pam Giza

Did you know that September is National Service Dog Month?

NNCA partnered with WCC in May of 2018 to carry on the tradition of honoring fallen and inspiring service members and veterans by giving their names to Golden and Labrador Retriever puppies entering their mobility service dog training program which uses a Mission Based Trauma Recovery (MBTR) model. Each puppy trained will bring awareness to the inspiring service of their namesake while helping to heal the invisible wounds of recovering warriors.

It takes about two years to train each mobility Service Dog in Training (SDiT) and WCC's "no fail mission" ensures that each SDiT finds the career path that is right for them, be it a working Mobility Service Dog, Facility Dog, Military Family Support Dog, Transfer Dog (to another training program), or "Beloved Pet" (a preferred path for many!) with a veteran/family. You can see all the WCC namesakes via the Hall of Heroes link: <https://warriorcanineconnection.org/service-dogs/hall-of-heroes>.

Due to the tremendous increase in puppy volume and implementation of onsite veteran training, WCC is no longer able to provide training updates for the SDiTs. They will, however, let us know if any of the WCC-NNCA SDiTs have a career change. Here is a review of all 19 NNCA namesakes since 2018:

Service Dog in Training (SDiT)	Mobility Service Dog
WCC Veronica (CAPT Veronica Rubin)/2023	WCC Darby (CAPT Darby Reynolds)/2019
WCC Stu (CAPT Susan Stuart Miller)/2023	WCC Albert (CAPT Albert Shimkus)/2019
WCC Erica (LCDR Erica Nocoletti)/2024	WCC Pam II (CAPT Pamela Giza)/2022
WCC Flaherty (RADM Karen A. Flaherty)/2024	
Breeding Program Dog	
WCC Minda (CAPT Geraldine Araminda Houp)/2019, retired this year after 3 healthy litters!	
Career Change Dog	
WCC Jackie (LT Jaqueline Jacquet Melvin)/2018: Facility Dog	WCC Cherruf (CDR Cheryl Ruff)/2019: Veteran/Family Dog
WCC Beadle (CAPT Annette Beadle)/2022: Military Family Support Dog	WCC Pinky (CAPT Joan "B" Glass aka Pinky)/2021: Veteran/Family Dog
WCC Sue (CDR Susanne Armstrong)/2021: "Interservice" Transfer Dog	WCC Kay (CAPT Kay Bauer)/2022: Veteran/Family Dog
WCC Ruth Ann (CAPT Ruth Ann Wilson Mason)/2019: Veteran/Family Dog	WCC Pam I (CAPT Pamela Giza)/2022: Veteran/Family Dog
WCC Rue (LT Ruth Marting Deus)/2019: Veteran/Family Dog	WCC Kathy (CAPT Kathleen Thorp)/2022: Veteran/Family Dog
	WCC Dorothy (CAPT Dorothy Ryan)/2022: Veteran/Family Dog



Photos: (far right top): 4-legged "Master Trainer" Jamari and WCC Sara Lu;
(far right bottom): 2-legged volunteer SOCM Berrey and WCC Sarah Lu

Two other Navy Nurses were selected as namesakes external to NNCA: WCC Lenah and WCC Esther; Lenah's training status is not known and Esther is following a career in scent work.

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/>.

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/>

WCC NEEDS NAMES! It is easy to submit a namesake nomination and WCC is always looking for names, *especially female!* Nominations may be submitted directly by the Chapters, the Oral History and Memorabilia Committees via this link: <https://warriorcanineconnection.tfaforms.net/4899776>.

You can find details about nomination tips and puppy stories on our website: [Warrior Canine Connection - NNCA](https://warriorcanineconnection.org/)





Chapter News



FNNNCA

Florida, excluding the panhandle

Submitted by President Denise Johnson

We're getting excited about our upcoming Fall FNNCA meeting in Tampa, FL on Saturday, 2 NOV 2024, at Tampa James Haley VA Hospital, 13000 Bruce B Downs Blvd, Tampa, FL

We will meet up in the Dining Room at 11 am with lunch catered by Mission Barbecue followed by our program featuring an Army veteran who suffered severe injuries from the Gulf War and his awe-inspiring recovery and rehab within the VA system. The lunch and presentation will be followed by a special tour of the Spinal Cord facility by Navy Nurse, Angie Nimmo.

Please contact Mary Jackson or Terry McGuirk for any questions regarding the program or hotel and travel accommodations.

Upcoming events:

- Presentation of the FNNCA CDR Hazel Hogan NC, USN Scholarship to Rachel Williams-Nursing RN (BSN) at the University of Central Florida College of Nursing Scholarship dinner on November 6, 2024
- Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade
- Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Jacksonville, Saint Augustine and Cape Canaveral cemeteries on 14 December.



Photo: Members of GCNNCA at August luncheon (Left to Right): Richard Wickers, Susan Ulloa, Dan Miller, JoAnn Kelly, Trumin Brown, Sue Varenholt, Shirley Lewis-Brown, Martha Hicks

Information about the Health and Hope Clinic was provided by the Director of the Clinic, Carla Davis. The Hope and Health Clinic is a free clinic that provides medical and dental care to uninsured citizens of Northwest Florida. The care is provided through the generous service of health professionals within our community. They are looking for nurses who would like to maintain their clinical skills and educate aspiring medical professionals while volunteering at the clinic. If anyone is interested, please contact Carla Davis or healthandhopeclinic.org.

Discussion ensued about meeting less frequently. Attendees decided to meet three times a year—March, May (Nurses Week with Naval Hospital Pensacola and Nurse Corps Birthday), and November for Veteran's Day.

Please remember Jackie Wills in your prayers in the loss of her roommate, Marie, and as she deals with a new health challenge.

Upcoming Events:

- Homeless Veteran Standdown September 20, 2024, at Brownsville Community Center at 3200 De Soto St., Pensacola, FL.
- Veterans Day Parade 11 November 2024, in Pensacola. Contact Sue Varenholt if you would like to ride in parade.
- GCNNCA has ordered a Wreath for the Veteran's Day Parade in Milton, FL. Martha Hicks will coordinate with members to attend as a group.
- Annual Christmas Party with "Dirty Santa" at the Hangar American Grill (now ACES) in Milton on Avalon Blvd at 11:30am. Contact Sue Varenholt to RSVP.
- Wreaths Across America December 14, 2024 at 0800. RSVP with Sue Varenholt to participate with GCNNCA. Participants will be notified of the meeting place for the event.



GCNNCA

Northwest Florida panhandle, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana

Submitted by Martha Hicks for President Shirley Lewis-Brown

News from the GCNNCA August 2024 Chapter meeting: The President presented Martha Hicks a Certificate of Commendation for her outstanding service as Secretary. She will continue to submit Chapter information to the NNCA Editor.



LAND LOCKED
NAVY NURSE CORPS
ASSOCIATION
(CHAPTER OF THE NNCA)

LLNNCA
Colorado, Wyoming,
New Mexico, &
Nebraska

Submitted by Marti Crockett for President Harriet Palmer-Willis



LLNNCA members at their most recent luncheon: (Left to right, back row): Liz Tovado, Terry Shade, Margie Bezdek, Maureen (Mo) Christopher-Bross, Judy Taylor, Marti Crockett; (Left to right, front row): Carol Brautigam, Dorothy Ryan, Nancy Larson

A successful 3rd Annual "Tee it Up for Veterans" Golf Tournament organized by LLNNCA member Marti Crockett was held

on a beautiful July 15, 2024. The Spring Valley Golf Club was abuzz with the spirit of camaraderie and community as 134 golfers gathered for the much-anticipated "Tee it Up For Veterans" golf tournament. It was a picture-perfect day, the kind we used to call "a day made for golf."

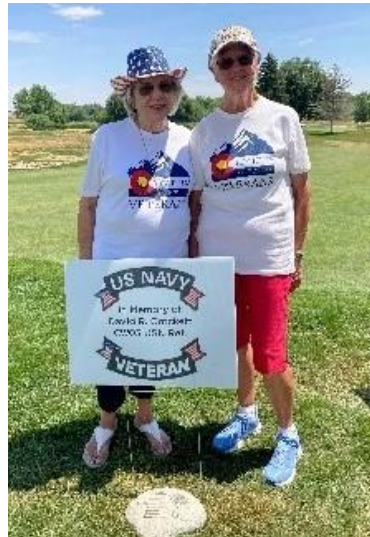


Photo (Above top): Sunrise on the greens; (Above, bottom) Golfers line up for the Tee It Up for Veterans tournament

This event was a definite success, not just because of the beautiful weather or the well-organized play, but due to the overwhelming support it received from the community. With

27 sponsors backing the tournament and 12 dedicated volunteers ensuring everything ran smoothly,

It was clear that the cause resonated deeply with all involved. The tournament wasn't just about golf; it was about giving back. The players and supporters rallied together to raise a remarkable \$22,000 for the Honor Bell Foundation, a cause close to the hearts of many. In addition further funds were allocated to Operation Circle Back and the United Veterans of Colorado, ensuring that the impact of this event would be felt far and wide.



As the day ended, there was a substantial sense of achievement and unity among everyone present.

Photo: Marti and her sister, Mona, at the 3rd Annual "Tee it Up for Veterans" Golf Tournament

The tournament wasn't just a game; it was a testament to the power of community, generosity, and the unwavering support for our veterans. This day at Spring Valley Golf Club will long be remembered as a shining example of what can be accomplished when good people come together for a worthy cause.

For more pictures visit [TEE IT UP FOR VETERANS](https://www.teeitupforveterans.com)



Photo: some of the LLNNCA area members on the NCL Jade cruise



MSNNCA
Arkansas, Tennessee,
Kentucky

Submitted by President Ellen Hodges

The most recent chapter meeting was held virtually on September 19, with six members in attendance. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the survivability of this Chapter going forward. We decided to:



- Continue the Chapter with greater use of virtual meetings and possibly one in person meeting per year. Of course, several of our members will require comprehensive in-service training with this venture, starting with the MSNNCA President.
- Develop a plan to recruit new members to the Chapter and the Chapter's Board of Directors as there are currently two vacant positions (Vice-President and Secretary). The current Board of Directors have held their respective positions for 9 years or longer. During this same time period, we have buried five of our members who were instrumental in the establishment of the Midsouth NNCA Chapter.
- Because of the Chapter's unsuccessful efforts to attract nursing scholarship applicants on an annual basis, the Nursing Scholarship Program is discontinued effective immediately. The funds in this account will be used for this year's Christmas projects. Donations will be made to: 1) Ben Atchley Tennessee State Veterans Home in Knoxville, TN, 2) Canine Warrior Project, and 3) Wreaths Across America.



Submitted by Carole O'Byrne for President Jean Mahaffey

The autumn equinox has arrived. Surprisingly, the summer temps are still here for the upper Midwest to enjoy. Just as our members enjoyed these mild days, we have been fortunate to be involved in a number of noteworthy events.

First, ever since the Minneapolis VAMC started participating in The DAISY Award Program, our Chapter President Jean Mahaffey, has been an active committee member. This committee reviews nominations for the award that are made by patients or patient families. The nominated nurse is recognized for providing excellent patient care. The recipient receives a certificate, a hand carved "healers touch statue" from Zimbabwe, honoree pin, and a congratulatory banner to hang in the work area, to name some of the gifts. In August, our member Kay Bauer learned her nominee, Stephanie Bebeau, RN, was selected to receive The DAISY Award. Stephanie works at the Ramsey Community Based



Outpatient Clinic (a branch clinic of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center).

Photo (Opposite column, left to right): Jaimie Counihan, Co-Chair DAISY Committee; Teresa Tungsten, Nurse Executive Minneapolis VAMC; Jean Mahaffey, DAISY Committee member, President MWNNCA; Kay Bauer, MWNNCA member who nominated Stephanie; Stephanie Bebeau, RN, DAISY Award recipient; Wendy Young, Co-Chair DAISY Committee.

Next, Sherry Murray who lives in Prior Lake, a suburb southwest of the Twin Cities, is being honored by her town from Memorial Day through Veteran's day via the Banner Program. This program recognizes and honors veterans by hanging large banners with a picture of the veteran from the city's light poles. Sherry served on active duty at Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital. The banner shows Sherry at Officer Indoctrination School at Newport, Rhode Island.



Finally, the long awaited and delayed women's only clinic at the Minneapolis VAMC has gotten underway. On September 13, 2024, groundbreaking for the new building took place.

Photo (Left): MWNNCA member Kay Bauer with Senator Tina Smith

According to Minneapolis Health Care System Director and retired Navy MSC officer Patrick Kelly, the women's clinic is planned for completion in 2026. It will offer women's care in a female only building with only female staff and have a separate entry only for women.



Photo (Left to right): Marcia Belisle, Dee Albert, Jean Mahaffey, Carole O'Byrne

Mr. Kelly explained there were about four percent of all veterans who were women in 1975. In 2022, 17.5% of all veterans were women with that number growing steadily. The need of care for females at veteran health care facilities is well known. In fact, women served by the Minneapolis VAMC were requesting care for female issues in the 1980's. Eventually, a breast cancer clinic opened in 1985.

According to Dr. Alisa Duran, Women's Health Director MVAMC, the new clinic will offer all-inclusive female care including reproductive care and maternity care coordination through referrals to non-VA providers.

Photo: At groundbreaking site: Dee Albert, Carole O'Byrne, Jean Mahaffey, Marcia Belisle



Photo: Jean Mahaffey, Carole O'Byrne, Kay Bauer, Dee Albert



NENNCA is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2024 Scholarships. The Chapter typically awards two \$1000 scholarships to one BSN and one MSN candidate.

Applications are sent to every accredited nursing program in New England in mid-April for submission by the end of May. Board Members Irene Weaver, Peg Nation and Jaeda Ewings assisted the chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Trish Culver, with reviewing and scoring of the received application packages. The compilation of the scores using a specific criteria and rubric resulted in awards to Ms. Halliwell, Ms. Maiullari, and Ms. Wietman. The awardees will receive their \$1000 check, a congratulatory letter and a copy of the Navy Nurse Corps Book "In and Out of Harm's Way." The awardees are invited to attend the next NENNCA luncheon to be held in November, if able to attend they will be recognized more fully at that time.

LT Amelia Wietman, NC, USNR is currently in the BSN-DNP in Nurse Anesthesia at Rhode Island College. Her strong application and GPA of 4.0 made her the best choice of the 3 applications for MSN study.

Gabrielle Halliwell is studying for her Bachelor of Science degree at Salve Regina. After three BSN applications were reviewed by four NENNCA board members, Ms. Halliwell was the clear choice for the \$1000 award. Persistence paid off for this bright young woman who also applied last year.

Erin Maiullari is studying for her master's degree at Southern New Hampshire University. Because her application packet was so outstanding, the Chapter's Board agreed to award a third scholarship this year.

NENNCA Fall Activity Plans:

- Fall membership luncheon in the Newport Rhode Island/ Southern Massachusetts area in November with plans to recognize our scholarship awardees at that time
- Participate in Wreaths Across America



NENNCA

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

Submitted by President Tom Wilson

Greetings from New England... such a great time to live in this playground with beaches, sailing, mountain hiking and outdoor activities, to name a few. Today (September 22nd) is the beginning of Autumn...my favorite season. The NNCA cruise sponsored by the NENNCA Chapter is fast-approaching.

Our Chapter membership remains steady. We may be small, but we continue to be active. Since our last submission, the Board of Directors has met virtually to conduct Chapter oversight.



Photo (right): NENNCA Cruise Coordinators Kim Lyons and Irene Weaver with NNCA President, Cindy Sweeney



Photo: NENNCA 2024 Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise attendees



NNCASC

California, Nevada & Arizona

Submitted by Nancy Owen and Mary Rushton for President Jane Hourigan

On May 10, 2024, Southern CA Navy Nurses celebrated the 116th Birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps. The Nurses' Ball was held onboard a Hornblower Cruise in the San Diego harbor. There was a tremendous turnout! The night was filled with joviality, music and many different generations represented. There was a very emotional representation of the "Missing Man Table." Each item on the Missing Man Table represents the emotions and feelings reserved for those who did not come home. The ceremony symbolizes that they are with us, here in spirit. A couple of very enthusiastic Lieutenant Nurse Corps Officers greeted us in line waiting to board the Hornblower. They were wearing the US Navy Tropical White uniforms. White shorts, knee high socks and complete with white pith helmets!!! They set the stage for an upcoming night of fun! Laughter and enjoyment was had by all.

Photo: Sandra Pearson, Mary Rushton, RDML (Ret.) Cynthia Kuehner



Photos: NNCASC President, Jane Hourigan; Lieutenant Nurse Corps Officer greeters in Tropical Whites

NNCASC Scholarship Committee, chaired by Bobbi Crann, had 18 applicants this year from six universities.

The committee chose four applicants to receive \$2000 each: Amari Guzman from California Baptist University, Elizabeth Tannous who attends Biola University, Liam Kelly from Biola, and Edith Razo from Cal State University. They also chose two applicants to receive \$1000 each: Makira Dumadag and Ashley Djekou who both attend Cal Baptist University. We were excited to have one of our recipients, Amari Guzman, attend our July luncheon with her father, Marine Corps GySgt Guzman (retired). Amari thanked the chapter for the scholarship she received and enthusiastically shared her future goals as a nurse.

Photo: (left to right): Bobbi Crann, Amari Guzman, USMC GySgt Guzman (Ret.)



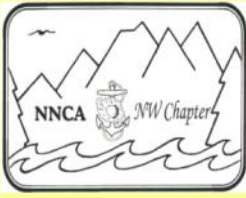
Also, at our July luncheon, NNCASC had as its Veteran Outreach Organization "Saddles in Service". Tammy Oluvic, CEO and Co-Founder was the guest speaker. Tammy spoke passionately about the non-profit veteran founded organization that promotes mental health wellness and healing for veterans, active duty military, first responders and horses at no cost to the participants. NNCASC contributed \$1250 during the luncheon, to this worthy cause. NNCASC member Judy Patinson, who is a volunteer at Saddles in Service, was instrumental in arranging Tammy as our speaker. More information about this organization can be found at: www.saddlesinservice.org.



Photo (left): Tammy Oluvic, CEO and Co-Founder of Saddles In Service

Photos (below): NNCASC members enjoying the Reunion Cruise





NWNCA
Washington,
Oregon, Idaho,
Montana &

Submitted by Fran Connor for President Nadyne Krienke

As Chapter President, I would like to thank the Board and membership for all their dedication and time. Organizing meetings with guest speakers, reviewing scholarship applications, balancing the Chapter's financial reports, ensuring membership is updated and our chapter's newsletters are formatted to inform chapter members of events. Additionally, our birthday cards sent each year add that personal touch. Serving as Chapter President has been a rewarding and a fun experience. The Board has been extremely positive and supportive during my term. As my term as President expires this year, the Chapter would like to open nominations for this position as well as for Membership and Secretary. Please let Bonnie Bulach, Vice President know if you are interested in these positions. (nwnnca@nnca.org).

Voting for these positions will be held at the Fall General Membership Meeting October 12, 2024.

Scholarship Committee update from Joline DeVos: Another year of challenges for the Scholarship Committee. The applications this year were of even better quality than previous years. It seems each year it is harder to make decisions about who should receive our scholarship. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to award three scholarships again this year. Our first recipient is Emilie Turpen who is currently a student at Carrol College, graduating in May 2025. Emilie believes that holistic patient care with an emphasis on understanding the impact of mental health on the ability to heal is central to providing nursing care. After graduation she desires to help change the focus of medical care from disease management to preventive health care. She is receiving our main scholarship of \$1,500.

Ranking second is Dakota Rundell who attends Bushnell University and will graduate in December 2024. She is in an accelerated BSN program. Her initial degree is in Public Health and Human Science from Oregon State University. Holistic patient care based upon the foundational principles of compassion, integrity, and excellence form the foundation of her patient care. She believes lifelong learning is essential to providing quality effective patient care. She is receiving a scholarship of \$1,000.

Our third recipient is Miguel Olide-Gomez. He currently attends Linfield University and will graduate in December 2024. He believes that clinical skills and critical thinking skills are essential to his ability to provide quality holistic patient care. He will receive a \$500 scholarship.

Your scholarship committee, Bonnie Bulach, Joline DeVos, and Karen MacNamara, appreciate your continued commitment to aid in the development of the next generation of nurses and your trust in us to make the award decisions.

We increased Chapter membership from 52 to 55 this year. A 5.7692% increase so far this year! Thank you everyone for renewing and encouraging new members. Currently 46 of us hail from WA. Actually 47 by strict definition for our region as Maria L spends many months in Hawaii! Seven members hail from Oregon. One member is from Montana. Currently no members hail from Alaska or Idaho.

The Northwest NNCA (NWNCA) Fall General Membership Meeting will be held on October 12, 2024, at Fort Vancouver, Vancouver, WA. We will meet at the historic Fort Vancouver ([Fort Vancouver National Historic Site \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/forv)) to explore the exhibits in the historic fort, just south of the Visitor's Center. The address is: 1501 E Evergreen Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661. If you have a National Park Pass, please remember to bring it with you. Following this tour a short history of the medical care/facilities that were provided within the Fort at various periods of time will be provided.

Lunch and our meeting will be at the Historic Grant House in the Willful Wine restaurant (www.willfulwine.com) from 11:30am - 1:00pm.



Photo: NWNCA members at the Reunion Cruise



PCNNCA
North Carolina, South
Carolina, & Georgia

Submitted by Jerry Davidson for President Peggy Williams

Members of PCNNCA celebrated Wreaths Across America (WAA) individually and through the South Carolina Nurse Honor Guard (SCNHG). The Nurse Honor Guard is a national organization which honors civilian and military nurses during memorial and funeral services with a Nightingale Tribute. Mr. David Edwards the coordinator of WAA at the Beaufort National Cemetery, had the SCNHG stand front and center during the ceremony.



Mr. Matt Quinn, the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs VA Central Office out of Washington, DC, is pictured with the SCNHG. His wife is a nurse and his daughter graduated in May with a nursing degree.

Chapter members, Deb Cassavant, Peggy Williams, President, and Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Secretary, participated with the laying of the wreaths. There are 26,000 headstones marking fallen veterans buried at Beaufort National Cemetery and a Wreath was placed at every headstone. It was a cold wet day, but well worth honoring our veterans. PCNNCA has been thanked by WAA for our participation and through our partnership with WAA, PCNNCA has received over \$600.00 in funding.



The Board of Directors meets twice a year in January and August. President Peggy Williams hosted the Board of Director meeting in August. This meeting resulted in a thorough review of the Chapter Bylaws to ensure that PCNNCA was following NNCA Bylaws. Melanie Frank filled the Vice President vacancy and will fleet up to President in January 2025.



Photo (Left to right): Peggy Williams, President, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Secretary, Becky Crichton, Past President, Arlene Southerland, Treasurer, Alice Cagnina, Membership

Our April General Membership meeting was organized by Beaufort PCNNCA members and held at Operation Patriot, Operating Forward Base (OPFOB) in Ridgeland, SC.

OPFOB is a not-for-profit charity with a mission to prevent veteran suicide through comradery and outside activities. For the last three years this organization has expanded to over 2000 members including veterans and first responders. The luncheon was held at the "BARN" and food was catered from a local restaurant. PCNNCA hosted two active duty Nurse Corps Officers (LCDR Sarah Mora and LT Lillian Ramirez) and one retired Nurse Corps Officer (LCDR Mora, Ret.) from Beaufort Naval Hospital. LCDR Sarah Mora remains PCNNCA's liaison with the active duty officers at BNH.

Arlene Southerland, received the NNCA Service Award at the meeting. (Photo, Right).



While updating our local directory Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Secretary, found several members who were having health difficulties (Yvonne Jordan) and with the help of Alice Cagnina, membership director, and Mary Mahony, NNCA Executive Director, these members were placed on a Rough Seas membership.



Photo (Left): Yvonne Jordan, PCNNCA's oldest member with Elenor Kessel.

Sadly, we learned of Johnnie Elizabeth Bizzelle's death (December 16, 1928 – November 10, 2023). *Photo (Right)*



PCNNCA is looking forward to finishing 2024 with our General Membership meeting at Hopsewee Plantation where one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence lived, the Veteran's Parades at Charleston and Beaufort, and participation in the Wreaths Across America.



Photo: PCNNCA members that attended the Reunion Cruise.



WMANNCA

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

Submitted by Ann Ross for President Christine Boltz

On August 8th NNCA President and WMANNCA member Cindy Sweeney was accompanied by WMANNCA President Christine Boltz, Secretary Boo Lahman and Member-At-Large Rosie Perdue for a quarterly DAISY Award ceremony at the A.T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC), formerly Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. There were an impressive 44 nominations for the individual DAISY Award this quarter. Presentations included the DAISY Individual Award to Ms. Kristen Phillips (not pictured) and the DAISY Nurse Leader Award to COL Jovitta Chandler. Cindy Sweeney, NNCA President, presented the awards and provided remarks.



Photo: ATAMMC DAISY Award (left to right) COL Chandler, Cindy Sweeney, and CAPT Jacqueline Williams, DNS/ Chief Nursing Officer.

Recently honored at the Women Veterans Recognition Day at the Women's Memorial on June 12th are two current and former Navy Nurses. Louise Terwilliger, 107, who served from 1941-1947 and ENS Julia Baylosis. They represent the past and the future of military women.



Photo (Right): ENS Julia Baylosis and Louise Terwilliger at the Women Veterans Recognition Day

WMANNCA will be supporting Wreaths Across America at two locations, the United States Naval Academy (USNA) and Arlington National Cemetery. Sponsor a wreath or volunteer your time!

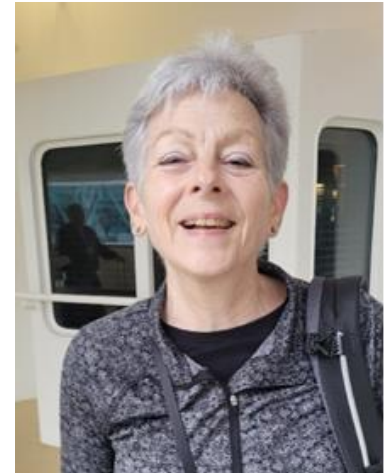
Contact the following POCs to volunteer:
USNA Cemetery - 13 December arrive at 0830, ceremony at 0900 with wreath placement immediately following; POC: Kathy Thorp
Arlington National Cemetery - 14 December meet at 0800 in Section 21; POC: Rosie Purdue

Wreaths can be ordered at <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/MD0021P>

For every wreath that is sponsored, \$5 will be returned to WMANNCA for Troop support and scholarship funds.

Upcoming WMANNCA Events:

- November 9, 2024: Fall Chapter Luncheon
- January 2025: Virtual Event/Presentation
- April 5, 2025: Chapter Luncheon



Photos: WMANNCA members enjoy the Reunion Cruise





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

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KNOXVILLE, TN
PERMIT #396



In Memoriam

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

Name	State	Dates Served	War Service	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age	Name	State	Dates Served	War Service	Date of Death	Date of Birth	Age
Anderson, May Matthews	GA	45-46	WWII	9/11/2019	1923	96	Lewis, Margarete *	TX	50-56	K	11/11/2022	11/1/1927	95
Anderson, Ruth R.	OR	42-43	WWII	11/6/2020	3/4/1919	102	Madsen, Gladys	UT	43-73	K, V, WWII	3/11/2012	5/26/1920	92
Angsten, Irene L.	IL	43-44	WWII	8/31/2011	4/18/1920	91	Meek, Wilma M. Nuechterlein	CA	43-45	WWII	2021	3/17/1922	99
Baker, Jeanne	TX	39-45	WWII	10/17/2015	12/15/1920	95	Mendez Schmidt, Patricia Elaine	CA	84-89		6/15/1989	6/30/1961	27
Barlow, Phyllis Louise	NY	51-89	K, V	11/23/2022	9/5/1929	93	Miranda, Maria	AZ	56-68	K, V	6/24/2024	11/11/1926	98
Bauer, Kathryn	MD	80-00	G	9/15/2024	9/14/1959	65	Morgan, Ruby Lee	CA	-45	WWII	1/9/2006	7/28/1916	90
Bauer, Mercedes	KY	42-46	WWII	7/12/2002	7/22/1916	86	Neubach, Pauline	TX	45	WWII	9/16/2021	9/21/1922	99
Beeks, Shirley Lorraine	IL	44-45	WWII	8/9/2014	3/20/1922	92	Newman, Emma	TX	46-55	WWII, K	6/9/2021	4/28/1926	95
Benson, Dawn	CA	57-92	V	12/18/2023	5/1/1933	91	Nounnan, Claudia P.	NE	42-46	WWII	8/4/2013	8/2/1923	90
Birmingham, Gladys	MD	51-53	K	5/22/2024	1/4/1929	95	O'Donnell, Mary Lou *	WA	51-77	K, V	11/27/2017	7/18/1929	88
Bost, Mildred *	VA	47-74	K, V	2/28/2022	3/30/1927	95	Osborne, Loah G. *	NJ	51-75	K, V	5/1/2022	1/10/1926	96
Bridges, Irene C. *	SC	60-70	V	4/25/2024	3/23/1937	87	Parker, Joel *	MD	90-17	G, PG	8/1/2024	10/17/1954	70
Canna, Theresa F.	IL		WWII	2/20/2009	2/1/1919	90	Parks, Katherine M. *	CA	44-46	WWII	6/15/2024	8/19/1922	102
Coleman, Marie Preston Land	FL	44-46	WWII	2/9/2008	2/20/1920	88	Pearce, Doris *	SC	56-77	V	10/30/2023	8/12/1930	93
Conley, Mary E. *	TX	56-79	V	10/5/2020	6/3/1924	96	Renoe, Gladys I. *	NH	48-51	K	9/1/2017	5/14/1925	92
Cowperthwait, Nancy	AZ	59-63	V	9/9/2022	1/28/1938	85	Saloschin, Neita *	MD	47-	K	3/16/2017	3/5/1925	92
De Celis, Mary *	CA	49-52		3/12/2022	9/24/1923	99	Schmierer, Teresa Walsh	WA	41-46	WWII	10/24/2023	6/26/1919	104
Duby, Dorothy V. *	PA		K	10/26/2022	8/24/1928	94	Shoenthal, Ruth	IL	42 -	WWII	8/7/2007	2/14/1921	87
Dunn, Frances Elliott Allen	NH	43-45	WWII	3/1/2016	11/9/1921	94	Silva, Nettie	GA	71-73	V	3/1/2024	8/4/1950	74
Emanuel, Elizabeth R. *	WA	50-56		2/25/2023	3/12/1927	96	Smith, Hazel	MN	43-45	WWII	12/6/1997	2/23/1920	78
Evans, M. Kay *	GA	65-92	V, G	1/28/2022	10/17/1940	81	Snedeker, Mary E. *	FL	49-82	K, V	8/29/2022	5/15/1926	96
Fanger, Elinor	FL	42-45	WWII	11/25/2004	3/10/1920	85	Staley, Dorothy	VA	74	V, G	9/15/2024	7/25/1947	77
Galipp, Frieda C. *	MO	49-75	K	6/3/2020	1/23/1927	93	Standish, Gertrude "Trudy"	TX	45-47	WWII	12/6/2014	7/24/1920	94
Giordani, Veda M. Cuccia *	CA	50-	K	12/3/2017	3/27/1925	93	Stem, Lorraine G. *	PA	44-46	WWII	7/25/2023	7/20/1921	102
Glover, Annia "Barb"	KY		WWII	8/26/2021	5/31/1922	99	Streit, Mary J. *	CA	56-76	V	12/18/2017	11/27/1931	86
Goggin, Chester *	ME	70-96	V, G	7/31/2024	8/8/1951	73	Strong, Patricia *	VA	52-57	K	11/14/2023	2/28/1928	96
Hannah, Mary Louise Kollar	AZ		WWII	12/13/2003	4/14/1914	90	Suchsland, Mary	NC	50-52	K	1/28/2014	6/6/1928	85
Harris, Vera *	CA	53-76	K, V	11/25/2022	9/1/1927	95	Thom, Geraldine M. *	UT	49-63	K, V	6/1/2020	2/15/1926	94
Howarth, Elizabeth *	CO	51-55	K	1/16/2017	2/17/1929	88	Tweedy, Roxanne *	TN		V, G	6/3/2022	6/27/1944	78
Huff, Nancy Sullivan	VA	51-74	V	2/22/2024	10/4/1929	94	Vertuno, Nancy J. *	IL	63-68	V	10/1/2022	3/29/1942	81
Johnson, Audrey M. *	KS	57-77	V	2/24/2023	6/26/1927	96	Walsh, Carol	MD	59-61		11/25/2017	12/17/1937	80
Land, Marie	TN	45-46	WWII	11/5/2021	4/4/1923	99	Welsh, Elizabeth J. *	FL		K	5/6/2021	2/18/1928	93
Lash, Theresa R. *	CA	52-77	K, V, WWII	7/14/2020	8/10/1927	93	Wilhelm, Shawn M.	MI	10 - 22	G, PG	10/25/2022	4/14/1982	41

Legend: + = Charter member, * = member

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

PO Box 908

Vonore, TN 37885

877-662-2674

NNCA Web Page: NNCA.org

www.facebook.com/NNCA1987

Executive Director, Mary Mahony

ExecDir@nnca.org

Editor, Sara Marks

Editor@nnca.org

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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

NNCA News Committee/Copy Editors

Jeff Bashford

Margaret Beaubien

Christine Boltz

Linda Daehn

Carol Hinger

Barbara O'Brien

NNCA Chapter Presidents

FNNCA Denise Johnson

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.

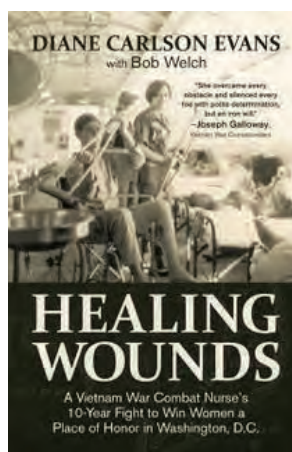
The next challenge was the selection of the memorial monument when they realized the original sculpture created by Rodger Brodin would not be approved by the Arts Board. They solicited input and received submissions from over 350 artists. In discussion of how the Vietnam Women's Memorial statue came 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



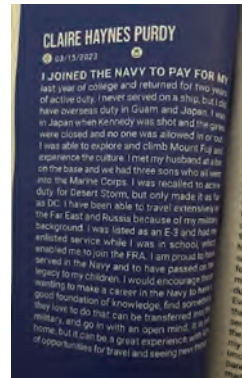
WMANNCA Member, Claire Purdy Recognized at Hospice Veterans Honor Salute

—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!

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Nurse Appreciation Fund;
New Category to Recognize
Nursing Excellence such as
the NNCA Awards and
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Thorp, Kathleen	INMEMORIAM - CAPT Laura McClay & CAPT Anita Bacher
Wasnechak, 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.

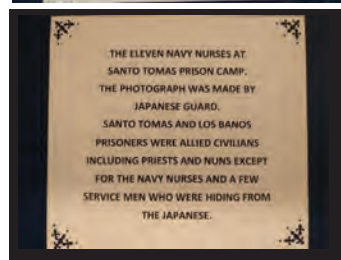
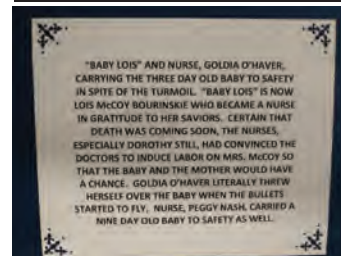
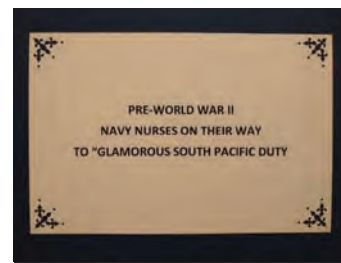
The paintings have been previously displayed under the titles 'Guests of the Emperor' and 'Angels Came at Dawn' referring to a prisoner's description of the paratroopers floating on white silk as they jumped from the aircraft. The rescue was accomplished on the very morning that the Japanese had intended 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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
KNOXVILLE, TN
PERMIT #396



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 = *)