

NNCA NEWS

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

ONCE A NAVY NURSE, ALWAYS A NAVY NURSE

Volume 39 No. 3 | MARCH 2026

Congratulations to New NNCA Board of Director Members!!!



Kathy Beasley
Maryland
(Member At Large)



Patrice Bibeau
Maryland (WMANNCA)



Patrick Fitzpatrick
Washington (NWNCA)

Congratulations to our new Board of Director members—Kathy Beasley, Patrice Bibeau, and Patrick Fitzpatrick! Thanks so much to the accomplished slate of candidates who volunteered to serve on the NNCA Board of Directors. Please consider re-submitting your nomination if you were not selected this year, as all the nominees had superb qualifications.

Alice Bova, Arlene Southerland, Jerry Davidson, and Linda Daehn from the Palmetto Chapter met on January 2, 2026 to tabulate the votes, and NNCA Board President Cynthia Sweeney was notified of the elected candidates.

Inside this Edition:

NNCA Board of Director Selectees	page 1
President's Corner	page 2
Executive Director's Column	page 3
Committee Updates:	
Finance	page 12
Oral History Update	page 12
Strategic Plan	page 13
40th Reunion Update	page 14
40th Anniversary Photos	page 15

Articles of Interest:

Healing Happens	page 5
Health Care Mission: Tanzania	page 6
MOAA Virtual Nurses Chapter	page 6
Fallen Nurses of Kwajalein	page 8
Action to Honor Our WWII Nurses	page 9
Memories in Uniform	page 15 & 25
Chapter News	page 16
In Memoriam	page 24

President's Corner - Cindy Sweeney

Your NNCA board of directors (BOD) and NNCA committees continue to voluntarily serve our NNCA community through their resolute and insightful work. In the last quarter of 2025, Cindy Kuehner provided oversight in the creation of NNCA's 2026 strategic plan and Brian Dawson as treasurer oversaw the budget development process. These two documents will be important guideposts in supporting the mission of the organization and its sustainability. In December 2025, the election of new BOD members was held with the highest voter participation rate ever! My thanks to Donna Styles and Pat Kenney for once again providing us with a very robust slate of candidates. Linda Daehn and her team again provided an efficient and precision driven vote count. Nothing was final until the very last mailed in ballot with a December 31st or earlier date stamp was counted and then added to the online count. We welcome our new board members, Kathy Beasley, Patrice Bibeau and Patrick Fitzpatrick. The good news for NNCA is that the slate was rich in talent and the vote close. Those not elected to the board have all agreed to work at the national committee level of NNCA. We are a blessed organization! As it is in the military, with every 'hail' there is a 'farewell'. This spring, new board members will join the BOD as others depart. Tina Ortiz as our BOD uplink to the Retention and Recruitment Committee and Jen Vedral-Baron as our Vice President will roll off. Tina has done an outstanding job managing not only her BOD responsibilities but also as the 2027 Reunion Committee Chair. Tina will continue as the reunion chair which is great news for NNCA. Jen has been the point person in navigating the review and updating our bylaws in concert with Mary Mahony, our Executive Director. As you have witnessed in our messaging, we updated the NNCA bylaws while maintaining compliance with the state of Washington where we are registered as a non-profit. Through this effort and your participation as a voting member your board **will be able to offer expanded** membership to those nursing students who will become commissioned as officers in the Navy Nurse Corps! Sandie Pearson will fleet up from President-Elect to President as I rotate out.



As this is my last column as your President allow me to share context to this moment in my nursing career. When I graduated from my nursing program we were influenced by the scholars of the 60's and 70's. It was an era of theoretically rich discovery and discourse in nursing. Nursing scholars were driven by an urgency to define a unique and substantive area of professional practice, scholarly knowledge and academic standing for nursing as a profession as noted by Lorraine Walker in her article, Gift of Wise Women: A Reflection on Enduring Ideas in Nursing That Transcend Time. I was fortunate to be swept into that vortex as part of my undergraduate nursing studies in the 1970's. These scholars provided a framework and an attitude for my nursing practice. In 2026 I will reach my 50th year as a nurse...it seems like yesterday! In that time, I have been privileged to work with many nursing professionals. I include my 30 years as a Navy Nurse as a keystone in that career. I hope

NNCA NEWS

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Board of Directors, 2025 - Current

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WMANNCA	Christine Boltz



continued from page 2...

any contributions that I may have made to nursing and more specifically to NNCA will transcend time in sustaining this organization. I leave NNCA in the capable hands of our new BOD, financially secure and directed through a strategic plan with measures of effectiveness to guide us. As I review these past three years, I am proud of: The board's evolution from an advisory group to a fully embedded working board; Formalizing our relationships with other organizations as "Supportive Associations" to NNCA; Our ongoing collaboration with the Army Nurse Corps Association and the Society of Air Force Nurses leading to the first DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to Diane Carlson Evans from the Tri-Service Association collaboration – a recognition that will be sponsored annually by the three service organizations; the establishment of a Social Media Committee (thank you Deanna Ciaccia); Revitalizing the Marketing Committee (thank you Cindy Coyle and Lisa Raimondo); Oral History process standardization and Memorabilia cataloging project (Thank you Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Maria Harbeson and Sherry Dotson); the consistent quality in award recipients (Maryalice Morro and the Awards Committee); And the opportunity to work with two wonderful individuals and expert newsletter editors,

Dot O'Very and Sara Marks. My gratitude review would not be complete without acknowledging our incredible BOD, the Committee Chairs and Chapter leaders who make the work happen.

But the one person who is the 'Oz' behind the curtain of NNCA is Mary Mahony. She is a national treasure when it comes to keeping the wheels of NNCA moving!

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the NNCA Annual Membership meeting on April 22nd at 7:00 pm ET. This will be a virtual event. The BOD will meet April 10 and 11 in Franklin, TN. Chapter presidents, and committee chairs are encouraged to attend. This meeting will also be available virtually.

My thanks to you, the members of NNCA. You make this organization strong through your support and participation. It is because of you that our history and thus the legacy of Navy Nurses will transcend time.... much like the gifts of the wise nurses who preceded us!

~Cindy

Executive Director - Mary Mahony

Honoring Our Legacy, Advancing Our Future

Over the past year, the Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) has continued to demonstrate resilience, relevance, and growth—grounded in our proud history while actively preparing for the future.

What began decades ago as a way to stay connected has evolved into a vibrant, mission-driven organization serving Navy Nurses across generations.



Membership remains a cornerstone of our strength.

Today, NNCA stands at **1,074 members**, reflecting sustained engagement and steady renewal across chapters and members-at-large. This strength is the result of deliberate outreach and the dedication of our Chapter Membership Chairs and volunteers, whose behind-the-scenes efforts continue to make renewal and participation more accessible.

Governance and member engagement advanced significantly.

The Board of Directors met in person for the first time since COVID, welcomed new leaders, and created the position of **President-Elect** to strengthen succession planning. Member participation in recent by-law voting reached nearly 68%—the highest engagement in our

history—demonstrating both trust in the process and commitment to NNCA's future.

Preserving history remained central to our mission.

Through the work of the Oral History and Memorabilia Committees, dozens of new oral histories were recorded and shared, ensuring that experiences from Vietnam to more recent conflicts are not lost to time. Our ongoing collaboration with the Naval History and Heritage Command further strengthens NNCA's role as a steward of Navy Nurse Corps history, expanding our reach well beyond our membership.

Advocacy and collaboration reached new levels.

NNCA formally supported Congressional efforts to award the **Congressional Gold Medal to World War II nurses**, reinforcing our commitment to honoring those whose service shaped military nursing. In addition, NNCA partnered with the Army Nurse Corps Association and the Society of Air Force Nurses to present the **DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award**, marking the first tri-service collaboration of its kind and setting the stage for future joint initiatives.

Looking ahead, planning for NNCA's 40th Anniversary is underway.

Initial groundwork has begun for a meaningful celebration in 2027 that reflects the history, service, and camaraderie of Navy Nurses across generations. A member preference survey was launched



Executive Director continued...

to help guide key decisions, ensuring the event aligns with what our members value most. As this planning continues, we invite members who are interested in contributing their time, ideas, or expertise to join the anniversary planning team. Member engagement will be essential in shaping a commemorative event worthy of NNCA's legacy, and we welcome your involvement as we move forward together.

None of these accomplishments happen without you. Every membership renewal, oral history shared, vote cast, and hour volunteered strengthens NNCA's ability to honor our past, support our present, and promote our future. Together, we continue to prove that *once a Navy Nurse, always a Navy Nurse*—and always part of this enduring community.

~ Mary

Editor Column - Sara Marks

Hard to believe this is my fourth newsletter to edit and publish while still learning many new things about publishing. What I love about putting our newsletter together are the wonderful stories each of you share for the articles of interest as well as all the committee and chapter updates. I especially love getting to know each of my fellow Navy Nurse Corps shipmates and reacquainting with many whom I served with over my 30 year career. I particularly remember a feeling of being in heaven at the last NNCA Reunion by seeing so many friends and shipmates from throughout my career and from previous reunions all the while developing more friendships.



ness of your submissions help me provide a higher quality final product while meeting the many deadlines that help our copyeditors and our executive director in that process.

I mentioned our last NNCA reunion, but the 40th Anniversary of the NNCA in 2027 will be here soon. You'll notice some pictures in the newsletter and on Facebook that over a dozen of you provided as we prepare for our upcoming reunion on pages 15 and 23. I hope these photos inspire each of you and that you'll take time to find your favorite photo to submit to me. Keep the pictures coming, but don't forget about sharing your stories with the Oral History Committee that will go into the Library of Congress.

Looking forward to your input for the July edition of *NNCA News* (input due NLT May 20th). It is a treasure to be a part of the NNCA and to once again serve with each of you.

~ Sara

I would also like to thank all the newsletter contributors for the quality and timeliness of your submissions and responses to my requests to improve the process. It takes time for you to put together your information, but the timeli-



NNCA Bylaw Amendment Vote — Student Membership Category

Last year, the membership considered a proposal to establish a *Student Membership* category for individuals enrolled in programs leading to a commission in the Navy Nurse Corps. The proposal received strong support, but did not pass because our bylaws require approval by two-thirds of active members — a threshold that is difficult for a geographically dispersed national organization to meet.

of our voting procedures so that bylaw amendments are determined by a majority of votes cast. This change does not alter who governs the Association; it ensures that outcomes reflect the will of participating members rather than turnout levels.

The Board is therefore bringing the Student Membership proposal forward again for decision. Members with an active email address will receive a ballot link.

Members who do not use email will receive a letter and postcard to return their vote.

Since then, the membership has approved modernization

Articles of Interest

Healing Happens When Comrades Connect

— submitted by Kim LeBel

Trauma is something we all endure, whether it is war trauma, sickness, death, accidents, surgery, or anything that causes undue stress. Healing happens when I can get that stress outside of my body, say it out loud to people who can relate. This has been huge in my recovery.

On October 7, 2025, Mary Mahony, NNCA Executive Director, forwarded an email to me from a German soldier, who was in Afghanistan when I was shot in March 2009. He reached a point in life when he wanted answers about the effect of what he witnessed. He remembered watching me walk slowly behind Flo and Frankie's bodies, "carrying a blood bag", that was his term for a medical bag. He wanted to find out what happened to me.

The day he remembered, was the Saturday morning when the bodies of LT Flo Choe, MSC, USN and LTJG Frankie Toner, CEC, USN were taken from the German Hospital, Marmal in Mazar-e- Shariff, to the airfield tarmac, almost a mile away, to be flown back home.

The day before Flo and Frankie's bodies were escorted to the tarmac we were running on our day off. Flo and I were in the front, side by side. Frankie was behind me with LT Carlos Linomontez, MSC, USN about 20 yards behind us when the shots rang out. I was hit first in the arm, then Flo was shot. Flo turned her back to the shooter, while holding her bleeding legs, and was shot again in the back, as she lay on the ground across from me. Frankie charged the shooter and took 5 bullets. Carlos was far enough back that he only had bullets whiz past his head. Flo and Frankie lost their lives that day.

About 2 hours post shooting, Flo was placed in a German helicopter with Carlos and me for the ride to the hospital. The Germans performed CPR all the way to Marmal, at the request of Dr John Clayton. They would say "sir, she is gone". His reply, "keep it up until we can get her in the operating room (OR)." We landed about 10 minutes later, where we were whisked into the emergency room (ER). Flo was taken directly into the OR; I sat on an ER gurney waiting for my turn in the OR. They told me, "when we are done with Flo, you will go into the OR". Ten minutes later they came back for me. I asked, "What about Flo?" "She

didn't make it", was the answer. I went into surgery for my first wash out on my arm, distraught.

At dawn the next morning, my chiefs escorted me outside to the refrigerated Conex box that contained Flo and Frankie's remains. I was drugged, bandaged and carried my blood-filled suction bulb in my hand, while Carlos steadied me on my good side as we walked. The caskets, for lack of a better description of the boxes they were in, were placed on a flatbed truck. I took my place at the rear of that truck, alongside Carlos, for the long walk to the airfield.

In a solemn ceremony honoring the dead, the allied soldiers from Germany and other countries formed lines on both sides of that road, all the way to the tarmac where the plane waited. As Flo and Frankie's bodies moved forward slowly, each soldier on the route lit a candle, or shined a flashlight or cell phone when the bodies reached them. It was breath takingly beautiful, reverent and respectful.

The German soldier who reached out to find me was in that line that day and the experience was so moving for him that he felt compelled to find me 16 years later. I have not met Michael Mueller but hope to someday.

Warriors help each other. There is a kindred spirit among comrades who experience similar acts of violence. When you get to the place where you want to understand your feelings, in terms of the impact on your life, you reach out or join a group. I can relate.

Now, due to the assistance of the NNCA, we have been writing each week. It is cathartic for both of us to be able to share feelings about that day. My attendance at the Boulder Crest Warrior PATHH (WP) Program helped me to move into Post Traumatic Growth (PTG). I have shared with Michael Mueller the lessons I learned through WP. We write each week via email about life, issues, struggles and the good stuff, too!

I am grateful for this connection, for it has strengthened us both. Michael said, "Our encounter in Mazar became an anchor point in my life – something unforgettable, because it changed my thinking and my actions in an instant. At that time, there was no one to talk to about such things. You had to keep going, fulfill the mission, survive each day. I am grateful we are connected."



continued from page 5...

Michael’s E-Mail to the NNCA Executive Director:

From: Michael Müller
Date: Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 17:01
Subject: Message for Capt. (Ret.) Kim LeBel
To: <ExecDir@nnca.org>

Dear members of the Navy Nurse Corps Association,

My name is Michael Mueller, and I served with the German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) as part of ISAF in Afghanistan in 2009.

At that time, I held the rank of Obermaat (Petty Officer First Class) in the Navy.

I would like to ask if you could kindly forward this short message to Capt. (Ret.) Kim LeBel.

I was in Mazar-e-Sharif at the time of the Camp Shaheen attack in March 2009. I remember seeing Capt. LeBel during the ceremony that followed.

The image of her walking, wounded but determined, has stayed with me all these years. I never knew her name until recently, but I have always remembered her strength and courage in that moment.

Please tell her that someone who was there has never forgotten.

With sincere respect and gratitude,

*Obermaat (Res.) Michael Mueller
 Former member of the German Armed Forces*

Health Care Mission: Tanzania

—submitted by Christine Boltz

Last spring I learned about the opportunity to participate in a trip to Tanzania with a group from Cedar Crest College School of Nursing. The School of Nursing offers a health



mission trip every year and goes to Tanzania every other year. I have heard about these trips for a few years, but never realized it was something I was eligible to participate in until

an alumnae peer signed up for last year’s trip to Peru. This year I went to Tanzania January 3-14, 2026.


For this type of trip, the School of Nursing Dean coordinates with the Director of Global Initiatives and International Service Learning (ISL). ISL is the organization that leads groups of volunteers to countries all over the world providing essential community and medical services for those in need. They serve as a conduit for volunteers to explore and travel providing sustainable good to the communities they serve.



Signing up for the trip also required a fall graduate nursing global health course in preparation for this trip in January. The course addressed the culture and essential community health care services in Tanzania. The class covered a myriad of essential trip details such as how to prepare, what to pack along with local area culture and disease information. A


travel clinic appointment was needed for a few shots and malaria prophylaxis. Clothing needed to be sprayed ahead with insect repellent.

The class learned it is customary to take donation items. Our ISL team leader in Tanzania provided information about what type of items were needed such as reading glasses, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, antifungal cream, Tums, toiletries, clothing items and footwear, etc. This visit included two school visits. Donations included the suitcases in which we packed items. Cedar Crest College put out the call for donations, and each traveler was allowed an extra 50 lb suitcase.



THE NNCA ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN FRANKLIN, TN APRIL 10-11, 2026.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY, PLEASE CONTACT MARY MAHONY FOR DETAILS AT: [EXECDIR@NNCA.ORG](mailto:ExecDir@nnca.org)



continued from page 6...

Travel to Tanzania takes more than 24 hours and they are eight hours ahead of eastern time. Profits from the lodge where we stayed support the primary school of the same name in front of the lodge. Highlights of the trip included:

- ☐ 1,300 lbs. of medical supplies, educational materials & essentials transported
- ☐ Many patients treated across three clinic days in two local communities
- ☐ Hundreds of life-changing eyeglasses distributed
- ☐ Supplies delivered to St. Francis Home for Albino and Disabled Children and Stella Maris Primary School
- ☐ Cultural immersion with the Maasai tribe
- ☐ Visit to cool off at Chemka Hot Springs
- ☐ Visit to Kibosho Hospital
- ☐ Recreation day at Tarangire National Park taking photos of wild animals

There were many memorable moments as the local people were friendly and most appreciative in receiving whatever was offered, toothbrushes, sunglasses or footwear in addition to the health care. Many of us left behind additional donation items, a second pair of shoes and clothing items. Our group participated responsibly, alongside community partners, and reflected on equity, access, and the

human experience of health and illness. Experiences like this shape nurses who are clinically strong, globally aware, and ethically grounded. I was incredibly proud to participate in this meaningful opportunity.



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 119th Congress enters their last year, MOAA member engagement 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 for all beneficiaries.

This April, MOAA will hold its signature event, Advocacy in Action 2026, when over 150 MOAA members will be at the US Capital meeting with House and Senate representatives. MOAA tier one issues include Military CARE Act (HR 6796), Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment,

and Retirement Act (HR 2148/S 879), Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act (HR 1732), Shutdown Fairness Act (S 3168), and Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act (HR 6231/S 3265).

The most effective way to ensure Congress supports legislation is by hearing from their constituents. Anyone can use the MOAA Legislation Action Center to send their representatives a pre-formatted email urging their support. To take action visit the MOAA website for more information: <https://moaa.quorum.us>

We are closely monitoring the VA Restructuring, Defense Health Agency access to care, Toxic Exposure issues, MAJ Richard Star Act, Military Sexual Trauma, and other important legislation. 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.

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

Remembering the Fallen Nurses of Kwajalein

Follow Up to the July 2025 Article submitted by Dot O'Very

In the July 2025 NNCA News I submitted an article that highlighted the tragic loss of eleven Navy Nurses who were enroute to Yokosuka, Japan on September 19, 1950, when their plane crashed just after takeoff from the island of Kwajalein. Dennis Harn, a family member of one of the nurses, had reached out to the NNCA for assistance with installation of a memorial plaque at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) Honolulu, HI. That connection led to ongoing communications with Dennis and his brother. Below I share the follow-up I received from Dennis after their trip back to Kwajalein this past September to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the crash of the C-54 Skymaster.

"Hi Dot. My brother Pat and I, along with another family member made it to Kwajalein (KWA) on 9/17 and departed on 9/23. Our departure flight was cancelled but the single airline serving KWA sent a 'rescue' flight the following day. Made it an 'adventure.'

Pat and I went to the KWA memorial monument on 9/18 at 05:18, seventy-five years exactly from the crash. It was pouring rain and very dark. Different conditions than the time of the crash.

The following day the two families met at the KWA monument along with half a dozen KWA Army Garrison support and media (AFN) personnel for a more formal commem-

oration. We placed a bouquet of local flowers there and offered some remarks.

Later the families were interviewed by garrison media for their local newspaper and video. We were also planning to go out on boats to the impact site offshore, but the sea was too rough, so we just went out at low tide to the tide flats. There we read each victim's name while throwing a lei on the water for each one.

Hope we should have the news article and videos sometime next month from the garrison media folks (AFN) to share with you."

Dennis and his brother were delighted to receive notification the end of January 2026 from the National Cemetery Administration for the placement of a commemorative plaque at the Punchbowl Cemetery!!



Dennis and Patrick Harn at the placement of the new Memorial Plaque at the National Military Cemetery of the Pacific on February 20, 2026.

**NNCA Annual Meeting of
the Membership
Save the Date!**

**Wednesday
April 22, 2026
7:00 PM EDT**

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



Honoring WWII Military Nurses at the National Level: A Call to Action

—by Cindy Kuehner, Co-Chair, Coalition for the WWII Nurses Congressional Gold Medal



The Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) is proud to actively support the national, non-partisan Coalition for the WWII Nurses Congressional Gold Medal, an effort to award the Congressional

Gold Medal—the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress—to the nurses who served during World War II.

I am honored to serve as Co-Chair of the Coalition, representing the enduring legacy of military nurses whose courage, clinical excellence, and service under fire fundamentally shaped modern military and civilian nursing.

By 1945, approximately 73,000 nurses were serving the nation in uniform—about 59,000 in the Army Nurse Corps and 14,000 in the Navy Nurse Corps—drawn from communities across the United States. These nurses served in every theater of war—Europe, the Pacific, North Africa, and at sea—often in austere, dangerous, and combat-adjacent environments. Many worked near front lines, aboard hospital ships, and in evacuation hospitals under bombardment. Their leadership, adaptability, and clinical innovation dramatically improved survival rates, advanced trauma and evacuation medicine, and permanently elevated the nursing profession.

Despite their extraordinary collective contribution, WWII military nurses have never received national recognition commensurate with their service. That omission is now being addressed.

Legislative Status: Immediate Action Needed

- Senate Bill S.2195
- House Bill H.R. 4901

Passage requires broad national support, including co-sponsorship from Members of Congress in every state. Constituent advocacy is essential. This is not partisan activity. This is Bi-Partisan, Bi-cameral legislation and something we can all be proud to support. Please help us by doing your part, and sharing widely to create a groundswell of action across the U.S.

Strengthening Our Voice—Together

NNCA is actively networking with the Army Nurse Corps Association (ANCA) to amplify military nurse voices across generations and services. There will be much more to come on this important fortification, as modern military nurses share, coalesce, and advance our collective legacy—stronger in our numbers and united in support of our sisters and brothers who serve in uniform with uncommon valor, patriotism, dignity, humility, and lasting impact on our nation’s history.

Take Action Today

Sample letter Templates for S.2195 (Senate) and H.R. 4901 (House) can be found in the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/np77azv>

Find your Senators: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>
 Find your U.S. Representative: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>

Learn more: <https://www.wwiinursescg.org>

Contact me or anyone on your NNCA Board for any questions!

*The NNCA letter of support was published in the November 2025 edition of the *NNCA News*.

Share Your Stories ...



We’re looking for Navy Nurse Corps stories — especially post-Vietnam era!

Did you deploy, serve on a hospital ship, lead a team, care for a memorable patient, or learn a lesson you

never forgot? Share a short story for the newsletter. You don’t need to be a writer — just real experiences.

Also consider completing an oral history interview. It’s relaxed, guided, and preserves the details future nurses will learn from. What felt routine then is history now.



Message editor@nnca.org or history@nnca.org to submit a story or schedule an interview — **help preserve our legacy.**

Once A Navy Nurse, Always A Navy Nurse

—submitted by Carol O’Byrne

It was the 1967-1968 school year, and the area Navy Nurse recruiter visited my college just as the Army did. The scholarship with service obligations offered a lot and my parents agreed, so I joined the Navy. The scholarship and payment as an Ensign my senior year of school obligated me for two years of service. So the recruiter, LCDR Kay Wilhelmy, swore me in to the Navy along with 5 other classmates. My orders sent me and 3 of my classmates to Camp Lejeune North Carolina. It was an older hospital built around 1943. A two story long hallway with matching wards coming out from the main hall greeted me. It has since been replaced. First, I was a charge nurse on an enlisted medical ward with two private rooms for senior enlisted and the rest of the patient beds were arranged in a large open bay floor



Ensign O’Byrne at home in Iowa for Christmas leave 1970

plan in port, starboard and midship sections. The nurse’s desk was in the middle of the starboard section and sickest patients in beds closest to the desk. After six months, I was transferred to the ICU area. My orientation was literally on the job training provided by nurses whose most recent duty stations were the hospital ship or Da Nang. They were excellent nurses and teachers. My living arrangements were next door to the hospital. There, I had a furnished two room and bathroom suite just as the other 17 Ensigns had who arrived between July - Oct 1970.

Each suite had a small refrigerator and some sort of toaster oven, but we shared a large lounge / TV room, fully furnished kitchen and laundry downstairs. There was a phone on each end of the hall and 3 pay phones

downstairs. This community of new nurses I reported to Camp Lejeune with stayed largely intact even when we were authorized BAQ and lived off base; there were 9 of us in the same apartment complex. Then, I saw friends leave for other duty stations, get married and detach from the Navy. After 2 1/2 years, I returned to Minneapolis and a Reserve affiliation that lasted 29 years. And who was the senior nurse in the reserves I was told to report to?,,,yes, Kay Wilhelmy Bauer. Kay and I then spent and continued to spend our reserve years and now MWNCA years together. My reserve career was spent with weekend drills and Active Duty for Training (ATs) as an individual at hospitals like Charleston, Camp Pendleton, Portsmouth, Oakland, Adak AK, Okinawa and Iceland. There were also training periods done at HSETC, Bethesda and BUMED.



Shoes are out for seabag inspection July 1970, Newport, RI

I do regret that my Navy career didn’t include enough Active Duty time for overseas duty, but overall I did experience what my peers did: learned and developed a very strong set of clinical skills, made friendships with bonds that were set tight and an expectation to share and help each other (although I must admit my corpsman and I did borrow, hide and hoard linen that was always short). In closing, I did join the Navy without any long term plans, but it turned out to be an excellent choice of a nursing career that I loved. In September 2000, I retired after 2 1/2 years active and 29 years reserve service.



Camp Lejeune chief nurse CAPT Mary Cannon pinning LTJG device on newly promoted Carole O’Byrne



NAVY NURSE PHOTOS NEEDED!!!

Send ONE of your favorite pictures in uniform from your time in the Navy Nurse Corps as we prepare for NNCA’s 40th Reunion!
E-mail to: editor@nnca.org:

- A photo of you in JPEG or PNG format
- Your name and rank in the photo
- Location and occasion of the photo

Your photo will be placed in one of the next 4 newsletters before the reunion and on FB.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Donor - General Fund					
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Madeline Ancelard	Rose Escobedo	Beatrice Jamison	Dorothy (Chicky) McKinzie	Mary Owens	Pollyann Spring
Jeff Bashford	James Fraley	Sallyanne Jarvis	F. Carroll McKown	Rosemarie Paradis	Lavencion Starks
Kathleen Bonnet-Langston	Mary Anne Gardner	Paula Jonak	Karen Meehan	Kathy Pare	Rita Statzer
Randal Boston	Pamela Giza	Patricia Kenney	Joann Megonnell	Mary Ellen Pate	Donna Styles
Bonnie Bulach	Patricia Goodin	Kim Kenney-Gutshall	Dorothy Michael	Mary Perdue	Elizabeth Sublett
Darlene Burke	Judith Greene	Mary Kerdus	Daniel Miller	Joanne Petrelli	Cynthia Sweeney
Alice Cagnina	Susan Griffin	Filomena Kiger	Jan Moran	Patricia Portz	Celia Toohig
Barbara Cailteux-Zevallos	Kathleen Grudzien	Lara Kirchner	Robert Morrison	Nelida Ramos	Marlys Tuftin
Caroline Ciesielka	Debra Guthridge-Lind	Barbara Kornis	Alice Moyer	June Riddell	Susan Tussey
Sally Comer	Elaine M. Hankel	Lisa Kumagai	Carolyn Mulhern	Jean Roberts-Houle	H. (Nancy) Urbano
Sharyn Cookson	Judith Harris	Patsy Landy	Margaret Mullinix	Amy Rosacker	Suzanne Van Ort
Rebecca Cox	David Henbest	Marilyn Lindell	Kathryn Murphy	Ann Ross	Sue Varenholt
Margaret Crockett	Donna Hendel	Sandra Lindelof	Kathleen O'Neal	Diane Samelak	Jane Vercruysse
Linda Cummings	Joanne Hill	Jeannette Lively	Teri Olson	Janice Sanders	Daniel Wasnechak
Grace Curlee	Beverly Holm	Rick Madison	Lynn O'Malley	Elizabeth Savage	Richard Welch
Nancy Curll	Susan Hopkinson	David Mangler	Ernesto Ornelas	Gail Smith	Stella Yau
Rose Marie Curtis					

Donor - General Fund	In Memory Of:
Michael Benway	In honor of CAPT Joline DeVos
Meredith Beaton	Allan & Arlene Beaton
Barbara Mencik	Anita Sheehan
Paula Pendrick	Barb Leary
Valerie Newman	Bobbi Hovis, Miki Iwata
Richard Hrezo	CAPT Helen Holbrook
John Caffrey	CAPT Jackie Sharpe
Pamela Gray	Carol Cusimano Bernier
Vickie Weaver	CDR Kathy Rowan
Margaret Nation	Claire Purdy
Phyllis Barkus	Dorothy Leonard
Ruth Smith	Hank Wildeboer
Mary Lee Eady	Helen Holbrook
Brenda Tobey	Henrietta Wildeboer
Jean Fisher	Iris Taskalos
Janet Ford	J Barcott, IHO Shirley Parent
Nancy Brannon	LCDR Dick Gierman
Ruth Wilson	LCDR Joan Reiner
Beverly Mack	Lucille Emond
Audrey Kershner	Lucille Emond & Josephine Honish
Judy Pattinson	Maggie Donoghue & Sandy Holmes
Sherry Brown	Margaret Armstrong
Nancy Simmons	Marie Senzig
Jane Hourigan	Patricia Millington
Marylouise Felhofer	Paul Felhoffer
Mary Donahue	Rear Admiral Frances Shea-Buckley
Dorothea Hamilton	Sally Kiely
Mary Gutowski	Sandra Kossler, CAPT, NC, USNR
Maureen Smith	Barbara Beeby's sister Deb
Mary Mitchell	RADM Fran Shea & All deceased USS Repose Nurses

Donor - In Memoriam Fund	In Memory Of:
Kathleen Thorp	CAPT Laura McClay & CAPT Anita Bacher
Patricia Workman	all deceased Navy Nurses
Carole O'Byrne	Barb Barrett
Patricia Kelley	CAPT Marie Senzig
John Bendele	CDR John Powers, CRNA
Susan Jackson	Claire Purdy
Susan Jackson	Claire Purdy
Carol Carney	Dorothy Leonard
Susan Andrews	Gerry Mooney & Barbara Ridenour
Mary Arnold	Hellen Walker
Mary Cavanaugh	Henrietta Wildeboer
Patricia Trump	Henrietta Wildeboer
Ida Roadhouse	Josephine Honish
Carole Willard	LCDR Lou Ellen Bell
April Featherkile	Linda Swartz Macy
Kathryn Cadwell	Marie Senzig
Catherine Carter	Marie Senzig
Susan Cuddy	Phyllis Elsass, CAPT, NC, USN (Ret)
Barbara McLean	Rachel Vollmar
JoAnn Kelly	Sandra Holmes, Barbara Yohanan, Jeanne Gedney
Carolyn Blazina	
Maureen Christopher	
Lisa Stephens	

Donor - History Fund
Elizabeth Barker
Phyllis Barkus
Marietta Centko
Anne Devney
Eva Domotorffy
Michael Droll
Gayle Frevert
Rosalie Lewis
Edith Maffeo
Ginny Raderstorf
Carol Speirs
Therese White
Nancy Winchester

Donor - History Fund	In Honor Of:
Joan Butler-Pate	CAPT Anne Redo
Shirley Lewis-Brown	CAPT Hattie Elam; CAPT Jackie Sharpe
Viola Armknecht	Irene Armknecht Treaster
David Emerson	Richard Gierman, Faye Thorr-Scott, "Dottie" Yelle, Eva Ames
Dorothea Hamilton	Rosemary Cox

Donors - Navy Nurse Appreciation Fund	In Honor Of:
Nancy Brannon	CAPT Casey Meehan
April Featherkile	Mary Began
Nola Strickland	

Donor - Memorabilia & Museum Fund	In Memory Of:
Shirley Lewis-Brown	CDR Caroline Stoll
Karen Born	Eleanor Masters
Sylvia White	Joan Pasek
Phyllis Barkus	
Linda Blake	
Marietta Centko	
Anne Devney	
Marilyn Hudson	
Susan Lukasik	
Jeanette Lynch	
Terry McGuirk	
Dorothy O'Very	
Ellen Shebuski-Tolton	



NNCA Committee News

Oral History Update

Treasurer’s Report

—submitted by Brian Dawson

I am pleased to report that the NNCA’s financial position remains strong and stable. We continue to work closely with the Marketing Committee to reach out to Navy Nurses and provide information on how they can support the NNCA through planned giving, including wills and financial trusts. Our goal is to ensure that all members understand these options and feel empowered to contribute in ways that sustain our mission for generations to come.

Our operating budget remains solid and will allow us to meet all obligations throughout the 2026 budget cycle. However, as in recent years, contributions continue to fall short of annual expenses. To address this ongoing challenge, we are focused on strengthening the performance of our investment portfolio.

Despite current market conditions, Osborne Partners continues to position our investments in secure and steadily growing sectors. Year to date (FY 2025), our portfolio realized more than \$122,540 in positive growth. We will continue to monitor our assets closely to ensure longterm stability, with the goal of using investment growth to help offset recurring budget deficits.

As Navy Nurses, we honor our heritage through service—both within our local communities and across the nation. I wish each of you a healthy, safe, and enjoyable spring, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our NNCA 2027 Reunion. It remains my privilege to serve as your Treasurer, and I am proud to be associated with such exceptional people, nurses, and Naval Officers.

Awards Committee Update

—submitted by Maryalice Morro



To coincide with the 2027 anniversary/reunion celebration the Awards Committee delayed the 2026 award cycle. Requests for submissions will start this fall and reminders will be provided of all of the categories/submission deadlines.

—submitted by Maria Harbeson

The NNCA Oral History (OH) Committee continues its mission to preserve the stories of the Navy Nurse Corps past and present. In addition to capturing and processing the OHs and sending them to the Library of Congress (LOC) for perpetuity, many oral histories can be found on the NNCA website. Presently our NNCA website has many histories being uploaded on the Members only side under Projects/Oral History. Look in the NNCA website for the OH of longtime PCNNCA member Mary Emalyn Cobb Tate. Also added to the website are Vicki Broussard and Patrick Amersbach. There is also a link to LOC where approximately 300 of our NC histories can be viewed, thanks to the diligent work of our Executive Director!

Our chapters have been hard at work forging contacts and streamlining the process of performing the histories virtually or in person and sending them to the LOC. Notably the PCNNCA Chapter OH Committee is pursuing a partnership with a local Veterans Group who is active in the Veterans History Project LOC and would like to interview nurse/female veterans. FNNCA and NNCASC continue to submit oral histories to the LOC Veterans History Project with established contacts at the LOC. NNCASC has taken the lead on virtual training on conducting interviews!

Consider joining our team of oral history interviewers by contacting your chapter representative or Maria Harbeson at history@nnca.org

Recruitment & Retention Update

—submitted by Ana Stoehr

The committee continues to work on virtual chapter meeting development. We are also working on new recruitment strategies related to the newly approved by laws.

We welcome Jamie Wise as our newest member to the committee. She will be a great addition to this committee.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IS LIVE — AND IT NEEDS YOU

NNCA Strategic Plan CY 2026: From Vision to Action

—submitted by Cynthia Kuehner

“Once a Navy Nurse, Always a Navy Nurse” is more than a motto — it is the living foundation of the NNCA Strategic Plan CY 2026, now approved and actively underway. This plan translates our shared values into measurable action, strengthening camaraderie, preserving our legacy, and ensuring organizational sustainability for generations of Navy Nurses.

What makes this plan exceptional is not only what we aim to achieve — but how we will achieve it: through engaged members, energized chapters, and committed volunteers working side-by-side with our Goal Tenders.

GOAL 1: FOSTERING CAMARADERIE & FELLOWSHIP (Goal Tender: Tina Ortiz)

At the heart of NNCA is connection. Goal 1 strengthens that bond across chapters, generations, and service eras.

This goal focuses on:

- ☐ Expanding member engagement through newsletters, social media, and chapter storytelling
- ☐ Launching *Member Feature Articles* that recognize Navy Nurses across the Association
- ☐ Growing membership through new incentives, student categories, and gift memberships
- ☐ Building inclusive community via virtual members-at-large networks
- ☐ Planning landmark fellowship events, including the NNCA 40th Anniversary Reunion

How Chapters Can Help Right Now

- ☐ Submit articles, photos, and stories for newsletters and social media
- ☐ Nominate members for recognition features
- ☐ Encourage new and returning members to join committees
- ☐ Volunteer for reunion planning, outreach, and virtual engagement efforts

Call to Action:

Chapters are encouraged to reach out directly to Tina Ortiz to contribute ideas, volunteers, and energy to fellowship-building initiatives. This is where *connection becomes momentum*.

GOAL 2: SHARED TRADITIONS & LEGACY (Goal Tender: Mary Ann Jarmulowicz; Memorabilia Chair: Sherry Dotson; Oral History Chair: Maria Harbeson)

Goal 2 safeguards what makes Navy Nursing extraordinary — our stories, artifacts, and lived history. This goal advances:

- ☐ National promotion of NNCA Memorabilia and Oral History Projects
- ☐ Chapter-level participation in exhibits, commemorations, and museums
- ☐ Expanded recording of oral histories across eras and generations
- ☐ Creation of enduring charters and governance structures for legacy initiatives
- ☐ Preservation, cataloging, and public access to Navy Nurse Corps archives

How Chapters Can Help Right Now

- ☐ Appoint chapter representatives for memorabilia and oral history efforts
- ☐ Identify members whose stories must be preserved now
- ☐ Volunteer to assist with cataloging, exhibits, interviews, and outreach
- ☐ Submit quarterly legacy-focused newsletter content

Call to Action:

Chapters and individuals are invited to contact Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Sherry Dotson, and Maria Harbeson to volunteer time, skills, and passion. *Legacy preservation is not passive — it is an active mission.*

GOAL 3: ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY (Goal Tender: Lisa Raimondo)

Sustaining NNCA ensures we can serve Navy Nurses today — and tomorrow.

Goal 3 focuses on:

- ☐ Strengthening membership growth and retention
- ☐ Expanding strategic partnerships with sister services, veterans’ organizations, and philanthropic partners
- ☐ Establishing a formal donor and sponsorship program with transparent stewardship
- ☐ Equipping chapters with tools for outreach, mentoring, and partnership building

How Chapters Can Help Right Now

- ☐ Mentor prospective members and report outreach activity

continued from page 13...

- Identify potential partners and sponsors at the local level
- Support The DAISY Award and collaborative initiatives
- Participate in shaping and launching NNCA's donor recognition program

Call to Action:

Chapters are encouraged to engage directly with Lisa Raimondo to support sustainability initiatives and serve on working committees that strengthen NNCA's future.

THIS PLAN SUCCEEDS ONLY IF WE ACT

The NNCA Strategic Plan CY 2026 is intentionally dynamic — designed to evolve through member input, chapter leadership, and volunteer action. Goal Tenders are not

working alone; they are calling on chapters and individual Navy Nurses to stand with them.

What You Can Do Today

- Volunteer for a committee aligned with your interests
- Reach out to a Goal Tender to offer skills or time
- Encourage your Chapter to participate, report, and engage
- Help keep the plan alive, visible, and mission-driven

Together, we honor our past, strengthen our present, and secure our future.

“Once a Navy Nurse, Always a Navy Nurse” — a living legacy connecting our past, empowering our present, and shaping our future together!

NNCA 40th 2027 Reunion Committee Update

—submitted by Tina Ortiz and Dot O’Very



The 2027 Reunion Committee remains hard at work exploring reunion venue options creating a program agenda that will include something for all of our members. We’re continuing to anticipate a fall 2027 timeline with a focus on the birthplace of the NNCA, Seattle, WA. If you missed the announcement,

our Reunion tagline is: *NNCA 40 Years Strong: A Legacy Forged In Service*. The logo for the event is the medallion at the top of this article. Logo items can be ordered at the Lands End website. For guidance, please go to: <https://business.landsend.com/store/nnca/>. You must login to the website to access the link.

Our budget team prepared a proposal for the Board of Directors outlining the required commitments for three

Reunion options to be considered in the 2026 budget year. The Board was briefed on progress and anticipated budget needs on January 14, 2026. As a result, the Board requested a member survey to support their decision-making process. Based upon survey feedback and budgetary constraints, the Board decided to have the Reunion Committee pursue a cruise only option. The Reunion Committee reviewed a variety of cruise options at our February meeting and is waiting on final pricing and amenity options to select the preferred cruise venue.

Although we’ve made much progress, the Committee is still seeking new members to join our planning and implementation team. Current sub-committees include Reunion Program Agenda, Budget and Finance, Memorabilia & Decorations, Registration and Venue Accommodations, Marketing/ Communications, Swag/Giveaways, and the In Memoriam Service. If you are available to join any of these groups, please contact Tina or Dot at NNCA40th@nnca.org.

The Committee meets virtually on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm eastern time. It’s a great Team, and while the work is serious, the camaraderie makes it both productive and enjoyable.

Social Media Update

—submitted by Sara Marks



Even though amazing work is happening within the NNCA, we sometimes aren't sure what to post for the week. Since many chapters are active on Facebook and Instagram, you can help us highlight your chapter by doing the following:

Emailing Content:

We LOVE when you send us stories and photos! Email your content or questions to editor@nnca.org. We're happy to help polish your post, but it's a huge help if you:

1. Provide first names and last initial of individuals in the photo, or full names with permission.
2. List names from left to right.

Bonus: Include a short blurb about the event or activity.

Tagging (@):

When your chapter makes a post, tag us by using **@NNCA** within the post, or at the end. The @ symbol will allow Facebook to notify the social media committee that you have posted something, making it easy for us to share your post!

Hashtag (#):

Use the hashtag **#NNCA** at the end of your post. This allows us to quickly search for recent activity and decide what to feature for the week—or plan for the month.

Example Post:

The NWNCA recently celebrated Memorial Day with a wreath-laying ceremony.

[Insert Photo]

Caption: From left to right: (Name, Name, Name)

@NNCA #NNCA

Thank you for helping us share your chapter's stories and accomplishments with the NNCA community!



40th Reunion — *Memories in Uniform*



CDR Margaret A. Marinow
Retirement Ceremony 1993



LTjg Joan Butler Paté
Christmas Photo taken 1977 for her parents.



CDR Nancy Owen
Operation Provide Promise Zagreb, Croatia 1994



LCDR Wayne F. Hansen
East Bank Medical Clinic New Orleans, LA 1995

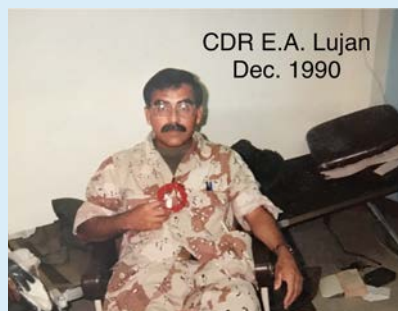


CDR Lisa Stephens
Operation Provide Promise Zagreb, Croatia 1994



Cdr. Arline D. Houghton, senior Nurse Corps officer and Lieutenant (junior grade) Beatrice Wasilak, the junior officer, perform the cake cutting ceremony. (Photo by T. E. Walsh Jr.)

LTjg Beatrice Wasilak Jamison
Nurse Corps Birthday celebration Guam in 1971.



CDR E.A. Lujan
Dec. 1990

1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Hospital, Jubail, Saudi Arabia.



Shirley Walz
CDR NC USNR (Ret) 1962-1965



LTjg Deborah McLogan Nelson Holsworth
San Diego Naval Hospital First assignment 1968

Chapter News



FNNCA

Florida, except the Panhandle

Submitted by Denise Johnson



Fall Luncheon at the USS Orleck Museum with 30+ in attendance to include 3 active duty NC officers from NH Jax - LTJG Tehrana, LTJG Rosal, and ENS Rivera. ENS Rivera is The DAISY Award Coordinator from NH Jax and was recently added to our Board of Directors.

On November 8, 2025, FNNCA held our Fall meeting on the USS Orleck (DD 886), a Gearing-class destroyer that served in the United States Navy from 1945 - 1982. This ship has a rich history that spans multiple conflicts and eras, now serving as a museum in the harbor since 2022. The museum has numerous interactive displays representing the ship's service and naval history. After a briefing by Scott Mythen, CEO we presented a statue of the Vietnam Women's Memorial for the museum in memory of CDR Jim Roberts. After a tour of the ship, we collected donations from members and put together 28 "Shoebboxes of Love" for the city rescue shelter.

Later in the week we recognized and presented Deb Gay the 2025 Sue Smoker-Hummel Service Award in recognition of her commitment to the chapter since 2010 and service to her community of Green Cove Springs as a Family Nurse Practitioner. In addition, she is very active in her Greek Orthodox Church's Philoptochus Society fundraising efforts and Jacksonville Walk to End ALS.

Despite chilly temperatures in the 30's, we proudly participated in the Annual Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade and Denise Johnson represented FNNCA at the Wreaths

Across America ceremony at the Saint Augustine National Cemetery.

We're looking forward to our Spring meeting to be held on April 25, 2026, at Stonewood Grill in Daytona @ 1100.



Limited edition 1/400 miniature Vietnam Women's Memorial statue donated to the USS Orleck in memory of CDR James R. Roberts, NC, USN (Vietnam Era).



Denise Johnson



L-R: Cheryl McDonald, Nancy Opsahl, Terri White, Mary Jackson, Robin McKenzie and Karen Elgin. Seated: Deb and Chris Gay



L-R: Robin McKenzie, Denise Johnson, Terri White, Mary Jackson, Cheryl McDonald, Kimberly Shipley, and Nita Flores. Seated: Sherry Dotson and Leah Sue Giddings.



GCNNCA

Northwest Florida, Alabama
Mississippi, Louisiana

Submitted by Shirley Lewis Brown

GCNNCA concluded the meetings for the year with its Annual Christmas Party at the ACES Hangar Grill. The financial status is stable. The speaker, Michelle Caldwell from VetCV Foundation shared her vision for veterans' immersion into the community. Her goal is making sure the Veterans Committee is involved with every nonprofit organization in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. According to Michelle, veterans have many skills, talents and insight to add to their communities. She feels that veterans add unique perspective that can add to their community's growth and prosperity. Use the following link for more information:

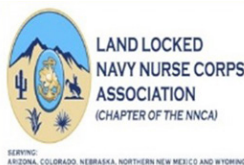
<https://www.vetcvfoundation.org>



L-R: front to around table, Sue Varenholt, Trumin Brown, CAPT, G. Bradford, Dan Miller, Susan Ulloa, Shirley Lewis-Brown, Martha Hicks, Richard Winkler, Joann Kelly, Jackie Will, Michelle Caldwell.



GCNNCA members attended the Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2025, in Pensacola and Milton. Martha Hicks saluting at Milton parade.



LLNNCA

Colorado, Wyoming,
New Mexico & Nebraska

Submitted by Marti Crockett

This quarter was relatively quiet for LLNNCA members. In December several members honored our veterans by laying wreaths at various cemeteries. The group continued to gather for monthly luncheon meetings, enjoying good food, lively conversation, and time spent reminiscing together.

Outside of our meetings, many members were busy with personal commitments, including destination weddings, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) events, and family gatherings. A few members also underwent surgical procedures, all with the goal of beginning the new year healthy and happy. Overall, it was a calm and reflective quarter as members balanced service, family, and self-care.

GCNNCA President presented a certificate of Appreciation to Michelle Caldwell.



MOTHERS IN UNIFORM
BY MAUREEN BROSS

Mo Christopher wrote an article for our local Veterans Life Magazine.

continued from page 17...



Maureen “Mo” Christopher Bross (far left in a red coat) participated at a wreath laying at Boulder’s Columbia Cemetery. Photo credit: Silvia Pettem.



LLNCA January 2026 Luncheon:
 Front Row L-R: Teri Olson, Nancy Larson, Margie Bezdet, Dorothy Ryan, Mary Ann Riebe.
 Back Row L-R: Pat Watson (honorary Navy Nurse) Army nurse, Terry Shade, Harriet Palmer-Willis, Liz Tovado, Carole Lowe, Mo Christopher Bross, Judy Taylor, Marti Crockett



Submitted by Ron Fancher

As our membership continues to grow, we are excited to expand our outreach efforts. We are currently exploring opportunities to adopt an NROTC unit and/or establish a nursing scholarship as meaningful ways to support and invest in our community.

We are pleased to share that our next meeting will take place in the Nashville area this spring. More details will be shared as plans are finalized.



Submitted by Carole O’byrne for Maria Belisle

The MWNNCA held their fall chapter meeting in the week of Veterans Day. Their celebration and recognition of Veterans brought a special speaker who was a veteran helicopter pilot. LTC Matt Partyka, US Army (Ret) flew MEDEVAC flights from 2007 - 2010 in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our chapter Treasurer, Anne Ringquist, heard LTC (Ret) Matt Partyka speak at her local Eden Prairie Senior Center. Consequently, when President Marcia Belisle asked for someone to arrange a speaker for our November meeting, Anne volunteered to ask LTC (Ret) Partyka.

In the early 2000s, LTC (Ret) Partyka started his career in Medical Operations in Rock Island, Illinois. He then went on to an assignment in an Air Ambulance Company, followed by Company Commander in the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Carson. This led to a 2007 deployment to Iraq followed by a 2009 assignment to Afghanistan. These overseas assignments were as an Aeromedical Evac Officer and UH-60 MEDEVAC pilot. He completed 1218 total flight hours in Army helicopters and over 300 real world medical evac missions.

LTC (Ret) Partyka described a career of service familiar to the chapter members, especially those receiving injured soldiers during Vietnam. Although there were some years separating the experiences, those of us who heard him speak understood his feelings and appreciated what he contributed as a MEDEVAC pilot. Perhaps that is why military nurses have turned out to be his favorite audience.



LTC Matthew Partyka, USA (Ret)



Anne Ringquist, Treasurer, MWNNCA



NENNCA

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

Submitted by Tom Wilson, Chapter President

New England Navy Nurse Corps Chapter Disbands After 30 Years of Service to Its New England Members

After 30 years of continued service to its New England Members, the chapter disbanded December 31, 2025, due to dwindling participation related to its aging population, difficulty recruiting active-duty members, and geographical constraints, amongst others.

The chapter held its final luncheon December 07, 2025, at the Lobster Pot restaurant, Bristol, RI.

During the Fall NENNCA sponsored and awarded three nursing scholarships to qualified nursing students to assist them with their studies in either a baccalaureate or graduate degree program in nursing in the amount of \$1,000 going directly to the recipient.

Participated with Wreaths Across America (WAA) December 13, 2025.

Although bittersweet, members are encouraged to maintain membership in the NNCA and participate in activities when available.

FAREWELL and FOLLOWING SEAS



L-R: Kriszl Godfrey, Katherine Surman, Kim Lyons, Irene Weaver, Patricia Culver, Tom Wilson



NNCASC

California, Nevada & Arizona

Submitted by Nancy Owen

NNCASC held their first luncheon meeting at MCAS Miramar Officer's Club on January 14, 2026. It was the first time being back there in years due to increased room rental costs and base access issues. 43 members and guests attended. The food was delicious and service excellent.



One of the highlights of the meeting was President Jane Hourigan acknowledging our NNCASC Member of the Year and newly elected Treasurer, Tom Colgan. Tom is a Navy Nurse of many talents and started our meeting off with the singing of the National Anthem. Tom has been a contributor to our newsletter, a member of the Memorabilia Committee and

had arranged one of our lunches at the Masonic Lodge in Vista where he is a member. He is also active in his church community in the choir and as a cantor for services.

In addition, President Jane Hourigan gave a well-deserved acknowledgement to Cindy Perry, who has been our NNCASC Treasurer for 13 years. Cindy has masterfully handled the duties of treasurer and was instrumental in the investment of a member's generous bequeath into a money management account providing ongoing assets to support our annual nursing scholarship program.



The 35th annual Military Women's Luncheon was held November 1, 2025, at Anchors Catering Club near Naval Base San Diego. Over 100 military women and guests attended the very popular event. Keynote speaker was the Honorable Michelle Pettit who began her career as a Surface Warfare Officer and later earned her Juris Doctor serving as a Judge Advocate General (JAG). NNCASC members attended and donated baskets and items used for opportunity drawings throughout the event.

continued from page 19...

On November 11, 2025, NNCASC again participated in the San Diego County Veterans Day Parade on Harbor Drive along picturesque San Diego Bay. Despite the government shutdown, it was a very patriotic gathering, and crowds greeted us with cheers.



L-R: Barb Beeby, Sandra Pearson, Candace Curlee, Mary Rushton (in car), Marilyn Anita Day, Nancy Owen, Easty Law, Jane Hourigan

On September 29, 2025, the artwork collection of 33 oil paintings by Dr. Ralph Thomas McLaughlin, Medical Corps, USNR (ret.) was successfully transferred by NNCASC and received at the Naval History and Heritage Command, Navy art Collection at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. The series of paintings, entitled at various times “Guests of the Emperor” and “Angels Came at Dawn” tell the story of the eleven Navy Nurses held as POWs in the Philippines during WWII. Special thanks to NNCA, Becky Nulty, Barb Beeby and others who were involved in getting this “mission accomplished”.



“THE GALLANT ELEVEN” by Dr. Ralph Thomas McLaughlin



Military Women’s Luncheon: L-R: Easty Law, Tina Hooker, Becky Nulty, Casey Meehan, Nancy Owen, Jane Hourigan



NWNCA
Washington, Oregon,
Idaho, Montana & Alaska

Submitted by Naydne Krienke

On Saturday November 1, 2025, our chapter’s general meeting was held at Patriots Landing, a retirement center located in Dupont, Washington. Gidget, the Executive Manager, gave a presentation regarding the various living options available within their community and addressed what questions a person should ask when reviewing/selecting their future ‘retired’ living quarters.

The group did a tour of the facilities, which included viewing the types of apartments and cottages, the activity centers, pool, kitchen plus other perks for selecting this beautiful community center. Additionally, the highlight of the meeting was the delicious pre-turkey meal which the center prepared and served. Excellent food & amazing service.





PCNNCA

North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia

Submitted by Linda Daehn & Mary Ann Jarmulowicz



Peggy Williams, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, and Emalynn Tate represented PCNNCA at the Daniel Island Exchange Club Veterans Dinner November 14, 2025. From Peggy Williams, “Many thanks to Emalynn who spearheaded and

coordinated this event. What a wonderful cause to support Zero SC homeless veterans!” Funds raised at the dinner supports efforts to help homeless veterans in the local Charleston, SC area.

Our annual Holiday luncheon was held December 6, 2025, and as always was a delicious event with warm fellowship of many PCNNCA members. At this party, the chapter focuses on collecting socks and toiletry items for veterans and our generous members donated hundreds of items which were delivered to the Charleston VA Medical Center for distribution prior to the holidays.



PCNNCA supported the Wreaths Across America program (WAA) at two cemeteries, Beaufort SC National Cemetery and the New Bern National Cemetery in NC on December 13, 2025. In Beaufort, the wreaths arrived in tractor trailer trucks driven from Maine by Pepsi Cola drivers and were escorted by the Veterans Motorcycle Club and Beaufort Police, providing a wreath for every grave site.



In his remarks, South Carolina state Senator Tom Davis stated that South Carolina is the most patriotic state in the union. Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Deb Casavant and Peggy Williams participated from PCNNCA. The Nurse Honor Guard of SC Beaufort Lowcountry



took part in the ceremony. Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, a member of the Nurse Honor Guard placed a wreath at the Navy Flag on the cemetery grounds to honor all fallen Navy Veterans. Chapter member Jeff Bashford and wife Donna (former NNCA Newsletter Editor) laid wreaths at the New Bern National Cemetery and also helped with the wreath removal. It was a day full of emotion, meaning, and beauty.

PCNNCA participated in a brunch “Honoring Women Who Served” sponsored by the General Federation of Women Club held at the Sun City Lakehouse, Bluffton, SC. Melanie Frank, PCNNCA President, was the guest speaker, and Mary Houser, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Paula Schaefer and Linda Grant also attended.

Chapter members Jane French and Emalynn Tate attended the She’s the Veteran Dinner and Fundraiser. She’s the Veteran is a non-profit organization in the Charleston, SC area working with female veterans to improve their mental health through programmatic activities, provide a supportive community, and spearhead research efforts to bolster their physical health and mental health.

Mary Ann Jarmulowicz (NNCA BOD Goal Tender, Memorabilia & Oral History) and Alice Bova (PCNNCA Oral History representative) are exploring opportunities for collaboration on collecting NNCA oral histories with Marilyn Case, Chair of the Veterans’ History Project and Susan Moring, local representative.



L-R: Paula Schaefer, Melanie Frank (speaker), Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, and Mary Houser at “Honoring Women Who Served” brunch



WMANNCA

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

Submitted by Christine Boltz

Our Fall luncheon was held on 18 October 18, 2025, at The Hideaway in Odenton, Maryland near the National Cryptologic Museum. Sadly, we were unable to visit the museum after lunch because of a government shutdown related closure. However, we had a virtual museum tour Sharing the Burden: Women’s role in cryptology during WWII a Navy Cryptologic Museum Virtual Tour, by Jennifer Robertson, Director of Education, on 23 January.

On Veterans Day I visited Louise Terwilliger at The Kensington in Falls Church and attended their Veterans Day program. This assisted living community has many veteran residents with a very nice Veterans Wall display including a picture and service information for each veteran. Louise was very appreciative of the many birthday cards she received from Navy Nurses around the world for her 108th birthday in July. She was quite surprised that so many took the time to send a card.

Louise was stationed at Naval Hospital, Mare Island near San Francisco. It was one of the world’s largest naval facilities during World War II with a hospital that averaged 2,300 patients. Following Mare Island, she was stationed in Oahu at Naval Base Hospital No. 8, a temporary Quonset hut hospital in Pearl Harbor. On the surrender of Japan on V-J Day, August 15th, 1945 (August 14th in the U.S.), she recalls jeeps loaded with troops driving around Oahu honking their horns celebrating victory.

On 10 December at Augusta Military Medical Center, there were 30 outstanding DAISY Award nominees along with the DAISY Award recipient! Congratulations to all for the incredible care and dedication they bring to patients every day. We are thrilled to announce that Christina Baldwin, RN, Residential Treatment Facility 7S is the new DAISY Award recipient, an honor that reflects her compassionate and exceptional nursing care. A special thank you to nurses who make a difference!

Kathy Thorp and Boo Lahman represented WMANNCA at the Wreaths Across America event at the US Naval Academy Cemetery. Superintendent Lieutenant General Borgschulte offered remarks as did Carol Turman, the USNA WAA coordinator. In her remarks, Ms. Turman thanked the sponsors by name, which included the Washington Metro Area Navy Nurse Corps Association.

At Arlington National Cemetery, several Washington Metro Area NNCA (WMANNCA) members laid wreaths in Section 21. Sometimes known as the “Nurses’ Section” it is the resting place of 653 nurses who heroically served in the U.S. armed forces.

Our scholarship opportunity is open until Friday, April 3, 2026, at 1600 ET. Application materials are located on the WMANNCA Chapter webpage on the NNCA website: <https://nnca.org/chapter/wmannca/>

Please direct any questions to WMANNCA@nnca.org.

Upcoming planned activities:
Spring Luncheon April 18, 2026
WMANNCA Annual Business Meeting April 27, 2026



Louise Terwilliger



Christine Boltz, President, WMANNCA, Christina Baldwin, RN, COL Gerry Sharp, Deputy Director of Nursing



L-R: Vince Starks, Rosie Perdue, Shelley Savage, Christine Boltz, Ginny Beeson



Kathy Thorp & Boo Lahman



Sue Miller, 2nd from left back row with a Female Veteran Group at Bel Air Memorial Gardens, Bel Air, MD.



WMANNCA Fall Luncheon October 18, 2025.



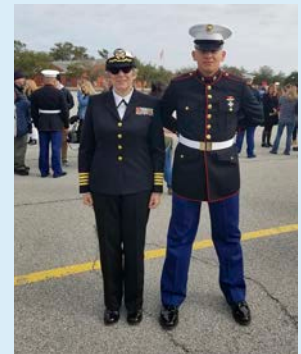
40th Reunion — *Memories in Uniform*



LCDR Angela Acfalle
Last hugs on the tarmac before deployment to Iraq Camp Pendleton Feb 28, 2008



CAPT Pete Bradford
OIC of the Expeditionary Medical Unit Roto12 in Erbil, Iraq receiving recognition from the OIC of the Netherlands Camp for forward deployed team saving the life of a Dutch soldier, September 2022. Currently, the Chief Nursing Officer in Pensacola and will retire in July 2026.



CAPT Donna Bradley
Pass & Review Officer for her nephew's graduation at Parris Island, FEB 9, 2018.



LTJG Mary Heintz
Charleston, SC 1970-1973



CAPT Barbara O'Brien
Recognition of California Women in Government Military Honoree, 1992. Barbara with her spouse, Robert O'Brien, CAPT MC USN (Ret) and daughter, Terri Soto, RN



ENS Regina (Jeannie) Clark "Roy"
Medical Ward Naval Aerospace Regional Medical Center Pensacola, FL 1982



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	Years of Service	Wars / Conflicts	Date of Death	Age	Name	State	Years of Service	Wars / Conflicts	Date of Death	Age
Mary Koval Clark	NC	40-45	WWII	2/4/26	104	Ellen Little	CO	73	K	6/26/25	91
Ruth Deus*	LA	47-55	K	11/27/25	100	Dolores Lobpreis*	CA	57-66	V	12/9/25	89
Bertha Dietz*	FL	50-53	K	2/29/24	97	James Meekins	VA			12/27/25	70
Debora Coulapides Gay*	FL	77-07	OIF, OEF	2/13/26	70	Michaelina "Mitzie" Meinelt	CT		WWII	11/27/25	102
Christine Giuda	NH		V	10/26/25	77	Augusta Miller+	TN	60-81	K	10/13/25	90
Cynthia "Cyndi" Holt	NJ	64-89	V	11/20/25	62	Margaret Mongan	NH	44-47	WWII	5/27/20	94
Rita Iadarola	CA	62-65	WWII, K	10/16/25	102	Martin O'Connor	NV	1994	OIF	1/12/26	63
Claire Ioanucci	PA	88-92	V	1/2/25	91	Mary Lou "Jan" Olson	MN		K	10/24/25	96
Susan Kinling	MD	90-98		7/25/25	79	Dolores Quevedo	NY		V	8/12/25	74
Mary Kraper*	SC			2/13/26	75	Linda Smoot-Sayko	NC	55-78	G	9/21/25	77
Frances Krohne	NC		K	12/11/25	96	Evelyn Wigle	WA	60-62		4/3/25	87
Christine Kudrav	PA	65-85	V	11/20/25	81	Joan Winterhoff*	WI	54-56	V	8/20/25	87
Theresa Bulb	IL	47-55		6/23/25	65	Janet Carol Wohlgemuth*	CA	57-78	K,V	10/10/25	89
Patricia Linehan	IN	70-73	V	8/7/25	87	Carolyn Wooton	IN			7/20/25	88

(+ = Charter _ * = Member)

