

NNCA NEWS

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

ONCE A NAVY NURSE, ALWAYS A NAVY NURSE

Volume 39 No. 1 | July 2025

Please Welcome the NNCA 2025-2026 Board of Directors!



The NNCA membership selected the following Board of Director members: Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Cynthia Kuehner, and Lisa Raimondo

NNCA 2025-2026 Officers are: Cynthia Sweeney, President, Michelle McKenzie, Secretary, Jenny Vedral-Baron, Vice President, Brian Dawson, Treasurer and Sandra Pearson, President-Elect (the board created this position recently to ensure succession planning for the future).

Top Row, (L to R) Cynthia Sweeney, President, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Sandra Pearson
 Middle Row, (L to R) Brian Dawson, Treasurer, Michelle McKenzie, Secretary, Tina Ortiz
 Bottom Row, (L to R) Cynthia Kuehner, Lisa Raimondo, Jennifer Vedral-Baron, Vice-President

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President's Corner - Cindy Sweeney

During this summer season, I am reminded of the family road trip vacations undertaken with my parents during my childhood. In April, I took a three-week road trip on Route 66 – Chicago to Santa Monica with friends! It was a trip down memory lane. Those of a certain generation will remember summertime vacations when we would load up the family station wagon, wind down the windows (there was no air conditioning) and take off for summer vacation, stopping at family run motels, restaurants, and gas stations along the way. The roads were typically two lane and rambled into small towns across the United States. Depending on your end point, the trip could take days, sometimes weeks, versus hours to get from your home to your destination. We traveled on Route 66, known as the "Mother Road". During the Great Depression, it was seen as the path to opportunity for those fleeing the dustbowl ruins of family farms in the mid-west. Route 66 will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. I marvel at the history that road has seen! The trip could be completed in less than a week, but we opted for the journey lasting three weeks on Route 66's two-lane highway. It was a rich experience, learning more about our country and our fellow citizens. The interstate would have been easier and faster, but this journey was about digging deep and taking on the challenge of enjoying and learning in the moment.



There are parallels in this journey and our movement through life. The terms "trip" and "journey" are frequently used interchangeably. Both indicate travel, but journey can also describe personal growth and change. Charles Kuralt, a journalist, traveled the country covering interesting stories of average people. He once said, "Thanks to the interstate highway system, it is now possible to travel across the country from coast to coast without seeing anything." I hope your life is an off the interstate journey! Throughout your life, you could have taken the easy road and made the minimal grade to graduate, you could have looked the other way when there was a request for a volunteer, you could have taken the easier patient or set of orders, but I know as a Navy Nurse, you did not. I know you took the challenge and did the hard stuff. Continue to do the hard stuff! See the sights of life. Learn from those experiences.

The ANA theme for Nurses Week 2025 is, "The Power of Nurses". There are five million nurses in the United States. We continue to be the most trusted profession for the past 23 years. We have power. We need to flip the switch and access that power to advocate for our nursing organizations. Volunteer to be on one of NNCA's committees, or on the NNCA BOD slate. These are those 'dig deep' opportunities in your journey. You will meet amazing people and have fun contributing! NNCA is a great connector for mentorship, for professional development and for the collective voice of nursing to be heard. So please step up when our nominating committee puts out the call for candidates for our board of directors!

NNCA NEWS

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Board of Directors, 2025 - Current

- Cynthia Sweeney, MD – President
- Jennifer Vedral-Baron, TN – Vice President
- Michelle McKenzie, TN – Secretary
- Brian Dawson, FL – Treasurer
- Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, SC
- Cindy Kuehner, CA
- Tina Ortiz, FL
- Sandra Pearson, CA
- Lisa Raimondo, MD

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- Margaret Beaubien
- Christine Boltz
- Linda Daehn
- Joline DeVos
- Joan Pate

NNCA Chapter Presidents

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
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| WMANNCA | Christine Boltz |

Continued on page 3...

President's Corner continued...

Despite the tornados and rain, your board of directors gathered to conduct the business of NNCA in our first face to face meeting since Covid! A very dedicated board with all in attendance! During this time, we bade farewell to our outgoing board members: Rose Perdue, Vince Starks, and Veronica Armstrong-Evans, as well as our longstanding NNCA Newsletter editor, Dot O'Very. We welcomed Sara Marks as our new editor and our new board members, Cindy Kuehner, who will shepherd our strategic plan, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, our uplink to Oral Histories and Memorabilia, and Lisa Raimondo, our board member at large will assume the role of uplink for Marketing. At the May board of director's meeting, the board created the position of 'President-Elect' to assure succession planning for the future. Sandra Pearson was elected to this position within

the board and will work with me to ensure a smooth transition to the presidency in the spring, when my term ends. A sincere thank you to each of our departing board members who generously shared their time and talent, digging into the experience to make NNCA stronger. We look forward to the next bend in the road with our new board members and the journey ahead!

Wishing you a memorable journey!

~ Cindy

Executive Director - Mary Mahony

As summer arrives in full bloom—bringing with it warm days and bright horizons—the NNCA community continues to shine with energy, purpose, and camaraderie. From honoring our proud history to embracing a future shaped by innovation and shared experiences, this season offers much to celebrate.



Across commands and chapters, we saw inspiring celebrations of Nurses Week and the 117th anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps. These events not only honored the legacy of Navy Nurses but also welcomed a new generation into our storied traditions—many of whom joined us virtually through social media, helping bridge the gap between past and present.

I'm especially thrilled about the excitement building around our upcoming **40th Anniversary Celebration in 2027**. Planning is already underway, and we invite anyone interested in participating to contact the committee at nnca40th@nnca.org. Your involvement will help shape an event worthy of our rich heritage.

Thanks to your continued support, over **80% of our members have renewed their memberships this year**—a remarkable show of dedication! We offer heartfelt appreciation to our Chapter Membership Chairs, whose behind-the-scenes efforts are essential to our mission. For those still needing to renew, our online system has been simplified to allow combined national and chapter dues, along with optional donations—all in one convenient place.

Staying connected as an organization remains a top priority. We recently gained valuable insights during the vote on proposed by-law changes. Historically, online voting via the NNCA website yielded just a 27% response rate over the past decade. This time, we tried a new approach: ballots were sent via Constant Contact to 1,030 members, and 52 paper ballots were mailed to those without email access.

Of those contacted, 81% opened the survey link, but only 535 members completed the survey; additionally, 33 returned paper ballots, 18 emails bounced, and 5 recipients had unsubscribed. Nearly 50% of our total membership participated—a major improvement! Although the amendment received strong support (95% for question 1 and 96% for question 2), it fell short of the required two-thirds majority of all members.

This experience highlights the effectiveness of email-based voting—especially as 474 members have never logged into the NNCA website. The Board is now considering using Constant Contact for future votes, including Board elections, to increase accessibility and engagement.

As summer unfolds, let's continue to stay connected—whether by attending events, volunteering, or simply updating your member profile. Every action helps strengthen our NNCA community.

With gratitude and excitement for what's ahead,

~ Mary



Why the Bylaws Should Be Changed: Empowering the NNCA for a Stronger Future

—Submitted by Mary Mahony & Jenny Vedral-Baron

The Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) stands at a pivotal moment—balancing proud traditions with an evolving membership. Our current bylaws require a two-thirds vote of the entire membership to pass critical amendments. This outdated requirement makes meaningful progress nearly impossible in today’s digital age.

Recent voting data highlights this challenge: despite a record 50% participation rate using email ballots, the most successful turnout in NNCA history, a bylaw amendment still failed—not because members opposed it, but because the threshold was mathematically unattainable.

Revising the bylaws to define a majority or two-thirds vote based on those who vote—as is common practice in non-profit governance—respects the democratic process while enabling the Association to adapt, grow, and better serve

its members. This change doesn’t diminish the value of any member’s voice. Instead, it ensures those who choose to participate are heard and counted effectively.

The proposed update also modernizes how we handle membership classification and voting rights. Allowing the Board of Directors, with majority ratification by voting members, to expand membership categories provides flexibility for future growth while preserving oversight.

In short, these changes:

- ☐ Reflect best practices in nonprofit governance
- ☐ Increase agility without sacrificing transparency
- ☐ Empower members by ensuring their votes count
- ☐ Lay the groundwork for a stronger, more inclusive future

Within the next few months, you’ll receive an email invitation to vote on these important bylaw updates. Your participation truly matters. This is our opportunity to shape the future of the NNCA—together. By casting your vote, you help ensure our organization remains strong, responsive, and relevant for generations of Navy nurses to come. Let’s move forward with confidence, honoring our legacy while embracing the possibilities ahead. We look forward to your voice, your vote and continued engagement.

Editor Column - Sara Marks

As I’m familiarizing my role as your newsletter editor, I find that in the learning to crawl, walk, run that I’m crawling faster than I thought in the crawl stage. It’s both humbling and exhilarating to learn about our organization as I develop my publishing skills.



Mostly I’d like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter and for Dot and Mary for continuing to support me as I grow in my new role. I’d also like to acknowledge the obvious tremendous efforts that each of our chapter members who contribute to the Navy Nurse Corps, their respective communities and the NNCA. To quote Mother Theresa, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” Keep sending your stories of all the important things that you do every day. And remember, everything you do is important.

I also want to welcome two new copy editors, Joline DeVos and Joan Pate, who volunteered to assist with the newsletter. Though I didn’t work with our two outgoing copy editors Carol Hinger or Barbara O’Brien, on behalf of Dot O’Very, our former newsletter editor, I’d like to thank each of you for your dedication and support. Of course I’m delighted to continue to work with Jeff Bashford, Margaret Beaubien, Christine Boltz, and Linda Daehn. Your attention to detail in reviewing this edition of our newsletter was a tremendous help.

As your newsletter editor, it is my privilege and honor to be part of the caretaking of our Navy Nurse Corps history and stories. It is also such a pleasure to become reacquainted with so many shipmates and meet so many NNCA members with whom I have a shared history in my editor role.

Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory. -- George S. Patton Jr.

~Sara

Articles of Interest

The Future of the Nurse Corps Looks Bright!

—Submitted by Ginny Beeson
(reprinted with permission from the WMANNCA Newsletter)

This past February, while on vacation on Amelia Island, Florida, Bronwyn Fillion, NC (Ret) invited me and a few other retired nurses for dinner and an evening of fun and memories. She had a brilliant idea: why not invite some of the nursing ROTC students from Jacksonville University (JU) to join us!? She notified the JU unit, and 12 young, enthusiastic, excited nursing students joined us for a wonderful evening of Q & A, and fun stories about Navy Nursing.

I later thought, “Why can’t we do this in DC? There have to be NROTC units here with nurses who might be interested in getting together!” So, I did some detective work (with the help of RADM McCormick-Boyle) and got the name of the Midshipman in charge of the units at area schools and invited all who were free and interested to join me for lunch at an area California Pizza Kitchen. I contacted Rosie Perdue, NC (Ret) and Maria Harbeson, NC (Ret) and asked them to join me, and also invited 4 young active duty (AD) nurses from Walter Reed. We had such a good time with the JU students in Florida but found we couldn’t answer all the questions because it had been so long since any of us had been on AD, hence the invitation to these impressive young nurses.

Rosie, Maria and I met with 6 NROTC students, 2 from Georgetown University (MIDN Sydney Blackston and MIDN Madison Walter), 2 from Howard University (MIDN Maylise Abrogoua and MIDN Alexis Joyner), and 2 from Catholic University (MIDN Katrina Foeller and MIDN Nicole Seiler). The nurses from Walter Reed were: ENS Julia Baylois, 1LT Michele Bennett, LTJG Christina Gordon and 1LT Judith Philpott. We had a wonderful afternoon sharing stories and answering questions. The young AD nurses carried the day; they were so enthusiastic and had great advice for these young students.

Rosie, Maria and I wanted to buy lunch and gave the waitress our credit cards; when she returned, she said, “Your bill has been paid.” We were all stunned, as the bill for the 13 of us was quite large! When I asked her who paid our bill, she said, “He doesn’t want to be recognized, please don’t ask me who it is.” After we all said good-bye, Maria and I went back into the restaurant. There was a couple in



Front Row L to R: LTJG Christina Gordon, MIDN Nicole Seiler, 1LT Bennett, ENS Julia Baylois, MIDN Sydney Blackston, MIDN Madison Walter, MIDN Katrina Foeller. Back Row L to R: MIDN Maylise Abrogoua, MIDN Alexis Joyner, CAPT Rosie Perdue (Ret), CAPT Ginny Beeson (Ret), 1LT Judith Philpott, CAPT Maria Harbeson (Ret)

a booth behind us, and I asked the young man if he paid our bill. He said, “I did.” Maria and I thanked him profusely and told him how grateful we were, and he said, “I listened to all of you talking about how much you loved nursing, and the privilege of taking care of men and women who put their lives on the line for our country, and I thought to myself: ‘I want to do something too.’ And I thought, I know what I can do, I can pay the bill. Thank you all for your service.”

What a great afternoon! The future of military nursing is in very good hands, and there are, indeed, truly wonderful people in the world.



Memories of the 80th Anniversary of Normandy

—Submitted by Jane Glaser Mason



A year ago this June I had one of the most exciting experiences of my life. It began in November 2023 while my Navy Nurse roommate and I were attending the 30th Anniversary of the dedication of the Viet Nam Women’s Memorial. We had attended the dedication those many years ago after serving on the USS Sanctuary during the Vietnam war.

I was invited to join a trip to Normandy for the 80th anniversary celebration of D-Day. It was sponsored by The Greatest Generation Foundation, an organization that had been returning World War II veterans to the places they had served in Europe for more than 20 years. There were 7 WWII veterans as well as veterans from Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and staff from the organization. It was only the second year that they included women so I met 2 Army nurses and a 101 year old Navy Wave named Marie who had become a blimp mechanic when the men were called to war. Our trip was very different from the first time those young men crossed the Atlantic. It was only later that I realized I was following a path my Dad, PFC Thomas J. Glaser, had taken 80 years before as a 20 year old soldier.

We traveled on the Queen Mary II for 8 days. Each day a group of us were interviewed by a news anchor who accompanied us. He interviewed those who landed on the beaches on D-Day, those who came later, Korean and Vietnam veterans, a Medal of Honor recipient from Vietnam, a WWII POW, and the 4 women. We spoke to hundreds of passengers each day. We enjoyed delicious food and met some lovely passengers who were eager to hear our stories. Our WWII veterans were treated with a reverence I had never seen.

When the Executive from the Cunard Lines welcomed us aboard the ship. He spoke proudly about their support in transporting troops during WWII. My Dad traveled to Normandy on the RMS Queen Elizabeth several months after D-Day. When he was on the ship, which comfortably held 2600 of us, it held more than 10,000 GI’s. They slept in

shifts in stacked hammocks, played craps in the carpeted swimming pool and enjoyed their three meals a day anyway they could. They had no idea what lay before them.

When we arrived in Normandy the women were billeted in a chateau in St. Marie du Mont. Our backyard overlooked Utah Beach where Dad landed in September 1944. I am sure the gorgeous beach looked much less beautiful for him. I was drawn to the view over and over. 80 years ago it was covered in blood. My dad was lucky that he and his frost bitten feet made it back home but thousands of soldiers did not.

The biggest highlight of the trip was the Commemorative Ceremony at the sight of the Normandy American Cemetery on D-Day. There were 92 WWII veterans from all of the Allied nations. It was a beautiful, sobering, majestic day with fly overs, music and a cannon salute. The French and American presidents were there. I was so proud yet heartbroken thinking of all those men who sacrificed their lives to save the citizens in a country they would never know and for people they would never meet.

The French people are still so grateful to those veterans. Our Marie must have had her picture taken hundreds of times and most often with children who would have been the age of the great grandchildren those fallen men never had.

I have appreciated my trip even more since I returned. I am especially grateful for my “time” with my dad, even though decades, oceans and continents separated our wartime experiences. We proudly served our country.



Pictured: (L to R) Ruby Scheuing, Elaine Niggemann, Jane Mason and sitting 101 year old Navy Wave Marie who worked as a mechanic on blimps that looked for Japanese submarines off the coast of California.

NNCA Supports The University of Maine NROTC Nurse Corps

—Submitted by Sandra Pearson

The University of Maine NROTC NC candidates reached out to NNCA requesting support for their Zimmerman Fitness challenge (ZFC). The ZFC is a memorial fitness event held in honor of 1st Lt. James Zimmerman, a University of Maine graduate and Marine Corps officer who was killed in action in 2010. The challenge is open to the community, with all proceeds benefiting the 1st Lt. James Zimmerman Foundation, which helps newly commissioned officers with career-starting expenses. Here is a small excerpt from MIDN 4/C Justine Ordinario:

“On behalf of our Unit and our future Navy Nurses, we are deeply grateful for your generous donation and your consideration to support us and the Zimmerman Fitness Challenge! Your kindness and commitment means more than words can express. Personally, I have long admired the mission and achievements of the NNCA for quite some time. I admire your organization’s dedication to preserving the legacy of our Navy Nurses and honoring the stories of our community. Your generosity strengthens our MIDN and inspires us to continue in all your footsteps. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.”

What an opportunity to connect with other NC NROTC candidates throughout the nation. Stand by for innovative ways WE WILL be connecting in the future to share our legacy!



*Top photo: University of Maine NROTC NC Midshipmen.
 Bottom photo: NC NROTC Midshipmen wearing NNCA sponsored T-shirts.*

Memories of Rapidly Deployable Medical Facility (RDMF) Training

—Submitted by Linda Wilson



—RDMF Camp Pendleton, CA training, sleeping quarters with Linda Wilson – “Are we having fun yet?!”



—RDMF training Camp Pendleton, CA: a Marine is “attended to” during casualty management exercises



—Camp Pendleton, CA Casualty receiving, the triage area where wounds are assessed, and soldiers are checked for armaments.



Remembering the Fallen Nurses of Kwajalein



LTJG Liljegreen

—Submitted by Dot O’Very

When the NNCA was contacted by a family member of LTJG Mary Eleanor Liljegreen, one of the eleven Navy Nurses who died in a plane crash immediately after takeoff from the island of Kwajalein on September 19, 1950, I reached out to gather more information. The family member, Dennis Harn, is the nephew of LTJG Mary Eleanor Liljegreen and

resides in the Seattle, WA area. Although neither Dennis nor his brother Patrick ever met their Aunt Nell, they have embarked on a mission to ensure that she and the ten other Navy Nurses who died in that crash are retained in the memories and history of Navy Nurse Corps legend.

This commitment began after their mother Mrs. Timothy Hugh Harn Jr. (Elizabeth Louise “Betty”) connected with a sister of LTJG Alice Giroux, one of the other nurses lost in the crash, who also resides in the Seattle area. Their mother shared stories about her sister with her sons. The brothers’ interest increased as they were going through their mother’s personal effects after her passing. Their family has a robust history of military engagement. Their mother was an Army Nurse. Her brother, LeRoy Randolph “Lee” Liljegreen was in the Army Signal Corps and became a POW on Corregidor during WW II. He then went on to serve during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Dennis served during the latter part of the Vietnam War, stationed in Europe, and Patrick served in the Air Force flying worldwide missions during Desert Shield and Storm.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the plane crash. Identified as the single greatest loss of Navy Medicine members in a single incident, the Kwajalein tragedy bears witness to the reality that many military members die in non-battle operational scenarios. (See Navy Medicine Facebook post-dated Sep 18, 2018: <https://bit.ly/442ggGR>). In her book, *In and Out of Harm’s Way*, Doris Sterner shares the impact of this tragedy on the Navy Nurse Corps leadership. “There was a large number [eleven] because we were trying to build up [the nursing staff] at Yokosuka. It was terrible. And then Ruth Erickson, who had Details [the Assignments nurse at BuMed] said, ‘I cannot go to that Board and pick out another group.’...Everybody was broken up about [the tragedies].”

To honor the memory of these sailors, the nephews along with family members of ENS Robert Allen Harsh, a crew member who died in the crash, will visit Kwajalein to see the memorial to all who perished on that day. En route to this destination, they are planning to install a new memorial plaque to honor all eleven nurses and flight crew members at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punch-bowl) Honolulu, HI. According to Dennis, Honolulu is the most common stop from the mainland of the US to Kwajalein, so it seemed the logical location to establish this 75th anniversary memorial. As with all things bureaucratic, the process of approval for this plaque has been arduous. You can help by contacting your state Senators and requesting that they support Senate Bill 411, Flight 293 Remembrance Act, proposed by WA Senator Patty Murray. This bill is designed to facilitate the establishment of memorials for service members who have died as a result of a military operational loss. (Link to bill: <https://bit.ly/3Ts4BvW>).

There is not space in this article to provide full descriptions of each of the eleven nurses but a full summary and the source of the content for the brief biographies below can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3SV5I7h>.

ENS Eleanor Clara Beste - Freeport, MN. Eleanor joined the Navy Nurse Corps in January 1948 and was assigned to the Naval Hospital at Bremerton, WA before receiving transfer orders to Japan.

ENS Marie Margaret Boatman - Abilene, TX. Marie was commissioned in the Navy Nurse Corps in 1948 and assigned to the Naval Hospital Long Beach, CA and then reported to the Naval Hospital Bremerton, where she remained until receiving orders for Yokosuka. Marie Boatman is buried in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

LTJG Jeanne Elizabeth Clarke - Portland, OR. Jeanne was commissioned in the Navy in 1944 and served until 1946. In November 1949 she volunteered for active duty again. She was assigned to Puget Sound, WA and San Diego, Long Beach and Oceanside, CA before receiving orders to Japan.

ENS Jane Louise Eldridge – Detroit, MI. Jane joined the U.S. Cadet Nurses Corps and entered the Navy Nurse Corps in September 1947. She reported to the Naval Hospital Bremerton, WA where she received orders transferring her to the Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

ENS Constance Rita “Connie” Esposito - Brockway, PA. Connie joined the Navy in 1948. She had assignments at Bethesda, MD and San Diego, CA before her transfer to Yokosuka. She is buried in St. Tobias Cemetery, Brockway.

LTJG Alice Stella Giroux - Seattle, WA. She joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1944, reporting for duty at the US Naval Hospital Long Beach, CA and then Naval Hospital Norfolk, VA. She returned to active duty in 1949, at Naval Hospital Corona, transferred to Naval Hospital San Diego, CA where she was issued orders to Yokosuka.

LTJG Margaret Grace Kennedy - Webster, MA. Margaret joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1944. She had a period of duty at Portsmouth, VA, Chelsea, MA, Newport, RI, Long Beach and San Diego CA. She re-entered the Naval Service and was stationed at San Diego, CA where she volunteered for overseas duty and received orders to Yokosuka.

LTJG Calla Virginia Goodwin - Raleigh, NC. Calla joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1944, and reported for duty at Naval Hospital Portsmouth, VA. Other assignments included Naval Hospital Bainbridge, Naval Hospital Charleston, SC, Naval Dispensary Charleston Naval Shipyard, Naval Hospital Long Beach and Naval Hospital, SMR, Oceanside, CA where she received orders to Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

LTJG Mary Eleanor Liljegreen – Seattle, WA. Mary Eleanor joined the Navy in 1947, reporting for duty at Naval Hospital Oakland, CA, followed by orders to Naval Hospital Bremerton, where she remained until receiving overseas orders for Yokosuka.

LTJG Constance Adair Hegge - Kirkwood, MO. Constance took her oath of office as a LTJG in the Nurse Corps Reserve in 1948. She was stationed at Naval Hospital Long Beach and Naval Hospital, SMR, Oceanside, CA, where she remained until receiving overseas orders to Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

ENS Edna June Rundell - Stafford, KS. Edna joined the Navy in 1948 reporting for duty at Naval Hospital Bremerton, WA. She remained there until receiving orders to Naval Hospital in Yokosuka in 1950.

Endnote 1 Sterner, Doris. In and Out of Harm's Way. Peanut Butter Publishing, Seattle WA; 1996, Chapter 8, p. 235.

Memorial Day On The National Mall

—Submitted by Cynthia Sweeney

Members of NNCA attended the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial to remember all who died in Vietnam. Jane Southby, COL NC USA (Ret) provided her reflections as a nurse serving in country in Vietnam. The NNCA presented a wreath in honor of those who died and those who served during this conflict. Following the Vietnam Memorial ceremony, I moved the wreath to the Vietnam Women's Memorial. I shared the day with my daughter and granddaughter as it is important for each generation to appreciate the sacrifices of others that allow our freedom.



Cindy Sweeney's granddaughter



NNCA members with American Legion representative



Ginny Beeson and Cindy Sweeney at the Women's Vietnam Memorial



NNCA Committee News

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

—Submitted by Joe Gollasch, MUSNAVC President



MOAA has a year-round focus on advocating for uniformed service members, families, veterans, retirees, and all beneficiaries. In April, over 150 MOAA staff and council and chapter members visited the US Capital and met with

representatives, senators and their staff advocating for our earned benefits. This was a huge success, and many issues have been included in the National Defense Authorization Act and the DoD budget.

While DoD and VA budgets may not feel quite the impact of federal efficiency measures as other departments, it's worth noting that service-earned benefits weren't immune from collateral damage. MOAA continues to make certain that the earned benefits for our military members, their families, and our veterans are not affected by these measures. A lot of work was done to make great strides forward for the veteran community and MOAA certainly wouldn't want to see any of those things reversed or impacted as the result of hasty cuts or reductions.

MOAA, the largest and most trusted military officers' association in the nation, is dedicated to turning words into action with the launch of TotalForce+ conference scheduled October 28-29, 2025 in National Harbor, MD. Bringing together over 5,000 participants -- active duty personnel, Guard and Reserve members, veterans, caregivers, DoD and VA leaders, and industry professionals -- this event will address critical issues such as benefits, health care, military recruiting, and pay. Together, we'll explore new solutions to: Modernize Talent Management & Innovation; Optimize Leadership Development & Performance; Advance Quality of Life; and Amplify the Veteran & Retiree Experience. This will be a 'people first' focused conference.

Treasurer's Report

—Submitted by Brian Dawson

I can report that NNCA finances are still in excellent condition. We continue to receive small but steady donations that are added into the general fund to support programs and activities. Our Operating budget is sound and will allow us to meet all of the obligations throughout the 2025 budget cycle. Unfortunately, we continue to run at a deficit with respect to contributions vs. expenses as we have over the past several years. In an effort to address this issue, we are focusing on the growth of our investments.

Our financial advisor, Osborne Partners, have continued to invest our funds in safe and growing markets. Year to date our investments have gained over \$17,000 in positive growth, which is consistent with our long-term goal of growing our portfolio to offset the budget deficits we face. We will continue to monitor our assets to ensure growth.

As Navy Nurses we continue to honor our heritage by serving local communities and communities around the world in need. I wish each and everyone of you a safe Summer along with numerous enjoyable, loving gatherings with family and friends. As always it is my pleasure to represent each of you as NNCA Treasurer, I'm proud to be associated with such exceptional people, nurses and Naval Officers.

Recruitment & Retention

—Submitted by Linda Grant

Please welcome the new Chairperson, Ana Stoehr, whose tenure began in June. She is excited to lead the committee in the next chapter of this important journey.

We continue to work hard in our efforts to both recruit and retain members and increase donations. Despite an increased presence on various social media platforms from July through December 2024, our membership numbers show a modest increase to date. For now, marketing efforts will be more targeted to specific activities, such as development of an online toolkit for chapters to access and modify for their use. Improvements and updates will continue on the NNCA website to ensure ease of use, current information, and the site is working as planned.



A survey was sent to members with the November newsletter. The purpose of this survey was to provide members with an opportunity to share candid thoughts to help the NNCA in planning for our future. The response rate was very good, and we thank the members who took the time to complete it. The results yielded two important concerns that were voiced repeatedly.

These were (1) need to recruit active duty and younger members and (2) feeling isolated and disconnected from the Navy Nurse Corps. These results were reported to the NNCA Board. These are not new issues, but we now have even stronger recognition of the need to continue with our efforts, including the creation of a virtual chapter and connecting with MTFs, VA, and other veteran organizations to find and recruit the next generation of Navy nurses.

The Virtual NNCA members-at-large creation is an initiative to serve those members who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend a chapter meeting. They would be able to attend meetings via Zoom, enabling fellowship, communication, and sharing of information. Volunteers are needed from chapters to assist in the creation of a charter, budget, etc. Then, members and leadership will need to be recruit-

ed. Tina Ortiz at membership@nnca.org is your POC for questions or if you'd like to volunteer.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee was the resource link in support of local chapters, as requested, in planning activities in their geographic area for the week of May 12th Nurses Week and Navy Nurse Corps birthday celebrations. The goal was to expand NNCA's relationship with MTFs and other veteran organizations through NNCA Chapter participation. Initial planning began in January. Many chapters were successful in taking part in events at different venues. Read more on these activities in this newsletter chapter news. These events, and others that occur throughout the year, are critical to create awareness of our organization and foster meaningful and memorable outreach. They can nurture goodwill that can help recruit and retain members, ensuring our viability in the years to come.

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 Ana Stoehr at membership@nnca.org.

Save the Date!!!

August 12, 2025, 7 pm EDST



Virtual Presentation
Hosts: NNCA & WMANNCA
Continuing Education
for DOD & Nursing Personnel

“Working with an Editor to Publish Your Work”

Please save the date and time, **August 12, 2025, at 7:00 pm EDST** to join us virtually for Dr. Karen Hill's presentation, *“Working with an Editor to Publish Your Work”*. If you have thought about publishing in a journal, but felt overwhelmed by the process, please don't be! Dr. Hill will provide a lively presentation on lessons learned from her 14 years of experience as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Nursing Administration (JONA), having reviewed over 400 articles per year. Dr. Hill has been a nurse for over 41 years and recently retired from her role as CNO and COO of Baptist Health in Lexington, Kentucky.

In this session, Dr. Hill will review the responsibilities of her editorial role, including journal management, editorial decision-making, professional leadership, and support of

quality publications. Dr. Hill will discuss the role of peer reviewers including suggestions for how to become a reviewer and the type of feedback that reviewers provide. Steps for abstract and manuscript construction as well as journal selection and titling will be reviewed. Common issues that can deter a manuscript advancing to publication will be reviewed including reference selection, editorial feedback and author guidelines. Engaging in research activities designed to improve patient care and leadership supports nursing excellence and dissemination of these activities is a professional development opportunity. Attendees will understand the publication process including suggestions for success in manuscript development and working with a nursing editor.

This will be a great opportunity for those interested in advancing nursing practice and how we can better communicate and share our work. Dr. Hill is also the author of *“Establishing a Research-Friendly Environment: A Hospital-Based Approach”*. She provides practical advice and a personable perspective to promote nursing research and the communication of outcomes!

We will open the virtual door at 6:30 pm EDT to allow for some social interaction before the session begins. Many thanks to WMANNCA for co-sponsoring this event with NNCA. Registration will be sent on July 14, 2025.



Spotlight On An Oral History Innovation, Loyola University, Chicago

—Submitted by Diana Hackbarth

Diana Hackbarth RN PhD, a Vietnam era Navy nurse, NNCA member, and recently retired Loyola faculty, is leading a Navy Nurse Oral History project at Loyola University. The aim of this project is to preserve the military stories of Loyola nursing graduates who are veterans and/or currently serving. The project documents and shares their important military nurse accomplishments and inspires the next generation of student nurses to serve their country. This project aligns with the goals of the NNCA and the Library of Congress Oral History initiatives, “to preserve the history, stories and legacy of Navy Nurses and Navy Nursing.

Loyola’s oral history team is inviting NNCA members, who are Loyola alumni, to participate in a 30–45-minute oral history interview conducted via zoom or telephone. With participant’s permission, oral history stories will be highlighted in a digital exhibit on the Loyola University Chicago website and preserved in Loyola’s archives. Using NNCA current Oral History guidelines, the Loyola team will also share nurses’ stories with the NNCA history initiative, Women’s Military Memorial, and other organizations that honor nurse veterans.

Please don’t be shy about being interviewed and encourage your nursing colleagues not to be shy either! Project participants have an interesting and inspiring military story to tell that is “extraordinary.” Oral History provides a way to document the lived experiences of military nurses service and professional accomplishments. Your story also provides a history of the transition from nursing education to Navy Nurse Corps service and what shaped the life of honor for all nurses. Your history deserves to be shared.

To learn more go to <https://bit.ly/443NuFI> and to contact the Loyola University Chicago Archives and Special Collections e-mail archive@LUC.edu today to enroll and/or request more information. Or e-mail, Diana Hackbarth RN PhD, at dhackba@LUC.edu. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. To see the first instalment of our digital exhibit which features the military service of Loyola nurse alumni who have served in World War II, <https://bit.ly/3FPrs1x>.

Hope to hear from you soon!



This photo was submitted by Diana Hackbarth, LT NC USN (Former). Diana Hackbarth is a member of NNCA and is the only one in this image who is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago. The photo is of Navy Nurses celebrating the birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps at the Station Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan in May of 1971. Pictured from left to right: Pat Scroggin, Doris Green, Charlotte Clark, Captain Margaret “Maggie” Donoghue, Susan Bakey, Lynn Herman, Nancy Flood, Diana Hackbarth, and Eloise Bates. Possibly some of those pictured may be current members of NNCA.”

Oral History Committee

—Submitted by Maria Harbeson

The NNCA Oral History (OH) Committee has many interviews of our Vietnam era Navy Nurses on our website. These oral histories were captured by several interviewers over the past 10 years. Many more histories highlighting Desert Shield/Desert Storm and OIF/OEF stories can also be found on our website and are sure to engage and bring memories of past Navy friends and experiences.

This month we bid farewell and extend a sincere THANK YOU to Board member and Oral History Advisor, Rosemary Perdue. She guided and supported our team for over three years. We welcome our new Board Advisor, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, and look forward to working together.

The OH Committee is committed to streamlining the oral history process by increasing accessibility via zoom or similar. We collaborate with the Library of Congress to preserve and share our Navy Nurse Corps history. Please JOIN our team to give Navy Nurses the opportunity to SHARE THEIR STORY. Contact Maria via history@nnca.org.



Social Media Committee

—Submitted by Deanna Ciaccia

I am excited to step into the newly established role of Social Media Committee Chair, working in close collaboration with Sara Marks, NNCA Editor.

As part of recent updates, the Social Media Committee uses the email address: nnca.socmedia@nnca.org. Please send all social media submissions to this address that reaches the Social Media Committee Chair, the NNCA Newsletter Editor and Executive Director who have access. We're also enhancing our online presence by regularly sharing stories on both Facebook and Instagram.

To better understand and grow our reach, we've begun tracking follower counts and actively inviting users who engage with our content to follow our pages.

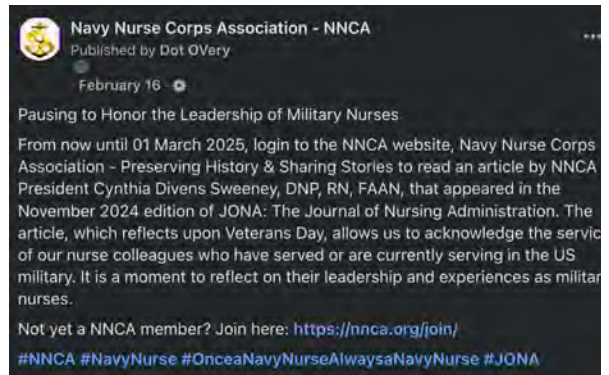
A strong and vibrant social media presence will help amplify NNCA's mission—so we're looking for enthusiastic members to join the Social Media Committee! A broader team means greater representation of the diversity within our organization.

The images highlight our top-performing Facebook post over the past 90 days!



NNCA
NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

nnca.org



Memorabilia Committee

—Submitted by Sherry Dotson

We were notified earlier this year that the company that stores our collection of memorabilia items to include oral histories that have been donated to NNCA has been sold, and the costs were going up significantly. We are negotiating with them as well as researching other options. We hope to be able to make a decision in the next month.

The committee continues to research all donation requests, but any items that are accepted will not be sent to History Associates for processing until we know where the collection will be stored.

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.

Virtual Chapter Creation

—Submitted by Tina Ortiz

The NNCA Board of Directors and the Recruitment and Retention committee members have developed the initial structure of a virtual chapter to be created by the end of 2025. At this time, Goalkeeper for Goal #3 (Tina Ortiz) is seeking committee members to assist with the further development of a virtual chapter. If interested in joining the committee, please contact Tina at membership@nnca.org.



Annual 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

This is a condensed version of the 2025 Board Of Director minutes. The full minutes are available at:

<https://nnca.org/meetings-reunions/meetings/>.

The 2025 NNCA Board of Directors meeting was held in person and virtually on April 5-6, 2025 in Franklin, TN. The meeting was led by President Cynthia Sweeney.

Strategic Plan Update:

The Board reviewed and updated the strategic plan, adding new tactics and outcome measures. The current strategic plan can be accessed by members at nnca.org. The Board reaffirmed **Goal 1**: Organizational Sustainability as the priority as Goals 2 and 3 rely on its success.

Strategic Plan Goals and Goal Tenders:

- ☐ **Goal 1:** Organizational Sustainability – Sandra Pearson
- ☐ **Goal 2:** Shared Traditions and Legacy – Mary Ann Jarmulowicz (formerly Rosemary Perdue)
- ☐ **Goal 3:** Camaraderie & Fellowship – Tina Ortiz

To strengthen committee operations, the Board adopted a structured Charter outlining roles, responsibilities, and reporting. Cindy Kuehner will lead ongoing Strategic Plan efforts.

Treasurer’s Report/Financial Committee:

The Board approved a \$187K budget for committee operations and introduced methods to measure return on investment (ROI). Investment funds were moved to Osborne Partners to improve returns, aiming to offset over 50% of expenses, aided by a 2025 dues increase.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee – No awards were issued this year.

Nominating Committee – Need 6 candidates for each election cycle with election of 3 new board members annually. 349 ballots were cast in the 2024 election (189 online, 160 mail). The Board honored Jacqueline Sharpe, who passed away during the cycle. Motion was approved to destroy 2024-25 ballots.

Oral History (OH) Committee –18 OH performed, 10 OH sent to Library of Congress (LOC), 5 OH are under tran-

scription. The master list of NNCA OH has been compiled and is being updated. Established contacts and communication with veteran organizations that are aligned with the LOC Veteran History Project to expand the availability of oral histories options for our Navy nurses. Standard procedures for processing and storing OHs are in development.

Memorabilia Committee – Quilt from Nurse Corps Centennial accessioned along with the book that Fran Conner created; WWII paintings by Dr. Ralph Thomas McLaughlin to be transferred to Navy History and Heritage Command. Discussions are underway for making notecards for fundraising. Challenges include storage logistics and improving catalog search.

NNCA News – Three newsletters were published. Transition to new editor Sara Marks has been completed. Weekly social media posts highlight key chapter activities, NNCA and veteran events. Assisted NNCA board with implementation of marketing strategy.

Recruitment and Retention – Linda Grant is chair until June 2025 then Ana Stoehr will assume the role. Membership increased slightly from 1065 (2023) to 1101 (2024). A survey was distributed to the membership online and by mail with 58 completed responses received. Some themes came through clearly such as the need to recruit younger members and active duty, some of the older members feel isolated, not due to geography but rather can’t drive, or are not well enough to attend, or can’t find parking but really want the interaction. Options for Chapters to increase outreach were discussed.

Virtual Chapter – Tina Ortiz -- The purpose is to provide fellowship and camaraderie for those who are not able to attend in person geographically or other reasons. Some of the chapters do hold virtual meetings since not everyone can attend. The goal is to establish this chapter by the end of year, will follow by laws, have its own charter, determine meeting dates and times, recruiting members and leaders and have them officially elected.

Warrior Canine Connection Program – Pam Giza -- Many NC officers have been honored by giving names to furry warriors. If interested go to website and pull-down application as they are always looking for female names.

Marketing – Sandra Pearson -- Many thanks to Cindy Coyle for all her work and assistance as Sandra Pearson assumed the uplink position to the BOD. Focused on brand awareness, donor strategy, ROTC outreach, and The DAISY Foundation engagement. No measurable membership growth led to prioritizing cost-effective projects with

Wax agency. Recruiting for members to be on the marketing committee.

Social Media Committee -- Deanna Ciaccia-- Social Media (FB, Instagram, LinkedIn). Deanna Ciaccia hails from Washington State. She recently left active duty and completed her Masters in Nursing Informatics. Deanna is a welcome addition to our social media and marketing team.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Florida NNCA (FL except Panhandle), President Denise Johnson, 104 members. Financially stable. Active in parades and veterans' events. Published biannual newsletter. Awarded 3 scholarships. Received \$1,500 donation in honor of Debora Gay.

Gulf Coast NNCA (Panhandle, AL, LA, MS), President Shirley Lewis Brown, 39 members. Reduced in-person meetings to twice annually. Members prefer daytime gatherings due to aging demographics. Recruiting efforts included postcards highlighting chapter history.

Midsouth NNCA (AK, KY and TN and environs), President Ellen Hodges, membership is 26. One virtual meeting. Donated \$3,000 to veterans' causes. Vanderbilt ROTC invited guest speaker from NNCA.

Midwest NNCA (IA, MN, ND, SD, western WI), President Jean Mahaffey, 25 members. Four meetings (in-person and Zoom). Leadership transition in May 2025. Donations made to Twin Cities honor Flight and Minnesota Area council for Veterans.

NNCA of Southern CA (Ventura County and South), President Jane Hourigan. 180 members. Absorbed 15 members from Bay Area Chapter. Strong scholarship fund and finances. Attended Women in Military Luncheon with RDML Cynthia Kuehner as keynote. Linked with 30 univer-

sities for scholarship outreach. Submitted 8 OHs to LOC. Quarterly luncheon and meetings with about 30-40 attendance. Working on transfer of the oil canvas paintings with the McLaughlin family who is signing a form for the paintings to be transferred to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Northwest NNCA (AK, ID, OR, MT, WA), President Naydne Krienke. 61 members. Revamped logo and now have merchandise for order. Three scholarships were awarded. Held two board and chapter meetings with a coordinated tour of the historic Fort Vancouver national Historic Site and luncheon at historic grant house with 16 in attendance.

Palmetto Chapter NNCA (GA, NC, SC), President Melanie Frank, , 62 members (50% Vietnam veterans). Participated in multiple veterans' events to include Beaufort County veteran affairs ceremony, Charleston parade. Completed 4 OHs. Revised bylaws in 2024. Financial status is strong.

South Central NNCA (AR, NM, OK, TX), President Mike Beimer, No formal meetings since COVID though some members continue to communicate with each other. One challenge is being able to find a place for a meeting that is central to both active and reserve personnel. Exploring the possibility of using Zoom. Financially solvent.

Washington Metro Area NNCA (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV), President Christine Boltz 157 members (net increase of 21). Activities included Wreaths Across America, scholarships, 2 luncheons and DAISY awards. Hosted two virtual events—one with the Navy Nurse Corps Director (90+ attendees), and another educational webinar (55+ attendees). Working on new OHs with Vietnam-era members.

Future Meetings

Next Annual Board meeting: April 10-11, 2026
Annual Meeting of the Membership: April 22, 2026

Happy 108th Birthday to Louise Terwilliger!!!



Louise turns 108 on July 1st, 2025!
Send her a birthday card:

Louise Terwilliger
[700 W. Broad Street](mailto:terwilliger@fallschurchva.com)
[Falls Church, VA 22046](mailto:terwilliger@fallschurchva.com)



Chapter News



FNNCA Florida, except the Panhandle

Submitted by Denise Johnson

The Florida Navy Nurse Corps Association held their Spring Luncheon at the Stonewood Grill on May 17th with 26 members in attendance. Our guest speaker was Teri Eno from Space Coast Honor Flight who shared their privilege of offering veterans' trips to Washington, DC up to 6 times/year and the opportunity to volunteer and/or serve as an escort in support of this endeavor of veterans recognition for service to our country.



We recognized our 2024 Sue Smoker-Hummel Service Awardee Robin McKenzie for her inspiring leadership, volunteerism, commitment and contributions to both FNNCA and NNCA. We also celebrated the 117th Navy Nurse Corps Birthday with a

cake cutting with our most senior member Rebecca Baker and most junior member Cesar Rhan Bendita, our recent scholarship winner. Spearheaded by Gerri Mukri, we held our luncheon raffle raising over \$300 towards our annual scholarship fund.

We supported Nurses Week and the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday at NAS Jacksonville Naval Hospital where Sherry Dotson participated in their cake cutting ceremony. Brenda Baker remains active organizing oral histories with 6 recorded and 3 more set up in the near future. Colleen McLarnon represented FNNCA at the Nightingale Society Reception at the University of Central Florida and Mary Jackson represented FNNCA at the local ALS Walk and ROTC gathering at Jacksonville University.



Our membership continues to grow with several new members stepping up to board membership and looking forward

to our Fall Luncheon on 8 November onboard the USS Orleck now serving as a museum in downtown Jacksonville.



Rebecca Baker and Cesar Rhan Bendita, recent FNNCA scholarship recipient cut the cake.



GCNNCA Northwest Florida, Alabama Mississippi, Louisiana

Submitted by Shirley Lewis-Brown

GCNNCA members attended The Navy Nurse Corps Birthday Cake Cutting at NH Pensacola on Tuesday May 13, 2025. It was well attended by GCNNCA members and many of the Navy Nurse Corps hospital staff.



LTJg Blackburn & Shirley Lewis-Brown

GCNNCA is financially healthy. Our chapter presented a Certificate of Commendation to Daniel Miller for his service as the Oral History Coordinator. On a sad note please remember our deceased member Jeanne Gedney.

Continued on page 17...



GCNNCA at the Navy Hospital Pensacola during Nurses Week:

Right side front to back: Kyle Holley, Santa Rosa County United Way, Joseph Richards, President of the Santa Rosa County Veterans Foundation, Truman Brown Vice President, Martha Hicks Board Member, Susan Ulloa, Treasurer.



Left side front to back: Shirley Brown, President, Daniel Miller, member at large, RADM Joan Engel member at large, JoAnn Kelly, member at large, Sue Varenholt, Board member, Chief Richard Wickers

Legacy of Navy Nursing Shared at 4/80 Banquet

During the recent 4/80 banquet at American Legion Post 1, Denver, CO guests were treated to stories spanning generations of Navy Nursing.

Maureen Christopher Bross honored her mother, a WWII Flight Nurse, by sharing moving accounts of her service transporting wounded soldiers from the front lines. Her stories highlighted the courage and dedication of nurses during wartime.

Marti Crockett followed with reflections from her time in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, offering insight into the challenges and accomplishments of modern-day Navy Nursing in combat zones.

The evening was a meaningful tribute to the enduring strength and service of Navy nurses—past and present.

LLNNCA Group Luncheon: Some of the local members were able to attend a luncheon in April.

Civic and Patriotic Engagement: Several LLNNCA Colorado Chapter members actively volunteer with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). One member in particular, Liz Tovado, exemplifies this commitment. Liz serves as Chair of the Denver Republican Party and is also an active DAR member, balancing her leadership in civic affairs with her passion for honoring the nation's heritage.

Leadership Transition & Ongoing Service: Marti Crockett recently completed her term as president of the United Veterans of Colorado, capping two years. Stepping down from that post: Marti continues to donate her time to both the VFW and the American Legion projects. That's truly special thank you for sharing that! Here's a way you might word your message to capture the pride and meaning behind

Member: Dr Meredith Beaton:

"This banner hangs on a light pole along Main Street in my city. I'm incredibly honored to be featured — this marks the third year in a row they've honored veterans in this way, and I've been included all three times. The banners go up from Memorial Day weekend through Veterans Day, a meaningful tribute to all who've served. After that, the city transitions to Christmas decorations. It's humbling to be recognized like this in my community.



Dr. Meredith Beaton's banner on Main Street.



Submitted by Marti Crockett for Harriet Palmer-Willis



Margie Bezdek and Spider.

The LLNNCA Colorado Chapter celebrates the inspiring contributions of several members:

Service Dog Support: Margie Bezdek was recently partnered with Spider, a skilled service companion dog who will assist with daily tasks and provide emotional support. This meaningful addition brings renewed independence and comfort.

Sharing Vietnam Nursing Experiences:

Vietnam nurse Carol Brautigam served as a panelist for *Nurses/Corpsmen Caring for Soldiers*, discussing the realities reflected in Kristin Hannah's *The Women*. Drawing on her service aboard the Hospital Ship *Sanctuary*, Carol continues to speak at events across Colorado, offering powerful insights into the experiences of wartime nurses.



Carol Brautigam sharing her stories from Vietnam.



LLNCA Front row L to R: Dorothy Ryan, Kathy Noll, Nancy Larson. Back row L to R: Terry Shade, Sara Karstetter, Liz Tovado, Marti Crockett, Mo Bross, Carol Brautigam.

Ron “strongly desires to see the MSNCA Chapter regain some momentum and improve fellowship/camaraderie among our fellow NC Officers in the region”.

The members of this Chapter are looking forward to working with Ron.

Also, please remember CAPT Bonnie A. Leadford McLure (Ret) who died this May, (Ret). She was 84 years old.



MWNNCA
North & South Dakota, Iowa
Minnesota & Western Wisconsin

Submitted by Carole O’Byrne for Jean Mahaffey



Front L to R: Jean Mahaffey, Kay Bauer. Back: L to R: Dee Albert, Marcia Belisle, Kathie Adam and Anne Ringquist.

At the time of the last newsletter article, our chapter was anticipating the 117th Navy Nurse Corps Birthday. The MWNNCA enjoyed a cake provided by President Jean Mahaffey and said a silent thank you to President Teddy Roosevelt for his authorization. Officers

sworn in: Marcia Belisle, President, Jean Mahaffey, VP/ President-Elect and Carole O’Byrne, Secretary.

Last fall I wrote about the groundbreaking for the women’s clinic at the Minneapolis VAMC. With an opening date of July 2026, Jean Mahaffey checked out the construction progress from a window of the hospital’s fourth floor. She saw the enclosed shell for the new clinic covering the bare ground of last summer.



Women’s Clinic at the Minneapolis VAMC.

As part of our chapter’s ongoing pursuit of new members, Jean Mahaffey and Kay Bauer visited with 15 reserve nurses during one of their drills. Jean and Kay explained the NNCA and our chapter encouraging everyone to join. There were three nurses who indicated an active interest so the membership co-chairs will maintain contact.

Finally, our chapter is asking each member to share their Navy Nurse Corps story. At our meeting on May 10, I talked about my Navy Nurse Corps life.



MSNCA
Arkansas, Tennessee,
Kentucky

Submitted by Ellen Hodges

MSNCA Chapter Elects New President!

CAPT Ronald Fancher, NC, USN (Ret) was elected to the position of Chapter President. Ron trained as a Nuclear Machinist Mate. He was selected for a NROTC scholarship and graduated from Auburn University with his nursing degree. This led to his commissioning as a Nurse Corps Officer. Ron had the opportunity to be stationed in some amazing locations, such as Okinawa, Japan, Pensacola, FL, Jacksonville, FL and Yuma, AZ. He is one of a very few individuals to serve as the Senior Medical Officer of the U.S. Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System in Deveselu, Romania. Ron served as the Executive Officer of Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Bethesda, MD. In this position, he was responsible for all Navy staff assigned to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. His final assignment was at BUMED as the Surgeon General’s Executive Liaison to the Defense Health Agency. He retired from the U.S. Navy on 1 January 2024 and currently works for Emprata, LLC as a Subject Matter Expert Contractor for BUMED. Ron received The DAISY Nurse Educator award from Auburn University College of Nursing. Congratulations!



Ron’s The DAISY Nurse Educator award from Auburn University College of Nursing.



NENNCA

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

Submitted by Thomas Wilson

Happy Summer from the New England Chapter...known for our ocean beaches, seafood, historic sites and abundance of hiking trail and outdoor enjoyment. Geographically our Chapter may be divided between the New York Yankees, the Boston Red Sox and a scattering of other Major League Baseball fans, but we are all united as active duty or former Navy Nurses.

DAISY Award: Once again, NNCA and the NENNCA were proud to sponsor and fund The DAISY Award to deserving nurse(s) at the Rhode Island Veterans Home and to the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command New England (NMRTCNE).



L-R: Board Members Trish Culver, Nicole Sousa and LT Jaeda Ewings, NC, USN.

Our Board members attended the DAISY award celebration on May 7 at the Veteran's Home in Bristol, RI. This year's Daisy Recipient for the RI Veterans Home is Nicole Sousa, RN. Ms. Sousa has worked at the veteran's

home for over 15 years. Bill Camara, the home's Executive Nurse, and Paul Murgo the administrator cited Ms. Sousa's work as a nurse as "always pleasant, professional and caring with utmost compassion." These attributes are in keeping with the intent of The DAISY award's ideals. NMRTCNE did not participate in this year's award.

Chapter Activities: Our membership is small and geographically challenging to participate actively; however, our Board is active and continues to meet virtually. In addition, we continue to conduct virtual General Membership meetings.

Nursing Scholarships: Planning continues for awarding nursing scholarships. In 2024, we awarded 3 scholarships to BSN, MSN and DNS recipients. This process continues with the review of applications and awards later this Fall. Funding for these scholarships is from donations to our Chapter from Wreaths Across America.

Hail and Fairwell: Best Wishes and Thank You to LT Jaeda Ewings (our Chapter Treasurer) on completion of her Master of Science in Nursing as an Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist at Rhode Island College. She will report to Naval Medical Center San Diego as a CNS and augmentee to the USNS Mercy. Jaeda assures us she plans on joining the NNCA of Southern California Chapter when she arrives. Special thanks to current Board member Bonnie Lou Hand, for agreeing to step up and assume the duties of Chapter Treasurer as Jaeda transitions.

Wishing Everyone a Wonderful Summer.



NNCASC

California, Nevada & Arizona

Submitted by Nancy Owen for Jane Hourigan

Forty-two members and guests attended our April 26, 2025 luncheon at Cocina del Charro restaurant and joined in celebrating an early 117th Birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps. In addition, we commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Also, on display at our luncheon were two of Dr. Thomas McLaughlin's oil paintings on canvas portraying the Navy Nurses who were held as Prisoners of War in the Philippines during World War II. The 33 canvas



NNCASC members flanked our oldest Navy Nurse, Rose Marie Castellanos and youngest, active duty Navy Nurse, Ava Kurtz who cut the cake.

paintings will be sent, in the near future, to the Naval Heritage and History Museum in Washington, DC.

Navy Nurse Casey Meehan, Vietnam veteran, who was stationed at the Naval Support Activity Da Nang at a 650 bed hospital 1968-69, shared her experiences at the Coronado Library in March as part of monthly activities surrounding the "Community Read" of the historical fiction novel "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. Forty people

Continued from page 19



L to R: back Nancy Owen, Barb Beeby, Tina Hooker, front: Casey Meehan

attended the presentation including Coronado locals, Navy Nurses, and Honor Flight volunteers.



The Library also had a display entitled "Women in Uniform" displaying artwork from the Navy Art Collection

including a painting of LTJG Ann Bernatitus, a WWII Navy Nurse who was captured on Corregidor in the Philippines and escaped on a submarine, the USS Spearfish.

NNCASC participated in and supported Nurses Week activities at NMCS D including The DAISY Awards, Cake Cutting and a Memorabilia Display on May 5, 2025.



LT Nick F., Becky Nulty, Georgene Waecker

Memorabilia highlighted a commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and recognition of the 60th Anniversary of men accepted into the Navy Nurse Corps. LTJG Nicole Maldonado, NNCASC member, was nominated for one of The DAISY Awards. NNCASC also provided a memorabilia display and support for Nurses Week at the VA Hospital in La Jolla on May 9, 2025.



L to R: Becky Nulty, Jane Hourigan, LTJG Maldonado, Georgene Waecker, Nancy Owen

Several NNCASC members attend-

ed the annual Mount Soledad Military Women's History Brunch on March 20, 2025. This year's special honorees were the U.S. Air Force women veterans.



L to R: G. Caldwell (Supply Corps, Ret), NNCASC members: M. Donahue, K. Davis, B. Nulty, K. Bonnet-Langston, B. Beeby, E. Law



NWNCA
Washington, Oregon,
Idaho & Montana

Submitted by Nadyne Krienke

Our Chapter's general meeting was held on April 26, 2025, in Bremerton, WA and twenty- seven participants were in attendance.



Backrow, L to R: Carol Zylstra, Fran Conner, Anne Mulligan, Cathy Carter, AD LT Carolyn Reichert, CDR Heather Kirk, AD CDR Hana Ellison, Linda Green. Middle row, left to right: Jeanne Quindag-Raffles, Jan Therieault, Nadyne Krienke, Karen McNamara. Sitting, left to right: Maria Rossi, Madeline Ancelard, Bonnie Bulach, Dot O'Very, Peg Morris



CDR Heather Kirk NC, USN, CNO, Director for Healthcare Business, Naval Hospital Bremerton and Bonnie Bulach, Vice President of NW's Chapter presentation was on "The Evolution of the Defense Agency" (DHA). The presentation discussed DHA's mission, leadership, and structure. DHA is a joint, integrated Combat Support Agency that enables the Army, Navy, and Air Force medical services to provide a medically ready force and ready medical force to Combatant Commands in both peacetime and wartime.

Madeline Ancelard informed the chapter that there are three ROTC Nursing students this year, all are attending Seattle University. None are due to graduate this year.



Cathy Carter, NWNCA Membership Chair and Fran Connor (not pictured) at Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor



L to R: Nadyne Krienke, Fran Connor, Meg Morris and Maria Rossi manning a table at NH Bremerton.



Bremerton NWNCA members, L to R: CAPT Lepore, MSC USN, CO NH Bremerton, Fran Conner, NWNCA Newsletter Editor, Nadyne Krienke, NWNCA President, NWNCA members: Peg Morris, Maria Rossi, Karen Mac-Namara, and CAPT Jenkins, DC USN, Executive Officer NH Bremerton



PCNNCA

North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia

Submitted by Melanie Frank and Jerry Davidson

Greetings to our fellow Nurse Corps officers and friends! After a busy fall and winter, President Melanie Frank convened our Spring General Membership meeting on May 3rd in Bluffton, SC.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, on her election to the NNCA BOD. Our membership of 60 remains stable and may increase in 2025! We noted that 50% of our members served during Vietnam. Several of our seniors facing health challenges had their annual membership dues paid by our Rough Seas Fund.

Mary Ann Jarmulowicz spoke about having at least nine oral histories recorded. All agreed this is an achievable goal. PCNNCA members currently provide their oral histories through the efforts of Lindsay Christmas, a USS Yorktown volunteer in Mount Pleasant, SC.

Jeff Bashford is our point man for Wreaths Across America (WAA). PCNNCA is the grateful financial beneficiary of dedicated wreaths laid in New Bern and Beaufort National Cemeteries during the December holiday season, receiving \$5 back for each memorial wreath purchased through the PCNNCA link on the WAA website.

South Carolina PCNNCA members traveled to the Naval Health Clinic Charleston on May 13th for the 117th Birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps.



PCNNCA members and Naval Health Clinic Charleston staff.



L to R: CAPT James Driscoll, Commanding Officer Navy Medical Clinic Cherry Point, Julie Pearson, Jeff Bashford and Kathleen Pierce Johnson

On May 12th in North Carolina, PCNNCA members Jeff Bashford, Kathleen Pierce Johnson and Julie Pearson attended the 2025 Navy Nurse Corps Birthday cake cutting at the MCAS Cherry Point Naval Health Clinic. As the oldest, Captain (Ret) Bashford partnered in the cake cutting with the youngest Nurse Corps Officer, LTJG Holiday Desio.



Jeff Bashford and Desio cake cutting, MCAS Cherry Point



Gift presented by President Melanie Frank to Mary Houser, outgoing Sunshine Chair.

At the May meeting our Chapter presented outgoing Sunshine Chair Mary Houser a gift for over 10 years of faithful service! Mary sent birthday cards to every member and countless cards with notes of encouragement to members who needed support every year.

In closing, we are sad to note the passing of two more members of our Chapter: Captain Marie Sue Senzig, 66, of New Bern, NC and CDR Caroline Jean Stoll, 89, of Mount Pleasant, SC. You can read about their remarkable lives in our PCNNCA newsletter.



PCNNCA members spring meeting in Bluffton, SC



WMANNCA

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

Submitted by Christine Boltz

In March our nominations committee announced changes to our six member board for 2025-2027. Odette Willis was nominated for her first term to replace Rosie Perdue. Christine Boltz, Ann Ross and Shelley Savage were re-elected at the 5 May spring business meeting.

On 27 February at A.T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC), there were 35 DAISY Award nominees along with The DAISY Award recipient, Ms. Yuri Brinkman, RN, Wound Care Specialist. On 9 May at ATAMMC there were 24 DAISY Award nominees, and the recipient was ENS Rogelio Saldana. Additionally, CAPT Jacqueline Williams, Director of Nursing Services, received the DAISY Leadership award.

Spring Luncheon, a group of 20 members gathered at the Army Navy Country Club to enjoy lunch on March 29th, the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. We celebrated and remembered those who served during the Vietnam War era. March 29th marks the 50th commemoration of the day U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished in 1975. That same day was when the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. In addition

to lunch, we wrote greeting cards to NNCA/WMANNCA members not present. We have done this at two past luncheons, and it was a lot of fun and the cards were most appreciated.

On 5 May before the spring business meeting, WMANNCA member, Pat Kelley, gave a brief presentation on the Navy Safe Harbor Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance and support to Navy and Coast Guard sailors and their families enrolled in the Navy Wounded Warrior Program. Pat currently serves as the President of the Foundation Board. See link:

<https://safeharborfoundation.org/>



WMANNCA Spring Luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club

We had one scholarship applicant/recipient, LT Benjamin Lovley, NC, USNR. He is seeking a DNP in nurse anesthesia at Rush University. Former active duty, he is now attached to a reserve unit in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Blessing of the Hands Ceremony on Monday 5 May opened Nurses Appreciation Week activities at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). WMANNCA member Ginny Beeson was the featured speaker sharing nursing leadership experiences during challenging times, Desert Storm deployment, staff mobilization during and immediately after 9/11 at the National Naval Medical Center. This was followed by several prayers, lighting of candles, the Nightingale Pledge ending and with the Chaplain's blessing of the hands.

On Friday 9 May, WMANNCA set up a Memorabilia table for the Nursing Awards Ceremony. The Ceremony included a former patient as the speaker in addition to the presentation of several nursing awards. The DAISY Award recipient was 2LT William Trantum and The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award recipient was COL Wendy Woodall, Director Nursing Services. Other awards included Nurse Innovator, Leadership and the Nightingale awards.



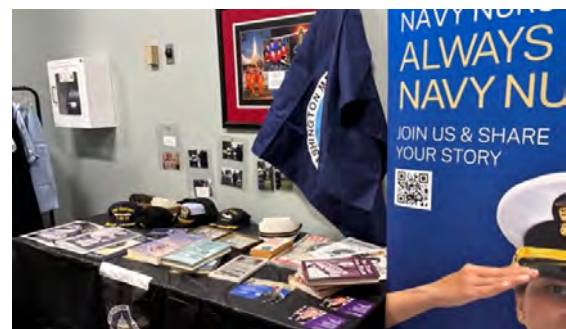
COL Elba Villacorta, Director, ATAMMC and ENS Rogelio Saldana



COL Elba Villacorta, Director, ATAMMC and CAPT Jacqueline Williams



Cake Cutting at the Awards Ceremony, Ginny Beeson, 2LT William Trantum, COL Wendy Woodall



Memorabilia display.



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In Memoriam

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

Full Name	State	Dates Served	Wars/ Conflict	Date of Death	Age	Full Name	State	Dates Served	Wars/ Conflicts	Date of Death	Age
Janel Allen	TX	88-97		2/6/25	64	John Hiltibidal*	LA	86-06	G	1/1/24	63
William Allen	NC	78-97	G	2/13/18	69	Eva Redd Hornsby	CA		V	2/27/25	80
Catherine Anthony	MO	44-45	WWII	2/22/25	104	Patricia Howell*	MA	64-89	V	2/9/25	85
Joan Arcand*	MA	50-57	K	12/24/24	97	Mary Hynes	SC	64-68	V	1/12/25	82
Ruth Ella Artiglere	SC		WWII	4/18/25	104	Johnnie King	IL	43-46	WWII	2/5/25	102
Mathilda Benson	PA		WWII	2/11/25	105	Sharon Kingsberry	CA	91-17	G, OEF, OIF	11/14/24	60
Marilyn Bingham	WY	70-91	V	3/4/25	77	Ann Lenhart	PA	43-45	WWII	3/12/25	102
Elsie Branch	OH	57	K	1/9/25	93	Mary Jo Majors*	MA	68-11	V,G	3/19/25	77
Virginia "Ginny" Briand	NY	65	V	3/25/21	76	Nancy Nolan	LA		WWII	8/27/24	102
Agnes Brinker	TX	43-59	WWII	3/9/25	103	Norma Nunn	RI	64	V	9/30/15	84
Dolores Buggy	CA	57-59		3/24/25	96	Marie Pinto*	WV	55-76	K,V	1/19/25	98
Frances Chapman	VA	60-79	V	7/8/24	89	Betty Rankin	TN	89	G	12/27/24	74
Catherine Drosdick	FL		WWII	4/4/25	93	Jacqueline Sharpe*	VA	72-01	V,G	12/13/24	75
Gae Fuller*	OR	71-95	V,G	1/21/25	86	Corene Toner	TX	52	K	2/27/25	95
Sharon Harper*	SC	86-01	G	1/19/25	64	Irene Treaster	NE	55-65	V	8/30/24	97

(+=Charter; *=member)

NNCA NEWS

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

ONCE A NAVY NURSE, ALWAYS A NAVY NURSE

Volume 39 No. 2 | November 2025

NNCA Presents the Board of Directors Candidates for 2025



Kathryn Beasley

Kathryn Beasley PhD has extensive experience in both the Department of Defense and VA health systems health policy arenas. She has ten years of Capitol Hill experience advocating for a

continued pg 2...



Patrice Bibeau

Patrice Bibeau joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1987 after having been a civilian critical care nurse. Her 30-year career included positions in Critical Care, Quality, Ambulatory Care, and Executive

continued pg 2...



Patrick Fitzpatrick

Pat Fitzpatrick began his nursing career in a civilian facility in 1997 and commissioned in the USNR in 1998. He transferred to active duty in 2000, focusing on ER/Trauma, obtaining an MSN in ER and

continued pg 2...

Kim LeBel

The thirty-four years I served the Navy was a blessing. I am grateful for a lovely career, the pension that followed, and the community which afforded me a place to belong. After a sub-op-

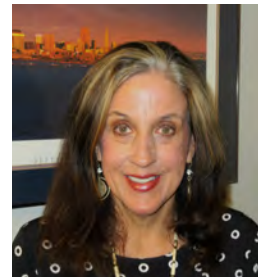
continued pg 2...



Jamie Wise

Jamie Wise served in an operationally focused career track from 1989 to 2019. A Cleveland, Ohio native and University of Cincinnati nursing graduate, she began her Navy career at Naval

continued pg 2...



Stella Yau

With over two decades of nursing experience, Stella Yau brings a unique blend of clinical excellence and strategic leadership. A proud U.S. Marine Corps and Navy veteran, Stella served as a periop-

continued pg 2...



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Kathryn Beasley (WMANNCA)

variety of health care issues affecting active duty personnel, retirees, veterans, and their families in her role as the Military Officers Association of America’s Government Relations Director for Health Affairs. She retired from the Navy in 2009 after serving 30 years.

She served in many staff and senior leadership positions in the Navy and Department of Defense. Her clinical specialties included Surgical Intensive Care, Surgical Services and the Ambulatory Care areas, stateside and abroad. Many assignments included administrative emphasis in the Managed Care arena, TRICARE Operations, and Healthcare Operational Planning.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, she received her BSN from the University of Tulsa, in Tulsa, OK, a Master’s in Nursing and Business Administration from Boston College, and a doctorate from the International School of Management. She is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Patrice Bibeau (WMANNCA)

Medicine. Highlights include Chief of Critical Care and Assistant Director of Nursing at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, Senior Nurse Executive at Naval Health Clinic Annapolis, MD, and Lead Lean Six Sigma Black Belt at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington DC. She published three articles in *Dimensions in Critical Care Nursing* and *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*. Her educational background includes an RN Diploma from New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Boston, BSN from University of Denver, and MSN in Critical Care Nursing at University of Pennsylvania. Having retired in 2017, she served as a Red Cross Volunteer and Healthcare Consultant and is currently employed at Naval Health Clinic Annapolis as the Utilization Manager.

Patrick Fitzpatrick (NWNCA)

Trauma and ER nurse practitioner in 2008. He deployed to JTF GTMO 2009, Afghanistan 2011, and Continuing Promise 2015. He was the Transition Coordinator for the USNH Guam MILCON in 2014, Associate Director for Medical Services and Director for Strategy and Operations at NMC Portsmouth 2016-2019, Executive Officer at NMRTC Cherry Point 2019-2021, and Commanding Officer of NMRTC Bremerton 2021-2024. Pat retired to Montana in 2024 after 32 years combined active and reserve service. He remains active in statewide and local healthcare issues affecting Montanans.

Kim LeBel (WMANNCA)

timal upbringing the Navy gave me the structure and discipline I needed to thrive. I joined in 1986 with 3 little girls who are now in their 40’s!! In my early years, I did bedside nursing. From LT on, I served administratively. My strengths were in Performance Improvement, Risk Management and JCAHO survey prep. I even filled in as DFA in Italy. I was an investigator and inspector with the MEDIG and served overseas in Cuba, Italy and Afghanistan. I will provide whatever strengths I have to the NNCA if selected; however I would be a terrible secretary. I am honest to a fault; I like solving difficult issues and look forward to the next challenge.

Jamie Wise (Member At Large)

Regional Medical Center Oakland and deployed aboard USNS MERCY during Desert Shield/Storm. Her assignments spanned Yokosuka, Japan, 1st Medical Battalion, Bethesda, and afloat aboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. She held numerous leadership roles including Critical Care Specialty Leader, Associate Director for Surgical Services at NH Jacksonville, and Director for Nursing Services at NH Sigonella. Her final assignment was as the Regional Senior Nurse Executive at Navy Medicine East overseeing nursing operations across multiple commands. She holds master’s degrees in Critical Care/Trauma, University of Maryland and National Security/Strategic Studies, Naval War College. Retired October 2019, Jamie has sponsored refugee families and is an officer in her local Rotary Club.

Stella Yau (NNCASC)

erative leader in military healthcare systems, managing surgical services in multiple facilities and overseeing both clinical operations and fiscal strategy. Her military career instilled in her a deep commitment to integrity, teamwork, and mission-focused care.

Outside of uniform, Stella has become a driving force in professional organizations—most notably with AORN, where she has held numerous local and national leadership roles. She has mentored emerging leaders, guided chapter development, and driven innovation in nonprofit operations. Her initiatives have included technology-forward engagement strategies, fiscal sustainability planning, and promoting education and community service programs. Today, Stella continues to serve the perioperative community as a clinical research associate, staff nurse, and passionate advocate for professional development, education, and the collective strength of the nursing profession.



President's Corner - Cindy Sweeney

November 11th, Veterans Day, is a special time of reflection for our membership as we honor those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States. It was on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, that the hostilities of World War I formally ended. Formerly called, "Armistice Day," November 11th was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. On November 30th of this year, the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration will end. This commemoration honors and gives thanks to those who served between November 1, 1955, and May 15, 1975, and their families, no matter where they were assigned during this conflict. To all of you and your families, I thank you on behalf of NNCA for the legacy of service that you have left for all of us to learn from and appreciate. One of my favorite Veterans Day memories is passing out roses at the Vietnam Women's Memorial and engaging with the many women who served during the Vietnam War. A special thank you to Diane Carlson Evans, founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation, for her effort to ensure that the legacy of the women who served would not be forgotten!



On August 27th, the Navy Nurse Corps Association, the Army Nurse Corps Association, and the Society of Air Force Nurses collaborated to award The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award to Diane Carlson Evans for her leadership in establishing the Vietnam Women's Memorial. The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award was created to recognize those nurses who have devoted their life's work to the compassionate care of others. Diane not only demonstrated compassion in caring for service-members as a nurse in Vietnam, but also in her effort to ensure that the sacrifices of the women who served in Vietnam would not be forgotten. This was the first time that the three service associations have worked together on a shared project. Based on our interactions and visions for the future, this is only the beginning of collaborative opportunities going forward! For those who were able to join us virtually, it was a most heart-warming event!

A big thank you to Donna Styles and Pat Kenney for putting together an outstanding slate of candidates to serve on our 2026-2029 Board of Directors. Now it is up to you to exercise your rights as members of NNCA to vote for the candidate of your choice! Please read their bios and vote for three individuals to join the NNCA board of directors to chart the course for NNCA's success in the future. As members, exercising your vote is especially important to the livelihood of NNCA. My sincere thanks to those who voted regarding the need to update our bylaws. It is through your participation as a voter and your paid membership that we move forward with the mission of NNCA. Encourage all who are eligible to join NNCA – our future depends on it!

~Cindy

NNCA NEWS

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Board of Directors, 2025 - Current

- Cynthia Sweeney, MD – President
- Jennifer Vedral-Baron, TN – Vice President
- Michelle McKenzie, TN – Secretary
- Sandra Pearson, CA – President-Elect
- Brian Dawson, FL – Treasurer
- Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, SC
- Cindy Kuehner, CA
- Tina Ortiz, FL
- Lisa Raimondo, MD

NNCA News Committee/Copy Editors

- Jeff Bashford
- Margaret Beaubien
- Christine Boltz
- Linda Daehn
- Joline DeVos
- Joan Pate

NNCA Chapter Presidents

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| FNNCA | Denise Johnson |
| GCNNCA | Shirley Lewis-Brown |
| LLNNCA | Harriet Palmer-Willis |
| MSNNCA | Ron Fancher |
| MWNNCA | Marcia Belisle |
| NENNCA | Tom Wilson |
| NNCASC | Jane Hourigan |
| NWNNCA | Nadyne Krienke |
| PCNNCA | Melanie Frank |
| SCNNCA | Mike Beimer |
| WMANNCA | Christine Boltz |



Executive Director - Mary Mahony

Honoring Our Past, Strengthening Our Future



Greetings NNCA Members,

As the leaves turn and the year draws to a close, it's inspiring to reflect on the many accomplishments our Association has achieved together over the past few months. With every season, we continue to honor the proud legacy of the Navy Nurse Corps while actively building toward a stronger, more connected future.

Oral Histories: Preserving Voices, Preserving Legacy

Our Oral History Committee has been hard at work, ensuring that the stories of our members are recorded and safeguarded for generations to come. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of volunteers and members who have shared their time and experiences, dozens of interviews have been posted this year onto the NNCA website. Each oral history is more than a personal reflection—it is a vital piece of Navy Nurse Corps history, capturing the courage, compassion, and leadership of those who have served. If you have not yet recorded your own story, we invite you to contact the committee—your voice matters, and your history deserves to be heard.

Partnership with the Naval History and Heritage Command

Our collegial partnership with the Naval History and Heritage Command continues to thrive, giving NNCA a strong presence in the preservation of artifacts, documents, and exhibits that highlight the Navy Nurse Corps' enduring contributions. Together, we are ensuring that the stories of Navy Nurses are not only remembered but celebrated across the broader naval and national narrative. This collaboration allows our Association to extend its reach beyond our membership, connecting our history to the larger heritage of the United States Navy.

Bylaw Participation: Membership's Voice in Action

Another highlight has been the extraordinary level of participation in the recent bylaw vote. Hundreds of members cast their ballots, demonstrating both overwhelming support for change and a deep commitment to shaping the future of our Association. While procedural thresholds can sometimes present challenges, the enthusiasm and engagement shown by our members affirm that NNCA is stronger when all voices are heard. Your involvement makes a difference, and we thank every member who took the time to read, reflect, and vote.

Membership: A Testament to Strength and Commitment

Our membership remains the lifeblood of NNCA. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Chapter Membership Coordinators and the responsiveness of our members, renewals remain strong, and our community continues to grow. Whether renewing online or by mail, you are ensuring that NNCA can carry out its mission to preserve our legacy, share our stories, and foster camaraderie across generations. We are especially encouraged by members who take the extra step to invite colleagues and shipmates to join. Together, we are expanding not just in numbers but in spirit and purpose.

As we move into the holiday season, I extend heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your service, your membership, and your ongoing support of this organization. Every oral history recorded, every partnership forged, every vote cast, and every membership renewed strengthens NNCA's ability to honor our past, live our present, and promote our future.

With appreciation,
~ Mary

IT'S TIME TO VOTE FOR YOUR NEW NNCA BOD MEMBERS!!!

The NNCA Nominating Committee, Donna Styles, Pat Kenney and Linda Daehn present the following six candidates for consideration for the NNCA Board of Directors (BOD): Kathryn Beasley, Patrice Bibeau, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Kim LeBel, Jamie Wise and Stella Yau. 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 2026 and complete it in May 2029. Please vote for three of the six candidates, either online at this link:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/UlFh3xo/BoDElection>

or:

by using the enclosed ballot, which must be returned postmarked no later than December 31, 2025, in the envelope provided. All mailed ballots must be postmarked by December 31, 2025.



Editor Column - Sara Marks

The year has flown by and it's so hard to believe that Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and all of this season's holidays are soon upon us. It's also amazing for me that this is my third newsletter to work on. Each day, I'm learning more about the intricacies of the software application that is used to present the significant breadth of accomplishments in your respective chapter and committee updates. As I review all of your submissions, I'm in awe of all that you are doing in your communities and how you support each other. Personally, I'm touched by the way each chapter honors their members in so many ways: by checking on each other, helping with rides to luncheons, and to our fellow nurses who have made the final passage from this life. It's true, "Once A Navy Nurse, Always A Navy Nurse!"



I hope that this edition of the *NNCA News* meets your expectations. Many times the editor will receive credit for the final publication, but speaking as an editor, it is the work that each of you do in your various capacities that are the heart and soul of each edition. My job is easier when articles and updates are sent in a timely and thoughtful manner. I also appreciate the quick responses from my contact via email or phone that help me clarify information submitted. Please keep sharing your stories and updates to keep this newsletter vibrant. I'll look forward to your next updates this coming January of your Veterans Day, Wreath Laying and other activities for the March *NNCA News*.

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."
 – Josiah Soto

Wishing each of you a blessed holiday season and happy new year!

~Sara

NNCA SUPPORTS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR WWII NURSES

To:
 Senator Tammy Baldwin
 c/o Matt Richard – matt_richard@baldwin.senate.gov
 Lucy Perkins – lucy_perkins@baldwin.senate.gov

Re: Endorsement of S.2195 – Congressional Gold Medal for World War II Nurses

Dear Senator Baldwin,

On behalf of the Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA), I am honored to submit our strong endorsement of S.2195, legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the nurses who served as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps during World War II.

Founded to preserve the legacy and honor the service of Navy Nurses past and present, the NNCA represents a proud and enduring tradition of military nursing excellence. Our mission—to bring Navy Nurses together, support their professional and personal achievements, and preserve the rich history of their service—compels us to support this long-overdue recognition for our World War II nursing colleagues.

These women served with unparalleled courage, resilience, and devotion to duty in some of the most challenging wartime conditions, providing critical care to the wounded and embodying the Navy Nurse Corps' values of compassion, skill, and service. The reintroduction of this bill with inclusive language to also recognize the contributions of Filipino, Chinese, Chinese American, and Japanese American nurses, honors the rich diversity and shared commitment of all who served across every theater of World War II. This broader recognition provides a more complete and accurate tribute to the scope of military nursing service in World War II.

The Congressional Gold Medal would serve as a fitting national recognition of the service and sacrifice of U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps officers in World War II. It would also ensure that future generations understand the vital role nurses played in securing victory and advancing the role of women in military service.

We urge Congress to pass S.2195 without delay. The Navy Nurse Corps Association proudly stands in support of this effort, consistent with our commitment to honor the history and legacy of all who have worn the Navy Nurse Corps insignia with distinction.

Sincerely,

Cynthia D. Sweeney DNP, RN, FAAN
 CAPT, NC, USNR-Ret
 President, Navy Nurse Corps Association



For information on this endeavor and for sample letters to write to your representatives click on the following website:
<https://www.bataanlegacy.org/index.html>



NAVY NURSE CORPS 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 5 newsletters before the reunion and on FB.



Articles of Interest

Meaningful Recognition of a Lifetime of Service

—by Dot O’Very

Many of you may recall the March 25th NNCA News interview with Diane Carlson Evans, Founder of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial Foundation. It was a thrilling opportunity to interview Diane with our NNCA President, Cindy Sweeney and your current editor, Sara Marks. We learned so much about the challenges and successes that impacted Diane’s achievement of creating the Vietnam Women’s Memorial on the National Mall. One of the key leadership tenets Diane shared was the value of “finding allies, persistence, and giving credit to those who deserve it.” (NNCA News, March 2025, pg 7)



Diane Carlson Evans with her son Jon Evans

We are pleased to share how your NNCA leadership team took these words to heart, ensuring Diane received credit for her efforts through meaningful recognition. Following the interview, Cindy began an outreach effort to the leadership teams of our fellow mil-

itary nurse organizations, the Society of Air Force Nurses (SAFN) and the Army Nurse Corps Association (ANCA). The intent of the outreach was to generate support for recognition of Diane’s great service to her country and the women who served during the Vietnam era. The chosen vehicle for recognition would be Diane’s nomination for The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award.

With Cindy at the helm, the three service organizations connected with Deborah Zimmerman DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, CEO of The DAISY Foundation and Bonnie and Mark Barnes, FAAN, Co-Founders of The DAISY Award Foundation and submitted the following Award nomination:

DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination for Diane Carlson Evans

It is with deep admiration and united voices from across the military nursing community—the Army, Navy, and Air Force—that we nominate Diane Carlson Evans, Army Nurse Corps (Retired), for the DAISY Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Diane embodies the spirit of this prestigious honor through her relentless pursuit to recognize, elevate, and preserve the legacy of women who served during the Vietnam War—particularly military nurses—whose service has been unrecognized for too long.

In 1993, because of Diane Carlson Evans’ tenacious vision and leadership, the Vietnam Women’s Memorial was established on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This historic memorial is dedicated to the 265,000 women—military and civilian—who served during the Vietnam War, approximately 10,000 of whom were stationed in Vietnam. It is the first and only national monument dedicated to military women on the National Mall. Spanning over a decade, Diane’s passion, intense advocacy, and her unwavering ability to navigate a sea of political, social, and bureaucratic obstacles ensured that the service of women during the Vietnam war would no longer be invisible.

Her efforts reflect both personal dedication and a profound commitment for the collective good. As an Army nurse who served in Vietnam, Diane knew firsthand the courage, skill, and compassion of the women who served beside her. But she also understood that these contributions were largely overlooked in the historical record and public memory. Diane made it her mission to correct that injustice—not just for her own generation, but for all women who serve.

Captain Susan Stuart Miller, USN (Ret), recalls how Diane’s work galvanized the “Guamies”—Navy nurses who served on Guam caring for wounded Sailors and Marines evacuated from Vietnam. “Diane represents all the professionalism and compassion that we gave our patients daily,” she writes. These nurses traveled to Washington, D.C.

continued from page 6...

to witness the 1993 memorial dedication and have returned every five years since, marking their own healing and recognition through Diane’s vision.

Rear Admiral Maryanne T. Ibach, USN (Ret), who served onboard one of the hospital ships stationed off Vietnam, spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony in July 1993. She reflected: “Thousands of men are alive today because of the battlefield care given to them by women who served... Without Diane’s leadership, the thousands of women who served during that time may never have been recognized. All of us owe her a debt of gratitude.”

The Air Force community echoes this gratitude. Hundreds of Air Force nurses formed the lifeline of aeromedical evacuation missions in Southeast Asia, including poignant operations like “Homecoming” and “Babylift.” The Vietnam Women’s Memorial, as stated by the Society of Air Force Nurses, “is a powerful beacon that inspires healing and hope for military nurses then—and now.” Thanks to Diane, their stories endure.

Merry Fontenot, Active-Duty ANC, reflected that the Women’s Memorial stands as a powerful testament to the strength, sacrifice, and skill of women who have served, echoing the heartbeat of every Nurse Corps Officer who brought comfort in chaos, and in duty. It is both a sanctuary and tribute—where silenced voices are honored with the dignity they have earned.

From the earliest vision to final unveiling, Diane Carlson Evans channeled courage, compassion, and leadership—hallmarks of nursing at its finest. Her legacy is etched not only in bronze but in the hearts of all who served, in every patient whose suffering was eased by a nurse’s touch, and in every young woman who now sees her service honored on our nation’s most sacred grounds, as well as future generations who will be inspired to serve by example.

For her unwavering commitment to honoring nurses’ contributions, her transformational impact on public awareness, and the healing legacy she created for generations of women veterans and their

families, we wholeheartedly and proudly nominate Diane Carlson Evans for the DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Award was formally presented to Diane during a virtual meeting on August 27, 2025. With over one hundred participants, Bonnie and Mark shared their connection with Diane. Following her hospitalization last spring, Diane had nominated the team of nurses who had cared for her for the DAISY Team Award. Her care team received The DAISY Team Award. Through this experience, Diane was so happy they received this recognition and understood the value and what it means to receive this Award.

Following the Award presentation, Diane’s son, Jon Evans, shared with her the sculpture of the “Healer’s Touch” and Ann Hand designed pin. The statue is hand made by a member of the Shona tribe in Zimbabwe and is signed by the artist. The design represents the relationship between nurses and those they compassionately care for whether an organization, group or individuals over the course of their lifetime.

Each Service leader shared their component of the award nomination. Dr. Zimmerman provided additional background information about the Lifetime Achievement Award. Following the presentation, Diane shared some of her experiences as the Founder and President Emeritus of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial Foundation as well as her gratitude to the women who supported and joined the mission. Presentation attendees then had the opportunity to speak directly with Diane, sharing their heartfelt connections to both Diane and the Vietnam Women’s Memorial. You can view the presentation at: www.nnca.org under Preserving History & Sharing Stories.

This is a tremendous recognition of a lifetime dedicated to honoring all the women who served during Vietnam, and another example of the power of “Leadership Learned Through Action: The Prism of Military Nurse Leadership.” (JONL, May 9, 2025) The article is no longer available for free download but you can order a copy at: <https://tinyurl.com/mw9havxy>

You can also copy and paste this link into your browser: [https://www.nurseleader.com/article/S1541-4612\(25\)00063-1/abstract](https://www.nurseleader.com/article/S1541-4612(25)00063-1/abstract)

Sources:

- (1) Sweeney, C.D.; O’Very, D.(2025). Leadership learned through action. Nurse Leader. 23(5)
- (2) O’Very, D. (2025). An Interview with Diane Carlson Evans. NNCA Newsletter. March 2025



What Do Navy Nurses Do After Their Nursing Careers?

—by Cindy Sweeney

If you possess a great deal of creative talent you may decide to become an artist following your Navy and Civilian careers. In David Brooks' book, "The Second Mountain", he explores the idea that in our early years, our 'first mountain' is establishing a career with the goal for success and financial security. After the first mountain is mastered, there is a desire for climbing the 'second mountain, freed from the conventional limitations of money and success. The second mountain is an altruistic climb and the exploration of our creative side. Rose Anne Sobkow and Nancy Lee "Nan" Bushley have climbed their 'second mountain'. For many years, I have maintained communication with my treasured Operating Room mentors, Rose Anne and Nan. I first met Rose Anne and Nan when I was a LTJG, in the OR at Naval Regional Medical Center Balboa, following my training at the OR school in Camp Pendleton. Rose Anne and Nan were very senior Lieutenants to me and were promoted to LCDR during my time at Balboa. Rose Anne taught me the 'how' of Cardio-Vascular Surgery, General Surgery and Trauma Surgery as I rotated through the specialties. She taught me to 'think' like an Operating Room Nurse. Nan kept the OR running as the Charge Nurse, ensuring the cases on time and problem solving where needed. When I got married and later had my first child, they were my support as I navigated marriage and motherhood with a spouse who deployed for prolonged periods of time. That was back in 1976-1979.

For almost fifty years, we have maintained our connection through mail and occasional visits when life took me to San Diego on business. A few months ago, my husband and I visited Rose Anne and Nan at their home. The house is a gallery of exquisite art created by Rose Anne and

Nan. Rose Anne is a multimedia artist using watercolors, oil, charcoal, block printing, acrylics, gouache, graphite, charcoal, colored pencil, water & oil-based printmaking inks, digital, pastels....and more! Her original love was watercolor, but ultimately her favorite evolved to printmaking. Nan became a woodturner. There is much to see and appreciate in the rich, artistic environment of their home. For those

not familiar with woodturning, it is the art of shaping wood using a lathe and handheld tools to create beautiful pieces of art out of wood. Both Rose Anne and Nan have exhib-

ited their work for others to enjoy and donated pieces for charitable causes. Their works should be enjoyed firsthand to fully appreciate the exceptional craftsmanship involved. The pictures provided here do not do them justice! At Rose Anne's request let me share a bit more about the work that Nan has done using her woodturning skills and interest in support of our veterans.

Nan began a second career after retirement from the Navy Nurse Corps, and Civilian Nursing. After attending a Woodturning demonstration, she pursued an associate's degree in Woodworking Technology at Palomar College. Thus began her new career, and the journey into a whole new, exciting world, post-retirement. Nan was one of the early women pioneers in Woodturning. Woodturning has a history spanning millennia, dating back to at least 700 BC. Initially, woodturning focused on producing functional objects for various trades. It became a medium for artistic expression over time. In the 1970's woodturning as a hobby experienced an explosive interest in English speaking countries.



Hollow Woodturning

As Nan developed her skills, she developed a following of her art. Nan was invited to showcase her expertise at the University in Belfast, Ireland. Rose Anne noted that the journey and event were noteworthy and broke the glass ceiling in woodturning. Nan is widely known throughout the woodturning community; she has been a Judge at the San Diego Fine Woodworking "Design in Wood" Show for over 25 years. She has also received awards and recognition for her contributions, including her teaching skills. Nan is a born nurturer and has always had a friendly, warm persona, which makes her a great and willing teacher. In 1987, Nan was a founder of the San Diego Woodturners Club (SDWT), which is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). In 2007, Nan and Dr. Kenneth Roth, a former Navy orthopedic surgeon, created "Turn Around for Veterans" (TAV) as a part of the SDWT mission. This program teaches woodturning to active-duty service members and veterans at the Naval Medical Center San Diego, the Wounded Warrior Battalion at Camp Pendleton and the Veterans Affairs Aspire Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program in San Diego. As health-care providers, both Nan and



Wood Block



Jaguar

continued from page 8...

Ken understood how a devastating injury can create a feeling of loss for their former life. They believed that turning wood would help these warriors to heal in ways beyond physical injuries. Materials for TAV are supplied by donations to SDWT, and the instructors are volunteer woodturners. The program has grown nationwide.

Even when you have given your best effort to society in your nursing career, there is often still more you can do that you may never have considered. Nan and Rose Anne have proven that. They are inspirational when you write your next chapter, following retirement! For more information on SDWT go to <https://sdwt.org/wood/>. For more information on TAV you can contact TAVChairman@sdwt.org



Etching Puma on Copper



Cosmos



Oakleaf Hollow Woodturning



Viaggio III

“To Travel is to Live.”

--Hans Christian Anderson

—by Gayle Frevert

On active duty, I was stationed overseas in Okinawa & Yokosuka, Japan & traveled throughout Southeast Asia. During those tours, I visited Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and a brief day in China. Now, as a retiree, I have rediscovered world travel, primarily Europe, visiting over 18 countries in the past 5 years. I discovered a women’s travel group, Women of the Midwest based in Lincoln, Nebraska & have traveled with numerous groups of wonderful women.



During one of the trips to Italy, I was able to reconnect with my senior corpsman Efran Vergara from Okinawa while he was working as a civilian in Naples thirty-nine years later!



On several of these tours, I have enjoyed the company of several Navy nurses: Kathy (Tines) Becker, Shari Marsh, and Donna Olston. It was great fun to share stories and experiences with each other and the rest of our travel group. In May of 2025, Kathy, Shari and I celebrated the Nurse Corps birthday in Ireland.

These travels have included Italy (twice), Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Iceland, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Ireland, Denmark, France, Northern Ireland, Norway & Luxemburg.



Kathy Becker & Gayle at Jamison’s Irish Whiskey, Ireland, May 2025



(L to R) Donna Olston, Gayle and Shari Marsh



(L to R) Gayle, Kathy Becker & Shari Marsh

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Omaha Beach, July 2024

The highlight of my travels was in July 2024, when I went on a “Liberation Tour” with a group that followed the path of the famed Nebraska National Guard 134th Infantry Regiment during the liberation of France during World War II. Over the course of eleven days and almost 2,000 miles, we visited nine overseas American military cemeteries in three countries. I was the only Navy veteran in the group, but we quickly jelled as a team to place wreaths, raised/lowered the American flag, honored the deceased with Taps, sanded headstones of 72 graves of heroes and took pictures for family members. The trip was so memorable that I’m doing it again next summer, July 2026!



Bob H. & Gayle at Bastogne, France, July 2024

Working with an Editor to Publish Your Work

—by Dot O’Very and Christine Boltz



On August 12, 2025, NNCA and WMANNCA jointly sponsored a virtual presentation by Dr. Karen S. Hill, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, LFACHE, FAAN entitled, Working With an Editor to Publish Your Work. Dr Hill, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Nursing Administration (JONA)* shared her wealth of experience honed over twenty plus years as a journal author and editor.

Dr. Hill discussed why it is important to publish your work in a peer-reviewed journal and how this effort relates to professional development and achievement. A key aspect of publication is timeliness. She related one of the greatest mistakes nurses make is waiting too long to submit their work for publication. This time lag often results in rejection of manuscripts because the topic has missed the opportunity for relevance and currency in the ever-changing world of nursing science.

Suggestions for developing a manuscript for publication included choosing a topic that is either inspirational or an emerging nursing issue. The importance of taking the time to scan current publications to gain an understanding of topics that meet these criteria was stressed. Dr. Hill also

recommended that authors focus on journals that are of greatest interest to the author or related to the topic of the manuscript. This step will increase the likelihood of manuscript acceptance. A good initial step is to submit an abstract of the manuscript to the journal editor to assess interest in the topic. Another key concept in selecting both a topic and a journal is to consider the readers to ensure both interest and relevance.

When submitting a manuscript, take the time to read the publication guidelines for your selected journal and follow them in detail. Many manuscripts are rejected simply because the author did not adhere to the publication guidelines. Dr. Hill emphasized that the manuscript should flow in a logical format and data presentation, if included, should augment the content. Conclusions and recommendations are especially important if the manuscript is a research project summary.

For references, be cautious of the influence of artificial intelligence and validate electronic references to ensure the content is accurate. Dr. Hill recommended references, other than classic studies/sources, should be recent, in the past three to five years.

Finally, Dr. Hill shared some excellent examples of published articles by military authors, discussing why these specific articles were chosen for publication. You can review some of these references, the slides from the presentation and the recorded session on our NNCA website at: <https://nnca.org/navy-nurses-recognized/in-the-news/>.



Preserving the Legacy of Military Nurse Practitioners:

Invitation to Participate in an Oral History Project

Two retired Army nurse practitioners and faculty members at the University of Cincinnati—COL (Ret.) Richard M. Prior, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, and COL (Ret.) Paul C. Lewis, PhD, RN, FNP-BC—are leading a national research project to document and preserve the history of military nurse practitioners (NPs). This important initiative is funded by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and has been approved by the University of Cincinnati’s Institutional Review Board (IRB).

As military nurse practitioners, you have made lasting contributions to patient care, innovation, and leadership. This project seeks to ensure those contributions are recorded and remembered. The research focuses on capturing the experiences of current and former NPs from the Army, Navy, and Air Force—whether active duty, Guard, or Reserve—who have deployed in NP roles or served in innovative, multidisciplinary leadership positions.

Project Design

The study has two phases:

- * Phase 1: Survey – A short questionnaire to gather background on deployment and leadership experiences.
- * Phase 2: Oral History Interview – A 30–60 minute phone interview where participants share their professional journey, deployment insights, and leadership lessons.

With participant permission, transcripts will be archived with the American Association of Nurse Practitioners to preserve these stories for future generations. Importantly, NNCA will also receive a copy of Navy Nurse Corps oral histories to include in our Association archives. All interviews will remain confidential in any public reports, and participants will receive a copy of their transcript to review and keep.

Why Participate?

By adding your voice, you will help build a collective narrative of how nurse practitioners shaped military medicine—ensuring future generations understand the critical role NPs played in advancing care, leading teams, and innovating across diverse settings.

How to Join

Participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time. If you are interested, please begin by completing the survey at the following link: <https://redcap.link/pdwh7sva>

Contact Information

Questions are welcome. Please feel free to reach out directly to the project leads:

- **Richard M. Prior, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP (COL, U.S. Army, Ret.)** – priorrm@ucmail.uc.edu
- **Paul C. Lewis, PhD, RN, FNP-BC (COL, U.S. Army, Ret.)** – lewis2pl@ucmail.uc.edu

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

—by Joe Gollasch, MUSNAVC President



This has certainly been an active year for MOAA. The spring Advocacy in Action event, in Washington, DC, was a huge success. During the summer, MOAA members contacted their representatives advocating for our earned benefits. This fall MOAA hosted the first Total Force+ conference with an emphasis on ‘people first’. There will be many additional programs and initiatives following this conference.

MOAA continues to monitor and advocate for the many

benefits we have earned, but your involvement remains the most influential with our representatives. 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. Link to featured advocacy campaigns and the legislative action center to learn more and make a difference, <https://moaa.quorum.us>

You may have heard that there is a Dec. 31 deadline for the replacement of paper-based military ID cards, including those with indefinite expiration dates, but DoD has not issued a mandate for retirees and others with legacy paper-based Uniformed Services identification (USID) cards to have them replaced. Any articles publicizing a December 31, 2025, deadline are inaccurate. There is no requirement or deadline to replace the cards.

Finally, stay informed and involved. Never Stop Serving.

NNCA Committee News

Challenging World of Recruitment and Retention of Members

—submitted by Tina Ortiz

Many of today’s member organizations face challenges in recruiting and retaining members. Not long ago member organizations such as alumni groups, trade groups, non-profits, professional organizations, and social groups were thriving with high membership and willing volunteers to participate in organizational functions. Unfortunately, today’s member organizations are no longer thriving as they once did. Reasons stem from issues with lack of member engagement, lack of community feel, evolving member needs, lack of mentorship, and failure to provide a positive member experience.

A negative or toxic environment, lack of appreciation, and insufficient member engagement may lead to disconnection and dissatisfaction. Infrequent or impersonal communication causes members to feel disconnected and undervalued. Regular updates and personalization can help members stay engaged while understanding the value the organization provides. A solution to resolve this challenge is to create a communication calendar that includes regular updates via email, social media, and newsletters.

Some members don’t feel a sense of belonging or connection to the organization. Regular networking events, an online member directory, forums, and peer-to-peer interactions help members experience a connection; stay involved, and encourages ongoing membership in the organization.

Member organizations need to adapt to changing expectations amongst their membership. Providing ongoing value to members will maintain engagement and prevent attrition. By creating a value delivery plan that ensures members consistently experience benefits guarantees that members know what to expect and see value in their membership. Regularly scheduled member events, webinars, and learning opportunities ensure consistent delivery of value.

Many member organizations offer mentorship by connecting new members with current members, providing a strong onboarding process, and reaching out to other professionals who are in the midst of their careers. Challenges exist when those needing mentorship are not aware of the organization, lack knowledge of what the members may offer, or restrictions exist that do not allow the organization to reach out in places of work. Providing spaces where

current members can meet with those unfamiliar with the organization or with those who need mentorship will help build meaningful relationships, encourage engagement, and increase a loyal member base.

The ability to provide a positive member experience is a challenge that exists due to inadequate feedback loops, lack of event variety, and poor scheduling. Members feel unheard, frustrated, negative, and disengaged. By providing a diverse mix of in-person and online events, recordings or summaries of events, and active collection of feedback from members allows the organization to deliver a positive experience for each member.

The Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) continuously examines and evaluates its processes, as well as member engagement, marketing and communication plans, and membership experience. This is done to not only maintain its membership numbers, but to attract new members. To make a difference in NNCA recruitment and retention, please contact membership@nnca.org.

Treasurer’s Report

—submitted by Brian Dawson

NNCA finances are still in excellent condition. We continue to receive small but steady donations that are added into the general fund to support programs and activities. Our operating budget is sound and will allow us to meet all of the obligations throughout the 2025 budget cycle. Unfortunately, we continue to run a deficit with respect to contributions versus expenses as we have over the past several years. To correct that deficit, we continue to show growth returns on our investments.

In an effort to grow our investments given today’s market challenges, Osborne Partners has continued to place our funds in safe and growing markets. Year to date we have gained over \$79,000 in positive growth. We will continue to monitor our assets to ensure growth. Our long term goal is that the growth of this portfolio will help offset the budget deficits we continue to face.

As Navy Nurses we continue to honor our heritage by serving local communities and communities around the world in need. I hope each and every one of us had a safe summer along with numerous enjoyable, loving gatherings with family and friends.

As always it is my pleasure to represent each of you as your NNCA Treasurer. I’m proud to be associated with such exceptional people, nurses and Naval Officers.

Oral History Update

—submitted by Maria Harbeson
—photo credit Charlie Spear

Over the last few years, the NNCA Oral History Committee has collected and uploaded many oral histories which can be found on our website, thanks to the continued and dedicated work of our Executive Director, Mary Mahony. One of these Vietnam Era histories was shared by a NNCA member, highlighting his military service as a Navy Combat Corpsman. In this story, Charlie Spear, CDR, NC, USN (Ret) attributes his Navy Nurse mentors and experience in Vietnam (Children’s field hospital Hoa Khanh) for his pursuit of a professional career in nursing and commission in the Navy Nurse Corps. Included in his personal story are poignant pictures depicting the conditions of the hospital before and after construction, diseases, injuries and treatments of children and the challenging and hazardous conditions by which this extraordinary health care team delivered care. (Original article published in November 2022 edition of the *NNCA News*.)

Excerpts from Charlie’s Oral History:



Nursing an admitted “premie”

“While the mortality rate for Hoa Khanh patients was extraordinarily low overall, the nursery was the most difficult care area in terms of preserving life. Most babies could be acutely malnourished and dehydrated upon arrival; others born prematurely.

The prevention of nursery infections and cross contamination of illness was also particularly challenging.”

I would often begin my presentations by saying, “The year I spent in Vietnam was the most meaningful of my life and changed forever who I am. If I have achieved any success as a person, a Naval Officer, a health care professional, and a human being, then it can be attributed to the privilege I had of caring for the children at Hoa Khanh.”

*Following Vietnam, and with the GI Bill, Public Health Service, and Navy funding, Charlie Spear completed multiple college programs including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Masters Degree in Health Services Administration. He returned to active duty and retired from the Navy in 1996. He was employed by Mission Hospital, Asheville, North Carolina before fully retiring in 2012. Read the rest of his *Combat Pediatrics* story under Oral History in www.nnca.org*



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Charlie Spear, Christmas Eve, 1968

Still many stories remain untold. The NNCA committee seeks to streamline the oral history process; making it easier to obtain and access the oral histories (virtually, in-person or with other veteran partners) and collaborate with the Library of Congress to preserve and share our Navy Nurse Corps histories. Please JOIN our team to give Navy Nurses the opportunity to SHARE YOUR STORIES! Contact Maria Harbeson at: history@nnca.org.

Awards Committee Update

—submitted by Maryalice Morro



The Board and Awards Committee have agreed to defer awards this year to align with the anniversary celebration in 2027. We will start requesting submissions for awards this time next year. Log into the NNCA website for submission information by going to the menu bar under “Nurses Recognized” then click on “Awards”. Here are the awards and criteria for submission to get you all thinking about some of the great nurses that have served, serve, and continue to serve around the world:

Admiral Alene B. Duerk Award: (Life time Membership in NNCA): The award was established to provide recognition to active duty and reserve Nurse Corps Officers who have made a significant contribution to the Navy, to Nursing, or to the NNCA. The first award was presented at the 1992 Annual Meeting to Alene B. Duerk as a way of establishing the Award.

NNCA Meritorious Recognition: (Life Membership in NNCA): The award was established to provide recognition for a significant contribution to the Navy, the Nurse Corps, or the NNCA by retired, and former Nurse Corps officers who are members of NNCA.

Professional Nursing Award: (5-year NNCA Membership): The award was established to provide recognition to



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any member for significant contribution to nursing service, nursing practice, history or research that brings honor or recognition to the Navy Nurse Corps or NNCA.

Louisa Power Award: (Special pin designed by Bailey, Banks, and Biddle): The award was established as recognition to an individual who has made significant volunteer contributions to NNCA. The first was presented in 1992 to Louisa Power at the Annual Membership Meeting.

NNCA Mary G. Stewart Leadership Award: Special pin designed by Bailey, Banks, and Biddle): The award was established to provide recognition to any member for significant contributions in a leadership or management role at the national or regional/chapter level.

NNCA Service Award: Special pin designed by Bailey, Banks, and Biddle): The award was established to provide recognition to any member for continuing significant service resulting in the betterment of NNCA.

Social Media Update

—submitted by Deanna Ciaccia, Social Media Chair



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 nnca.socmedia@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!

Marketing Update

—submitted by Lisa Raimondo

In July, I assumed the roles/responsibilities of Marketing BOD Uplink and Marketing Committee Chair from Sandra Pearson. Thank you Sandra for your patience, expert pass down and exceptional management of a myriad of marketing activities during your tenure in these positions. I'll do my best, but you've left big shoes for me to fill! I anticipate our Marketing activities will greatly expand in the coming months, especially with our work alongside Tina Ortiz and the 40th NNCA Reunion Planning Committee. This milestone event is planned for September 2027 in Seattle, WA. I am currently seeking a Marketing Committee Chair and others interested in working on this committee. So, all

overachievers with MBAs or cottage-industry businesses of your own - come join this ride with me. I can't guarantee how smooth it will be, but FUN will be had by all!! Please reach out to me at marketing@nnca.org if interested.

Oh, and speaking of marketing - the holidays are fast approaching (or at least the decorations are in all the stores near my home). In case you need a little help this year, I have offered a suggestion below:

“During this holiday season, consider a gift of membership to the NNCA for the soon-to-be commissioned, promoted or retired Navy Nurse Corps officers in your life. You'll be introducing them to continued fellowship, support and networking opportunities through the experienced lens of over 1,000 current members.”

Memorabilia Committee Update

—submitted by Sherry Dotson, Chairperson

Earlier this year Eurofins purchased QAI, the storage facility that houses our collection. Their initial quote for storage proposed a significant rate increase. The Executive Director (ED) and I had several virtual meetings with History Associates, Inc (HAI) and Eurofins. HAI made on-site visits to Eurofins and Bonsai Arts, the other storage facility that had been recommended. Eurofins came back with another offer which kept the storage rates at the same level as the previous year. The ED and I decided to remain with Eurofins, saving the Association the cost of moving the collection.

In July, NNCA received an email from Daniel Bera, Associate Registrar for Loans, at the Navy History and Heritage Command (NHHC) which led to a conference call with him regarding items in our collection related to Lenah Higbee, the first Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps. In 1980, NHHC lent Naval Hospital Bremerton several items to include her Navy Cross and a scrapbook containing articles, photographs, letters, memos, invitations, and other memorabilia related to the life of Superintendent Lenah S. Higbee and the hospital ship *USHS Higbee*. These items were inadvertently donated into the NNCA collection in 1998. Consequently we had a virtual meeting with HAI and

permitted them to return these items to NHHC along with the direction to search for other items that were listed as loaned to NH Bremerton in 1980. Katie Platt at HAI is in the process of researching the collection for any of these items. We were sorry to see these items of historical significance leave our collection, but NHHC was elated to have the items so well cared for returned to their collection.

An update regarding the collection of paintings donated to the NNCASC from Dr. McLaughlin since the March newsletter article: Cynthia Sweeney, contacted the Naval History and Heritage Command. After meeting with Pam Overman, Branch Head, Navy Art Collection, NHHC agreed to accept the collection of paintings. I will provide an update when the collection is available for viewing on their website.

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.

NNCA and the Warrior Canine Connection (WCC)



—by Pamela 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. WCC's mobility service dog training program 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. The WCC October newsletter provided a feature article on namesakes if you'd like to know more dogs named for veterans click on: <https://tinyurl.com/yc2ad5ap>

It takes about two years to train each mobility SDiT (Service Dog in Training) 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.

Namesake nominations are opening: WCC is *slowly* starting to accept some female namesake nominations. However, the male namesake list is so long, they don't anticipate getting into 2024 male nominations for some time. NNCA female nominations may be submitted individually or at the chapter level through this link:

<https://warriorcanineconnection.tfaforms.net/4899776>

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;
- 3) Provide the nomination information to the NNCA WCC Liaison for tracking.

Current NNCA namesakes: Due to the tremendous increase in puppy volume and implementation of onsite veteran training, WCC may not always be able to provide training updates for the SDiTs. They will let us know if any of the WCC-NNCA SDiTs have a career change.



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Here is a WCC progress report provided this summer:

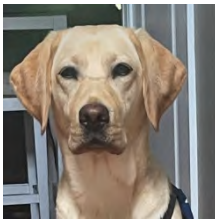
Active Component:



Stu (CAPT Susan Stuart Miler): Completed training and was placed as a working service dog for a veteran. Stu was part of WCC’s 2025 graduation ceremony September 20, 2025. I have it on good authority the namesake was in attendance! This will be the final report for Stu.



Erica (LCDR Erica Nicoletti): Selected for the WCC breeding program Fall 2024. Erica’s first litter was born on January 25, 2025. WCC kept 5 of her amazing puppies!

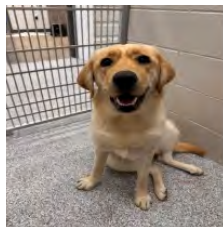


Flaherty (RADM Karen Flaherty): Recently promoted to “Lieutenant” and has learned skills like riding the elevator.

Sandra (CAPT Sandra Hearn): Recently promoted to “Private” and “has potential” per her latest evaluation.



Susan II (CDR Susan Swinehart): The youngest of our SDiTs, doing “really well” after settling in with her puppy raiser.



Fair Winds and Following Seas:

Veronica: was released from the WCC program and is living her best life with a military family. This will be the final report on Veronica.

Namesake Pending: CAPT Julie Darling (2024)

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 to for the adopt and release dogs:
<https://tinyurl.com/yznva825>

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>

Are you a part of the WCC pack group on Facebook? WCC encourages all their supporters to join. Everyone shares pictures and updates of their pups, and you can ask for updates. Here is the link to the group: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1EXuTYAeyT/>.

The WCC Facebook page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorCanineConnection>.

NNCA 40th Reunion Committee Update

—submitted by Tina Ortiz



The 2027 Reunion Logo Committee completed their work to determine the winning reunion logo design. Thank you to the Reunion Logo Committee for their work in preparing the contest rules and engaging in the review and selection process.

We are pleased to announce that Mary Mahony, our Executive Director won the Reunion Logo contest. Her design is a simple but classic one that represents the strength of our members while adhering to our reunion tagline “40 Years Strong: A Legacy Forged in Service.” Mary has chosen to donate the \$100 winner’s award to the Reunion Committee. Thank you Mary for seeding the reunion fund.

The NNCA 40th Reunion Committee meets the third Thursday of every month at 7pm EST. Plans are well underway to secure the venue in Seattle, determine budgetary needs, and finalize the agenda. Future items under discussion are decorations, food selection, marketing and communication plan, proclamation requests, recognitions, and speakers.

The committee continues to seek volunteers for the food selection, decorations, welcome and registration, marketing, and for set up/take down as we plan for our reunion in September 2027. If interested in helping contact NNCA40TH@nnca.org.



Chapter News



FNNCA
Florida, except the Panhandle

Submitted by Denise Johnson



FNNCA Chapter Highlights:

Denise Johnson was recognized as Veteran of the Game on October 6th in front of 70,000 fans attending the televised Monday Night Football game between the Jacksonville Jaguars and Kansas City Chiefs. The Jaguars won 31-28.

Mary Jackson spoke on behalf of the FNNCA to the Philopotoshos Society at St. John The Divine Greek Church thanking them for their donation for our Scholarship program. Their annual fundraiser held on September 27th honored our chapter member Deb Gay.



GCNNCA
Northwest Florida, Alabama
Mississippi, Louisiana

Submitted by Shirley Lewis Brown

GCNNCA held meetings in July and September 2025. Wreaths Across America offered an opportunity to purchase wreaths in July. The Assistant Director of the New Veterans and Family Service Center at Pensacola State College, Pensacola shared valuable information about how the center provides wraparound, comprehensive service for veterans with the members at the September Fall Membership Meeting.

Four GCNNCA members participated in this year's Hyperemesis Education & Research (HER) Foundation's "I See Her" Photo Project highlighting female Veterans. The HER Foundation founded a home for homeless women veterans, and each has a mission to photograph and display photos of female veterans.

Homeless Veterans Stand Down was held September 26, 2025, at Brownsville Community Center. The Homeless Veteran's Stand Down is an annual outreach of the Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council that serves veterans in Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. GCNNCA is a member organization of the council. The Stand Down hosted 30-35 organizations from health screenings, housing resources, phones, clothing, diapers and baby supplies as well as

legal services to name a few. GCNNCA helps inform organizations about the services offered. We help advertise the program. JROTC and military students provide support services.



Left (front-back) Richard Winkler (guest), Sue Varenholt, Susan Ulloa, Shirley Lewis-Brown, Daniel Miller, Jenny Weber (guest). Right (front-back) Martha Hicks, Shatzi Clemons, JoAnn Kelly, Truman Brown, Melanie Herr.



YOU'RE INVITED!



Florida Navy Nurse Corps Association

FALL LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 11 AM-2 PM



USS ORLECK DD-886
610 E Bay St, Jacksonville, FL 32202
Cost: \$25 (includes tour)

- Plenty of parking available!
- 50/50 and fun raffles
- Optional ship tour: after lunch
- Lunch beside the ship, ADA compliant
- RSVP now to save your spot!

Guest Speaker
SCOTT MYTHEN, CEO
USS ORLECK NAVAL MUSEUM
STAYING OVERNIGHT? 1941TT, 225 E COASTLINE DR, JACKSONVILLE, FL

FNNCA hopes to see you on November 8th for our luncheon! For Questions reach out to Mary Jackson at fnnca@nnca.org.

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GCNNCA Upcoming Events:

-Members are invited to participate in the Veterans Day Parades in Pensacola and Milton on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

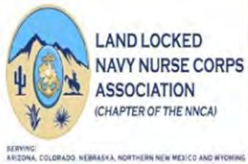
-GCNNCA Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday December 5, 2025.

-Members are invited to participate as a group to lay wreaths on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at the Wreaths Across America Day at Barrancas National Cemetery, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL.

-GCNNCA supported "I Got Your 6" Marine Corp League.



Home for Our Troops fundraiser at Bubba's 33 Restaurant. (L to R) Shirley Lewis-Brown, Martha Hicks, Susan



LLNNCA
Colorado, Wyoming,
New Mexico & Nebraska

Submitted by Marti Crockett

LLNNCA Supports 4th Annual "Tee It Up for Veterans" Golf Tournament

On June 16, 2025, LLNNCA member Marti Crockett organized her 4th Annual "Tee It Up for Veterans" Golf Tournament at Spring Valley Golf Course in Elizabeth, Colorado. The tournament benefited Restoring Our Heroes (ROH), an organization that provides week long retreats in the mountains for veterans and first responders coping with combat and work-related stress.

The event was a tremendous success drawing 138 players and 34 teams. Thanks to strong community support, the tournament raised \$50,000, with proceeds distributed as follows:

- \$28,111 donated directly to ROH
- \$17,000 covering course costs
- \$5,000 set aside as seed money for future events



Marti Crockett & Dr Bob Briggs (recipient)



Crockett family and volunteers

The tournament would not have been possible without the support of thirteen dedicated volunteers, twenty-two hole sponsors (including LLNNCA), one beverage cart sponsor, and one event sponsor. LLNNCA was also represented in the tournament by participant Mo Christopher Bross.

As a meaningful finishing touch, seventy handmade, handwritten thank-you notes will be sent to express gratitude to both donors and participants.

LLNNCA Members Stay Connected and Give Back



July: (L-R) around table: Mo Christopher-Bross, Nancy Larson, Terry Shade, Marti Crockett, Teri Olson, Dorothy Ryan

In July, LLNNCA members launched a new tradition of gathering for lunch on the first Monday of each month. Each luncheon is hosted at a different location chosen by a member, offering variety and the opportunity to share favorite spots. These gatherings

have quickly become a fun way to stay connected, enjoy camaraderie, and reminisce together.



August: (L-R) around table: Linda DeMarche, Marti Crockett, Teri Olson, Steve Olson, Don Bross, Mo Christopher-Bross, Carole Lowe, Judy Taylor, Carol Brautigam

LLNNCA members continue to make a difference in their communities. Harriet Palmer-Willis volunteers with the United Services Organization (USO) at Denver International Airport and is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Sara Karstetter also participates actively with DAR. Gale Probst



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September: Mo Christopher Bross, Terry Shade, Marti Crockett, Liz Tovado, Dorothy Ryan, inset Carol Brautigam

dedicates time to caring for three Alzheimers patients in her community. Mo Christopher Bross contributes at the national NNCA level by editing oral histories for the official NNCA program. Other members have been able to travel to as many places for leisure.

Through both fellowship and service, LLNCA members exemplify the spirit of connection and commitment that defines our group.

LLNCA Member Receives the Women in American History Award from her Local Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter



One of our members, Teri Olson, was recently honored for her remarkable service to nursing, the US Navy, and her community. Teri began her journey with a Navy scholarship for nursing school. She was named *Most Outstanding Nursing Student* and inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. During her career, she pioneered the first JCAHO accredited Perinatal Home

Health Visiting Nurse Project and co-developed a Home Intravenous Therapy Program. She served 29 years in the Navy Nurse Corps, retiring at the rank of Captain. Her military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with two stars and the National Defense Service Medal with star.

Dedicated to service, Teri is a Regent of the Namaqua Chapter of the Colorado DAR, State Chair for the Service for Veterans Committee, and served on the Larimer County Board of Health for fifteen years. Recently, she presented on *“The Third Act of Life,”* emphasizing the need for an eldercare division within the healthcare system.



Teri, 3rd from left with DAR members



MSNNCA
Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky

Submitted by Ron Fancher

We’re thrilled to announce the rejuvenation of our chapter and the return of in person meetings this November! Our first gathering will be Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at El Jinete in Oak Ridge, TN.

This meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, discuss future initiatives and explore ways we can make a meaningful impact in our communities. Membership has shown a recent increase, and we look forward to continued growth and engagement.

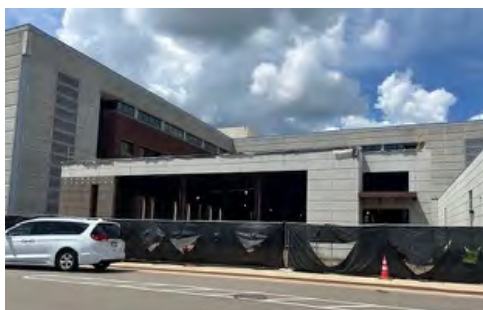


MWNNCA
North & South Dakota, Iowa
Minnesota & Western Wisconsin

Submitted by Carole O’Byrne for Marcia Belisle

Our summer of high temps in the nineties, high humidity and Canadian smoke is within a few days of ending. But when the newsletter comes out, we will all be thinking of the winter holidays and colder temps ahead.

Right now, our chapter board just finished their annual meeting. It was a meeting that referred to the recent 2025 Board update of the bylaws and highlighted the bylaws update we made in 2024. Thanks to the founder of our chapter, Kay Bauer, we completed bylaws review in 2014 and again in 2024.



In one of the previous newsletters, I described the groundbreaking for the women’s clinic at the Minneapolis VAMC. Jeanne Mahaffey, the chapter VP, recently took a picture of the construction progress.

We are all excited over the clinic that is projected to open late summer 2026.



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Finally, in the July newsletter, Ginny Beeson wrote about a wonderful experience she, Rosie Perdue and Maria Harbeson had when they treated 6 NROTC students to lunch. To their surprise, a young man sitting behind them had paid their bill as thanks for their military service. Well, just this last August the Midwest chapter Board held our annual



meeting in the restaurant section of a local grocery store. We too were sharing our stories of how and why we joined the Navy, our experiences in the states and overseas, and laughed at the wonderful times we had. Just before our meeting ended, a young middle aged man who had eaten next to us, walked over with a dozen red roses stating he just wanted to say thanks.



NENNCA

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

Submitted by Tom Wilson, Chapter President

New England Navy Nurse Corps Chapter to Disband December 2025

The New England chapter was established in May 1995 and has a rich history in fostering friendship among current, former, retired Active and Reserve officers of the USN Nurse Corps throughout New England by promoting and supporting social activities involving the membership, as well as supporting the Navy Nurse Corps Association.

In late February/early March 2025 the Board and General Membership voted to disband the Chapter due to dwindling participation related to its aging population, difficulty recruiting active duty members, geographical constraints, amongst others.

After much deliberation, the decision was made to close the NENNCA Chapter by December 2025 and to commence necessary steps to disband while encouraging continued membership in the NNCA. The chapter encourages its plan to provide an equivalent community to members not living in close proximity to an organized Chapter.

As the Chapter transitions it will continue the following activities through 2025:

- Final Luncheon membership gathering in late Fall 2025 to celebrate the Chapter's rich history and to encourage continue membership and engagement with NNCA

- Final sponsorship and award of nursing scholarships to qualified nursing students, to assist them with their studies in a either baccalaureate or graduate degree program in nursing in the amounts of \$500 - \$1,000 going directly to the recipient.
- Continue to partner with Wreaths Across America (WAA).
- DAISY Foundation awards – Sustain funding to support Rhode Island Veterans' Home.



NNCASC

California, Nevada & Arizona

Submitted by Nancy Owen for Jane Horigan

NNCASC held its July Luncheon at a new venue, the Vista Masonic Lodge. NNCASC member Tom Colgan sponsored us. A delicious luncheon of Italian cuisine was prepared. Thirty eight members and guests attended. Special guests at the luncheon included two of our Scholarship awardees for the 2025-2026 school year: Megan Wilder from Cal State University San Marcos



(L to R) Megan Wilder, Kristin Luetzger, Bobbi Crann

and Kristin Luetzger from Stanbridge University. They were introduced by Scholarship Committee Chairperson Bobbi Crann. Bobbi and her Scholarship Committee selected a total of six awardees this year for a total of \$15,000 in scholarships awarded. Our scholarship fund is due, in a large part, to a significant bequeath several years ago from the estate of Carolyn Scherer and generous donations received annually from our members.

A commissioning ceremony, attended by numerous family and friends, was held Saturday, July 19, 2025, aboard the USS MIDWAY CV-41 Museum. Alexyss Carig was a Navy Nurse Corps Candidate who recently graduated with her BSN from West Coast University. She attended Officer Development School (ODS) in Newport, Rhode Island and, after graduation on September 26, 2025, was assigned to NMRTC San Diego. NNCASC President Jane Hourigan and Nancy Owen were invited to attend the event on the USS MIDWAY. Alexyss contacted our NNCASC group last year, finding us on our Facebook page. She attended our



continued from page 20...



July 2024 luncheon to meet Navy Nurses who had served before her and paved the way. She also was an invited guest at our July 2025 luncheon.

(L to R) Jane Hourigan, ENS Carig, Nancy Owen



In Memoriam...NNCASC members gathered on two occasions to bid a final farewell to our longtime member, NNCASC Past President, friend and colleague, **Pat Clancy**. Pat passed away June 16, 2025. Pat began her career in the Navy in 1964 in Jacksonville, FL. She was later stationed in Japan, Guam and several continental United States locations.

A Mass of Resurrection was held at her long-time church, St. Timothy Catholic Parish in Escondido, CA on July 10, 2025. A reception followed at one of her favorite restaurants, The Brigantine, on what would have been her 87th birthday. Pat was interred with "Final Honor" horse drawn carriage and Military services at Miramar National Cemetery on August 6, 2025.



NWNNA

Washington, Oregon, Idaho & Montana

Submitted by Bonnie Bulach for Nadyne Krienke

NWNNA Fall Meeting will be held at Patriot's Landing Veterans Assisted Living Facility on Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 11:00 am to 2 pm. There will be a talk from the Marketing Department on the benefits of Assisted Living/Veteran's Assisted Living and the services offered at Patriots Landing with a tour following lunch and the presentation.

Lunch will be provided (Turkey & trimmings) & the cost will be \$30.00 per person. Virtual access will be available

Address: Patriot's Landing, 1600 Marshall Circle, Dupont, WA 98327.

RSVP: Kim Fobes at nwnna@nnca.org



PCNNCA

North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia

Submitted by Melanie Frank and Jerry Davidson

The PCNNCA BOD met at the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station in August to plan our activities for a busy fall season and the year ahead.



BOD at MCAS Beaufort (L to R) Jerry Davidson, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Arlene Southerland, Alice Cagnina, Peggy Williams, Becky Crichton (not pictured: Melanie Frank).

BZ to our President Melanie Frank who presided over the meeting despite having had painful orthopedic surgery just days before!

We gathered once again at the historic Hopsewee Plan-

tation in Georgetown, SC - home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence - for our October general membership meeting. Nominations for new board members and updates to our bylaws were voted on, as well as designating the beneficiary of our annual charitable contribution. Our membership remains strong with over 60 on our rolls. Ongoing attempts to increase our numbers this summer included reaching out to all VFW and American Legion Posts in the tri-state area, requesting their members to refer any Navy Nurses within their districts to our Chapter in hopes of having them join us.

Our Chapter will participate in the Charleston Veterans Day parade that will be held on November 2nd. We are looking forward to our annual participation in wreath laying at the New Bern, NC and Beaufort, SC National Cemeteries on December 13th, Wreaths Across America Day. Socks and toiletries donated by members throughout the year and at our December holiday party will go to the Ralph Johnson VA Hospital in Charleston, where volunteers will prepare kits for homeless and needy veterans.

To conclude our report, Secretary Mary Ann Jarmulowicz prepared the following brief Chapter history and tribute to our PCNNCA plank holders that we would like to share with our fellow Navy nurses:

In 2025, CAPT Mary Jo Young, NC, USN (Ret), and CDR Henrietta 'Hank' Wildeboer, NC, USN (Ret), were laid to

continued from page 21...

rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Both were founding members of the Palmetto Chapter of the Navy Nurse Corps Association. Other founders who preceded Mary Jo and Hank in death are Charlie Cahoon, Doris Pearce, Elna Benson, Ed Richburg, and Cherry Horton. We are fortunate to have original members Elinor Kessel, Yvonne Jordan and Patricia McDonald-Harrison as active members today.

Our organization's founders first met in Charleston on July 17, 1991. After months of planning, our Chapter became a reality at the first meeting on October 30, 1991, welcoming Navy Nurse Corps officers from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

In a nod to history, our founders chose the *Sabal Palmetto* as the logo for our Chapter. During the Revolutionary War, these native palm trees were used to construct a fort on Sullivan's Island. Their incredible strength in repelling British cannon fire resulted in a successful defense of Charleston from the British Navy. After the American victory, the palmetto tree became a symbol of strength, resilience, and independence. It is an apt symbol and name for our chapter, which has been Palmetto strong for 34 years.

The original Board of Directors was comprised of President Mary Jo Leonard Young and Vice President Charlie Cahoon. Hank served as Treasurer, and Elna as Secretary. Directors Doris, Ed, and Cherry served as Members at Large.

Mary Jo and Hank were the bedrock upon which PCNNCA was built, and their decades of leadership and active involvement were instrumental in guiding and growing our Chapter. From the first general membership meeting attended by 22 Nurse Corps officers, the Palmetto Chapter's numbers have swelled to over 60 members this year.

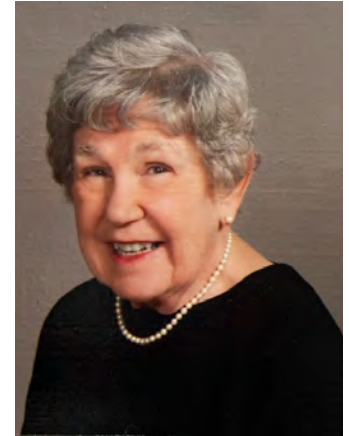
Despite the large expanse of a three state Chapter, our biannual general membership meetings are well attended, and our members represent PCNNCA well by their active participation in a wide variety of community and volunteer activities in each of their home states.

As their spirits find a peaceful resting place at Arlington National Cemetery, we ask that you remember Mary Jo Young and Hank Wildeboer. We will miss them both.

We also wish to thank Christine Boltz, for providing information on Arlington National Cemetery's protocols, and for assisting Chapter members attending the interments.



Hank Wildeboer



Mary Jo Leonard Young



Henrietta "Hank" Wildeboer graveside at Arlington: On a lovely day in July, friends (L to R) Patty Trump, Christine Boltz, Melanie Moses-Stanley and Mary Edna Sullivan participated in Hank's interment on a lovely picturesque hillside in Arlington just below area 21.



2025 NNCA logo



1991 PCNNCA logo



WMANNCA

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

Submitted by Christine Boltz

WMNCA/NNCA jointly sponsored Dr. Karen S. Hill, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, LFACE, FAAN for a virtual presentation, “Working with an Editor to Publish Your Work”, on August 12, 2025. Dr Hill is the Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Nursing Administration (JONA) who shared a wealth of experience honed over twenty plus years as a journal author and editor with an audience of 30 participants. See separate article on page 10..

Chapter member Ginny Beeson in July was invited to speak with a group of 25 Navy Nurses at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on “Professional Development as a Naval Officer” and will return for another discussion session this fall.

The WMANNCA Board met September 8, 2025, to approve the budget for the year and discuss anticipated activities for the coming year.

Our scholarship program for the year kicks off November 1, 2025. These scholarships are open to active duty, non DUINS, reserve component, retired or former Navy Nurses to continue their studies for a graduate degree in nursing.

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

USNA Cemetery - December 12 arrive at 0830, ceremony at 0900 with wreath placement immediately following, POC: Kathy Thorp.

Arlington National Cemetery – December 13 meet at 0800 in Section 21, POC: Rosie Perdue.

Wreaths can be ordered at:

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MD0021P>.

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

In the center, event coordinator, LTJG Alia Hirsch in khakis and Ginny Beeson, civilian attire.





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

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE
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 PERMIT #396



In Memoriam

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

Name	State	Dates Served	Wars / Conflicts	Date of Death	Age	Name	State	Dates Served	Wars / Conflicts	Date of Death	Age
Catherine Bagwell	MA	46	WWII	10/31/16	95	Clarice Lucius	IN	43	WWII	12/19/17	100
Irene Isidra Battle	MI	50-53	K	6/19/25	97	Dru MacPherson *	MI		G, OEF	5/7/25	60
Irene Brandt	FL	57-65	V	6/3/22	98	Jodi McEvoy	UT			5/31/22	47
Elsie Rivinoja Camilleri	CT	44-46	WWII	4/5/14	93	Judith Miesko	MD	65-85	V, G	11/24/22	80
Caroline Cartmill	WA	64-66	V	9/1/14	73	Augusta "Gussie" Miller+	TN	60-81	V	10/13/25	91
Patricia Clancy +	CA	65-89	V	6/16/25	87	Amoret O'Rourke *	SC		V, G	6/20/25	88
Sandra Evans	UT		V	6/22/24	77	Maureen Bell Olbon	NC		V	7/13/24	73
Gary Fridley *	IN	74-89	V	6/1/10	67	Beth Purcell	IN	67	V	5/12/23	81
Melissa George *	CA	71-03	V, G	6/6/24	73	Mary Ramsden	IA	84-00	G	7/14/25	80
Jane Hipsher	VA	87-98	G	8/19/24	69	James Roberts *	FL	64-89	V	7/19/25	81
Dorothy Holveck	PA		K	7/11/25	96	Sharon Rushing *	WA	77-01	G	5/2/25	78
Lettie Howell	TX		WWII	9/21/11	89	Mary Schilling *	UT			1/23/21	95
Mary Hutchins	NH		WWII	7/5/15	98	Virginia Sunderhaft	NY	42-43	WWII	12/25/24	105
Janel Kennedy	AZ		V	1/12/21	76	Margaret Switzer *	CA	67-71	V	8/13/25	80
Mary Lucille Landbeck	IL		WWII	3/29/13	92	Valeria Upton	CA	44-46	WWII	3/3/18	98
Leslie Lirgameris	IL	64-66	V	10/31/24	83	Janet Carol Wohlgemuth*	CA	57-78	K,V	10/10/25	89
Constance Litzel	IA	71-74	V	12/12/17	69						

(+ = Charter _ * = Member)

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.

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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 substantiative 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

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NNCA NEWS

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Navy Nurse Corps Association

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Board of Directors, 2025 - Current

- Cynthia Sweeney, MD – President
- Jennifer Vedral-Baron, TN – Vice President
- Michelle McKenzie, TN – Secretary
- Sandra Pearson, CA – President-Elect
- Brian Dawson, FL – Treasurer
- Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, SC
- Cindy Kuehner, CA
- Tina Ortiz, FL
- Lisa Raimondo, MD

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- Margaret Beaubien
- Christine Boltz
- Linda Daehn
- Joline DeVos
- Joan Pate

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- MSNNCA Ron Fancher
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- NNCASC Jane Hourigan
- NWNNCA Nadyne Krienke
- PCNNCA Linda Daehn
- SCNNCA Mike Beimer
- 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."



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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

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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

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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



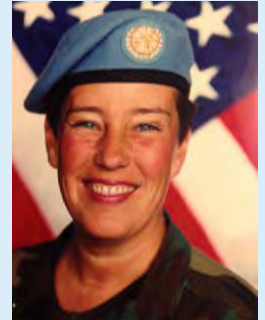
LTjg Joan Butler Paté
Christmas Photo taken 1977 for her parents.



CDR Nancy Owen
Operation Provide Promise Zagreb, Croatia 1994



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

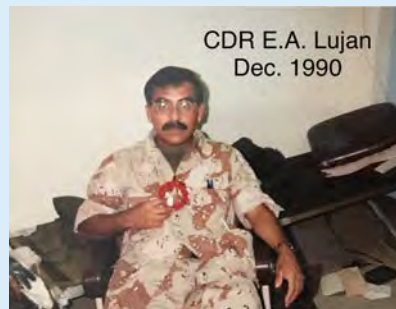


CDR Lisa Stephens
Operation Provide Promise Zagreb, Croatia 1994



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.

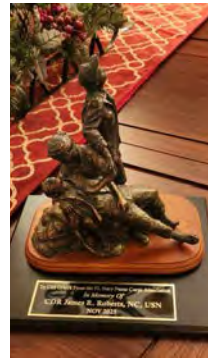
On November 8, 2025, FNNCA held our Fall meeting on the USS Orleck (DD 886), a Gearing-class destroyer that served in the United States Navy from 1945 - 1982. This ship has a rich history that spans multiple conflicts and eras, now serving as a museum in the harbor since 2022. The museum has numerous 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>

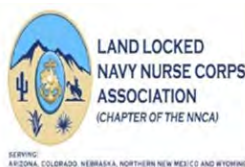


L-R: front to around table, Sue Varenholt, Trumin Brown, CAPT, G. Bradford, Dan Miller, Susan Ulloa, Shirley Lewis-Brown, Martha Hicks, Richard Winkler, Joann Kelly, Jackie Will, Michelle Caldwell.



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

GCNNCA President presented a certificate of Appreciation to Michelle Caldwell.



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.



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 Emalyn 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!

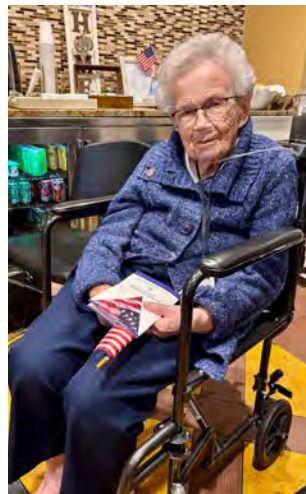
Kathy Thorp and Boo Lahman represented WMANNCA at the Wreaths Across America event at the US Naval Academy Cemetery. Superintendent Lieutenant General Borgschulte offered remarks as did Carol Turman, the USNA WAA coordinator. In her remarks, Ms. Turman thanked the sponsors by name, which included the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



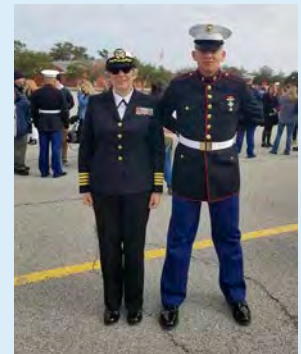
40th Reunion — *Memories in Uniform*



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

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



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" Hoyt	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)