



Volume 2, Issue 10 - Women Veterans Informer

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A group that offers older veterans free flights to the nation's capital to see war memorials says its first all-female trip was organized with help from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. On September 22, 2015, the Honor Flight Network sponsored its first all women veteran Honor Flight day. A total of 140 women veterans traveled from Ohio to Washington for a trip recognizing their service and sacrifice in the ranks. It was the first-ever all-women event, and organizers have promised more to come.

The first all Women Veteran Honor Flight event, refocused the established tour on several sites to include specific sites to their service, including a special presentation at the Women in Military Service Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Veteran Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald, keynote speaker for the event, praised the generations of women veterans as trailblazers for the military, even if they didn't realize it at the time. "You didn't sign up to shatter glass ceilings," he said. "You came to serve, and you did so with distinction. What (your service) teaches is that courage is courage, excellence is excellence and sacrifice is sacrifice."

Honor Flight organizers say they hope to hold similar events in the future, encouraging more women veterans to celebrate their service in ways to better inform the public.

However, organizers say getting women veterans on those trips can be problematic because of the stereotypes about their service and contributions, often from the women themselves.

Article by: Air Force Times - By Leo Shane III, Staff writer - September 22, 2015



Veterans and their loved ones, part of the first all-female honor flight, arrive at a memorial Tuesday. (Photo: Bob Lennox/Staff)



Meosha Morris becomes one of the few female combat engineers in the Nation. - By Dan Scanlan - September 15, 2015

Meosha Morris knows the next 13 weeks will be tough as she heads deep into the Missouri Ozarks to undergo U.S. Army training at Fort Leonard Wood.

But as the 22-year-old Army private from Adel, Ga., was sworn in Tuesday as one of the very few female combat engineers in the country, she didn't seem fazed by what the next few months will heap on her.

Standing with seven other recruits at the Jacksonville Military Entrance Processing Station, she said her life has prepared her to be the only woman training for a specialty that includes building bridges and blowing things up. That includes growing up with three brothers and having a sister in the U.S. Marine Corps.

"I'm actually excited and nervous because I am the first female, so it will be all eyes on me and I have to set that standard," Morris said.

"... I will stay focused. I know it was a guy job first, so the guys will try to push me around, but I had brothers so it is nothing new. I am very well-prepared."

As a woman herself, processing station Cmdr. Willie Brisbane said it was important for her to conduct the swearing in with Morris in the ranks. "It feels great. I am excited for her," Brisbane said. "I had an interview with her and she seems like a very intelligent young lady and she will do the service proud."

According to the Army, combat engineers build fighting positions, bridges, obstacles and defensive positions in combat, placing and detonating explosives, clearing obstacles and detecting mines. Until June 16, when Army Secretary John McHugh signed Directive 2015-17, combat engineer and 20,563 other positions were not open to female enlisted soldiers.

Now that it is, the 2011 Cook High School graduate said she decided to apply. After all, she calls herself an "outdoorsy" person who likes to do extreme things — "You name it, I did it."

"I sat back and I thought about it," she said. "I am nervous now, but as the hours and days went by, I knew if I could do it. And I could do it. I knew other females who come behind can do it too."

Still, Army Capt. Kemetta Gary had some words of wisdom for the recruits at the swearing in.

"You are going to go through some experiences in your life that you have never experienced before, especially you, young lady," she said, looking at Morris. "You are the first female. You will be surrounded by males who probably think you are going to fail. But you are going to succeed, right? That's the way to break that glass ceiling and set the standard."

On the eve of shipping out, Morris said her mother is probably "ready for me to go."

Julia Morris grinned as she heard her daughter say that, making a kicking motion as she mouthed "out the door!"

"She will take care of herself," her mother said. "She is more of a tomboy so she can handle herself."

"I think she will be all right. I am going to miss her," added her brother Thomas.

Morris had her own advice to woman who wants to follow her footsteps: Just do it and "don't be scared because it once was a guy job."



Dan.Scanlan@jacksonville.com: Meosha Morris, right, raises her hand with the other Army recruits as they were sworn in Tuesday at the Jacksonville Military Entrance Processing Station on Baymeadows Way.



Las Vegas woman among oldest female Marine veterans

By Keith Rogers - Las Vegas Review Journal - September 21, 2015



Like the lone candle on her cake, Laurene Quateman's eyes sparkled when she heard the Marine Corps League men and women veterans chime in for her 98th "Happy Birthday" song.

It was a slightly off-key rendition that marked the occasion Wednesday, filling the room at her Las Vegas assisted-living home with warmth and memories from her days during World War II.

Quateman, known then as 1st Lt. "Laurie" Felchlin Niermann, is believed to be one of the three oldest women Marine vets in the nation receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to her daughter, Nancy Edwards.

"She's a tenacious woman who never complained even under the worst circumstances," Edwards said. "She's positive, open-minded and loving of all people from all backgrounds."

Quateman was a nun first, then an enlisted Marine clerk typist who became a stateside stenographer supervisor and also procured materials for the war effort, according to her honorable discharge papers.

After the war, she became a commissioned officer in the Marine Corps Women's Reserves, serving as a lieutenant until 1949.

"I had a platoon. We did a lot of marching," she said Wednesday. Born Sept. 16, 1917, in Fond Du Lac, Wis., she grew up on a farm with her younger brother, Jim, the children of Leonard and Elizabeth Felchlin, who operated a cheese factory and traveled by horse and buggy. In her 20s, she joined the School Sisters of Saint Francis convent but left after 4½ years.

"Children were so precious. I went to confession and told the priest I thought I really wanted my own children," she told Review-Journal columnist Jane Ann Morrisson in 2006. The priest told her, "You'd make a better mother than a nun."



She became a secretary and met her first husband, Robert Niermann. They went to San Diego, where she sang soprano for a USO trio, "The Clef Dwellers." After Robert joined the Marines in early 1944, she enlisted in April 1944 and served at Camp Lejeune, N.C., until October 1945.



After the war they settled in Chicago. She was a sixth-grade teacher, and also worked as a secretary, a contact lens company analyst, and a part-time model for the Shirley Hamilton agency.

Then she pursued a career as an airline reservationist, working for United Airlines in Chicago, then Western and Delta in Minneapolis in 1970 before transferring to Las Vegas, where she "remarried the love of her life, Joseph Quateman" in 1972, her daughter said.

She later worked for the Las Vegas News Bureau and Las Vegas Convention Center.



New female engagement team completes mission in Qatar

By Hope Hodge Seck, Staff - September 21, 2015

A Marine female engagement team (FET) recently wrapped up a mission in Qatar — the first for the all-women teams since the Corps disbanded them in Afghanistan three years ago. A concept that originated as a way to bridge cultural and gender gaps during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is now being used to forge bonds with allied nations in the Middle East. A FET attached to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit returned from its first mission in Qatar in late August after more than two weeks spent training female troops in martial arts, shooting basics and other skills.

About 25 female members of the Qatari Internal Security Forces, who provide security for VIPs, participated in the skills exchange with nine Marine members of the FET from Aug. 6 through 23. The training exchange originated with a request from U.S. Special Operations Command Central for female troops to work directly with the Qatari forces, said Maj. Brian Block, a spokesman for the MEU.

In Qatar, the Marines and the local forces honed medical skills, law enforcement techniques and range skills, and worked on elements of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, members of the FET said. "The doors are open to us," said 1st Lt. Jennifer Mozzetta, assistant team leader for the FET. "There were no men involved in the training. We were able to be very involved and friendly with them."

While the Marines on the FET were instructed to discuss domestic topics like their home and family lives in order to forge connections with their Qatari counterparts, this was a different kind of FET mission than those in which female Marines shared cups of tea with civilian women to foster trust in Afghanistan.

Block said the 15th MEU's team plans to position itself to accomplish missions on both ends of the spectrum. Because of that, he said, the unit has taken to calling itself a "female partner force engagement team."

Since the FET is composed of a dozen female Marines representing a variety of specialties and experience levels, Block said, "you can select [Marines] who are most appropriate for partner force engagement" or for cultural liaising, depending on the mission at hand.

For Sgt. Jeanette Ventura, an aircraft intermediate level structures mechanic, the exchange provided the chance to work on combat skills outside her own MOS and to participate in dynamic partnership building, a key mission for the MEU.

"I've been in the Marine Corps for eight years and I always love taking opportunities given to me," she said. "The exchange in itself was better than I even could have imagined. I learned a lot from the culture, as well as from the tactics that the [Qatari forces] used."

The MEU, which deployed in May, decided to create its own FET while underway in order to respond to such requests, which often go unanswered due to a shortage of trained female troops in theater. Prior to the MEU's revival of the FET concept, the units were used in Iraq and Afghanistan to allow U.S. troops to extract information from and foster relationships with local women without violating gender taboos.

The last Marine FET disbanded in 2012. While no other MEU has committed to forming its own FET, Block said the 15th MEU plans to brief the East Coast-based 26th MEU on team lessons learned and best practices before it deploys later this year.

One early finding, FET members said, was that the team could have used more Marines. The nine members who went to Qatar were hugely popular with their counterparts.

"The biggest takeaway was, there was a lot of discussion about it, and eyes were watching," Mozzetta said. "It really does help foster our relationship with the Qataris."



Marines and sailors with a Female Engagement Team conduct a medical outreach for residents in an Afghan village.

Photo by: Lance Cpl. Marianne T. Mangrum/Marine Corps

Strictly for Veterans

Goodwill's Veteran Integration Program (VIP) offers job training, job placement, supportive services and other resources for military service members, veterans, and their families. VIP, in conjunction with Goodwill Career Connections Centers, empowers veterans and their families with the tools they need to transition from military to civilian life, find employment, advance in their careers and ensure long-term financial stability for their families.

All Veteran Integration Program positions are intentionally staffed with veterans who have relatable experiences and understand the unique needs of veteran and military families. Our Career Connections Centers provide access to necessary job training and job opportunities for veterans. We partner specifically with companies that are hiring veterans.

If you are a veteran looking for employment please contact them today! (702) 214-2025

<http://www.goodwill.vegas/veteranintegrationprogram>



In Pahrump, NV there will be a Stand Down on October 15, 2015 9 am to 3 pm at
301 N Highway 160 Pahrump, NV
Linda Wright—VFW
lwright.la.vfw@gmail.com

Services include: Food Assistance, Legal Aid, Social Connection, Faith-Based, Veterans Benefits, Clothing, Showers, Haircuts, Employment, and Housing Aid.

American Veterans Assistance Group (AVAG) is a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization providing low and moderate income families with quality, affordable housing since 1997 and now offers help to veterans and their families through its Veterans Assistance Program. This is NOT a government program.

- **AFFORDABLE HOME PURCHASE PROGRAM** - Affordable manufactured housing for veterans and their families.
- **DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE** - Qualified veterans will receive down payment assistance grant funds with a minimum down payment to purchase a new or used manufactured home when using ACL and/or Santiago Communities, Inc. financing in any of AVAG's 32 affiliated manufactured home communities in the western U.S.
- **MOVE-IN SUBSIDIES** - Qualified veterans will be provided move-in rent subsidy grant funds to lower their rent cost during the first 1-3 years after purchasing their home.
- **FINANCING OPTIONS** – Flexible financing options give qualified veterans the opportunity to purchase a home and re-establish their good credit at the same time.
- **HANDICAP ASSISTANCE** – Grant funds are also available to disabled veterans needing handicap wheelchair ramps, wheel chair lifts, handicap access in bathrooms, kitchens and other modifications and improvements for interior and exterior of homes.



<http://veteransaffordablehousing.org/communities/nevada/>



The next **WVON** meeting will be on
**Saturday, October 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the
American Legion Post 8.**
Address: 733 N Veterans Memorial Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Phone:(702) 382-8533



WVON brings together women of all branches and eras of military service; inactive, reserve and active duty, to share and assist comrades and community.

For membership, meeting dates and events please email:
womenveteransofnevada@gmail.com

Career Corner



**2 Day Vegas
Professional, Veteran
and Collegiate Career Fair!**

This is a Community Event; all Professionals, Veterans, College Students, New Grads, MBA's and PhD's are invited!

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 - 11:00am – 2:00pm in Ballrooms A & B
Wednesday, October 28, 2015 - 11:00am - 2:00pm in Ballrooms A & B

Gold Coast Hotel and Casino
4000 W Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV. 89103

www.diversityhiringexpos.com



Veterans' Service Fair 2015

October 7, 2015
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

East Las Vegas Community Center
250 N Eastern Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101

VA Job Club

VA Job club will meet in the Auditorium in the VA Hospital at 6900 N Pecos Road from 9:40 a.m. to Noon.

The Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration Vocation Rehabilitation Program will provide assistance with the following :

- Resume writing (Federal and Private Sector)
- Interview skills
- Networking
- Job search techniques

RSVP by contacting Primo Soltero at primo.soltero@va.gov



A proud partner of the [americanjobcenternetwork](http://www.americanjobcenternetwork.com)

Workforce Connections' One-Stop Career Center will hold its third annual Nevada Day Super Hiring Event on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 starting at 9am. at the Cashman Center. More than two dozen employers with hundreds of open positions will be interviewing potential hires on-site during the event. Like all job placement and training services offered at the One-Stop Career Center, there is no cost to the job seeker or employer.

Due to the popularity of the hiring event and to ensure employers are face-to-face with qualified candidates, all applicants will be pre-screened prior to seeing an employer. Walk-ins are welcome the day of the event. However, to expedite the pre-screening process and minimize wait time, job seekers are strongly encouraged to apply for open job positions on www.nvcareercenter.org.

Job seekers who meet the minimum qualifications will be invited to attend one of the pre-screening interview sessions in October leading up to the event. Qualified candidates will then be scheduled for an in-person interview on October 28, 2015. Job seekers who have been unemployed for six months or longer and have exhausted their unemployment benefits may be eligible for additional paid on-the-job training opportunities.

<http://www.nvworkforceconnections.org/admin/events/attendees.php>

workforce CONNECTIONS
PEOPLE. PARTNERSHIPS. POSSIBILITIES.

Women Veteran's Town Hall



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES
WOMEN VETERAN'S TOWN HALL
 Have your questions answered.
 Share your thoughts and ideas.



OCTOBER 30, 2015

You are invited to attend a Women Veteran's Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Nevada Department of Veteran Services (NDVS) on Friday, October 30, 2015.

The event is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The town hall meeting will be in the Auditorium (Room 1C166) located at 6900 N. Pecos Rd., North Las Vegas, NV 89086.

The Women Veteran's Town Hall is being held to give Nevada's women Veterans, and those who serve them, an opportunity to address concerns about women Veteran issues. Invitees include any woman who has served in any branch of the U.S. military, Veteran Service Organizations, and anyone interested in issues related to women Veterans.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions about resources and services available to women veterans.

Topics that will be covered on Friday, October 30, 2015 will include:

- Future events planning
- MST (Military Sexual Trauma)
- Resources for homelessness and financial assistance
- Resources for counseling, group therapy or other mental health concerns

**For additional information about the Town Hall Meeting,
 please contact the Women Veterans Coordinator,
 Necole Stevens at (702) 791-9000 ext 15518, email stevensn@veterans.nv.gov**

Nevada Day Festivities



Carson City, NV - Nevada Day is a state holiday and this year the state the Nevada Day Parade is on Saturday, October 31, 2015 - celebrating Nevada's 151st anniversary of statehood Parade day kicks off with an 8:00am hot air balloon launch on Carson Street near the Carson Mall (weather permitting).

At 10:00am a flyover of military craft signals the start of the parade. The parade begins at the intersection of William and Carson Streets. Locals and visitors are encouraged to arrive early with lounge chairs and blankets to stake their claim for a spot along the parade route on Carson Street. Food, drink and souvenir vendors the route, and local businesses often feature food and beverage specials during the parade.

Veteran Resources

Western Nevada College has opened up a Veterans Center on campus that will serve 24 students currently enrolled on the Fallon campus and with servicemen and women who are planning to begin their education in the near future.

Sherry Black, WNC Fallon's director, said 17 men and seven women are currently enrolled in classes. The center is in addition to WNC and Naval Air Station Fallon establishing a mutual agreement of understanding for the college to offer courses at the military installation.

The veterans' center is one of a handful of improvements implemented at the Fallon campus for the fall semester.

Speaking at the semi-monthly meeting of the Restore Our College Campus Committee, Black said remodeling projects are either underway or finished. Workers have finished remodeling a science lab except for some storage areas, and a computer lab opened on September 21, 2015. WNC Fallon campus offers a wide range of courses for students to work toward associate degrees, transfer to a university, dual credit college/high school courses, or certificates of achievement in the arts and sciences, technologies or topics of personal interest.

<http://www.wnc.edu/location/fallon/>
For assistance, call 775- 423-7565.



Wreaths Across America

Their mission is to, Remember, Honor, and Teach. WAA coordinates wreath laying ceremonies in Northern and Southern Nevada. They also organize of events including international veteran's tributes and ceremonies.

The program is dependent on the generosity and donations made by individual wreaths sponsors, corporate and volunteer donors. To Donate or to Learn More visit: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

The next Wreaths Across America ceremony is on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at both Northern and Southern locations. The public is welcome to attend and assist with placing the wreaths following the ceremony.

Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery
14 Veterans Way Fernley, NV 89408

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery
1900 Buchanan Boulevard, Boulder City, NV 89005



Nevada Department of Veterans Services

1(866) 630-VETS
1(866) 630-8387

Department of Veterans Affairs

1(800) 827-1000

VA Suicide Prevention Hotline

1(800) 273-TALK
1(800) 273-8255



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaWomenVeterans>



Twitter: https://twitter.com/NDVS_WVC



Google+: <http://tinyurl.com/NDVSgpage>



Website: <http://www.veterans.nv.gov/>



Instagram: [ndvs.wvc](https://www.instagram.com/ndvs.wvc)



Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/NVWVC/>



Email: stevensn@veterans.nv.gov

Honoring Women Veterans

At the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, we're committed to delivering quality services to all Nevada veterans, and these pages will educate you – a woman veteran who proudly defended our freedom – about benefits and resources.



Women have served the cause of freedom in every war and every generation since the Revolution.

Those we honor number some 1.8 million, including nearly 24,000 women veterans currently residing in Nevada. Today, more than 25 percent of our military strength worldwide is women, and women serve in almost every capacity in the armed forces, including in combat zones on land, at sea and in the skies. More than 177,000 women from across the country have served as fighter pilots, medics, military police and in other roles since the start of the Global War on Terror.

It's all too common for women veterans to pack away their uniforms and memories upon return to civilian life, never to discuss their experiences again. Many women who honorably served don't even realize they're veterans – or realize their eligibility for benefits. Through these pages, we acknowledge your service and offer several resources to help you understand your status and what it means. By working together, we will achieve success in establishing a network to further communication and women veterans outreach.

Vision

Nevadans across the state understand and celebrate the legacy of America's servicewomen and all Nevada women veterans understand and have access to benefits to which they are eligible.

Mission

To provide women veteran benefit and activity information; resolve women veteran problems or refer veterans to NDVS service officers and other beneficial service providers for assistance; and to develop programs and activities that ensure Nevada women veterans understand, and are able to obtain, any aid or benefit to which they may be eligible.

Nominate a Woman Vet for Veteran of the Month

To read the Veteran of the Month Guidelines and access submission forms please go to:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veteran-of-the-month-program>

Submit Pictures and Articles

To submit articles and pictures for publication in the Women Veterans Informer please email the Women Veterans Coordinator at:

StevensN@veterans.nv.gov



Necole Stevens

Women Veterans
Program Coordinator
Nevada Department
of Veterans Services

**Southern Nevada
Healthcare System
North Las Vegas
VA Medical Center**

**6900 N Pecos Rd
North Las Vegas,
Nevada 89086**

**Phone: 702.791.9000
ext 15518**

E-mail:

stevensn@veterans.nv.gov

Web Sites

Nevada Department of
Veteran Services General
Information (866) 630-8387

Visit www.veterans.nv.gov
for information concerning;

Nevada State
Veterans Home
Southern and Northern
Nevada Veteran
Memorial Cemeteries
Veterans Rural Outreach
"ROVER" Calendar



**"Serving America's
Heroes"**