



# NNCA

# NEWS

## NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

*Preserving our legacy, sharing moments today, and promoting our future.*

Volume 36 No. 3 March 2023

### **NNCA Nominating Committee Introduces 2023-2026 Board Members**

Your new Board of Director members are Jennifer Vedral-Baron, Cynthia Sweeney, and Tina Ortiz. Many thanks to the talented slate of candidates who volunteered to serve on the NNCA Board of Directors, and congratulations to the new Board members!

Alice Bova, Arlene Southerland, Jerry Davidson, and Linda Daehn from the Palmetto Chapter met on January 10, 2023 to tabulate the votes. Linda Daehn, Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee (Ballot), notified NNCA Board President Pat Kenney of the elected candidates that same day.

#### **Tina L. Ortiz (FL FNNCA)**



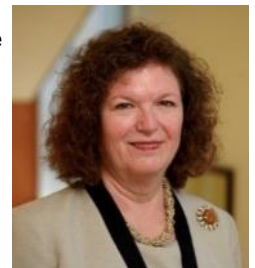
Tina L. Ortiz served 22 years on active duty in a variety of nursing and healthcare support roles. Her final duty assignment was as Commanding Officer of Navy Medicine Information Systems Support Activity. She was the first woman and Nurse Corps Officer to serve in this position. Career highlights include deployments to Guantanamo Bay in 1991, Iraq in 2003 and serving as the first Program Manager for the deployment of the electronic medical record across Navy Medicine.

Tina's nursing career spans 42 years across a multitude of nursing specialties. Tina previously was the Maternity and Woman's Health Clinical Faculty Coordinator at The Catholic University of America and currently serves as an Adjunct Faculty.

Tina's volunteer work includes serving as Governance Chair, Kappa Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau and Treasurer, Tula Yoga Healing Foundation. Previous positions include leadership/committee roles with the Military Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

#### **Cynthia Sweeney (MD WMANNCA)**

Cynthia Sweeney has served on the WMANNCA board and most recently on the planning committee for the NNCA 2022 reunion and assists in capturing oral histories of NNCA members. In 2018 she received the NNCA Professional Nursing Award. Retiring from the DAISY Foundation in 2021, she was given the title of VP for Nursing, Emerita and received their Lifetime Achievement Award for her work.



She retired as a Captain from the Navy Nurse Corps and completed her doctorate at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing with a research focus on meaningful recognition in the Operating Room. In 2020 she received the Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Nursing Research or Evidence-Based Practice Award by AORN and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She continues to teach at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and is President of Pi at-Large chapter of Sigma at the university.

#### **Jennifer Vedral-Baron (TN Member at Large)**



Jennifer "VB" Vedral-Baron joined the Navy in 1986 following graduation from the University of North Florida. Highlights of her 30-year career include first Nurse Corps officer Executive Assistant to Navy Surgeon General and first Navy Director of Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. VB also served as the METU Officer-in-Charge at National Naval Medical Center, team responsible for care of the President, Vice President, and their families. She served as Executive Officer, Naval Hospital Jacksonville and commanded Naval Hospital Pensacola. Headquarters' tours included Chief of Staff, National Capital Region and Deputy Chief, Medical Operations, BUMED. She earned her master's degree in Adult Health from the University of Florida and is a certified Adult Nurse Practitioner.

Retired in 2016, she joined the VA as Director, Tennessee Valley Healthcare System. She is currently an Executive Coach and recently named to the Tennessee State Veterans' Homes Board of Directors. VB lives in Arrington, TN with her husband and English Bulldog, Maggie.



President's Corner

Pat Kenney

"Interdependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of man as self-sufficiency. Man is a social being." -Mahatma Gandhi

Three years ago, in March 2020 we started the COVID-19 journey. It is hard to believe how much the world has changed since that nasty virus hit our shores. January 2020, I was getting ready to sail on a Caribbean cruise. Just before I sailed, Christine Boltz called and asked if I was willing to accept a position on the NNCA board. I accepted and told my friends, "What a great way to start the year!" Little did I know what was around the corner - SARS-CoV-2, the lockdowns, masks, supply shortages, so much suffering and so many deaths. Angry words and dissension. At times it seemed like everyone was fighting and it was safer, physically and emotionally, to stay home, avoid socializing and let our connections with friends and colleagues' lapse.

NNCA is a great way to maintain the social connections we made in the Navy and reconnect with shipmates. Serving on the Board during COVID-19 has been a way to maintain those important social ties connections. The links I have to the Navy and the Nurse Corps are some of the intangible ties that enrich my life.

Since I wrote my letter for the last newsletter the Board Officers and Executive Director developed a marketing plan and searched for a company to assist with the plan, refresh and maintain the website and develop innovative methods to increase our membership. We are close to awarding a contract and will provide additional information once it is finalized.

Congratulations to our three new Board of Director members: Jenny Vedral-Baron, Cynthia Sweeney, and Tina Ortiz! I want to thank the talented slate of candidates who volunteered to serve on the NNCA Board of Directors and offer a sincere appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the Nominating Committee and the Palmetto Chapter ballot counters.

The tireless efforts of the Nominating Committee in considering the needs of the NNCA, and the qualities and skills of potential nominees ensured that we had a strong slate of qualified and capable individuals to lead us into the future. The attention to detail and commitment to finding the best candidates for the available positions is greatly appreciated as is the time devoted to ballot counting.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow outgoing board members, Carole Louis and Carol Zylstra, who worked on behalf of NNCA with quiet confidence. Their contribution to the organization will be felt for a long time to come.

I encourage all of you to reach out to your friends and colleagues who are current, former, reserve or retired NC officers to join the NNCA. Reconnect with shipmates. Find other veterans of the Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Help each other and share lessons learned from your transition to life as a civilian. We need everyone to preserve our history, serve others and while we do that, maintain the important social ties which keep us connected, healthy and happy.

Pat

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

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- Veronica Armstrong, CA – Secretary
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- Cynthia Coyle, MD
- Carole Louis, MD
- Charlene McKee, LA
- Rosie Perdue, VA
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- Christine Boltz
- Linda Daehn
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- Barbara O'Brien

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



**Executive Director**  


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**Mary Mahony**



**Editor**  


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**Dot O'Very**

Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter finds you well.

Our annual membership drive is off to another great start!! Thank you to the many chapter members and members at large who have already renewed online. As a reminder, our current membership year runs from May 1, 2023 to May 1, 2024. All membership dues should be submitted to your Chapter or National by May 1, 2023. Your membership fees will support the work of our organization, our mission, and the valuable programs vital to our community. I understand the past couple of years have been difficult, and you may be concerned about renewing your membership. However, I want to assure you that we are still working hard to provide valuable benefits and opportunities to our members. Through generous donations, the Rough Seas Fund remains available to members who may consider suspending their memberships due to rough financial times.

When completing your online or paper application, update your preferences for displaying your name, address, telephone, and/or email address. When completing the paper form, be sure also to check your preference for a paper directory and newsletters or the online versions. Online users can verify their Directory and Newsletter preferences by going to the My Settings page on the Members Only site. Members may renew for one or more years. You can renew for multiple years online by increasing the number of renewals in your shopping cart. By postal mail, just send an additional \$35.00 for each membership year.

On May 13, 2023, the USS LENA HIGBEE (DDG-123), the Navy's newest Aegis Guided Missile Destroyer, will be commissioned in Key West, Florida. I hope if you can attend the ceremony or participate in private events, you will share your memories, stories, and photos for the July newsletter.

Spring is here and with it comes a sense of renewal and growth. As we embrace the warmer weather and longer days, NNCA leadership continues to work behind the scenes on goals for the coming year. One of them that we are steadily working on is a new and revamped website with a fresh look that is user-friendly while also addressing membership affecting all service organizations. Together, much is being accomplished and I am grateful for the team's dedication and hard work. I am confident that the combined efforts will continue to positively impact our organization. If you wish to share ideas to improve the membership experience or increase our membership, please send them to the Marketing Committee or Executive Director.

Wishing you all a happy and productive spring season.

Mary

Greetings, Friends!

Another wet, gray PNW day finds me longing for spring and sunshine – and thankful that our rains are not causing the floods that the state of CA is enduring.

I've spent many hours this month perusing previous NNCA newsletters searching for historical details for various articles and activities. These reviews remind me, once again, of our incredible history and heritage as Navy Nurses and as an organization dedicated to preserving our history and memorabilia. The early newsletters are full of articles and photos of former, retired, reserve and active duty nurses engaged in exciting NNCA events. I recall as a junior nurse participating in a scattering of NNCA meetings, but it was not until I was retired that I became more engaged with the organization. It was inspiring to see how engaged our active duty members were in earlier years. I would be remiss if I didn't profess a hearty Bravo Zulu to all the previous editors of the NNCA Newsletter. It has been fun to observe how our organization has grown, become more sophisticated and technologically advanced over the past thirty-five years. All of this has been captured and recorded by our unofficial editor-historians.

In this edition you'll enjoy some exciting Articles of Interest submitted by Chapter members—a prompt for all of us to start working on our own oral histories if not yet submitted. We say Fair Winds and Following Seas to a long-standing NNCA Charter member with the reminder that our organization is sustained by the countless volunteer hours and commitment of our NNCA Board, Committee and Chapter leadership. Here is my editorial plug to all members to find an opportunity to become involved at one of these levels to ensure our organization's future is strong and relevant. Put the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday on your calendar and find an opportunity to celebrate with fellow Navy Nurses. And then send me your stories and photos of adventure and fun for the July edition of the NNCA Newsletter!

Finally, I'd like to call out and recognize all of our generous supporters. You'll note that the list of NNCA Donations is quite lengthy – we could not sustain the organization without the generosity of so many. THANK YOU!


Dot

**NNCA Newsletter Submissions**

The newsletter is published in March, July, and November. The submission deadlines are January 20th, May 20th, September 20th. To submit an article, email editor@nnca.org. Please follow these guidelines for article submission:

- Content of general interest to all members, apolitical and not serve as business advertisement.
- Articles should be 450 words or less; NNCA editor will edit to meet space requirements.
- Include 1 or 2 photos that relate to the article, if desired.

NNCA members can access recent newsletters by logging into the NNCA Member site and selecting Publications.



## Articles of Interest



### Remembering a Former NNCA Board Member and First Executive Director

CDR Catharine Tate, Nurse Corps, USN (Retired) of Seattle WA, passed away at the age of 83 on November 9, 2022. Kit was a Charter Member of the Navy Nurse Corps Association. She served two years as the NNCA Treasurer, served the association for twelve years as its Executive Director (previously the Executive Secretary position) and served over twenty years as the NNCA Registered Agent. She was a staunch supporter and tireless contributor to many of the committees and activities of both the national organization and the Northwest NNCA Chapter.

Catharine (Kit) Tate began her nursing career at Paterson General Hospital, attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, and received her Masters Degree in nursing from the University of Washington (Seattle).

Kit served in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps from 1967 to 1992. Her 25-year career included assignments to Naval Hospitals and Naval Regional Medical Centers in Oakland, San Francisco and San Diego, CA; Bremerton, and Oak Harbor, WA; and Okinawa, Japan. A highlight of Kit's career was her assignment as the Nursing Facilities Design Coordinator for Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego, CA from 1982 to 1988, qualifying her as a Plank owner. Her work was instrumental to the design and installation of an eight-million-dollar patient monitoring system.

Per her wishes, Kit will be buried at sea at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the Nursing Scholarship Fund of the Northwest Navy Nurse Corps Association at:

NWNNCA Scholarship Fund  
21716 Big Valley Rd NE  
Poulsbo WA 98370

Memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [Catharine Tate Obituary - Bremerton, WA \(dignitymemorial.com\)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/catharine-tate) for the Tate family.



### Gulf Coast NNCA Announces Michael Kohler Sworn in as County Commissioner

From Navy Nurse to Escambia County Commissioner! The Gulf Coast NNCA (GCNNCA) announces that their member, Michael Kohler, took his oath for District 2 Commissioner of Escambia County, Florida, on November 22, 2022. GCNNCA members were invited and attended the recognition ceremony.

The full story from the Pensacola News Journal: [Mike Kohler wins Escambia County Commission District 2 seat in primary \(pnj.com\)](https://www.pnj.com/story/news/politics/election/2022/11/22/mike-kohler-wins-escambia-county-commission-district-2-seat-in-primary/7000000000)



### Honor Flight Bay Area – Flight # 27 Submitted by Bonnie (Herl) Bouey

In July 2022, my two tour SeaBee (Construction Battalion) Vietnam veteran husband and I were notified that our applications for an Honor Flight had been accepted. We were invited to join 27 other veterans on Honor Flight Bay Area #27 in September from San Francisco, CA to Washington D.C. for a tour of the war memorials and museums. It was the beginning of an emotional and deeply touching three-day experience. Our veteran companions were in their 70's, 80's, and 90's, a WWII veteran (who lied about his age to join and ended up crewing a Higgins landing craft on Utah Beach on D-Day – landing Marines and carrying the wounded back to the ship), 7 Korean veterans, and 19 Vietnam veterans. Most were just kids, teenagers or young adults until their lives were forever changed by the horrors of war. It has been over 55 years since I served my time at Naval Hospital, Oakland, CA and I was not prepared for the memories that surfaced as we got to know each other and shared stories.



Each veteran was assigned a volunteer Guardian to assist them with all their needs on the trip. Some of these Guardians consisted of a family member, grandson with grandfather, daughter with father and two sons who volunteered to be Guardians for other veterans so they could both be with their father on this trip. Other Guardians were veterans themselves or community members. All costs for participants for lodging, food, transportation, etc. were provided by the Honor Flight Foundation but Guardians had to cover their own costs. I mention this fact because it shows the dedication of the volunteers who accompany veterans to make this trip possible. They pushed our wheelchairs, wrestled our bags, got our food, and made sure we were in the right place at the right time to be able to see everything we wanted to. More importantly, they were also very diligent in recording our experiences with lots of photos.

My husband, John, met another SeaBee Veteran of Vietnam and they shared many common experiences and memories, especially at the Vietnam Wall when they sought the names of fallen Navy men with whom they served. Not many women veterans have been on the Honor Flights; Flight 27 was very special because there were two women, both nurses. My nurse companion was an Army nurse who served two tours in Vietnam at an Army MASH unit. Imagine the surprise to everyone when she realized one of the veterans in our group had been one of her former patients (and he remembered her).

As military nurses, we were able to appreciate the recognition of nurses who served in the military in the photos at the U.S. Army Museum, the Navy Museum, Vietnam Memorial, the bronze statue celebrating nurses, and the displays at the Military Women's Memorial. Unknown to us, the organizers of our flight had contacted family members for information and photos about our service and provided this to the Women's Memorial Archive staff who researched our awards and service dates. During our visit, our photos and information were displayed on a large screen and we were presented with a folder that included the material. There were very few dry eyes in our group of veterans and guardians. Our male combat veterans were as proud of us as we were of them.



One veteran guardian on our tour was a retired Chief Hospital Corpsman who, after his initial training following Corps School and FMS, served with a Marine unit in Vietnam. He was overjoyed there was a Navy nurse on the flight and shared with me his deep appreciation and respect for the Navy nurses who trained him and those he worked with later.

During our last night at dinner, the organizers had a special "Mail Call." We received packets of mail with letters from schools, scout organizations, community organizations, and military service organizations thanking us for our service. Some of the letters were very specific – mine included letters specifically recognizing women who served and paved the way for the women in the military today. An 8<sup>th</sup> grader labeled it "Girl Power." Members of our group shared especially meaningful letters. Again, boxes of Kleenex all around. Each veteran also received a letter from a family member describing their feeling about how proud they were of our service. I will always cherish the letter from my sons.

Most of our group was Vietnam veterans; there was a lot of anger and hurt about their treatment regarding their service when they came home. Many of us know of the terrible treatment but hearing these men describe, sometimes through tears, what they endured was heartbreaking. The chance to share these feelings and stories was as important and healing as viewing the memorials. From the USO sendoff, the welcome to Washington D.C. and special treatment and performances by the military units, the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and many more memories, the culmination of these experiences was the arrival back home at San Francisco International Airport.



Our tour group was the last to exit the airplane and there was a huge group with signs and banners welcoming us home. We were then all lined up and our tour leader said, "We are going to give you what you never had when you came home – a parade!" The bagpipes started playing, the honor guards with flags flying began marching (yes, more than one) and the parade began. All the way through the San Francisco airport. With the community groups and family members waving flags and signs, our parade, four wheelchairs abreast, proceeded all the way to the baggage claim area. Patrons in the restaurants, bars, and stores weren't always sure what to do, but most stood and clapped as a bunch of crying veterans came home.

If you have the opportunity to join an Honor Flight as participant or guardian, do so. If you have an opportunity to donate to an Honor Flight Foundation, please do: [Home - Honor Flight Network](http://Home-HonorFlightNetwork.com)



## NNCA Committee News

### Finance Committee Update Submitted by NNCA Treasurer, Margaret Beaubien

Welcome to 2023! NNCA is starting the year in a very good position financially. With the deposit of the final Celine Finn bequest in December and other small bequests through the year that have gone into the general fund, operations have continued without dipping into savings since the beginning of 2022. We did end the year with revenues exceeding expenses. The organization has continued a trend of decreasing travel expenses since the start of the pandemic. Our long-term investments saw some recovery in the later part of the year. However, we all know that the current environment for investments remains labile as we head into the new year.

As a result of the large donation we received in late 2021 we are looking to fund some new initiatives for the coming year. It is hoped that some of these will help introduce new individuals as well as new members to the organization and our mission.

For long term stability we need to continue to sustain our current members and add new members and donors. As our membership ages and the younger nurses are more likely to have young families and are more insular, joining service organizations is not their focus. Bequests and other donations may fall to the wayside or membership dues may fail to keep abreast of expenses.

I sign off wishing you an amazing 2023 with a reminder that if families or friends want to honor you for any reason, a donation to a charity is a great remembrance now and in the future. I personally use birthdays and holidays for myself and friends as an opportunity to support one of their charities. Let family and friends know that a donation to the NNCA is a great way to recognize the great work you accomplished during your time in the NAVY!

### Marketing Committee Submitted by Cynthia Coyle

As an NNCA board member and *Goal Tender* for the NNCA Strategic Plan Goal #1 Organizational Sustainability, I have been working in conjunction with the Executive Director and Newsletter Editor to ensure that the strategies set under this goal are being executed. We are happy to announce that a contractor has been selected and work is expected to start in early spring 2023.

The contractor, **Squeeze Marketing** (<https://www.squeezemarket.com>) is located in Charleston, SC and is a full-service marketing and digital advertising agency in their 8<sup>th</sup> year of business.

What will **Squeeze Marketing** do to help us address each strategy in Goal #1?

*NNCA Strategy 1-1: Create a dynamic website that communicates professionalism and camaraderie to visitors and members. The website should convey NNCA's mission, vision and goals through representative photos and messaging.*

They specialize in customized website design that includes impressive support in database development which will significantly improve the website operations related to membership applications, payment reminders and other functions that can be extremely time consuming for both our members and our Executive Director.

While many agencies build within a templated system and apply that template to the client branding and content, **Squeeze** starts from scratch and designs the website to create a unique user experience. They boast that their websites have higher retention times, higher conversion rates, and create a more memorable experience for the user.

*NNCA Strategy 1-2: Develop initiatives to sustain net membership by increasing new and/or returning members in balance with historical attrition.*

**Squeeze** will help NNCA develop brand awareness through a customized website design and robust digital marketing campaign that drives traffic to our website and calls attention to our organization. In order to grow our membership, we need to be seen by a greater number of people who are eligible for membership. The more exposure people have to our name, mission, vision and values, the more potential we have to gain members. Additionally, **Squeeze** will provide exposure that will encourage more non-member donors.

*NNCA Strategy 1-7: Hire a Marketing/Development Director or contractor to implement marketing strategies, including development and implementation of messaging for website, social media and publications; also responsible for oversight of donor program, including development of outreach strategies.*

**Squeeze Marketing** clients are diverse industries, which allows them to collect best practices from a wide variety of markets and business concepts. This variety helps them build creative strategies that are less traditional and offer new opportunities for brand awareness and customer acquisition.

**Squeeze** will perform data collection and analysis to build a report each month that displays all website, social media, campaign, and advertising data in an easy to read and understandable format. The importance of this cannot be understated. It will allow the NNCA to make future decisions about marketing and advertising and determine the success of our partnership with this contractor.

The website will be developed and implemented before the digital marketing strategies are initiated. This is because the marketing campaign is intended to drive more visitors to the NNCA website. We are looking forward to our business relationship with this dynamic company.

### **Memorabilia Committee Update Submitted by Sherry Dotson**

The Board of NNCA has budgeted the monies to complete the digitization of the remaining photographs in the museum collection. When the process is completed, you will be able to view the actual photograph along with the description when looking through the virtual museum. The committee encourages all members to view images and items which have been accepted by signing into the NNCA website and clicking the “Virtual Museum” tab on the left side of the screen. If you have a memorabilia donation, please contact your Chapter Memorabilia Representative, a National Memorabilia Committee Member/Chair, or the Memorabilia Board Goaltender. The national representatives may be contacted at [memorabilia@nnca.org](mailto:memorabilia@nnca.org)

### **Oral History Committee Update Submitted by Maria Harbeson**

The Oral History Committee is busy across the nation completing new oral histories and uploading past histories to our website. As mentioned previously, many of these histories were previously obtained and transcribed by Pat Rushton during the time she was completing research about nurses in armed conflict. She has generously shared them with NNCA. JoAnn Smith, Lissa Barker and Maureen Christopher continue to perform content validation review before the histories are uploaded to our website. The latest amazing histories of our Navy Nurses are sure to leave you moved and inspired!

New Conflict oriented histories added to the NNCA.org website: Madelin Perrault, Ruth Purinton, Anne Rawley, Mary Jean Reed, Ann Ross. To contact your Chapter Representative or the Committee Chair, Maria Harbeson email: [history@nnca.org](mailto:history@nnca.org) or Pat Rushton to schedule a phone interview: [history@nnca.org](mailto:history@nnca.org)

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

With the start of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, they begin with a clean blank slate of bills. Any bill not signed into law before the end of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress needs to be re-introduced. MOAA assesses new and old legislation as it is introduced by lawmakers. MOAA has listed the advocacy priorities for retirees in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress including:

- hold on medical billet reductions
- monitoring the **PACT Act** in areas of health care, compensation, and support for surviving spouses and families
- effective problem reporting and resolution in the Military Health System
- beneficiary access to care, TRICARE, and degradation of pharmacy benefits

This year MOAA will return to Advocacy in Action in person on April 26, 2023, a time when representatives meet with Congressional members. The government relations team firms up the top three issues at the end of January.

**The Star Act** will be reintroduced in the House. The act would provide concurrent receipt of DoD-earned retirement pay for years of service and VA disability compensation for over 50,300 combat-injured veterans. Currently, these combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of disability pay received, an unjust offset designed to save the government money.

The Veteran’s Administration is gearing up for a robust period as veterans file for new benefits covered by the **PACT Act**. Detailed information about the act and how to file a claim can be found at <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>.

We urge everyone to Stay Informed, Get Involved, and ‘Never Stop Serving.’



## Vietnam 50th Commemoration

### Vietnam Recollections Submitted by MWNNCA Member, Donna Hendel

At a recent Midwest NNCA meeting, Donna (nee Quinney) Hendel was the featured speaker. Donna is our Chapter member and friend living in Fergus Falls, MN.

Donna began her Navy career when she was accepted into the Nurse Corps Candidate Program as a junior nursing major at South Dakota State University (formerly college). This program paid the tuition, room and board as well as a monthly stipend for full time students. Donna was in the program for her last 2 years of college with an obligation of three years of active duty service following graduation. As the oldest of 4 children whose father had died 2 years previously, Donna's mother was grateful for the financial aid from the Navy's program and received support from Donna's grandfather. Her grandmothers opposed her joining the military and "all those men." During her college years, a YN1 from the Sioux Falls, SD recruiting station was in contact with Donna as mentor and counselor.

She graduated in the spring of 1965 and reported to USNH (facilities were called hospitals then, rather than medical centers) Philadelphia. At the time junior nurses had to be single and with no children. Rules required addressing each other as "Miss" until at least the rank of LT and often Miss was used until the rank of



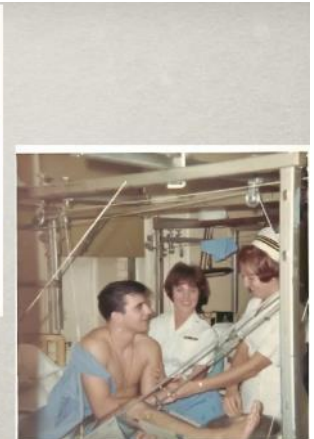
LCDR. Once the rank of Lcdr was attained, nurses were addressed by rank. And, the nurses were never to divulge their first names to patients! Donna was one of 13 new Ensigns reporting to Philly at the same time. Each new Ensign had an experienced senior nurse as a mentor. Donna's mentor was LTJG Mary Ann Witherow who worked with her on a busy ortho, amputee ward.



In her own words, Donna felt confident and a bit cocky on her first day. However, her first impression walking onto the ward stopped her cold. She faced an open bay ward with port and starboard racks or beds, beds in the sun-room or porch and some beds in midships. The nurses' desk was in the middle of the ward offering excellent visibility of the many IVs, drainage tubes and traction set ups. Right away, she was assigned to round with the doctor and report drainage amounts from different tubes. As Donna confronted measuring chest tube drainage, she knew she had to take great care opening the system without losing the suction. Then, an experienced corpsman approached, positioned the bottle to expose a "time tape" to read, explaining she could calculate the drainage amount since the last time mark and re-time the tape. This was a very early lesson in humility and a realization of the value of an experienced corpsman. As 1965 became 1966, Philly got extremely busy with Vietnam casualties, corpsmen got orders to Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) and nurses received orders to SE Asia.



Traction jungle  
1966



Ward 3A  
Ortho/Amputee



Donna knew the work was more than she and the corpsmen on her shifts could manage, but it had to be done. During these times, patients stepped up to help; no HIPAA or certification in providing patient care/counseling needed. Marines helped others talk through "dear John" letters, assisted with eating and anything else they could do. One night, Donna recalled with great detail, she received a fresh post op patient who was still groggy from anesthesia. The surgeon cautioned Donna that the Marine had "no veins" and it was critical to protect the one in place. A LT on crutches who couldn't sleep because he "was fresh from the bush" asked to help. Immediately, Donna explained the need to safeguard an IV on a postop. All night long, the LT sat next to the Marine and kept him from dislodging his IV. In the morning the IV was still intact. The average length of stay at Philly was 360 days and the majority were boarded out.

In 1967, Donna was due for orders so she asked for DaNang or the Hospital ship. She was ordered to Guam which was considered within the combat zone. There, some patients arrived directly from the field. One group of wounded had been pinned down for five days before they were extracted and sent directly to Guam. That group, as well as many others, were stabilized before going to CONUS. Others received their care and were then eligible to return to duty. At first USNH Guam had a census 423 patients. With increasing hostilities, Guam increased their capacity to 1200 by erecting 65 quonset-like structures on cement slabs. Calls home were via ham radio operators, rare, and very brief. Marines helped each other roll wheelchairs and gurneys to the one phone. They were brave and reassuring in calls home. One bilateral leg amputee told his Mom the Marines would send him home taller once he received his prostheses!





Patients with a length of stay 120+ days were medevac'd to CONUS. Supplies to last the length of the trip (adjusted according to the locale of the receiving hospital) accompanied the patients. These flights, with litters at least three high, were courtesy of the Air Force and their staff.

Of course, not all Donna's hours were spent working. They played just as hard as they worked. There were snorkeling lessons, beach time, and the O'Club. Donna said the ratio of men to women was 2000 to 1! Some creative officers paid an enlisted man in a wheelchair to "man a watch" in the parking lot of the Nurses BOQ during happy hour. The Marine on watch would screen male officers and "the wrong ones" were told the happy hour had been moved to a different location.

For Donna, these first years on active duty were the most challenging of her career and the most rewarding. She and her Guam colleagues maintain their friendships and continue reuniting every 2 years.

Donna had a total of 7 years and 10 months on active duty. In 1970, she was recalled to active duty as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in a "physician extender role" pilot program at San Diego Naval Hospital. The trial was successful leading to the extensive use of Pediatric Nurses Practitioners in the Navy today. While at San Diego, Donna married. When she and her husband were ready for a family, Donna left active duty. By 1988, the Nurse Corps allowed nurses to have dependents so she joined the Naval Reserves. Donna retired from the Nurse Corps in 2003 as a Captain with 22 years of service.



**Commissioning of the USS LENA H. SUTCLIFFE HIGBEE (DDG-123) - All NNCA Members Invited!**



USS LENA H. SUTCLIFFE HIGBEE (DDG-123), the Navy's newest Aegis Guided Missile Destroyer, will be commissioned in Key West on May 13, 2023. The Key West Council of the United States Navy League has the honor of leading the Commissioning Committee which sponsors the events that accompany the commissioning of the USS HIGBEE.

The ship's inspirational namesake, Lenah H. Sutcliffe Higbee, was the first female superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps and the first living woman to receive the Navy Cross. We intend to make this not only a celebration of Lenah Higbee, but of military nurses in general and female sailors specifically. The Higbee crew is 15% female, and the ship's command master chief petty officer is a female sailor. **All NNCA members are invited to attend the event to honor Lenah Higbee.**

Attendance at the ceremony is free of charge, pending security approval of all 5000 guests by the US Navy. Participation in private events is obtained by participating as a donor at one of the levels identified at [Home | My Site \(higbeecommissioning.org\)](http://Home | My Site (higbeecommissioning.org)) or by contacting our council vice-president, COL (R) Ed Kertis, at [eker-tis@aol.com](mailto:eker-tis@aol.com), or 808-492-0180. (Ed's family includes five nurses).

Thank you for your support. With your help, it will be an outstanding celebration for the crew, their families, veterans, contributors and our community. We look forward to celebrating the commissioning with you in our tropical paradise in late spring.

The NNCA Board of Directors announces that the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on 01 May at 7pm EST, via virtual format. Login details will be sent via email and USPS to those without email.





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Generous Donors!**

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## Chapter News



Submitted by Lorrie Sammons

As 2022 concluded, SF Bay Area nurses supported favorite military causes, resumed some familiar activities, and caught up with friends.

**Currently Serving Update:** BANNCA Board member Lisa K., now serving as Interim Chief Nursing Officer (~SNE) of NR Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Camp Pendleton, supports the Command in their current focus on shipboard training, with an emphasis on TCCC. The Command is guided by an all-female Leadership Team, including the CO, XO, DFA, CNO, SDE & CMC.

**Preserving Legacy** – Military shadowboxes: When our local affiliated Vietnam Veterans group led a campaign to encourage the use of a shadowbox to preserve and convey personal stories of military service, Karen B. responded to a journalist's request to contribute to the dialogue. Karen's hand made boxes include unique memorabilia from her early service: Iceland - 20 months, with opportunities to fly with rotating P-3 Squadrons; Vietnam – a year aboard the hospital ship USS SANCTUARY AH-17; and collar and cap rank devices from early years. The related published article can be found at [Medals move out of the shadows and into a place of distinction - \(pioneerpublishers.com\)](https://pioneerpublishers.com)



Photo (Left): Legacy of 1970s Tours of duty in Iceland and Vietnam preserved in Shadow Boxes, courtesy of Karen B.

Photo (Right): Bonnie views film of Vietnam soldier evacuation at the US Army Museum, Washington DC

**Holiday Luncheon Meeting:** With reduced numbers due to health and travel conflicts, members and guests returned to the Brass Door on December 6 (since 2019!) for seated service in a private banquet room. Good conversation accompanied the tasty cuisine, with shared tales of past military tours and recent adventures.



Photo Above: Dave (guest), Chip H., Deb H., Renee S., Janice S., Bonnie B., Karen B., and John B.



**Holiday Support to VA Medical Center Martinez:** Continuing a tradition of cheer, the Vintage Stitchers chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America, supported by BANNCA and led in concept and finishing by our member Karen, provided all new style ornaments for seasonal decorations.

**Support for Veterans and Military Families:** We're pleased to have made sponsoring grants to: - American Legion Post 246, with whom our goals and mission are closely aligned; - Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley, a pre-eminent regional Veteran Service organization serving prior and current Service Members; and - WAA, through a liaison with NENCCA which assisted their chapter while supplying needed wreaths to our local 144,000 Golden Gate Cemetery graves.



**Honor Flight Participation:** See the separate feature article describing Bonnie B's memorable trip when she was selected by Honor Flight Bay Area this Fall to fly to Washington DC on a 3-day intense trip visiting our national Military Monuments featured on page 4.



**Submitted by Robin McKenzie**

The Florida NNCA (FNNCA) co-sponsors a DAISY Award with Naval Hospital Jacksonville. FNNCA announces the most recent recipient of the DAISY Award at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. In the photo, front and center is the recipient, HN Menchaca. To her right is the acting Commanding Officer of NH Jax, Captain R. Roberts and to the left is the DNS, Captain C. Goforth. She is surrounded by her colleagues and friends from the Mother-Baby Unit.



A brief synopsis of her nomination, submitted by the baby's father: "HN Menchaca introduced herself and she treated us like we were guests staying at a 5-star resort. She was very kind and respectful, super knowledgeable, and always eager to help or go above and beyond. I had to yell in the hallway my wife's water broke and she needs to push. HN Menchaca sprung into action as well as everyone that was on our team came into the room and helped out to the very best. Within 10 minutes the baby came. After the baby came, HN Menchaca was like wonder woman. She was taking care of my wife and baby girl. You can tell she has natural mother instincts because she handled my baby with the upmost respect. She was very knowledgeable, answering any question I had. I honestly felt blessed having her as our HM. We were so happy she was a part of our baby's life. I will never forget her. She is just the greatest. Truly was a blessing that she kept her composure and helped keep ours."

Bravo Zulu HN Menchaca!

FNNCA continues to capture Oral Histories. Brenda Baker has the lead and conducted eight interviews.

Karen Elgin heads our Scholarship Committee. We awarded six (6) scholarships this year to very deserving candidates.



Lou Ellen Bell, a plank owner of the FNNCA chapter and four others received a plaque with their names carved over the U.S. Navy inscription. The other recipients were Patricia A. Warner, Claudette Clunan, Joan Arcand, and Trudy Vering.

*Photo Left: Lou Ellen Bell, a plank owner of the FNNCA Chapter.*



*Photo Left: FNNCA Fall Luncheon, November 12th, 2022.*

*Photo Right: Brenda Baker, her mother and Navy Nurse, Rebecca Baker, and her twin brother Bruce Baker, CAPT, MC, USN (ret) at Wreaths Across America saluting each veteran as they placed a wreath.*



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

The GCNNCA Board of Directors met on 7 October to make plans for Fall and Winter activities.

The Winter meeting will be held on February 16, 2023. For meeting details, contact [GCNNCA@nnca.org](mailto:GCNNCA@nnca.org).



During the meeting, we will visit one of the two Armed Forces Retirement Homes in the U.S., located in Gulfport, Mississippi to visit with Veterans and deliver gifts.



GCNNCA Board of Directors met on Oct 7, 2022. Pictured, rear to front, (Left) Sue Varenholt, Scholarship Program, Susan Ulloa, Treasurer, Martha Hicks, Secretary; (Right) Shirley Lewis-



Photo: GCNNCA Holiday Luncheon attendees: (Left) Shirley-Lewis Brown, Laura Pistey, Carla Bestor, Sue Varenholt, Jo Ann Kelly, Dan Miller. (Right) Martha Hicks, Susan Ulloa, Anne Jennete, Jackie Wills and Marie Marino (visitor)



**Submitted by Kathy Knoll for Harriet Palmer-Willis**

Pat Rushton announces that her book “Vietnam War Nurses at the Ready” will be published in May, 2023. The book highlights the Vietnam War experiences of seventeen (17) Navy nurses and one Army nurse. It is being published by McFarland Publishers. Those who are interested may be able to advance order or order when it is published in May by going to [McFarlandpub.com](http://McFarlandpub.com).



The LLNNCA Chapter has lost a dear, special, and Founding Chapter member, Joan Rufe (Photo Left). She served in the Navy from June 1959 through October 1963. She was stationed at USNH Chelsea (Jun 1959-Oct 1961); USNH Guam (Oct 1961-Dec 1962); USNH Yokosuka, Japan (Dec 1962-Oct 1963).

Our Chapter had an informal get-together on Jan 27, 2023.



Photo: LLNNCA Breakfast Group (\* are LLNNCA Members), Left to Right: Don Bross, Maureen Bross\*, Terry Shade\*, Marti Crockett\*, Kathy Noll\*, Judy Servis, Ron Servis, Alan Brautigam, Carol Brautigam\*, Nancy Larson\*



**Submitted by Ellen Hodges**

After spending time with RADM Mary F. Hall, NC, USN (Ret) in the nursing home during 2022, MSNNCA Chapter members became acutely aware of the importance for continued support to our veterans regardless of their living arrangements. We elected to sponsor two veteran residents at Christmas from a Cullman, AL, nursing home. Gifts of clothing and a refurbished computer were given to the veterans.

Initially I thought it strange that persons living in a nursing home were not called patients but residents. But then I realized that for many of them, this building (the nursing home) was their home as they had no other living options. Reasons for this:

- \* No surviving spouse or children
- \* Surviving spouse or children unable to care for the veteran due to job demands, financial insecurity, living arrangements, and/or physical and psychological demands placed on the primary caregiver

We must not forget our veterans residing in nursing homes. I am convinced that a visit from a former military member would brighten any veteran’s day.

During our Fall 2022 meeting, Judy Killman presented Christmas gifts (a soft, warm throw blanket) to each member present. I have appreciated and used my blanket on these cold winter days---and thankful that I could reduce the heat thermostat a few degrees this winter.

**MSNNCA Nursing Scholarship:** All Chapter members were extremely disappointed and discouraged that no



applications were received for the MSNNCA Nursing Scholarship in 2022. This will be a priority item of discussion at the March 2023 meeting.

**Spring 2023 Meeting:** Our next in person Chapter meeting will be held on March 30, 2023 at 0900 in the Board Room of La Quinta Inn & Suites, 2054 Saint Joseph Drive NW, Cullman, AL.



**Submitted by Carole O’Byrne for Marcia Belisle**

Most of us in the Midwest Chapter have enjoyed a pleasant fall that quickly transitioned into the cold and snow of an “old fashioned” winter.

We started this busy season with our fall meeting during Veterans Day weekend. Members attended programs honoring veterans as well as enjoyed the recognition provided by the public. Thanks to technology, President Belisle and her husband streamed programs delivered by her college alma mater and her hometown in western Minnesota. Vice President Mahaffey joined our Governor Walz and other state dignitaries in a program honoring veterans. Barb Barrett and her husband attended a special program presented by their church. Members Gwyn Lang and Kathie Adam were two of many of us who accepted complementary meals from various restaurants. Kathie’s Dad, 96 years young and a WW II vet, was given a belated thank you at our November 12 meeting.

*Photo: Left to right top: Marcia Belisle, Jeanne Mahaffey, Anne Ringquist; Middle: Barb Barrett, Donna Hendel, Carole O’Byrne; Bottom: Gwyn Lang, Lorene Gilliksen, Pat Taylor*



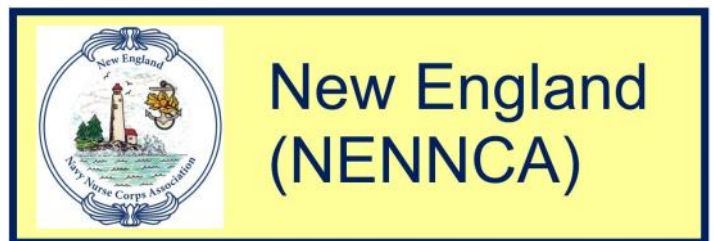
Now that travel restrictions have eased, Honor Flights have resumed out of the Twin Cities. In October, Jeanne Mahaffey accompanied a Korean War Veteran on a flight. This was her second time to escort a veteran on such a trip. Jeanne told us about the appreciation these veterans



expressed for the flight and the opportunity to experience it with other veterans. Incidentally, Jeanne got to know another former Navy Nurse, Carmelle Candy, who also happened to be an escort.

Photo: Honor Flight volunteers left to right : Jeanne Mahaffey, Carmelle Candy, Jerry Kyser President Honor Flight Twin Cities and a third escort nurse.

At our September meeting, President Belisle discussed the rather urgent need for each of us to document our Nurse Corps story. She then asked us to share our stories with each other as a featured speaker at our meetings. Since our chapter relies on virtual meetings, what we know about each other’s Nurse Corps experience is limited. Donna Hendel of Fergus Falls, MN volunteered to be the first speaker. The virtual meeting then seemed to be more of a social gathering of getting to know Donna and recalling our own early months in the Navy. It turned out to be a wonderful veterans’ program that the Midwest Chapter plans to keep as a standing item on our meeting agenda. Even though November 11th is long past, it seemed appropriate to share Donna’s story as a way of reminding all of us how we began our careers, what unforgettable experiences we had and the life-long friendships we made. Donna’s story is passed on in this newsletter (see page 4).



**Submitted by Irene Weaver**

Happy New Year everyone! Amazing how time seems to fly by, as I begin to think of what to pen for this NNCA newsletter. Winter is the season, but here in RI it is raining heavily right now. My daffodils think it is time to raise their heads and bloom, but I keep telling them, “not yet, wait for the last snow fall.” We will see what the next three months has in store for us here on the coastline of the New England states.

Some new changes have taken place from our last Board of Directors (BOD) luncheon meeting on Oct 15, 2022, in Newport, RI. The Board of Directors (BOD) Nominations/Elections were held for VP/Secretary and three BOD members. Elected for VP/Secretary was Kate Surman (NH); BOD members re-elected were Trish Culver (RI), Peg Nation (ME), and our 3<sup>rd</sup> newest member is Deb Brigadier (NY). Welcome to everyone! Kim Lyons (Treasurer) and I are looking forward to working with all of you this coming year.



To Karen DiRenzo, outgoing VP/Secretary, and Patti Hicks, outgoing BOD member, I send a special thank you for contributing two years of service, and time, to the NENCA chapter. I truly enjoyed working with Karen who did an awesome job with this new combined role she was in. And to Patti Hicks, thanks for being a great contributor to our chapter by caring for and supporting some of our senior members when they needed to get to the luncheons. Fair winds and following seas to you both!

Some exciting news from our **Scholarship Committee** was that \$1,000.00 was raised from the Wreaths Across America fund drive and personal donations in 2022. Thank you to everyone who contributed! We had four scholarship candidates apply, three BSN and one MSN. After the scholarship committee reviews and deliberations, the BOD approved two \$500.00 scholarships to the following:  
 MSN candidate- Maxine Dunn, from Peterborough, NH, attending Colby-Sawyer College;  
 BSN candidate- Madeline MacMullin, from Tewksbury, MA, attending University of RI.

Both were exemplary students from their respective University/Colleges of Nursing. Congratulations to them!



Photo Left: Irene Weaver, Trish Culver, Maddie MacMullin and her mother

Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

At our October luncheon, NNCASC member Jane Eberlein volunteered to be a NNCASC Board Member—at-Large. She will attend Board meetings and experience first-hand the inner workings of the Board with hopes that she will aspire to one of our Board positions.

Jane is a Family Nurse Practitioner, having completed the Navy's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program at the University of California, San Diego. She is still working and specializes in medical spa services and training of other Nurse Practitioners. She and her husband Scott (CDR, USN Ret.) have two daughters who are also currently serving in the Navy: LT Kathryn Hrezo, NC and LT Kristen Capps, JAG. Both are stationed in Yokosuka, Japan.



Photo: NNCASC members at Buca di Beppo



**Submitted by Nancy Owen for Becky Nulty**

The Navy Nurse Corps Association of Southern CA held its first quarterly luncheon of the New Year on January 18, 2023, at Buca di Beppo restaurant in Carlsbad, CA. 33 NNCASC members attended the family-style Italian luncheon/general meeting. Nancy Johnson, Co-chair of the Marketing, Recruitment and Sustainment Committee was selected as our NNCASC "Member of the Year" for 2022. President Becky Nulty presented Nancy with a certificate and gift as Vice President Jane Hourigan read the citation recognizing Nancy's many contributions to NNCASC as well as to the San Diego



Photo Left: Becky Nulty presents Nancy Johnson with Certificate of Recognition and gift for selection as NNCASC Member of the Year



Photo (Left to Right): LT Kristen Capps, Jane Eberlein, LT Kathryn Hrezo



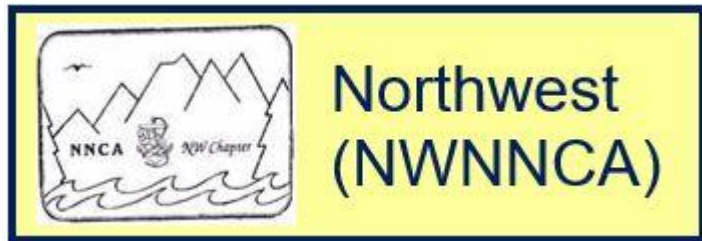
NNCASC shares fond memories of Monica Simler, long-time member, who passed away peacefully November 25, 2022 with family and friends by her side. She entered the Navy Nurse Corps in 1964 serving at several duty stations including in Japan during the Vietnam War. She retired as a Captain from Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital in 1987. Monica and her beautiful smile will be missed by many. A Catholic

Mass will be held February 21, 2023 followed by Navy burial at Miramar National Cemetery.



**Submitted by Jeff Bashford**

It was a very busy Fall/Winter for PCNNCA. Our Fall General Membership Meeting was a return to a popular venue from the past – Water’s Edge restaurant in Mount Pleasant, NC. We kicked things off with a belated chapter recognition of long-time member Hank Wildeboer on her well-deserved selection for the NNCA 2022 Service Award. Per our nominating committee recommendations, Board Members Mary Ann Jar-mulowicz (Secretary), Alice Cagnina (Membership), and Jerry Davidson (Newsletter) were all approved for another year of service in their current positions. Our 2022 VP Becky Crichton will fleet up for a second tour as PCNNCA President for 2023. As always, the Water’s Edge staff were exceptionally accommodating and the food, fun, and fellowship were enjoyed by all.



**Submitted by Nadyne Krienke**

NWNNA bid farewell to long-time member, Kit Tate in November. Please see her story on page 4.

The Northwest Chapter’s Fall General 2022 meeting was held at McMenamins-Anderson School Restaurant, Bothell, WA. This was the first time since the pandemic that our Chapter met in person plus zoom access.

Our guest speaker was Linda Covert, who gave an exceptional presentation on the importance of nurses taking care of themselves. Linda attended Bastyr University and studied Spirituality in Health and Medicine. As a board-certified Integrative Nurse Coach, she and her colleague, Kathleen Tellgren, created the Nurse Renewal Retreat program at Harmony Hill Healing Retreat Center in Union, WA. The two-day residential retreat focuses on mindfulness and healing. She emphasized the importance of mindfulness and how just 8 weeks of practicing mindfulness techniques can decrease symptoms related to stress. She highlighted the need for self-compassion which in turn will help others and quoted " I used to take care of patients, and now I take care of nurses." Check out the web site: [www.Harmonyhill.org](http://www.Harmonyhill.org).

The Scholarship Committee announced that the chapter had awarded three nurse scholarships. Gabriella Fleming from Washington State University received \$1500, Jane Theodore from Seattle University received \$1000, and Mackenzie Reiss from Montana State University received \$500.

The next general meeting will be April 15, 2023, at 11:00—1:30pm PST. The guest speaker will be Marilyn Lieurance who serves as the White House Liaison for the American World War II Orphans (AWON). The luncheon/meeting location is TBD at this time. For more information, contact [nwnnca@nnca.org](mailto:nwnnca@nnca.org).



Photo (Left to Right): PCNNCA Board: Becky Crichton, Jeff Bashford, Arlene Southerland, Alice Cagnina, Alice Bova



Carrying on our close relationship with the Charleston veteran community, a well-represented PCNNCA group participated in the annual Veterans Parade in November. A few members rode in their vintage convertibles and several walked in the lead with the NNCA flag. Following the parade, we adjourned once again to Tom-

my Condon’s Irish Pub to continue the celebration.

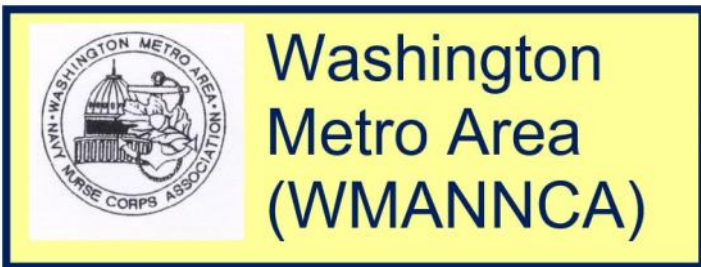
Photo: NNCA-dressed vehicles

Finally, we closed out 2022 with a high-spirited Christmas party luncheon. Our many thanks to uber-Newsletter Editor Jerry Davidson for hosting the party this year at his HOA members’ Belle Hall Club House.



*Photo Left: Parade participants celebrating at Tommy Condon's Irish Pub after the parade*

Incoming President Rebecca Crichton provided a heartfelt blessing in remembrance of the year past and the new year to come. Fabulous fare and Christmas cheer, provided by all members in attendance, preceded the traditional lively gift exchange. Happy New Year to all across NNCA!!



**Submitted by Ann Ross for Christine Boltz**

**Wreaths Across America**

Once again in December, WMANNCA volunteers joined others to place wreaths on the gravesites of those buried at Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery. Christine Boltz and Rosie Perdue participated at Arlington and Boo Lahman and Kathy Thorp, at Annapolis remembering and honoring those buried in these hallowed grounds. As a Local Sponsorship group, WMANNCA received \$5.00 for every wreath ordered which will help with Troop Support and Scholarships.

**30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial on Veterans Day 2023**

It is hard to believe but Veteran's Day 2023 will be the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Many of us remember the pride and excitement we felt in 1993 as we marched down Constitution Avenue in Washington D.C., receiving "Welcome Home" cheers from the crowds lining the road. Well now it is 30 years later, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the memorial with activities for the whole weekend. Sue Miller, of WMANNCA, has been asked to again have her

volunteers distribute roses to the public on the morning of Veteran's Day. The public then will lay those roses on the statue, and by the end of the morning, the statue will be covered in roses. As in the past, Sue will have a luncheon for her volunteers at the Old Ebbitt Grill following the afternoon ceremony at the wall.

At this time, Sue does not have information about the host hotel and any other events scheduled, but she will get this information out to the volunteers as it becomes available. For now, she just asks that you pencil in the date (November 11) and time (0800) to gather at the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Also send Sue an email at [wmanncanews@gmail.com](mailto:wmanncanews@gmail.com) to let her know if you plan to volunteer. Later she will send her volunteers more information about luncheon selections and any other activities and updates.



*Photo Left: Christine Boltz and Rosie Perdue at Arlington in Section 21, "The Nurses Section" of the Arlington National Cemetery*

*Photo Right: Kathy Thorp and Boo Lahman at Annapolis Cemetery*





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## *In Memoriam*

To report a death, contact  
 the Executive Director at  
[ExecDir@nnca.org](mailto:ExecDir@nnca.org)

Name	State	Dates Served	War Service	Death Date	Age
Andrus, Alice Lofgren	WA	WWII		4/22/2003	93
Bowles, Susan Cordon	MI	75-95		4/9/2021	68
Byrnes, Carol *	TX	82-96	G	11/1/2022	63
Clark, Joanne	CA	73-94	V,G	11/7/2022	74
Cunningham, Elizabeth Mary	CA	17-22	WWI	2/3/1980	90
Dibiase, Renee *	RI	68-88	V	10/24/2022	76
Hettinger, Jeanette +	PA	55-75	K,V	7/24/2022	95
Hill, Gretchen +	AR	50-70	K,V	1/19/2023	94
Hyatt, C. Susan +	CA	72-94	V,G	12/27/2022	80
Laing, Sally Anne Dusinberre	MD	45-48	WWII	11/27/2022	100
Liakos, Angeline +	CA	58-83	V	10/8/2022	94
Mason, Nancy *	RI	59-61		10/18/2022	85
Simler, Monica *	CA	64-87	V	11/25/2022	89
Tate, Catharine +	WA	67-92	V,G	11/9/2022	83
(+ = Charter member; * = member)					