

## Spring 2025

Volume 3

### 12 June 1948

On June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act into law, granting women the right to serve as regular, permanent members of the Armed Services for the first time.

Many states are using this date to celebrate Women Veterans Recognition Day. This is a time for all of us to celebrate! We're not sure what is planned in OKC, but we'll keep you posted. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. Perhaps we can get together for dinner that night or lunch on Saturday, 14 June.



# WVO BUZZ



**The purpose of this Organization is to provide an opportunity for locating, communicating, and associating with military women in Oklahoma of the various military services. The OKWVO may serve as a medium of exchange between women veterans and other veteran Organizations. To provide assistance, where needed, to Oklahoma women veterans.**

## WVO BUZZ

We are pleased to announce the new name of our newsletter, selected by attendees at the St. Patrick's Day party. The winning submission, "The WVO Buzz," was offered by Sondra Metzger.

Sondra, a Marine veteran, brings considerable expertise as the editor of the national Women Marines Association newsletter. Her prior contributions to our organization include her dedicated work in managing all WVRD program guides. We extend our sincere gratitude to Sondra and to all members who participated in the naming process.

### President's Message

Happy Spring! We've all been busy, but I encourage your attendance at our upcoming April meeting. We all have busy lives, but I hope you'll participate when you can. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is something you would like to do or if you'd like to volunteer.

The severe weather events of March resulted in devastating wildfires, impacting one of our Tulsa members who experienced the loss of her home. I want to thank everyone who stepped up to assist her with her immediate needs. She sent her thanks and we will continue to assess her requirements as she re-establishes her residence and will provide updates.

For those interested in supporting our organization, a 50/50 prize drawing will be held at the April and June meetings. Tickets will be available for purchase at the event at a cost of \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets. The holder of the winning ticket will receive 50% of the total funds collected. For example, a collection of \$50 would result in a prize of \$25. We encourage your participation in this fundraising initiative.

I took the Survey Results (below) to heart so at our April meeting, we will discuss a meet up at the beautiful Myriad Gardens and/or Festival of the Arts.

## Del City Armed Forces Day Parade

What's better than watching a parade? How about being in one? Every year, we hop on our float to wave and throw candy during the annual Del City Armed Forces Day Parade. We'd love for you to join us on Saturday, 17 May, so we can show people that women served too. If you'd like to join us, please let Lorraine know. More information will be available at the April meeting and Lorraine will send out emails.



If you're unable to attend the meeting, Lorraine will send emails detailing the proposed dates and times.

The revision of our bylaws remains an ongoing priority. We are pleased to announce that Running has volunteered to lead the bylaw committee. The original bylaws, drafted in 1986, have undergone only minor modifications, and the events of the past year have underscored the necessity of updating our governing documents to ensure the continued protection of our organization. We extend our sincere appreciation to Running for undertaking this important task.

Just like the WVO is your organization, this is your newsletter and your contributions are highly encouraged. You don't have to wait for the next issue (everyone always forgets), so just send it now, ideally before 15 June. You might know a woman veteran who has passed that you'd like us to remember or you'd like to introduce yourself to the group. You can even submit your famous chocolate cake recipe (I've been typing for 2 hours and cake sounds good) or maybe you've read a good book and you'd like to submit a review. Go wild and send your submission today!

## WVO St. Patrick's Day Party

Green is not just for the military. We were all wearing green at the 15 March St. Patrick's Day party at Pelican's! The previous day's storms kept some away, but as you can see, we still had 2 dozen leprechauns show up for games, food, and fellowship!





**Chaplain Role Filled**

While several leadership and committee positions remain open, we are pleased to announce that long-time member Phyllis Dorough-Barker has volunteered to serve as our chaplain. Phyllis is a retired Army Master Sergeant (MSG – E8) with many years of dedicated membership and service in various roles within our organization. When asked when she joined the WVO, Phyllis responded, “I actually joined at Ft Sill when I was on my way to my exit physical at the hospital and stopped by an interesting looking table about Women Veterans! Lo and behold it was Marion Hedrick working the WVO table there during Ft Sill’s Retiree Appreciation Days. That was September 2002 and I attended my first meeting February 2003. My Retirement date was 31 January 2003.”

Her inherent patience, kindness, and calm demeanor make her exceptionally well-suited for this important position. We extend our sincere gratitude to Phyllis for her willingness to serve then and now.



**Phyllis and Kim**



### Just for Laughs

**Did you hear about the accident on base?**

A tank ran over a box of popcorn and killed two kernels.

**What do soldiers want to know before getting married?**

The rules of engagement.

**What happened to the soldier who tried to be a stand-up comedian?**

He bombed.

**Why are there no knock-knock jokes about the American military?**

Because freedom rings!

Just had to throw this in here because it made me laugh.

According to George Washington's book on etiquette, "Rules of Civility", "It is improper to spit into the fireplace of your host." Please remember that the next time Pam throws a pool party!



### Survey Results

The St. Patrick's Day party participants were kind enough to complete a survey and tell us what they'd like to do and when. We received 20 surveys, and the majority agreed weekend afternoons were the best time to meet, but a few could meet in the evening, and we only had 3 early birds. Everyone prefers emails with 6 also liking Facebook; 2 would also answer texts.

Some liked the idea of meetups at events like Paseo and Arts festivals. A couple mentioned rock painting for the VA Rock Garden. Here are the totals checked for each.

4 - Coffee Gatherings	12 - Pool party (most preferred Pam's)
6 - Dinner	6 - Bowling
15 - Lunch	5 - Pickleball
9 - Picnic	1 - Golf
12 - Movie	14 - Museums
4 - Book Club	13 - Myriad Gardens
5 - Escape Game	5 - Volunteer at Food Bank
12 - Murder Mystery Dinner	7 - Volunteer Opportunities
2 - Riversport	5 - Volunteer at VA Hospital
11 - Attend sporting events (baseball, Thunder, horseracing)	

As always, these things take planning and people willing to host an event. Some things you will be required to pay for, others will be free or partially paid for. If there is something you're interested in leading or hosting, please let us know.



## Mark Your Calendar!

*If you have an event you'd like to see on the calendar, please send it to Sonja by 15 June.*

### April

4-6 - Norman Renaissance Faire  
 19 - **April Business Meeting**  
 19 - 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Murrah Bombing  
 20 - Easter  
 22 - Earth Day  
 24-27 - OKC Festival of the Arts  
 27 - 25th Annual OKC Memorial Marathon

### May

11 - Mother's Day  
 17 - Armed Forces Day  
 17 - Del City Armed Forces Day Parade  
 26 - Memorial Day  
 26 - National Moment of Remembrance at 1500  
 24-26 - OKC Paseo Arts Festival

### June

12 - National Women Veterans Recognition Day  
 14 - Flag Day  
 14 - **Army's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
 15 - Father's Day  
 20 - 1<sup>st</sup> day of Summer  
 21 - **June Business Meeting**

## Member Spotlight – Dawn Stacey

Meet Dawn Stacey whose journey in the Navy began on Valentine's Day in 1996 with her enlistment as a radioman. Her skills later evolved to encompass data processing, ultimately leading to her specialization as an IT professional before her separation in 2000. She was happy that she was able to keep the radioman “spark” on her stripes, but even more exciting is that she is a USS Truman plank owner. I had to ask what the heck is a plank owner? A plank owner is a member of the original crew of a ship or a recommissioning crew. So, yes, that is pretty cool and worthy of recognition!

For Dawn, the best things about the Navy are the camaraderie, opportunities for travel, and unique experiences unavailable in Oklahoma. In 2000, after having to leave her then 4-month-old daughter for a deployment, Dawn separated and came home to Oklahoma from Brunswick NAS, ME. She knew her daughter had to come first so life began in OK.

Dawn didn't become a WVO member until 2015, so what took so long? Dawn didn't recognize herself as a veteran. Wow! She wasn't aware of the benefits or services available to her as a veteran. Quite by accident while standing in a long line, someone asked if she served, and she said yes, and things took off from there.

At a challenging time in her life, Dawn's online search for "women veterans" led her to our organization, where she found a welcoming and supportive community. She didn't stay down long and appreciated the support we offered her.

Since then, she has worked for non-profits including currently at Volunteers for America where she always asks women if they served and shares the valuable benefits available to them. In addition to going back to college, she pays it forward by actively championing women veterans who need help or just an affirmation that they're not alone. We're lucky she found us with her cheerful disposition, and we appreciate her positive spirit and willingness to help the WVO when asked. She became a member to pass it on as the WVO mentors helped her. Thanks, Dawn, for saying “YES” to the Navy and the WVO!

## April & June Meetings

Our April meeting is on Saturday, April 19, with a meet and greet at 10:00 am and the meeting beginning at 10:30 am. It's the day before Easter, but we'll have treats and hope you'll join us at the Sunnyslane Family Center, 3900 SE 29th St, Del City (near 29th & Sunnyslane). We'll do it again on Saturday, June 21, so bring yourself, bring a friend, and enjoy your Saturday morning!

## Birthdays!



### April

Linda Kiselburgh  
Fran Martin  
Dyna Duncan  
Jolanta Sousa

### May

Angelica Bartholow  
Karla Jessup  
Misty Sow  
Regina Middleton  
Shirley Taylor

### June

US Army's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday!  
Sondra Metzger  
Marie Ledbetter  
Denice Young

## Chapter Anniversaries

Our Headquarters officers were delighted to surprise the Tulsa Chapter during their 8 February meeting to commemorate their 13th anniversary. The chapter boasts a vibrant and actively engaged membership within the Tulsa and veteran communities. We extend our congratulations to their new president, Jerica Scullawl-Gates, and are honored by her leadership.



*Tulsa and HQ Officers*

On Saturday, 22 February, Sonja unexpectedly zipped down to the Lawton Chapter meeting to celebrate their 9th anniversary. U. Lisa Williams and her members maintain an active presence in their local communities, evidenced by the presentation of a Care Providers Tribute plaque from The Fires Chapter of AUSA. Following the presentation, members enjoyed a pleasant luncheon before Sonja headed back to OKC.



*Sonja and Lawton Officers*



*The plaque presented to Lawton reads, "The Fires Chapter of AUSA Care Providers Tribute is presented to Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization the Lawton/Ft Sill Chapter 0116 for heartfelt service to our warriors and their families 15 November 2024"*

## FUNDRAISERS

Surprise! We're raising money! These are necessary to offer our scholarships and partially fund activities for members like the terrific St. Patrick's Day party. We have beautiful denim shirts with the OKWVO logo and the Oklahoma "Woman Veteran" license plate. Orders for the shirts can be placed by emailing Pam at [pamokwm@aol.com](mailto:pamokwm@aol.com). Shirts are \$50 and you can have your name added above the pocket for a small additional fee.

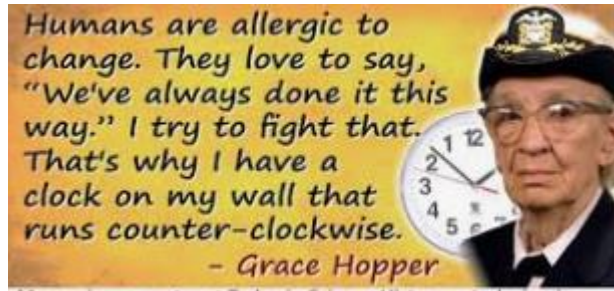


WVO License Plate



Denim Shirt

## History - The US Navy Turned Down this Rear Admiral Three Times!



What do Liquid Paper®, Kevlar®, windshield wipers, and dishwashers have in common? They were all invented by women. There have always been women inventors such as Ada Lovelace who published the first computer program in 1840, and Hedy Lamarr who, during WWII, co-developed a frequency hopping system to prevent radio-controlled torpedoes from being jammed. One inventor's name you might recognize, but not know what she did, is Grace Hopper.

Grace earned a Ph.D. in both mathematics and mathematical physics from Yale and was a professor of mathematics at Vassar when WWII broke out. She wanted to do more so she tried to join the Navy three times but was turned down for her age (34), being 15 lbs. underweight, and possessing a critical mathematics degree. She eventually received an exemption to be commissioned as a Lt JG in the WAVES.

In 1949, she was part of the team that developed the UNIVAC I computer. She knew computers were the 'wave' of the future and that programming should be simplified with an English-based computer programming language. This led her to invent a compiler, which converted English terms into computer code. She is also credited with the development of the COBOL programming language, which remains in use today.

Of course, most of us are familiar with the term "debugging," but did you know Grace and her team found the first "bug?" While working on a computer at Harvard, they found a moth stuck in a relay causing it to malfunction. They taped the bug to the log sheet with the notation, "First actual case of bug being found" or the first case of "debugging" a computer. Grace is credited with popularizing the term in computing, and the remains of the moth can be found taped in the group's logbook at the Smithsonian.

Did she leave the Navy after 20 years? No. Despite several retirements and subsequent recalls to active duty, Rear Admiral Grace Hopper involuntarily retired from the Navy in 1986 at the age of 79, making her the oldest serving officer at the time. She passed away on New Year's Day, 1992 and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Grace was such a fascinating woman that I hope you will read about her many accomplishments or watch her lectures online.



## Remembrance



"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." - Thomas Campbell

Please remember and share our sisters' stories so they will always be with us.

### Army

Hazel Mills

### Navy

Evelyn Einfeldt

Gail Loula

### Air Force

Marion Hedrick

Rebecca Lawrence

Charlotte Mansfield

Rosemary "Skip" McDonald

Loretta Rethard

Julie Schuman

Karen Waldron

### Marines

Dorthay Bebout

Mary Glann

Pat Goss

Juanita Parsons

Betty Raines

Lucy Shank

Joan Willauer

## Adopt a Veteran Series

In continuing our Adopt a Veteran series, Lorraine Caddy shares her memories of a lifelong friend and companion.

### Meet Charlotte Mansfield

Aug 31, 1915 - Dec 30, 2007



Charlotte Mansfield was born in Hanford, CA and moved to Oklahoma when she was 8 years old. When her dad took her to one of his old Army friend's darkrooms, she fell in love with photography – a passion that lasted her entire life. In 1942, she earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Central Oklahoma, later returning to complete a Bachelor of Science in Photojournalism in 1981 and a Master's Degree in Journalism in 1983.

When WWII broke out, she joined the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corp). She was a member of the first all-women graduating class from Lowry Field Photo School in Colorado, where she was trained to be a photo technician that developed primarily aerial shots in photography labs. She served in England, providing her own camera because they were scarce, and she was discharged after the war ended.

After 15 months of civilian life, she re-enlisted in the WAC (Women's Army Corp) and worked in photo labs at several military bases in the U.S. and Germany including being in charge of the photo lab at Tinker AFB for several years. When the Air Force became a separate service, she became a WAF (Women's Air Force) and after serving 30 years, she retired in 1973 as a Senior Master Sergeant (E8). She and Lorraine Caddy became fast friends and enjoyed traveling and exploring Europe until Lorraine retired.

Photography was her first love her entire life and after retirement she was an active member of the Oklahoma Camera Club in Oklahoma City, OK until her death and received numerous awards both in the military and the Club for her photographs. One of her prints is in a permanent collection of fine art in the Photographic Society of America Headquarters in Oklahoma City, OK. She was proud of her military service and enjoyed her membership in the HQ OKWVO for many years providing photographs for our history.



Florida State University learned of Charlotte and came here after she passed to interview Lorraine and film her story, *Charlotte Mansfield: WWII Military Photographer*, aired on PBS and highlighted the unique perspective she captured. Unlike posed official photographs, Charlotte's off-duty photography documented the everyday lives of women in the military and during wartime, providing invaluable first-person accounts for historians.

Lorraine recalls Charlotte telling her that she was asked to take a photo of a group of prominent generals. She got them seated, took one photo, and promptly walked out.

Despite her colonel's expectation for more shots, she assured him the photograph would be on his desk within thirty minutes, which it was. The resulting image was deemed perfect and was subsequently published in newspapers.

Her exceptional skill was further recognized when she was selected to take official photographs during President Truman's inauguration, making her the first woman to hold this distinction. We are proud to have counted her among our OKWVO members and as a distinguished veteran.



Truman's Inauguration

If you don't play an instrument, you can always go outside and sing Taps. There are no "official" words to Taps, but this is a popular one that I ended every one of my Girl Scout meetings with.

### Taps

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the hills, from the lake,  
from the skies.  
All is well, safely rest, God is  
nigh.*

### Play Taps on Memorial Day

For many, Memorial Day is the start of summer. However, it means so much more for us veterans. It is a day of remembrance. One organization that wants us to remember our fallen friends is Taps Across America (TAA).

In 2002, Congress established the National Moment of Remembrance, which encourages all Americans to pause for one minute of silence at 1500 (your local time). During the pandemic in 2020, AF veteran Jari Villanueva wanted to bring Americans together so in lieu of parades he invited musicians everywhere to go outside and play or sing TAPS. More than 10,000 musicians participated that year!

The TAA website has a map of participating musicians and as of today, there are three musicians registered in Oklahoma to play; one in Edmond; one in Purcell; and a woman in Guthrie! More will register next month, but you don't have to register to participate.

For more information or to see if someone is playing near you, go to:

<https://www.tapsacrossamerica.org/>

## Your Opinion Counts

Do you want a newsletter? If so, how often? What would you like to see in it? What social media platforms do you use most often? Email Sonja your thoughts, ideas, and questions. [OKWVO.President@gmail.com](mailto:OKWVO.President@gmail.com)

## Better than MRE Recipes

If you've ever attended one of the WVO potlucks, you've had the pleasure of enjoying the crockpot potatoes Phyllis Dorough-Barker brings. Her daughter, Kim, gave her the recipe, and she's willing to share it with us. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, just send it to Sonja.

### Kim's Cheesy Potatoes

#### INGREDIENTS:

2 bags shredded hash browns  
 2 chicken bouillon cubes dissolved in ¼ C of hot water  
 1/2 C butter, melted  
 Salt & Pepper, to taste (I prefer Seasoning Salt, Garlic Salt, & Pepper)  
 1/4 tsp. onion powder (optional)  
 8 oz. sour cream  
 2 C grated cheddar cheese (I prefer Monterey Jack; your choice)  
 16 oz. bacon, cooked, crumbled, divided  
 1 bunch green onions, divided (optional)

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Spray crockpot with cooking spray and pour hash browns into crockpot and top with bouillon mixture.

Pour melted butter over potatoes and sprinkle with seasonings.

Add sour cream, cheese, 1/2 of the bacon, 1/2 of the green onions, and stir well.

Cover and cook on low for 3 hours.

Top with the rest of bacon and green onions. Serve and enjoy!

## Blast from the Past Recipe

What can you serve with Kim's Cheesy Potatoes? How about Creamed Chipped Beef from the WWII TM 10-412 US Army Technical Manual. Please notice it serves 100!

This recipe is better known as SOS, which nicely stands for Same Old Stuff or as most of us know it S\*\*t on Shingles. I recently learned that the Navy didn't always use a creamed base but sometimes made it with a tomato base. Not sure if that's true, but I do know they used ketchup on powdered eggs.

### CREAMED CHIPPED BEEF

Yield 100

Portion 6 Ounces

Calories	Carbohydrates	Protein	Fat	Cholesterol	Sodium	Calcium
169 cal	12 g	13 g	7 g	15 mg	1219 mg	110 mg

#### Ingredient

BEEF, CHIPPED, DRIED, CHOPPED  
 WATER, WARM  
 MILK, NONFAT, DRY  
 WATER, WARM  
 MARGARINE, SOFTENED  
 FLOUR, WHEAT, GENERAL PURPOSE  
 PEPPER, BLACK, GROUND

#### Weight

7 lbs  
 8-1/3 lbs  
 1-3/4 lbs  
 31-1/3 lbs  
 1-1/2 lbs  
 2-1/4 lbs  
 1/2 oz

#### Measure

1 gal  
 3 qts  
 3 gal 3 qts  
 3-1/8 cup  
 2 qts  
 2 tbsp

#### Issue

#### Method

- 1 Separate dried beef slices, cut into 1-inch slices.
- 2 Place beef in 190 F. water. Soak 5 minutes. Drain thoroughly.
- 3 Reconstitute milk. Heat to just below boiling. DO NOT BOIL.
- 4 Combine butter or margarine with flour and pepper; add to milk, stirring constantly. Cook 5 minutes until thickened.
- 5 Add beef to sauce; blend well. CCP: Internal temperature must reach 145 F. or higher for 15 seconds. Hold for service at 140 F. or higher.

## HQ OKWVO Officers Contact Information

*Please remember that we all work so it may take a day or two to get back to you.*

President: Sonja Hatfield  
405-219-0531  
[OKWVO.President@gmail.com](mailto:OKWVO.President@gmail.com)

Vice President:  
E'yvonne "Running" King:  
405-482-6315  
[runningwolfwoman@cox.net](mailto:runningwolfwoman@cox.net)

Secretary: Lorraine Caddy  
405-769-5043  
[cadman6@cox.net](mailto:cadman6@cox.net)

Treasurer: Pam Bloustine  
405-226-5688  
[pamokwm@aol.com](mailto:pamokwm@aol.com)

## Our Home Away from Home

The army moves on its stomach and so does the WVO. Have you noticed we like to hold events and luncheons at Pelican's in Midwest City? Well, there are a few good reasons. Firstly, the food is great! Secondly, it's close to our meeting venue. Thirdly, it has a separate room for us. And lastly, it's owned by an Army veteran who does a lot to support the military/veteran community. He supports us so we like to support him.

Jim Dolezel co-owns Pelican's with Tim Thelin. This southern Michigan native has been running Pelican's for about 40 years, and we think he does a great job. A few years ago, I was at a Women Veterans Summit in Oklahoma City and was surprised when I saw him serving breakfast. That's when I discovered he was a veteran who doesn't hesitate to display the army value of 'selfless service.' Thanks, Jim! We appreciate all you do for us!



## Dues

Membership runs year to year ending on 31 Dec. You can pay your dues or new members can pay by mail or at a meeting. We hope to have our online membership app up and running soon so you can pay online; however, our membership form can be found online.

Veteran / Guard / Reserve:	Active Duty:
1 year \$12	E-4 and below Free
2 years \$20	E-5 and above \$5 for each year of membership
3 years \$30	College Senior in Oklahoma ROTC Program Free
80+ years Free	(proof of enrollment is required)

Make payments to OKWVO and bring it to a meeting or mail to:  
OKWVO  
P.O. Box 1094  
Choctaw, OK 73020



## Just For Fun!

Find each word given below horizontally, vertically or diagonally on the puzzle board. These are words are from our newsletter.

# Spring Word Search

R	O	R	A	A	S	M	S	P	A	T	S	S	N
O	A	D	I	L	P	E	L	A	W	T	O	N	W
S	Q	D	R	P	A	M	C	F	R	L	S	V	O
R	E	O	F	F	C	O	T	M	P	I	A	E	M
E	S	H	O	L	E	R	R	R	I	O	A	T	E
T	E	O	R	A	F	I	U	I	H	R	R	E	N
R	N	P	C	G	O	A	M	C	S	A	M	R	Y
A	I	P	E	L	R	L	E	T	R	D	Y	A	V
U	R	E	I	A	C	D	M	U	A	N	O	N	A
Q	A	R	W	F	E	A	B	L	L	E	D	A	N
D	M	N	A	Q	M	Y	E	S	O	L	R	H	H
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	R	A	H	A	A	C	D
E	D	A	R	A	P	C	S	C	C	C	P	A	U
H	N	F	U	N	D	R	A	I	S	E	R	S	D

TULSA  
 MARINES  
 SPACEFORCE  
 WOMEN  
 HOPPER  
 HEADQUARTERS  
 CALENDAR  
 MEMORIALDAY  
 MEMBERS  
 VETERAN  
 SCHOLARSHIP  
 ARMY  
 FLAG  
 FUNDRAISERS  
 AIRFORCE  
 TAPS  
 PARADE  
 NAVY  
 LAWTON  
 AMERICA

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8239197/>