

## Winter 2025 Volume 2

### Circle of 500 Guardians

The "Circle of 500" has been established as an exclusive nucleus of 500 individuals and/or organizations who have been steadfast in their support of our mission to honor military women. It is with sincere gratitude that we name the following as "Circle of 500 Guardians:"

From the MWM website:

<https://womensmemorial.org/circle-of-500/>

If you visit the Military Women's Memorial (MWM) website, click on "The Circle of 500 Guardians" under "Support." If you scroll down the alphabetical list, you'll see some of our members listed along with the Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization! It's an honor to be on the list, and it's only possible because you help us support our Memorial.

# What's Happening?



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.

## Welcome

Oh my gosh! It's already 2025! Welcome to the winter issue of What's Happening – we really need a better name (look below for the contest and prize). It may be winter in Oklahoma, but we never know what that means. However, since we're women veterans so we won't let that stop us from having fun and helping each other.

What would you like to see in the OKWVO newsletter? If you have an idea for an article or even a joke, please let Sonja know, or submit a piece you've written. Afterall, it is *OUR* newsletter.

We have a few things planned and hope you'll join us, so kick back with a drink and enjoy a short read. As always send any comments you have to Sonja Hatfield.

## Midwest City Veterans Day Parade

Where were you on 11 November? Some of our members were participating in the Midwest City Veterans Day Parade! The theme was women in the military, and Maj Gen Rita Aragon was the parade Grand Marshall. The weather was beautiful, and the spirits were high as we waved and shouted out to the crowd.

Who's that lizard visiting our float? That's 'Tink the Mechanic,' Tinker AFB's new official mascot. Tink is a Texas horned lizard, which is a species of lizard that have found a refuge in Tinker's undeveloped natural reserves.

A shout out of thanks to Pam Bloustine, her fiancé Jerry, Annette Ohrenberg and her husband Robert for making this possible. If you missed this parade, join us in May for the Del City Armed Forces Day Parade.

## Made You Laugh!

Why is the military so strict about its uniforms?  
To prevent casual-tees!

What do you call a soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray?  
A seasoned veteran!

A group of soldiers stood at attention when the drill sergeant yelled, "All right! All you idiots fall out."

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier remained at attention. The drill sergeant walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him. The soldier smiled and said, "Sure were a lot of 'em, huh, Sergeant?"



*The OKWVO has a sweet ride!*



*Tink the Mechanic stops by the OKWVO float to wish us well.*

## Fun Fact

Why is Women's History Month in March?

In 1910, the second International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen. Clara Zetkin, from Germany, proposed that every year on the same day in every country there should be a celebration - a Women's Day - to present their agendas. The conference of over 100 women from 17 countries unanimously agreed to Zetkin's proposal, which became International Women's Day! What started as a day, became a week, and is now celebrated the entire month of March.



*People lined up with flags and cheers as we passed.*

## HQ OKWVO Christmas Party

We had a blast at our Christmas party on 8 Dec at the Grove's Community Center thanks to Phyllis, Running, and their crew of elves. Nothing says the holidays like friends, good food, and stealing Dirty Santa gifts. Of course, the true meaning of the holidays was apparent by the pile of gifts and envelopes for our young Air Force TSgt and her 6 kids. She and her coworkers were amazed at all the gifts we gave one of our own.



## Website Issues

We were so excited to launch our new website two years ago and then it fell apart due to circumstances beyond our control. However, we are working hard to get it up and running again so we can update all the information and pictures.

It will allow you, once again, to make membership payments and contact us. Until then, please check your emails occasionally for information from Lorraine and memberships can be mailed or brought to the meetings.



## WVO Needs YOU!

Are you looking for a way to serve the organization? Here are some of the committees that need chairs and committee members.

Social Chair

Social Media Chair

Web Administrator

Newsletter Editor

Historian

If you see something you'd be interested in doing, please contact Sonja.



## 2025 Scholarships

Once again, we are privileged to offer college scholarships to our active duty women, women veterans, and their children or grandchildren. Lorraine will send you the application in mid-January, so please forward it to anyone you know who could benefit.

Part of our license plate monies go to make these scholarships possible. If you would like to offer a \$500 or \$1000 scholarship in honor or memory of someone, please let Sonja know so it can be added to the application.



*Gifts for our airman!*



## Winter Calendar

- 1 Jan - New Year's Day
- 20 Jan - MLK Day
- 1 Feb – Scholarship applications accepted
- 14 Feb - Valentine's Day
- 15 Feb - 10:00am  
HQ OKWVO Meet and Greet
- 15 Feb - 10:30  
HQ OKWVO Meeting**
- 17 Feb - Presidents' Day
- 8 Mar - International Women's Day
- 15 Mar - HQ OKWVO St Patrick's Day Party (TBA)
- 17 Mar - St Patrick's Day



*Lorraine gets an appreciative hug from our TSgt!*

## History Lesson - *Frontiero v. Richardson*

Do you know a military woman who is married to a civilian? You may have even been one yourself. Today spouses, whether male or female, are “dependents” in the eyes of the military, but that wasn’t always the case.

Before 1973, civilian men who married military women did not automatically receive an ID card with all of its benefits. Military rules at the time required women to prove that their husbands were "dependent" on them, meaning they provided more than half of the household income. However, military men married to civilian women were not subject to this requirement and were entitled to an increased housing allowance, as well as dental and medical benefits for their wives.

That is until Air Force Lieutenant Sharron Frontiero sued the military after being denied housing and medical benefits for her civilian husband. Although she earned more than her husband’s monthly veteran’s stipend, he did not receive more than half his support from her; therefore, she was denied the additional benefits given to married military members.

"I was married, and I expected a housing allowance, and I wasn't eligible for it — because I was a woman," Sharron, 73, said in a StoryCorps interview.

After initially losing at the state level, her lawyer teamed up with the ACLU Women's Rights Project who took it to the Supreme Court. *Frontiero v. Richardson* was argued before the Supreme Court by none other than Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It was her first case before the Court, and this landmark case was the first successful sex discrimination case against the federal government. The women and men in our armed forces are better off thanks to someone saying, “This is wrong.”

## Happy Birthday!

If you don't see your name for a Jan-Mar birthday, we don't have it. You can email it to Lorraine.

### January

Stephanie Wilson  
Jenny Goldschlager  
Lindy White  
Pat Culbert  
Cindy Scarbrough

### February

Misty Jobe  
Sharon Hebert  
Angel Johnson

### March

Kathryn Tahiri  
Audrey Rogers  
Angela Rogers  
Tamesha Rayes  
Jaquie Baker

## Six Triple Eight



In case you didn't see Lorraine's email, you need to see this movie. The *Six Triple Eight* movie premiered on Netflix on 20 December. I remember seeing this photo in a MWM calendar, and I've had it on my desk for 10 years. I share their story with everyone, and now Tyler Perry is sharing it with the world.

Almost a century after the end of World War II, new stories about the quiet heroism of everyday individuals continue to come to light. Now Tyler Perry is tackling the war with his new film *The Six Triple Eight*, the story of the war's only Women's Army Corps unit of color, which stars Kerry Washington.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion contributed to the war effort in a unique way: by sorting through a three-year backlog of mail (17 million pieces of it!) that hadn't been delivered to American soldiers far from home. In the face of discrimination and a vast, unfamiliar country divided by global conflict, these 855 women brought hope to the front lines.

"A lot of people do not want us to succeed," Washington says as Captain Charity Adams in the film. "We have the most to prove."

But that's exactly what they did. Given six months to complete the task, the 6888th accomplished their mission in less than 90 days, providing morale when the United States needed it most.

"I felt like these women were with us in this process," Washington said. "You felt their spirit all the time."

Little moments throughout filming reminded the crew of their place in history. One local resident asked what the team was working on; upon learning it was a film about the Six Triple Eight, he had a contribution to make. "He pulled out a trunk and he opened it up," Washington said.

"And it was my character Charity Adams' actual trunk. It had her uniforms, it had seeds from her victory garden. It had letters, it had pictures. It was unbelievable." Taken from: Tadum Netflix, John Dilillo, Nov 25, 2024

WOW! I hope all of you have the opportunity to see this film.



## Remembrance

“They say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time.”

Bansky

Please tell their stories so they will always be with us.

### Army

Hazel Mills

### Navy

Evelyn Einfeldt

Gail Loula

### AF

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 Project

“They say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time.” Bansky

For over 10 years, I was privileged to be a part of the Memorial portion of the Women Veterans Recognition Day. I always felt honored to read the names of the women who served but are no longer with us and our active-duty sisters who gave their all. I always read the obituaries of each person whose name I read and, many times, wish I had had the opportunity to know that person.

As I was browsing the MWM website, I saw the “Adopt a Veteran Project.” This sounds amazing and I knew I could do it. For more information go to:

<https://womensmemorial.org/adopt-a-woman-veteran-project/>

However, instead of going through MWM for a name, I thought I’d “borrow” their idea and start with our Oklahoma Women Veterans (if you were at the Christmas party, you know I’m not above stealing). The program asks you to adopt a woman who is no longer with us and share her story to keep her story alive so that is what I plan on doing right now with a woman who always made me laugh.

## Meet Joan Willauer - a WWII Marine



Joan was born in Madison, WI on November 14, 1923. She worked as a telephone operator until WWII broke out when she enlisted in the Marines and was stationed at Cherry Point, NC. She met her future husband there; Jeff was also a Marine – surprise! She was discharged in 1946 and went back to the phone company until she and Jeff married in 1947, and they lived at Camp Pendleton until he was discharged. Joan kept busy because she had eight children, but it surprised me that she didn’t cook – Jeff did! She preferred to work outside in the garden and play with the kids.

Joan was full of surprises. She told me how she and the other women Marines would get up early and get dressed with full make up to watch the men march by because Tyrone Power was one of them! (You young’uns google him.) They

watched from the barracks windows, so I didn't understand why they had to have full make up, but she thought he was worth it.

Joan loved WVRD (Women Veterans Recognition Day) and was always there lending a hand and enjoying the event. We were at the Friday night social (I know we don't tell anyone what happens on Friday night, but she'll forgive me.) She had one or two beers when a gentleman asked his wife if he could get her another drink and to be polite, he asked the rest of us. Joan said she'd take another beer. He was shocked and without thinking said, "Really?!" She just smiled her cute grin and said, "Honey, I haven't been sober since 1986!" I laughed so hard at her response and the look on his face.

She always made me laugh like when she was a volunteer at the Norman Veterans Center. She was in her 90s and using a walker by then. As she was leaving the center, a new nurse tried to stop her because she thought Joan was a resident. Joan very seriously asked me, "Why would she think I was a resident?!" I answered that I had no idea why she would think that and laughed.

Joan passed away on May 21, 2022, but she will always live in my heart as truly one of the greatest from our "greatest generation."

### Fundraisers!

As mentioned in the Fall newsletter, we have two fundraisers. These are necessary to offer our scholarships and partially fund activities for members. We have beautiful denim shirts with the OKWVO logo and, of course, 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*



*OKWVO Denim Shirt – you can win won!*

### Win a Denim Shirt Contest

We still don't have a name for our newsletter so let's make a contest out of it. Send your suggestions to Sonja, and the winner will receive one of our fundraiser denim shirts! Deadline 31 January.

## February Meeting

Our February meeting is on Saturday, February 15, at 10:30 am with a meet and greet at 10:00 am. We're back at our old stomping grounds at the Sunnyslane Family Center, 3900 SE 29th St, Del City (near 29th & Sunnyslane). We will install the new officers and begin a new year, so bring yourself, bring a friend, and bring ideas of what you would like to do in 2025!

## Dues

Dues are due on Dec 31 of the year your membership expires. If you received a message from our treasurer, you can send a check or bring a check or cash to the meeting. We hope to have our online membership app up and running soon so you can pay online.

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

## HQ OKWVO Officers Contact Information

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

Out-going President: Denice Young 405-875-8453 [lakingsfan93@aol.com](mailto:lakingsfan93@aol.com)

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

Out-going Vice President: Regina Middleton [USArmygirl15@gmail.com](mailto:USArmygirl15@gmail.com)

In-coming Vice President: E'yvonne "Running" King: [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)

## 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)