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# WVI Newsletter

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2020



## "I am not Invisible" Campaign

The "I am not Invisible" campaign is to recognize women veterans through her image, honoring her story through her words and celebrating her service. This photo campaign will cover all 50 states, all branches and eras of service. There are 2 million women veterans making up over 10% (and growing) of the veteran population in the United States. In support of Women History Month 2020 this virtual exhibit celebrates and honors these veterans who continue to serve their country and community.

Jenna Noble (Army) reports that she attended the January 14, 2020 photo shoot for the "I am not Invisible" campaign at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. A total of 75 women veterans attended the photo

shoot and mini resource fair. There was plenty of time to mingle and chat with other veterans from throughout Ohio.



Jenna Noble  
Picture provided by C. Nagy

The finished photos will be printed in black and white so that attention focuses on the veteran. A brief biography will accompany the photograph but will not be the focal point of the display. The Ohio De-

partment of Veteran Services will create a virtual exhibit. Information will be forwarded when available. Google "I am not Invisible" to learn how other states have promoted this campaign.

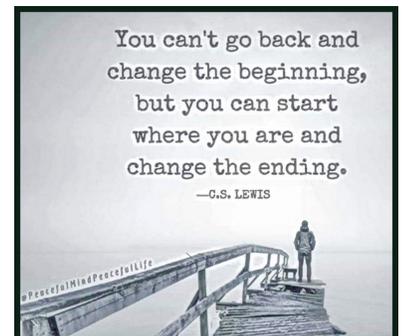
Gene Russel, photographer, writes "currently 35 States, 48 cities the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 26 Indian Tribes and Nations have participated to capture more than 1954 Veterans Images. It is one thing to honor Women Veterans, something completely different and inspiring to show them in the light they so richly deserve. How very fortunate am I." Link to images: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/VAWomenVets/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=224750246554140](https://www.facebook.com/pg/VAWomenVets/photos/?tab=album&album_id=224750246554140)

## "Big Birthday Party"

Women Veterans are invited to a free "Big Birthday Party" on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 from 11:30am - 1:30pm at the Toledo VA Clinic, Community Room. Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Ohio and the First District, American Legion Auxiliary. The event includes a luncheon and birthday

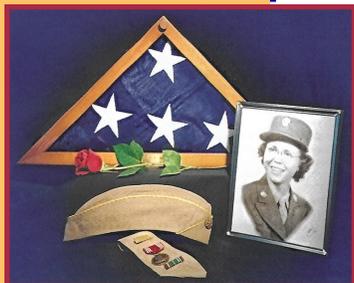
party to honor women veterans. RSVP by: March 3, 2020. The completed registration form must be hand delivered to the Toledo VA Clinic "Coffee Room". Note: a registration form is available at the Toledo VA Clinic, email with newsletter, and via regular mail to those with no email service.

### Something to think about ...



Quote by C.S. Lewis

## “Sisters in War”



**F. Ausenbaugh, Cpl.,  
US Army Corps**  
Picture Provided by:  
Author, Peg Trout

16,000,000 Americans served during WWII of which 2.5 percent were women. The stories of the women that served have rarely been told or published. Author, Peg Trout (Navy) became interested in the women of WWII through a photography course assignment.

Trout wrote [Sisters in War: Remembering the Women Veterans of World War II \(2008\)](#) and dedicated the book to her Aunty Flo (Flora Ausenbaugh) who was a WAAC from 1942-1945.

Trout writes “The women who served in the Army, Navy, Women Marines, and Coast Guard during WWII ventured into a ‘man’s world’ to stand shoulder to shoulder with them and perform the military duties that brought the war to its end. They were radio operators, aircraft mechanics, store-keepers, nurses, physical therapists, pilots, Link trainer operators, parachute operators, and teletypists. They served in Europe, North Africa, and the far East, and on Japanese-occupied islands in

the Pacific. Some were killed, others were taken POW. They were not on the peripheries of the war – many were ‘in it up to the top of their GI boots’ fulfilling their assigned duties, and all were extremely proud to contribute their skills and support.”

Trout has included 53 stories and pictures of the nearly 400,000 women who served in WWII in [Sisters in War](#). The stories are delightful and interesting. The book is available through the Lucas County Library and Amazon.

## Rehabilitation Hospital of Northwest Ohio

Rehabilitation Hospital of Northwest Ohio would like to say thank you and supports our veterans. We are in network with VA healthcare benefits. We provide care locally for inpatient rehab. That would include Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy. We are a short stay hospital where you are managed by a physician as inpatient for an average of 14 days while you recover and regain strength. Some reasons you might need inpatient

rehab are following recent hospitalization for things such as stroke,



REHABILITATION HOSPITAL  
OF NORTHWEST OHIO

1455 W. Medical Loop Toledo, Ohio 43614 P: 419-214-6600

joint replacement surgery, open heart surgery, auto accidents, and chronic conditions such as neurological and cardiac disease. We are located on the campus of UTMC

and welcome anyone who wants to tour our facility.

Thank you to our Women Veteran's.

(Erica Reid, Business Development Liaison – Rehabilitation Hospital of Northwest Ohio)

# Quilt of Valor

Theresa Stamm (Navy WAVE) writes that she was surprised with a Quilt of Valor on December 28, 2019. Stamm wants women veterans to know that “You can be remembered, anytime. Actually, men get the blanket too, hard to find women vets.”

“The Quilt of Valor was made by members of the Hayes Ohio Star Quilt Guild in Fremont, Ohio. The guild annually makes a patriotic-themed quilt to bestow on a female veteran. Stamm received the quilt at a brunch held in her honor at the Clyde VFW Post 3343 in Clyde, Ohio.

Stamm served in the Navy from 1955 to 1959. Her duties were varied and interesting. She worked in the legal department and typed up summaries of court material for service records on a Royal typewriter. Later she transferred to Bachelor Officer Quarters, where she assigned rooms, sort of like a desk clerk in a hotel. Her first W2 form stated an earning of \$1,000. She sang in a 60-member mixed chorus that sang for President Nixon and she stood beside him during the concert. In 1957, the chorus performed on the Jimmy Dean television show during Fleet Week. She saw President Eisenhower when he did a quick drive-by when visiting the base. She was one of



(L-R) D. Foss (Quilter), T. Stamm, D. Huffman (Quilter)  
Picture Provided by: News Messenger

eight cheerleaders for the base football team. At the time of her discharge she was a Yeoman 3. She married a former Marine and they were the parents of three children.” (Information excerpted from an article written by Talk About Clyde Reporter - Jeanette Liebold Ricker as it appeared in the News Messenger, Fremont, Ohio January 16, 2020 issue.)

## “Focus on Women” Conference

WVI and Genesis Village will host a free conference titled “Focus on Women” in honor of women history month. The event is open to women veterans and the community. There will be a variety of presentations, vendors and door prizes.

- ◆ Sat. March 14, 2020
- ◆ Registration: 8:30am.
- ◆ Coffee break provided
- ◆ Conference: 9:00am – Noon
- ◆ Topics: Will be pertinent to current women’s issues plus a cardio drumming demonstration
- ◆ Registration deadline: March 11, 2020
- ◆ RSVP: Genesis Village @ 419-720-1286
- ◆ Please bring a friend
- ◆ Flier will be forwarded when available

WVI will also honor Women Military History month 3/14/20 with several military history exhibits. WVI is asking women veterans to wear their uniform and/or part of the uniform to identify themselves as a veteran. The idea is to be a part of a “living history” activity. This way other veterans will be able to identify a veteran and women from the community can identify veterans for dialogue about their service.

## Community Resource(s)

WVI has just learned of a non-profit organization that will allow us to access their resources at any time. They receive items from all over the country, such as shelf stable food, hygiene items, cleaning products, clothing, snacks, beverages and a few surprises each month. There is a small fee to cover their transportation costs but there are some great buys. For example, a box of food might cost \$10.00 but to purchase

the same goods would be over \$40.00 in the store. Shortly there will be a clothing sale of \$0.25 per item and \$5.00 for an Eddie Bauer coat. To access this resource one must be accompanied by a representative of a non-profit organization. As the initiative of United States Vets, Inc. WVI qualifies as a non-profit organization. If you are interested in this community resource email [cenagy@bex.net](mailto:cenagy@bex.net) to plan an excursion.

**Nothing Over 9** is 50% off all items every Monday. They stock men, women's and children's lightly used clothing plus shoes and accessories. Address: 2543 S. Reynolds Road. Toledo. Opens at 10:00am.

Habitat for Humanity **Restore** (1310 Conant Street, Maumee) will give a 50% discount if you mention that you are a Women Veterans Initiative member.

## Looking for Quilters

Lucinda League (Amy) would like to make a quilted lap blanket or banner that depicts women military history for WVI to display at events. She is looking for interested veterans with or without quilting experience to participate in this project.

For additional information contact League at 419-250-8145.

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day