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Veterans Needed for Board Position:

Women Veterans Initiative is the initiative of the non-profit United States Vets, Inc. (USVI). USVI has an opening for two veteran board members. If interested, contact Carolyn Nagy, Board President, at cenagy@bex.net

WWI Newsletter

JULY 2022



Medal of Honor

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was the first woman to be appointed as an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army, she is also the only woman to date to have received the Medal of Honor, the U.S. government's highest and most prestigious military decoration.

At the onset of the Civil War, Walker, then 23, traveled to Washington seeking a commission as an Army surgeon or a position as a contract surgeon. Both requests were denied as there was no policy in place for hiring female physicians. She then volunteered as a nurse, but continued to request a commission as an Army surgeon. After three years of persistence, she was hired as a contract surgeon and attached to the 52nd Ohio Infantry.

Walker served at the first Battle of Bull Run and the Battle of Fredericksburg, often near the Union front lines.

Walker's insistence on tending to injured civilians inside Confederate territory led to her being captured as a spy by Confederate forces near Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1864 after helping a Confederate doctor perform an amputation. She was held in a prison in Richmond, Virginia, for four months and commissioned as an acting U.S. Army assistant surgeon following her release.

Following her actions during the war, President Andrew Johnson awarded Walker the Medal of Honor. She is also one of only eight civilians to receive the award.

After the war, Walker served as assistant surgeon at a women's prison in Louisville, Kentucky, and as the head of an orphanage in Tennessee. She also became a writer and a lecturer, supporting issues including health care and women's rights.

In 1916, Walker's medal was rescinded with 910 others for there being "no evidence of distinguished gallantry." Walker refused to surrender her medal and died in 1919. In 1977, then-Secretary of the Army Clifford Alexander Jr. ordered that her name be restored to the Medal of Honor roll.

Walker's contributions to military medicine served to open the door for all women serving throughout the Department of Defense and Military Health System today.



Information: Military Health Sciences 3/26/21

Photo: Photo by Mathew Brady of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker circa 1866, shown wearing her Medal of Honor (Photo by: Courtesy of National Archives).

Save the Date:

- ◆ August 6, Ohio Women Veteran Conference. Register Online.
- ◆ August 21 (Sunday) 11am-3pm, Free veteran & family picnic. Lunch at noon. Swan Creek Park. Good food & a few surprises. RSVP: cenagy@bex.net by August 15.
- ◆ September 3 (Saturday) free clothing & other items. 10am-3pm at 1206 Elco Ave, Maumee. Flier with details will be forwarded when available.

Clara J's Tea Room

A Proper Tea was held on Saturday, June 11 at Clara J's Tea Room (219 W. Wayne St., Maumee, Ohio). It was a beautiful sunny day for the ladies to arrive dressed in floral prints and decorated hats. The tea party was located in the main dining room where they enjoyed good conversation, piano music, various teas and delicious scones, savories, sandwiches and sweets. L. League (Army) won a beautiful floral decoration (donated by C. Richmond) for the best decorated hat. She adorned the hat with all sorts of cooking and baking items. Each participant received a door prize plus a tea cup and saucer. Event donors: Glendale Assisted Living (J. Dideon), Voya (F. Kieninger) and StoryPoint residents. In honor of Women Veterans Appreciation day (June 12) each veteran received an Ohio Women Veteran pin.

Photos: provided by C. Nagy

#1 Attendees

#2 Hat Contest (L. league hat contest winner second from right)



Veteran Assistance, Part 1



Venus Mayes-Dalton (Army) has taken in a neglected/abused dog named Fryia. She has been working with the dog and showering her with lots of love. Dog and owner are finding comfort in each other. Venus was finding it difficult to meet all the dogs needs such as food and veterinarian care. WVI sent its members a request for donations and recommendation(s) for veterinary care. Thanks to the generosity of our women veterans, food has been supplied and a veterinary appointment has been made for Fryia. WVI continues to follow up on suggestions made regarding assistance with dog care and food. Venus reports that Fryia was diagnosed with severe PTSD and damage to her hips. Fryia is now on medication and will require additional veterinarian care.

Picture: Venus & Fryia

Picture Provided by: C. Nagy

Veteran Assistance, Part 2



Venus was also in need of lawn care. C. Jones (USAF), S. Fullerton (Navy) and C. Nagy (Army) answered the call for a "grounds crew". The "crew" met Sunday, June 12, 2022 and spent greater than two hours weeding, digging and pruning. Before the back yard could be finished the "crew" and weed wacker ran out of energy and cord. Venus kept the "crew" going by supplying cold neck towels. Fryia made an appearance to inspect the work being done and gave her approval. Great job ladies and much appreciated. WVI continues to follow up on recommendations for an inexpensive lawn care service.

Photo: L-R, C. Nagy, S. Fullerton, & C. Jones

Picture Provided by: C. Nagy

Memorial Day Parade



The Lucas County Memorial Day Parade was held Saturday, May 27 at 10:00am. Women of the Armed Forces was represented by seven Women Veteran Initiative members. The banner bearers were D. French (Navy/Army) and L. Sobecki (Navy) followed by: C. Zartman (USAF), J. Noble (Army), C. Nagy (Army), D. Schantz (Navy) and L. League (Army). At the parade's conclusion, a Memorial Service was held on the Civic Center Mall. The program featured a laying of wreaths on the war memorial in the mall and speeches from public officials. A special thank you to J. Noble for donating the wreath in honor of women veterans and for her involvement in the parade planning committee.

Fast and Affordable Internet Service

If you or a Veteran you know is struggling to afford internet service, a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program may put fast and reliable internet service within financial reach.

The FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month that can be used toward broadband service for eligible households, and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Also, qualifying households may also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers.

Additionally, 20 leading internet providers will offer ACP-eligible households a high-speed internet plan for no more than \$30 per month. Eligible families who pair their ACP benefit with one of these plans can receive high-speed internet at no cost.

To find out if you qualify or to sign up, go to the White House's Get Internet site or visit the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) through an approved carrier by visiting www.fcc.gov/ACP, or by calling 877-384-2575.

Information provided by: Veterans Benefits Newsletter (June 2022)

A new interactive "Find a Cemetery" map has been launched for veterans. The feature enables Veterans to search for their final resting place or for those who want to visit their Veteran interred at any of the 155 VA managed or 119 VA-funded cemeteries.

A brand-new feature of the clickable map will allow users to enter a zip code and find the closest cemetery. As shown in the picture, the result from a zip code search will display a pop-up modal window where users can click over to the cemetery web page, call the cemetery (from a mobile phone), look up directions, find burial schedule information or leave tributes, photos and more at the Veterans Legacy Memorial.

Users can also simply click on a state or territory to display the cemeteries there with blue or green pins representing VA managed or VA funded cemeteries. Clicking on a pin will bring up the same pop-up modal as the zip code search.

VA provides the grave site, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and perpetual care of the grave site at no cost to the family. For more information about burial and memorial benefits, go to <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/>.

Information provided by: US Department of Veterans Affairs (May 2022)

Find a Cemetery

