



WVI NEWSLETTER

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Veteran Spotlight: Bobbie Clawson

Article and photo provided by: Bobbee Clawson

Bobbie Clawson (Army) writes "My husband and I drove to St. Ignace, MI in the UP near Mackinaw Island to celebrate Memorial Day this year and it ended up being a very relaxing and informative weekend, with a special performance by yours truly.

Our reason for the trip was to witness the Chippewa and Ottawa Indians Memorial Day Pow Wow that honors American Indians who have served.

As we walked around the town visiting the grave-site of Jesuit Priest Father Jacques Marquette, we learned of his quest to bring Christianity to the Indians and how things were for them and the changes that were forced upon them, I was saddened, as I have Indian blood. They have a museum that explains in detail the struggles and hardships that the native people endured due to the influx of government affairs.

Many native Indians served in our military and it was evident during the "talking circle" which we were able to take part in. This brought tears to so many of us as we heard first hand what many of them have endured. The leader of the circle is a Vietnam Army Veteran who is suffering from agent orange. It was very powerful listening to him speak, not only of the pain, but the perseverance this man has endured. It was an honor to listen to him.

Little did I know that that would not be the biggest honor of the day. As they were setting up the area for the parade of flags, they realized there were not enough veterans in the line-up so they asked for volunteers and I was chosen to be a flag bearer during the procession and to present the Canadian flag. WOW, I of course was the only female veteran, which made the honor even more special. Each flag bearer was introduced by name and branch of serve. The ceremony was 15 minutes long and we also had to dance in the circle. An experience I will remember for a long time."



Arrowhead Behavioral Health

Mary Beth Alberti, Director of Business Development, at Arrowhead Behavioral Health states they are a private freestanding treatment facility for adults designed to promote healing and recovery. They accept commercial insurances, VA benefits, Medicare, Ohio Medicaid, TRICARE and Self-pay. Arrowhead Behavioral Health would like veterans to know about some of their services for veterans and that they will assist with per-certification and authorization from health benefit providers. Alberti would like veterans to understand the difference in the various acts dealing with physical and mental health issues:

- The PACT Act is through the VA and deals with the results of exposure to toxic material.

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- The COMPACT Act (Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment) for veterans is now in effect. Veterans who were discharged in any way other than dishonorably who are experiencing a suicidal crisis can go to any mental healthcare facility for no-cost treatment. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.
- The Mission Act covers the veterans physical and mental health needs. To utilize this service the veteran must be referred by the VA system.

Alberti says “Don’t wait. If you or someone you know is in a crisis, we are here to help. Call 419-891-9333 to schedule a no-cost assessment today. We are here 24 hours a day, seven days a week.” Location: 1725 Timber Line Road, Maumee, Ohio 43537. Contact: arrowheadbehavioral.com.

All women American Legion Post

The Greater Cincinnati Women's Post 644 of the American Legion was chartered in 1946 following World War II by women veterans who served during the war, but were not willing to step down from their participation in service to the Nation. The legacy we continue to uphold is to remain a separate entity made up of women only within the nation's largest wartime veteran service organization (American Legion). There are 4 “Women only” American Legion Posts in the Nation. We are one of those four.



Today we seek to hold our own stance, yet also embrace other Veteran organizations as well. We remain committed to the American Legion's four(4) pillars of mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities; of advocating patriotism and honor; of promoting strong national security; and lastly, adhering to the continued maintenance, security and safety of all female veterans.

We proudly retain our historical roots, yet also want to grow our numbers to include more Women veterans in our ranks. In 2023, we are engaging in: supporting and developing opportunities to conduct events, provide comfort and care to all female veterans (and readily assist our male counterparts as needed), and are working towards reaffirming and strengthening cohesion, morale and camaraderie with ourselves and other support channels.

I believe we are still a “well-kept” secret to many people, hidden somewhere in the history books of time. Our Nation is still awakening to the posture of who we truly have been and still are. We will continue to introduce ourselves and publish our reputation as both elite Women Warriors and superb citizens.

Short and Long term goals include: Honor Guard for Military Funerals; Fund Raisers at various restaurants; Golf Outing October 8 at ARMCO Park; 75 th Anniversary Charter Dinner, October 14; Honor Flight 2024 (Work in progress); trip to Military Women’s Memorial in DC (2024, date to be determined); State or National Women’s Veterans Convention, continued buddy checks, Food and Clothing drives and many other activities.

We’d love to hear from you, and even more so, would love for you to become a member of our Post. I am very proud to be recognized with such heroes as those who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and all the other Operations the United States has/is engaged in. We look forward to continued collaboration and networking with your group. We are very excited about our growing community!

Lora Thompson (Army, Retired)
Post 644 Commander
Photo: Internet (Titled American Legion)