



# WVI NEWSLETTER

Dec  
2024

## The Things She Carried: December 2024

### Operation Desert Shield/Storm

While the history of protective masks dates to the 16th century, the horrors of gas warfare during WWI called for advances in gas mask development. The threat of chemical and biological warfare during Operation Desert Shield/Storm escalated gas mask use and prompted further development.

Information provided by: Military Women's Memorial



## Women Veterans Health Care

"Your VA benefits include personalized, comprehensive health care such as routine check-ups, cancer screenings, birth control, mammograms, maternity care, and more. VA also offers mental health care tailored to women Veterans. You are welcome at the VA and will be treated with the respect you deserve." Quote from VA flier July 2022. Women are the fastest growing Veteran group at the VA and make up 30% of all new patients. 60% of the VA employees are women and of that 60%, over a third are veterans. The VA has specially trained staff to care for you in the fields of women's health and mental health. You have choices at the VA, for example: you can choose the gender of your provider, telehealth or in-person appointments or mailed or pick-up prescriptions. You may be eligible for benefits if you served honorably on active duty or in the National Guard or Reserve. You do not have to be disabled, have a service-connected injury, or have experienced combat. If you experienced sexual assault or harassment during your time in the service, VA could help. You can receive care for this even if you are not enrolled in VA health care, are not eligible for other care at the VA or have no document of proof of the incident(s). To get started, call or text the Women Veterans Call Center at 855-829-6636 during the week 8:00am-10:00pm of Saturday 8:00am-6:30pm.

### VA Combats Scammer

Veterans are often targets of scammers. In response, the VA launched VSAFE.gov and 833-388-7233. The new website and call center will coordinate efforts across the federal government to protect veterans, service members and their families from fraud and scams.

Information: AARP Bulletin October 2024

### Guide to Veterans Outreach

Charisse Marcella, Community Outreach at assistedliving.org, has notified WVI that their "A Guide to Veterans Benefits" was updated in July. Guide site: <https://www.caring.com/resources/veterans-benefits/>

### Veterans & Substance Abuse

James Collins (Outreach Specialist Addition Resource) has asked WVI to share the following information with its members. Veterans & Substance Abuse: Scope, Risks and Treatment covers the scope of abuse, resources, commonly abused substances, risk factors and how to help. The information can be found at: [www.additionresources.net/veterans-resources/](http://www.additionresources.net/veterans-resources/)

## Walleyes for Wounded Heroes (W4WH)

If you like to fish, W4WH provides the opportunity to do this several times a year. Charter captains and private boat owners take veterans out on Lake Erie. There is a dinner, and other activities held at Camp Perry for those veterans selected for this event. For example, W4WH works hard to provide a healing environment that enables 1 on 1 and group discussions. Veterans are encouraged to be open and talk about the issues they have faced or are now facing, and how they successfully worked through those issues. W4WH is a non-profit that covers all veteran expenses. Contact Information: email: wallleye4wh@gmail.com or FB: Walleyes for Wounded Heroes or mailing address: Walleyes for Wounded Heroes-P.O. Box 885-Port Clinton, OH 43452. People attend from all over the country so don't wait to send in an application.

Information: Walleyes for Wounded Heroes Brochure

## Support Dog in Training

In August, Felicia Wade (Navy) contacted Women Veterans Initiative regarding the need for a support dog. Wade writes that she experienced a stroke in May and now experiences night seizures related to Epilepsy. In July, Teddy, her 1-year-old support Yorkie suddenly passed. An internet search located Cuddles for the Soul, LLC in Roanoke, VA who has Yorkies and there just happened to be a new litter. Wade, WVI and Branden Carter (breeder) worked together to cover the down payment so that Wade could get the dog. Brenden was willing to work with Wade regarding financing as his mother is a retired Master Sargent. Carter delivered Amura to Wade when she was eight weeks old. Carter also provided lots of goodies for the dog, such as: food, clothes and toys. Amura is a very active dog who is learning cat behaviors and likes to hide behind a sofa cushion. Her playmate is a young cat, and they get into everything together. Eventually, Amura will train to assist Wade at night by licking her face when signs of a pending seizure is sensed. There is an online self-paced program offered by U.S. Armed Support Association that Wade will enroll Amura in. In the meantime, Wade is teaching Amura the basics such as sit and stay.



Picture: Provided by C. Nagy

## Christmas Cards

Brittany Barhite writes that there has been a dramatic decline in the number of cards being sent. Barhite states "I believe there's still a place for the traditional Christmas card, especially one with a handwritten note. Instead of feeling pressured to print a ton of pictures or write a long letter about your year, consider that social media has already covered that. Instead, focus on sending cards to those who might need extra love this Christmas along with a heartfelt message. Share with someone that you care about them, appreciate them, or simply want them to know they are remembered this holiday season. Imagine the delight and the positive impact you could make by sending just a few meaningful cards. To me, this is the true power of Christmas - spreading love. One thoughtful card can really go a long way".

Article: The Buzz Book August 2024

## Roena Bayes



Bayes was featured in the WVI November 2019 newsletter when she turned 101 and received the American flag from the American Legion Post #2 in Washington, DC of which she was a past Commander. The following is her obituary:

Roena Bayes, 106 years of Bryan, passed away September 18, 2024, in her residence. Roena was born August 27, 1918, in Farmer, Ohio, and was a 1936 graduate of Farmer High School and continued her education receiving her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University. Roena began her teaching career in a one room schoolhouse in Milford Township. She then moved to teach in the Hicksville Schools and Farmer Elementary School. She interrupted her career in 1943 to serve

in the United States Army. Her first assignment was at Minter Air Force Base in California. After one year, Roena received her "overseas orders" and arrived at Gourrock, Scotland on the RMS Queen Elizabeth. In the European Theater of Operations, Roena was assigned to the 8th Air Force Composite Command at Cheddington, England. In 1945, Roena was reassigned to France where she was sent to the small town of Chantilly, north of Paris. Here they joined a squadron of the 9th Air Force personnel. Each morning an Army bus took them to the large building on the Rothschild Estate that had been a German Headquarters. Three weeks after V-E Day, Roena flew into Germany as part of occupation troops. She attained the rank of Corporal until her Honorable Discharge in 1945. Roena went back to Hicksville Schools to teach until 1949. In 1950, Roena became a Medical Technician for the National Institute of Health in Washington DC, serving for 30 years, retiring in 1980. Roena was a Past National President, 1999-2000, of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865. Roena was inducted as a member of the American Legion Twenty and Four-The National Society of Women Legionnaires. She was also a member of the Defiance County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society and was a member of the Joel Frost Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Roena served as a Past Commander of the Jacob Jones American Legion Post #2, Washington D.C., and the Bryan VFW Post 2489.

Obituary/Picture: Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!