



WVI NEWSLETTER

Vietnam Women's Memorial



Edie Meeks, left, in Vietnam, 1969; Meeks with Diane Evans, 2025; Evans in Vietnam

Army nurses, Captain Diane Carlson Evans (24 years old) and Lieutenant Edie Meeks (22 years old) shared a hooch in Pleiku, Vietnam during their last six months of their tour of duty. Evans writes "one night our camp was hit with rocket fire. I crawled to her room, and she was under her bed eating peanut butter and crackers. I said, "Edie, how can you eat at a time like this? laughing, she said, If I die, I'm not going to die hungry. We stayed under the bed and felt safe together, in this insane situation, until the sirens stopped blaring. When we went outside, the hooch next to ours was gone – a big black hole in its place."

Evans worked as a head nurse in a postoperative surgical unit and Meeks dealt with FUO (fever of unknown origin) possibly caused by malaria, parasite, cholera, typhoid or plague. Their job was to help the young men survive against all odds. There were no tears because they had to shut down their emotions to get through the day. Evans wrote "When you have patients in front of you who need every ounce of your energy and nursing skill, their survival depends on how brave you are, how quick, how smart.

But this also became our lasting trauma. It's what we lived with when we returned home, remembering the patients we did not save, wondering if we could have."

Save the Date

July 19: Veteran Family Picnic: United States Vets, Inc. Veteran Family Picnic will be held Sunday, July 19 from 11:00am-3:00pm at Orlander Park (6930 Sylvania Ave) open air shelter #1. RSVP: July 15 to cenagy@bex.net. Lunch served at noon.

Note: Location change.

Please share with other military women!



cont. Memorial

Years later Evans called Meeks about launching a program to build a women's Vietnam memorial but found Meeks still in her PTSD closet. Once on board, Meeks lead the charge to build the Vietnam Women's memorial, which was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1993.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial was the first memorial in American history honoring military women and women who served in support of the armed forces. Its motto is "Healing and Hope".

Note: During the Vietnam War, 265,000 women served as volunteers and 11,00 nurses were credited with saving the lives of 350,000 American soldiers. Eight nurses lost their life during that time.

Diane Carlson Evans passed on May 20, 2026. She will be remembered for a lifetime of service, compassion, advocacy and for ensuring women veterans received the recognition they earned. Evans also wrote a memoir titled 'Healing Wounds'.



Article: AARP The Magazine April/May 2026

Picture: AARP (2 nurses)

Picture: C. Nagy (memorial)

Maumee Memorial Day Parade



May 25 began with overcast skies and cool temperatures as parade participants gathered at Maumee United Methodist Church. By the time the parade stepped off, however, the weather had turned sunny and pleasant, making for a beautiful day of celebration.

The community lined the parade route in full force, waving, cheering, and showing their support. It was especially meaningful to see several parents point out to their children that women have proudly served in the military.

A special thank you goes to D. Schantz, S. Theisen, S. Anderson, D. Conley, and C. Nagy for representing women veterans in this event. The group marched in step with the Maumee High School Marching Band as they performed tributes to each branch of military service. Adding to the patriotic spirit, S. Theisen and D. Conley enthusiastically called cadence throughout the route.

Picture: provided by C. Nagy

First Light Home Care

Brian Epstein (president and CEO) writes "FirstLight Home Care caregivers provide care, connection, and assistance with the challenges that come with aging, dementia, illness, or injury. Our home care services focus on



the social and emotional needs of your loved one at every stage of life. Our collaborative approach to in-home care means we're responsive to the changing needs of your loved one; it's the foundation of our Culture of Care.

Beyond home health care, FirstLight offers comprehensive home care services to ensure your loved one thrives in their own home. As needs change, we're here to coordinate care at every stage. Contact us to discuss a personalized in-home care plan tailored to your needs."

- Disability Care
- Family Care
- Hospice Care
- Rehabilitation & Recovery Care
- Skilled Nursing
- Supplemental Staffing Services
- Traumatic Injury Care
- Travel Companion Services

Epstein is also in the process of being credentialed with the VA Community Care Network which covers the services we provide for qualifying veterans.

First Light Home Care has the following open positions; caregiver, RN/LPNs and a VA Relationship Coordinator. Contact Epstein at 419-577-4616 or bestein@firstlighthomecare.com.

Information and logo provided by B. Epstein

