

Salute to Women of the Military



Past
and
Present



Thursday, October 30, 2014

11:30_{AM} ~ 1:30_{PM}

Buffet lunch promptly at 12 Noon

Key Note Speaker: Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret)



Havelock Tourist and Event Center

Tickets \$20

Table sponsor \$250

(8 tickets plus donation tax receipt for \$90)



Tickets available at:

Promise Place

1401 Park Ave.
New Bern
252-636-3381

D.A.V. Office

468 Hwy 70 W
Westbrook Shopping Ctr. Havelock
252-652-9166

\$30 Ticket
**TWIN RIVERS
AAUW BRANCH
TABLE**
Note: This is so we
can give a \$90
donation to ROTC
students in area
high schools. Mail
check to:
Ginny Mattern,
Treasurer.

Sponsors:

Promise Place

**Craven County Veterans Service Office
Eastern Region, NC Council For Women**

Media Sponsor:

Sun Journal



www.facebook.com/SaluteMilitaryWomen

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

hq@womensmemorial.org
www.womensmemorial.org
www.womensmemorialstore.com



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WILMA L. VAUGHT, President
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, USAF, Retired, is President of the Board of Directors of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Her last military assignment was as Commander of the US Military Entrance Processing Command, North Chicago, IL, where she served from June 1982, until her retirement in August 1985.

She is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Women's History Museum and serves on the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees. Following retirement, she worked as a consultant with the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization as well as with industry. She speaks around the US on leadership and management and is a frequent guest on radio and television programs.

A native of Illinois, General Vaught earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana from which she received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in 1983; she also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and an Honorary Doctorate of Public Affairs from Columbia College, SC. She is the first Air Force woman graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

During her military career, she held various positions in the comptroller field at Barksdale AFB, LA; Zaragoza AFB, Spain; McCoy AFB, Orlando, FL; HQ, Military Assistance Command, Saigon, Vietnam; USAF Logistics Command, Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH; the Air Staff, The Pentagon, Washington, DC; and she was the Deputy Chief of Staff, Comptroller, USAF Systems Command, Andrews AFB, MD.

General Vaught served as Chairperson of the NATO Women in the Allied Forces Committee from 1983 to 1985 and was the senior woman military representative to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services from 1982 to 1985.

Distinctive Achievements:

- One of the most-decorated military women in US history
- Recipient of the Woman Who Made A Difference Award — International Women's Forum, Oct. 1985
- First and, for some 22 years, the only woman promoted to brigadier general from the Comptroller career field
- First woman to head a board of directors of a major credit union
- First woman to command a unit receiving the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the nation's highest peacetime unit award, July 1985
- First woman to deploy with a Strategic Air Command bombardment wing on an operational deployment, 1966-67
- Listed in Who's Who in America
- 1998 Living Legacy Patriot Award, Women's International Center
- 1998 Medal of Honor, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
- 1998 Veteran Advocate of the Year, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs
- 1998 Women of Distinction Award, National Association of Women in Education
- 1998 VFW James E. Van Zandt Citizenship Award
- 2000 Air Force Women Officer Associated, Pioneer Award
- 2000 Margaret Cochran Corbin Award, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
- 2000 National Women's Hall of Fame Inductee
- 2003 National Women's History Project National Women's History Month Honoree
- 2003 Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion Award, The Chapel of Four Chaplains
- 2006 National Organization for Women (NOW) Intrepid Award
- 2007 US Air Force Woman of Distinction Merit Award
- 2008 General Federation of Women's Clubs Women's History Month Honoree
- 2010 US Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame Inductee
- 2012 USAF Brigadier General Wilma Vaught Visionary Leadership Award
- 2012 Sea Services Leadership Association North Star Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2013 White House Champion of Change Honoree

Her numerous military decorations and awards include both the Defense and Air Force Distinguished Service Medals, Air Force Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Vietnam Service Medal with four service stars, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

For additional information or to arrange speaking engagements, please call 800-222-2294.

History of Salute to Women of the Military: Past and Present

By Bee Mayo

In the late spring of 1987, Bee Mayo a board member of the Craven County Council on Women and Jean Nelson, Regional Director for the NC Council for Women were discussing various possible projects to recognize women in nontraditional jobs. Bee commented that media coverage of Memorial Day and Veteran's Day events seemed to ignore the contributions made by women who served in the various branches of the military. With Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point just 20 minutes away, and Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune also nearby, there were sure to be many women who were currently serving in the military, or who had retired and were still living in the area. Within easy driving distance were Fort Macon Coast Guard Station, Fort Bragg Army Base, Pope Air Force Base and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Possibly the nation's first "Salute to Women of the Military" began taking shape. Jean Nelson and Bee Mayo met with Linda Rawls, secretary to the commanding general at Marine Corp Air Station Cherry Point. Linda Rawls led them through the military protocol and gave additional assistance in contacting female military personnel, past and present. General James Mead, Linda's boss even helped us obtain our first speaker. Other board members helped with planning and promoting the event.

On November 2nd 1987, the first "Salute" became reality. It was held at the Sheraton Hotel in New Bern, North Carolina. Guest speaker was Colonel Valeria F. Hilgart, USMC (Ret.). She regaled the audience with stories of the "old days", like the challenge wriggling into a standard a Marine Corps issue girdle, inside the tiny sleeping compartment aboard a train to one of her first assignments. She also saluted the retirees present for their pioneering spirit and challenged the active duty personal in all branches of the military to hold onto their dreams.

When the day's event had drawn to an end, an elderly world War II veteran walked over to Bee Mayo and, with tears streaming down her cheeks," said quietly: "I wondered when someone was going to get around to thanking us. This luncheon was wonderful, and I will never forget it."

In the second year the Craven County Veteran's Service Office joined North Carolina Council for Women and Craven County on Women as a sponsor. Each year other sponsors assisted with the Salute and local businesses provided some financial assistance. The clerical burden for tickets and publicity were shared by the regional office of NC Council for Women and Craven County Council on Women. Donations given to Salute were used to provide meals for guests, meals for color guard, guest speaker travel costs, USMS Air Wing Band distinguished guests decorations, printing etc.

In succeeding years a variety of speakers, all female and representing all branches of the armed services, kept the focus on the role of women in the military. Brenda Wilson, a local realtor in Havelock navigated the military issues with great knowledge and the salutes would not have happened without her involvement.

The salute in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War was an important one... More women were being deployed in more roles than in any period of our history. The Craven County Council on Women (led by member Mary Ann Harper) again found itself in the midst of a never-before imagined project. It seems military supply lines were much more in tune to supplying the tools for waging war and the items needed by the men doing the fighting. The system had overlooked the daily requirements of the women in the military, including personal hygiene items.

Members of the Craven County Council on Women began buying these personal hygiene items and shipping them at their own expense to women they knew personally to women who were deployed to give to any women needing them. When the commanding officers at Cherry Point Marine Air Station heard of this project they began transporting these "care packages" aboard all aircraft flying to the gulf region, according to available space. Each package was boldly marked: "To any female service member – from women helping women". Letters from the women who received these packages cemented the council's commitment to all women serving in all branches of the United States military.

The salutes continued for 17 years. After the 17th salute it was discontinued. The Craven County Council's name had changed to the Sexual Assault Resource Center and then to Promise Place. The mission of the agency had shifted from advocacy to direct services, education, therapy for child and adult sexual victims, court advocacy, hospital companion services and rape prevention. The staff was overwhelmed with those who needed direct services and felt it could not continue to sponsor the Salute to Women of the Military.

Bee Mayo tried to find another nonprofit agency without success. In 2014 Promise Place's board decided that it would like to resume Salute to Women of the Military, but could not provide any funds. They could not in conscience take funds from services for sexual assault victims. The work on Salute 2014 will be completed by a group of volunteers.