



THE OAKLEAF

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. 1776-2026

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 2

JUNE 2026

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Vacant

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Oral History: Candace Curlee/DJ Lavoie

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Nancy Owen/Mary Rushton-Newsletter

Don Phillips-Webmaster

Website: www.nncasc.org

SCHOLARSHIP

Bobbi Crann

VETERAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Becky Nulty

MEMBER AT LARGE

Cindy Perry

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy early summer to all! I hope this summer season brings new travel, family time and reunions for each of you.

During May our chapter members had the opportunity to celebrate Nurses Week and the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday at several Military Treatment Facilities and at the San Diego VA Health System. At each we provided a display of Nurse Corps memorabilia which served to stimulate conversation and appreciation for those Navy Nurses who have gone before us. It was an honor to represent our chapter at these events. On Memorial Day Sunday a group of us attended the annual Memorial Day service at Miramar National Cemetery and were able to honor Navy Nurses interred there with a moving ceremony of our own at our Navy Nurse Corps Memorial.

It is my intent to continue to focus on the basic purposes of our chapter as laid out in our Bylaws. These purposes include: to foster friendship and support among members (retirees, former and active and reserve officers of the Navy Nurse Corps); to collect and preserve the history and memorabilia of the Navy Nurse Corps, and to promote and support nursing as a career by sponsoring a scholarship program. If you as a member would like to propose changes to our Bylaws, I urge you to contact me or another board member with your proposal or to bring this up at one of our luncheon meetings or the follow-on Zoom call.

NNCA, our parent organization, has approved a new class of membership through a vote by the

entire membership. Until now, only those who were or had been Navy Nurse Corps Officers were permitted to be members. The new class will be non-voting members and will be prospective Navy Nurse Corps Officers. This new membership class will include Navy ROTC Midshipmen who are nursing students, Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program nursing students, and Nurse Candidate Program nursing students. NNCA dues are half-price. The NNCASC Board is still in deliberations as to how we will approach this new membership class. It will require a revision of our Bylaws.

Our Chair of the Scholarship Committee, Bobbi Crann, contacted me a few days ago with the exciting announcement of the committee's selection of seven (7) awardees of NNCASC scholarships in amounts from \$2500 to \$5000! Congratulations to the BSN student awardees (who are listed later in this newsletter)! And a sincere **THANK YOU** to **Bobbi Crann** and her team: **Pat Bull, Sheree Scott, Judy Pattinson, Nancy Johnson, and Cindy Lewis!** Thank you for your care in soliciting applications, working with California nursing programs and for your diligence and integrity in the selection process. This year our total scholarship award is \$25,000. This would not be possible without the generous bequest from Carolyn Scherer's estate several years ago and from ongoing scholarship donations from our membership.

All members are highly encouraged to complete an **Oral History** of your time served in the Navy Nurse Corps. Whether you served three years or 30 years, whether Active or Reserve, your history is a part of the larger Navy Nurse Corps history. If you would like to make arrangements to video-record your history as a Navy Nurse, please contact our Interim Chair of the Oral History Committee, DJ (Donnajean) Lavoie at bobndjl@hotmail.com.

Our Third Quarter **Zoom Call** will be on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 4 PM Pacific Time (1600) following our July luncheon and will last approximately one hour. We will use the same

agenda from the luncheon. This meeting is an opportunity to connect with chapter members who are not able to attend the in-person luncheon. An invitation and link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to members about one week before the meeting.

As always, I invite your ideas and comments: jhourigan@roadrunner.com

Jane Hourigan
President, NNCASC

TREASURER'S REPORT

First Quarter 2026

Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU)
Balance as of March 31, 2026



NFCU Checking	\$ 8,606.63
Share Savings	\$ 123.98
NFCU Savings-Scholarship	\$ 8,681.01
General/Memorial Fund	\$ 37,995.17
<u>Morgan Stanley</u>	<u>\$245,796.33</u>
TOTAL ON HAND	\$301,203.12

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR/SAVE THE DATES

July 4	Independence Day
Wednesday July 15	NNCASC Luncheon MCAS Miramar
July 16	Zoom Meeting at 1600 PT
August 4	NNCASC Board Meeting
October 10	NNCASC Fall Luncheon
October 31	Military Women's Luncheon-Anchors Catering –Naval Base SD
November 11	Veterans Day Parade
November 12	Zoom Board Meeting

ZOOM MEETING

Our next Zoom Meeting will be on **Thursday, 16 July 2026 at 4 PM (1600)**, as a follow-on to our Luncheon General Meeting on Wednesday, 15 July 2026. A meeting invitation will be sent by email approximately 2 weeks before the meeting. Please respond to the invitation if you would like to attend the Zoom Meeting.



CARING & SHARING

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers: Roseanne Hartley and Mary Rushton. Condolences to Madelyn Reitz on the passing of her oldest sister, Kathleen.

“Happy Heart Day” to **Ellen Citrano** who celebrated her 5 year anniversary on May 1, 2026 as a recipient of a new heart.

Please share with next of kin, executors, fiduciaries, or close friends contact information for NNCASC, particularly if you are a member, so that we may be contacted in case of illness or death.

Please notify President Jane Hourigan jhourigan@roadrunner.com as soon as anyone hears or learns of the passing of a NNCASC member, local Navy Nurse Corps Officer, or one of their immediate family members. Also notify Jane via e-mail or by phone if you know of local Navy Nurses who are ill or hospitalized. Jane will pass along this information to Brigitte Balog, our Caring & Sharing Chairperson, who sends out cards.

THANK YOU DONORS

NNCASC would like to thank all our members for their support and generous donations to our chapter made during the 2026-2027 membership renewal period. (As of June 8, 2026)

NNCASC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Vera Bahry	Cynthia Lewis
R.F. Brennan	Charlotte McCormick
Patricia Bull	Arlene Mills
Nancy Bushley	Frances Noble
Thomas E. Colgan	Judy Pattinson
Marilyn Anita Day	Cynthia Perry
Judith Fidellow	Joanne Petrelli
Barbara Galvin	Rosalyn Sobkow
Anne Gartner	Joan Sullivan
Christine Harris	Jennifer Town
Tina Hooker	Diane Walmsley
Jane Hourigan	

NNCASC GENERAL FUND

Coral Andrews	Cynthia Lewis
Ronald Arington	David Loose
Barbara Beeby	Mary Lou Lutz
Jean Thompson-Bowers	Karen McKinsey
Darlene Burke	Chicky McKinzie
Kathy Cadwell	Arlene Mills
Dove Coltharp	Becky Brown Nulty
Sally Comer	Tom Nunns
Judy Dye	Nancy Owen
Marilyn Edgar	Joanne Petrelli
Kathleen Edwards	Ruth Smith
Mary Flynn	Rosalyn obbkow
Pamela Gray	Irene Stewart
Karla Hays	Dennis Sullivan
Marie Heronen	James Stokes
Tina Hooker	Deb Ulaszek
Cheryl Janus	Laura Young
Easty Law	

MEMORIAL FUND

Edna L. Peters contributed “In Memory” of RADM Maxine Condor, RADM Mary Hall, CAPT Hattie Elam

DONATION IN KIND

Steve Anderson (100 Forever Stamps)

BEQUEATH



In addition, NNCASC recently received a generous bequeath from the estate of **Patricia Clancy**, a long-time member who passed away June 16, 2025. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing sustainment of our chapter through our members living and deceased.

IN SPECIAL MEMORY



Navy Chaplain **CAPT (ret) Robert J. Ecker**, who presided at the 2010 NNCA Reunion Memorial Service April 30, 2010 in San Diego, passed away in Coronado on June 3, 2026. He was 99 years old.

IN MEMORY

Navy Nurse non-member and resident of the



Bay area, **Elizabeth (Betty) Brands Sturdevant**, was born October 26, 1927, and passed away November 14, 2025. She was 98. She attended Hotel Dieu Nursing School in New Orleans graduating in 1948. She proudly served as a Navy Nurse before marrying and raising six children while continuing as a civilian nurse until 2004.

<https://obituaries.nola.com/obituary/elizabeth-sturdevant-1093679323>



Patricia Jean (Totsy) Portz, a Navy Nurse and member of the Greatest Generation, passed away on March 15, 2026 in Roseville, CA. She served her final tour of duty as the Director of Nursing at Camp Pendleton and retired from there in

1979 so she may be known to some of our members. She was born December 10, 1928.

You can view her full obituary at: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/obituaries/patrica-jean-totsy-portz-vista-ca/>

Another non-member and resident of the Bay



area, **CAPT (ret) Martha Anne Rusnak**, CRNA passed away March 24, 2026. She was 85 years old. She was born in Phillipsburg, PA on February 7, 1941. She graduated from Phillipsburg State

Hospital School of Nursing, George Washington University School of Medicine to become a CRNA and received a Bachelor of Science

Degree at Cal State Northridge and a Master in health Education from Chapman University.

Her full obituary can be found at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/theprogressnews/name/martha-rusnak-obituary?id=61404589>

CAPT (Ret.) Marie Joan Brouillette, United States Navy, of Summerville, South Carolina and



formerly of Ipswich, died Friday, March 6, 2026. She was 91 years old.

Born in Ipswich, Joan went to the Lynn Hospital 3-year program to become a Registered Nurse. Three years after working as an RN in Lynn Hospital's

Operating Rooms, she entered the Air Force Nurse Corps. Her 6 years as an Air Force Nurse took her to the Air Force Hospitals in San Antonio, TX, London, England, and Tucson, Arizona. The Air Force did not assign her to the Operating Rooms at any hospital, so she left and joined the Navy Nurse Corps and was stationed at the Naval Hospital in the Operating Room at Portsmouth, VA.

In 1967, the need to increase the ability to accept and treat large numbers of severe casualties was needed in the Da Nang, Vietnam area. 18 Navy Nurses were secretly flown into Da Nang in July. Their job was to develop a hospital to meet the needs of the doctors and corpsmen to do their job. (NSAH) Naval Support Activity Station Hospital became the largest based medical facility in Vietnam.

Returning to the U.S., Joan attended the University of Virginia for two years and served at hospitals in Boston, Maryland, Tennessee, and San Diego. Her final assignment was Director, Nursing Services at Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton. Her full obituary can be found at:

www.campbellfuneral.com/obituaries/Capt-Marie-J-Brouillette?obId=47508836

IN SPECIAL MEMORY

Diane Althea Carlson Evans, 79, of Helena, Montana, passed away peacefully on May 20, 2026, after a long and courageous battle against cancer.



Diane studied nursing at St. Barnabas Hospital in Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota for her Registered Nurse degree. She joined the Army Nurse Corps Student Program in 1966. Upon graduation, she was commissioned a second lieutenant. While serving as a medical-surgical nurse at Fort Lee, Virginia, she volunteered for service in Vietnam.

For decades following her service in Vietnam, Diane led the Vietnam Women's Memorial effort to honor her military sisters. Dedicated in 1993, it was the first memorial in the United States to honor women in military uniform on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Diane also authored a book about her experiences in Vietnam and uphill battle to have a memorial honoring the women who served in Vietnam entitled "*Healing Wounds*". She was also a valued resource to Kristin Hannah in writing the book "*The Women*".

Diane's full obituary can be found at: <https://www.simplecremationmt.com/obituaries/diane-evans>



Statuette of Vietnam Women's Memorial

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

In April 2026, NNCASC member **Don Phillips** and his wife, **Marilyn**, were recognized by the LiveWell Foundation "For Their Believing in and Supporting the Communities of Chandler, Arizona." Known as Mutual Dreamers, over the past five years, they have dedicated their time, efforts, and resources to volunteer service in



Chandler. In 2024, Don was also recognized by the mayor of the city of Chandler as one of the outstanding volunteers for the city of Chandler. The LiveWell Foundation is dedicated to helping the local community.

Many of the children in our families have behavior and learning problems. Through one-on-one therapy and group counseling, they equip kids in Title 1 schools and neighboring communities with essential coping skills and emotional support, creating pathways to resilience and growth. In 2024, LiveWell partnered with Chandler Unified School District, opening the door for us to host afterschool programs, delivering in-school enrichment activities, and supporting local school administrators. Through this partnership, we've been able to host community events, work directly with families, and create meaningful opportunities for students to learn, grow, and thrive.

Marilyn and Don are also very active in their Mission Ministry, Y-Not-U Ministries. They are very active in Guatemala and Colombia. Please visit www.ynotuministries.org to see their activities and what support is needed.

MEMORIAL DAY 2026 OBSERVANCES

Memorial Day Services were held at Miramar National Cemetery (MNC), Fort Rosecrans, Mt. Soledad on board the USS MIDWAY and across the county and state. **Miramar National Cemetery** held services on Sunday, May 24th at 1300 Keynote Speaker was CAPT Steve “Shep” Shepherd, USN, Ret., a Navy Intelligence and targeting officer. The theme for this 15th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony was “America 250: A Tribute to Service and Sacrifice”. In his remarks, CAPT Shepherd highlighted some of the lives of those buried at Miramar National Cemetery.



(l-r) Becky Nulty, Candace Curlee, Jane Hourigan, Nancy Owen, Georgene Waecker, Casey Meehan, Jane Eberlein

NNCASC members, who attended the ceremony, gathered afterwards at our Navy Nurse Corps Memorial to read the names and remember the 28 Navy Nurses who are buried at MNC. We also remembered those Navy Nurses who are buried at Ft. Rosecrans and Arlington National Cemetery. Also remembered was Army Nurse and Vietnam Veteran CPT Diane Carlson Evans, who passed away on May 20, 2026. Navy Nurses we know of, who are buried

at Miramar include: Mary Lou Adler, Diane Agrell, Theresa “Terri” Banach, Dawn Marie Benson, Carol Bernier, Mary Frances Blankemeier, Irene Broker, Helen Brooks, Pat Clancy, Rosemary Cosgrove, Mary Jane Crothers, Elaine Dlouhy, Mary Alice Doyle, Betty Greene, Anna “Pete” Hart, Terry Kelly, Sally Kiely, Angie Liakos, Rose Marie Lochte, Mary Jane Maloney, Helen Maznio, Eleanor Masters, Georgia McKearly, Betty Nimits, Joanne Sauer, Kristin Schlieff, Monica Simler and Dottie Yelle.

Navy Nurses, we know of, who are buried at Fort Rosecrans include: Rachael Mae Adams-Harris, Helena Brugman, Lauren Anne Destafney, Amy Fishel, Vicki Goff, Lois Kessler and Mary Arlene Shughrue.

You can find a veteran’s gravesite at Miramar or Fort Rosecrans at the kiosks near the Administration buildings or you can search “on-line” for veterans buried at any of the national cemeteries at:

<https://www.cem.va.gov/nationwide-gravesite-locator/>



Casey Meehan (2nd from right) connecting with fellow Vietnam Veterans at their Memorial.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MARKETING, RECRUITMENT & SUSTAINMENT

Greetings Everyone,

So many of you have renewed promptly, this is very much appreciated! The total number of members for our chapter to date is 9. We would like to extend a special welcome to these new members:

New NNCA & New NNCASC

Alexyss Carig
Sue Ellis
Eileen Huber
Mary Kraft

Lifetime NNCA/Former NENNCA

Mary Flynn

That brings our total new and rejoining membership to NNCASC this year so far to **180**.

Welcome to you all!! ☺ We have reached out to a few more and we're hoping our numbers continue to increase. For anyone who has not yet renewed, we encourage you do so as soon as possible. Sustaining our membership numbers is a vital and ongoing effort, so we hope everyone continues to encourage more new memberships in the future. We are happy to get a membership form and introduction letter to anyone by mail or electronically.

For our many members who do not live in the local San Diego area and can't make it to our quarterly luncheon meetings, we now are doing a Zoom meeting shortly after the luncheon. We invite you to join us! You will find information about these meetings in our newsletter, or reach out to us to help get you logged in.

We are always in need of volunteers to serve on many of our committees and on the Board of Directors. Let us know if you are interested in learning more about what this would entail; being involved really helps with improving the

services that we provide and the focus of our chapter.

NNCASC license plate holder and NNCASC magnetic patches, continue to be available for sale. Please contact Nancy Johnson if you are interested in purchasing any. They each cost \$10 plus any mailing cost if that is needed.



Please continue to take care of yourselves and one another! Wishing everyone a wonderful summer. ☺

Georgene B. Waecker
Membership Committee Chair
2829 Ocean Village Way
Oceanside, CA 92054
760-722-0724
georgene.waecker@gmail.com

Nancy Johnson
Membership Committee Co-Chair
3923 Caminito Del Mar Surf
San Diego, CA 92130
858-761-7420
Nancyj006@gmail.com



Newest NNCASC member Mary Flynn & Nancy Owen at Memorial Day Service in Coronado



Eleven NNCASC chapter members attended the 5th Annual Women's History Tribute & Brunch held March 25, 2026 at the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial in honor of military women past and present. Major Greta Hamilton, U.S. Air Force, (Ret.), and current Director, Miramar and Fort Rosecrans National Cemeteries, was this year's honoree. She was honored with a plaque that will be placed at Mt. Soledad. NNCASC member CDR (Ret.) Easty Law and her husband, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.) Art Law recently had a plaque installed atop Mt. Soledad. Several other NNCASC members, both living and deceased, have plaques there honoring their service.



Back row (l-r) Katie Bonnet-Langston, Jane Eberlein, Barb Beeby, Marilyn Anita Day, Karen Landry Davis
Middle (l-r) Sandra Pearson, Georgene Waecker, Mary Donahue, Nancy Owen
Front (l-r) Casey Meehan, Chicky McKinzie, Becky Nulty, Easty Law



HAPPY 118TH BIRTHDAY U.S. NAVY NURSE CORPS

NNCASC celebrated an early 118th Birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps at our quarterly luncheon at Cocina del Charro in Escondido, CA on April 25, 2026. We had a record 47 members and guests attend. NNCASC's oldest members present: **Rose Marie Castellanos** and **Dolly Brown**, both who turn 98 years young this year, cut the birthday cake with the youngest Navy Nurse, active duty **LT Brittanie Haring** who is stationed at Camp Pendleton.



Memorabilia honoring our Navy Nurse History & Tradition and previous Navy Nurse Corps Birthdays was on display.



NURSES WEEK 2026

NNCASC participated in and supported Nurses Week activities at a Vendor Fair at the Veterans Administration Hospital in La Jolla on May 8, 2026, at a DAISY Awards, Navy Nurse Corps Birthday Cake Cutting and a Memorabilia Display at Naval Medical Center San Diego on May 12, 2026, and President Jane Hourigan attended a Navy Nurse Corps Celebration and provided a memorabilia display at NMRTC Twentynine Palms on May 13, 2026.



Memorabilia Display at VA (l-r) Tom Colgan, Jane Eberlein, Tina Hooker, Nancy Owen



Memorabilia Display at NMCSD (l-r) Nancy Owen, Jane Eberlein, Sandra Pearson, Jane Hourigan, Cindy Perry



One of the most rewarding activities for NNCASC this past quarter was to welcome home two of our NNCASC veterans, **DJ Lavoie** and **Barbara Anderson** who were selected to go on Honor Flight San Diego May 1-3, 2026 to Washington, D.C. 90 veterans in all from WWII, Korea, and the Vietnam era were on this Honor Flight. DJ's husband, Bob, also a

veteran, accompanied her on the flight.



Barbara Anderson (pictured left, in her younger days) was both in the Navy Nurse Corps and in the Medical Corps as a Dermatologist retiring from Camp

Pendleton Hospital. DJ Lavoie, (pictured right) who chaired our Oral History Program for many years, and is still an active participant, served during the Vietnam era.



Waiting at the airport for the Honor Flight arrival (l-r) Judy Harris, Jane Hourigan, Tina Hooker, Judy Pattinson, Cindy Perry

HONOR FLIGHT SAN DIEGO

The Trip of a Lifetime

Reflections by DJ Lavoie

Anticipation and excitement were building by the minute as we waited to board the Honor Flight San Diego plane. After a long flight filled with lunch, snacks and Mail-call we arrived in Baltimore. When we arrived, NNCA members Maria Harbison and Cindy Coyle greeted us with cheers and hugs. A great start.

Saturday, the big day, had arrived. On a bright and sunny morning, 90 veterans, their Guardians and Honor Flight teams entered Washington, DC with the thunder of a motorcycle escort and the serene beauty of Arlington National Cemetery. The excitement was high especially for our NNCASC members Barbara Anderson and DJ Lavoie who were about to be honored with three other women at the **Military Women's Memorial**. It was especially fun as WMNNCA President Chris Boltz joined us at



the Memorial. That was the beginning of an unbelievable, awesome day in our nation's capital visiting the Memorials there to honor and remember our history. Over the course of the day, which was nonstop, we were treated with such respect, caring and gratitude from strangers of all ages: *Thank you for your*

service; may I shake your hand, may I take your picture, on and on. I could feel the patriotism and gratitude of the people we met. There was joy, laughter, cheering and respect. Tears frequently erupted as we each reacted what we were experiencing. I particularly felt embraced with a special feeling of closeness to the Vietnam veterans I met and some of their stories we shared. They understood! We understood! I was proud and humbled.

At the **Vietnam Women's Memorial**, we, four women veterans, were once again recognized for our service and each of us was presented the United State flag. That's when my tears came.

Honor Flight San Diego is an incredible organization! During the whole trip we were surrounded by a bubble of joyful, happy people who truly honored us and our service. The thoughtful things they did: Mail Call, homemade cookies, picnic in the park, friendship. Their selfless commitment to thanking us is unmeasurable. They made us feel so very special. My Guardian, Patti Rankle, and Barbara's, Lisa Arnold, were fabulous. They were so protective and fun, made sure we were where we were supposed to be and when and kept reminding us "This is your day. Enjoy it". We made new friends. I will never forget coming home to San Diego airport and the reception we received from friends, Navy Nurses, family and strangers. Wow! More tears. NNCASC members Casey Meehan, Dolly Brown, and Myrt Wells have also been on an Honor Flight. In sharing our experiences, Dolly said "I loved every single minute. My favorite was the Korean Memorial. That was my war." Couldn't have been said better. For me, the experience has become part of my being. It has helped to push back in my mind some of the hard memories. An incredible experience that will live forever in my heart. Thank You Honor Flight San Diego!



DJ Lavoie & Barb Anderson

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

contributed by DJ Lavoie

The Oral History Project still needs YOU!

If you have not shared your Navy Nurse Corps story, we would love to hear from you. We have conducted interviews by nurses who have served in the 2020s, which has been very exciting so see all the changes that have taken place during this time. But we have not had enough. Please consider sharing your story to help us preserve our history.

Also consider supporting our Oral History Project by volunteering. There are many areas where you can help other than conducting interviews. We would like you invite anyone interested in the Oral History Project to join us for our next Zoom Committee meeting, June 24 at 1230. Contact DJ for more information at:

bobndjl@hotmail.com

Thank you for your interest and support.

WELCOMING HOME BARB & DJ

On May 3, 2026, several NNCASC members gathered at the San Diego Airport to "Welcome Home" all the Honor Flight veterans and especially our own NNCASC members.



(Back row (l-r) Pat Bull, Tina Hooker, Nancy Owen, Cindy Perry, Judy Harris

Front row (l-r) Candace Curlee, Jane Hourigan, **Barbara Anderson**, Jane Eberlein, **DJ Lavoie**

NNCASC LUNCHEON



We look forward to our next luncheon **Wednesday, July 15, 2026** at **MCAS Miramar Officer's Club**. Most are familiar with the location of the club but the address is: 4472 Anderson Avenue, San Diego, CA 92145. A delicious three course chicken plated luncheon will be served. See reservation form, with additional details, in this newsletter. Please **RSVP by Wednesday, July 8, 2026** with a check for \$35 per person or \$40 exact cash or check at the door, Cancellations no later than July 13, 2026. A military ID is required to enter the base. Please try to arrange a ride with someone who has an ID or call Jane Eberlein at 619-316-5453 or e-mail her at: janekeberlein@gmail.com for assistance, any questions, or if you need to cancel.

Our **Veteran Outreach Program** will be **Shelter to Soldier**. This will also be our NNCASC chance to celebrate together the **250th Anniversary of the United States**. Let's put on our best patriotic attire. (There may be prizes for "best dressed".)

There also may be opportunity drawings for excess memorabilia/jewelry/pins from our storage locker (not the NNC rings pictured-those belong to 3 of our members)

Other ideas welcome-contact Nancy Owen Nancyowen333@gmail.com or call 619-887-3402.



VETERANS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Contributed by Becky Nulty

In January 2012, our Chapter launched our first Veterans Community Outreach Program at our general meeting/luncheon meeting. We selected Veterans Village of San Diego, and they received \$500.00 plus two (2) trunk loads of clothing, toiletries, and other items that our members donated. Sandy Holmes was our first chairperson who led the way in searching for and vetting Veterans organizations. She utilized Charity Navigator to ensure the organizations distributed funds fairly. Since that first meeting, we have recognized 40 Veterans organizations. We originally organized an event at every luncheon meeting but reduced it to two times per year in 2019. During COVID Shutdown when we did not have face-to-face meetings, the Board donated cash to various organizations.

In over 14 years, we have donated \$58,518.00 in cash. In addition to cash, we have donated clothing, underwear, socks, baby layette items, feminine hygiene items, paper products, canned goods, food, many, many gift cards, kitchen items, bed linens, clothing for active duty women leaving service to enhance their job opportunities, Valentine items, games, and batteries to Chula Vista Veterans Home, and many other requested items.

In addition, our Chapter participates in Holiday donations to Miramar, Rosecrans, and Riverside Cemeteries. We have added another cemetery to include Northern California. We also donate during this time to Interfaith, Wreaths Across America, Chula Vista Veterans Home, and Support the Enlisted Project (STEP).

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our membership. When we can contribute to helping our Veterans and their families who have served our Nation to ensure we are free and safe, then we should be so proud of our program. THANKS TO EVERYONE!! Our Veterans thank you as well as our Chapter as a whole.



**SAVING LIVES,
TWO AT A TIME**

Our Veteran Community Outreach organization which will present at our July luncheon will be ***Shelter to Soldier***, a CA 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that adopts dogs from local shelters and trains them to become psychiatric service dogs for post 9/11 veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or Military Sexual Trauma.

This program also places emotional support animals (ESAs) with active duty military, veterans, Gold Star Families, and first responders.

Come to the luncheon with checkbook in hand ready to donate, if so inclined, to this wonderful vetted Veteran Outreach Program.

More information about the organization can be found at:

www. <https://www.sheltertotosoldier.org/>

SAVE THE DATE

Military Women's Luncheon



All Branches, All Eras, All Invited

The annual Military Women's Luncheon will be held Saturday, **October 31, 2026** at **Anchor's Catering** outside the Main Street gate to Naval Base, San Diego. Additional information will be available in the September newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Submitted by Bobbi Crann

The Scholarship Committee: **Bobbi Crann (Chairperson), Pat Bull, Sheree Scott, Judy Pattinson, Nancy Johnson, and Cindy Lewis** met on May 28, 2026

We received 29 applications this year of which 23 were eligible applicants.

The recipients chosen for the 2026 Scholarship Awards are:

Mackenzie Varner - \$5000
PLNU

Leiah Chew - \$4500
National University

Cressandra Walker - \$4500
National University

Sofia Rahmdhani - \$3000
CSU Fullerton

Tiana Luong - \$3000
UCI

Eleison Ziegler - \$2500
Cal Baptist

Virginia Rivas - \$2500
National University

All have been invited to join us at our July luncheon or a future luncheon. We will share more of their bios in the September newsletter.

MY PATHWAY TO NAVY NURSING by Ensign Alexyss Caring, NC



Alexyss Caring is the third generation in her family to serve in the Navy, following in the footsteps of two generations of sailors, her Grandpa and Uncles and with a rich culture running in the family. She also has family members currently serving or who have served in other branches of the military, including the United States Marine Corps and United States Army. Because of the Navy, her Uncle, retired Master Chief Abrajano, brought the Abrajano family from the Philippines to settle down in San Diego, a city known as a Navy Town.

During Alexyss first year in nursing school, she was accepted into the Nurse Candidate Program (NCP) for a scholarship. To be chosen as a scholarship recipient is a very competitive and selective process by the Navy Nurse Professional Review Board. Out of thousands of applicants across the nation, Alexyss was one of ten individuals chosen for the NCP two-year scholarship. The NCP is offered for those pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree, with a direct route to become a Navy Nurse Corps Officer. In March 2025, Alexyss graduated from West Coast University with her



Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, followed by passing the California Board of a Registered Nursing (BRN) NCLEX to receive the license required to practice as a Registered Nurse.

Alexyss then attended Officer Development School (ODS) in Newport, Rhode Island and received orders to Naval Medical Readiness & Training Command (NMRTC) San Diego, where she is currently stationed for the next three years.



[Editor's Note: There are several pathways to becoming a Navy Nurse: Direct Commission out of a BSN program, Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP), or as a Nurse Candidate. One of our newest NNCASC members, **ENS Alexyss Caring**, shares her journey on becoming a Navy Nurse and who inspired her. Hopefully, she will continue to contribute articles for the newsletter which will give us insight into the current "Life of an active duty Navy Nurse".]

CA VETERANS HOME CHULA VISTA CELEBRATES 26 YEARS

The Chula Vista Veterans Home opened its doors on May 13, 2000. This year's Founder's Day, held on 16, 2026, celebrated 26 years in



operation caring for veterans and spouses. A western theme and barbeque was held for residents and guests, along with children's rides, and musical entertainment. The home currently has 205 residents in its three levels of care: independent, assisted,

and skilled nursing. NNCASC has been a supporter of the Veterans Home through end of year donations, and other requested items.

The Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation (CVVHSF) supports the home and raises money to provide "quality of life" items and services for the residents. Pictured is Dave, a resident of the home with NNCASC member, Nancy Owen. Both are members of the CVVHSF.

Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD)

Since 1988, Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) has hosted an annual Stand Down event, providing at-risk and unhoused veterans and their families with critical resource to help them with resources needed to regain their lives outside of the military. This year, 2026, the Stand Down Resource Event proudly expands its services to support **all veterans** — including active-duty service members, and their families with services including: housing assistance, mental health care, VA Medical Services, substance abuse treatment, workforce development, financial assistance, legal support, dental and vision care and much more. The event will be held July 17 & 18, 2026 at the Arts District Liberty Station. For more information on this event and/or to volunteer, go to: <https://vvsd.net/standdown/>



THE 13 FOLDS OF THE UNITED STATES FLAG

We have all stood at a military funeral, too many to count, and have seen the honor guard unfurling a flag and then folding the flag with slow, deliberate care, turning a wide expanse of stars and stripes into a right triangle of blue. Thirteen folds, each one exact. Like nearly everything about the flag, the ritual carries meaning...

Beyond the mechanics of folding the flag, a cherished tradition assigns a meaning to each of the 13 folds. It is important to note that this interpretation is a ceremonial custom rather than a part of the official U.S. Flag Code, and different honor guards recite slightly different versions. Still, the recitation is deeply meaningful to the families who hear it and it speaks to the values the flag represents.

According to the National Flag Foundation, in the most widely shared version, the folds honor, in turn:

- Life
- The belief in eternal life
- The veteran being laid to rest, and those who gave their lives in service
- Our trust in something greater than ourselves in times of trouble
- A tribute to the country itself
- Where our hearts lie, as we pledge allegiance to the flag
- A tribute to the armed services
- Those who have passed, and the mothers who hold them in memory
- Womanhood, and the faith and devotion that has shaped the nations character
- Fathers, who have given their sons and daughters in defense of the country

- The lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, in the Jewish tradition
- Eternity, in the Christian tradition
- The final fold, with the stars facing upward, recalling the nation's motto, "In God We Trust"

Excerpts taken from:

<https://nationalflagfoundation.org/the-meaning-behind-the-13-folds-of-the-united-states-flag/>



Final Honor



OLD GLORY

I am the flag of the United States of America, My name is Old Glory". I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's Halls of Justice. I fly majestically over great institutions of learning. I stand guard with the greatest power in the world.

Look up and see me! I stand for Peace, Honor, Truth and Justice. I stand for Freedom.

I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud. When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer...I BOW TO NO ONE!

I am recognized all over the world. I am worshipped-I am saluted-I am respected, I am revered-I am loved and I am feared!

I have fought in every battle of every war, for 250 years:

Gettysburg, Shilo, Appomattox, San Juan Hill, The Trenches of Normandy, the Deserts of Africa, Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, in the Persian Gulf, & ...a score of other places, LONG Forgotten by all...but those who were there with me...I was there.

I led my sailors and marines. I followed them. I watch over them. They love me. I was on a small hill in Iwo Jima, I was dirty, battle worn and tired...but my sailors cheered me! I was proud.

I have been soiled, burned, torn, and trampled on the streets of countries that I have helped set free. It does not hurt...for I am invincible.

I have been soiled, burned, torn, and trampled on the streets of my own country...and when it is by those whom I have served in battle with...it hurts.

But I shall overcome...for I am strong! I have slipped the bonds of earth and from my vantage point on the moon and Mars. I stand watch over the uncharted new frontiers of space.

I have been a silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hour comes when I am torn into strips, to be used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the field of battle...When I fly at half-mast to honor my sailors and when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent, at the graveside of a fallen son or daughter...

I am Proud...My name is "Old Glory"...Long may I wave...Dear God. Long may I wave.

**IN MEMORIUM
MAY 2025-MAY 2026**

NNCASC MEMBERS

Patricia “Pat” Clancy (June 16, 2025)
Janet “Carol” Wohlgemuth (October 10, 2025)
Dolores Lobpreis (December 9, 2025)

FORMER/NON-MEMBERS

Margaret “Annette” Switzer (August 13, 2025)
Elizabeth “Betty” Sturdevant (November 14, 2025)
LCDR (ret) Martin F. O’Connor (January 12, 2026)
Debora “Deb” Anne Coulapides Gay (February 13, 2026)
CAPT (ret) M. Joan Brouillette (March 6, 2026)
Patricia Jean “Totsy” Portz (March 15, 2026)
Martha Anne Rusnak (March 24, 2026)

IN SPECIAL MEMORY

Donna MacKenzie (December 3, 2025)
Diane Althea Carlson Evans, CPT, U.S. Army (May 20, 2026)
CAPT (ret) Robert J. Ecker, CHC (June 3, 2026)

Navy Nurse Corps Memorial Miramar National Cemetery

Nurses Memorial -Arlington National Cemetery Section 21



Courtesy- <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

*Lord, I invoke Your Name for those here present.
Allow me to address them in Your Name.*

*I was in pain and you came to me.
I was suffering and you comforted me.
I was dying and you loved me.
Yours were the first eyes to meet mine.
In my confusion your eyes then your hands
Then your voice brought me back to reality.
For a moment, Oh, so brief a moment,
You became my family, my parent, my spouse, my child.
They were many, you were only one,
But such an important one at that briefest of moments.
In comfort I closed my eyes for the last time.
Yours was the last gaze that filled my life.
Thank you! Amen.*

(Invocation delivered by Navy Chaplain Captain (ret) Robert J. Ecker at 2010 NNCA Reunion Memorial Service April 30, 2010 in San Diego. Chaplain Ecker entered into eternal life June 3, 2026.)

NNCASC members, we know of, who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery include:
RADM Fran Shea Buckley, Patricia Hildebrand, and Sandy Holmes (pending).



NNCASC LUNCHEON MEETING

LOCATION: MCAS MIRAMAR OFFICER'S CLUB
DATE: WEDNESDAY, July 15, 2026
TIME: SOCIAL HOUR: 1100
LUNCH: 1200

Make reservations by July 8, 2026

Call **Jane Eberlein** at 619-316-5453 or e-mail at: janekeberlein@gmail.com
for assistance, questions or if you need to cancel (NLT July 13)
Military ID card is required for base entry

Send reservations & checks (made payable to NNCASC) to:
Jane Eberlein
10324 Spruce Grove Ave.
San Diego, CA 92131

RESERVATION LUNCHEON MEETING

Please make reservations for _____ persons.
Check enclosed for \$_____ at \$35.00 per person (\$40 at door).

MENU: 3 course chicken plated luncheon

NAME(S) OF THOSE ATTENDING

CIRCLE STATUS

AD RET FORMER

AD RET FORMER

GUEST/ POTENTIAL MEMBER



Navy Nurse Corps Association of Southern California
Nancy Owen, Newsletter Editor
1611 Miguel Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118



**In Memory of Our Fallen Comrades
“All gave some. Some gave all.”**