

# Celebrating Navy Women

Perseverance & Achievements

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# Foreword from Mrs. Linda Gilday

When we moved into Tingey House, our residence, in late fall of 2019, we decided to make the library into a room with a focus. It's a room next to the dining room, with good lighting, a fireplace, great colors and plenty of open wall space. We wanted to turn it into a more intimate official meeting spot for Mike. At an estate sale, I purchased a book about Women in Congress to add to our other books about women's achievements: a subtle way of recognizing women trailblazers who have made their mark in history.

While sitting in the room one day and thinking of how to expand on that idea, I said to Mike, "Hey, what if we make this a women in the Navy room!" I thought it would be a chance to show visitors that our Navy has some amazing women who have served. He said "Yes," and with such a great acronym - Women in the Navy - WIN, the idea took off!

This WIN project has two purposes: it is a way to honor those 'first' women - who have serve with honor, humility, fortitude and sacrifice in uniform and in the civilian ranks; and secondly, to inspire men and women alike.

WIN history-makers and trailblazers from all parts of the Navy have been honored individually for years, but we didn't have a collective reference that pulled them together into one document/site/book/or display. Even the Pentagon doesn't have a full display of this type for Navy women....yet.

We worked with the Navy History and



Heritage Command to create this display and this e-book. Now, with the help of a group we're calling the 'WIN Founders Group,' we are considering additional ways to grow this project and mentor others. In this e-book, there are trailblazers who have served, who are serving -many who are the 'first' in some way. Don't let that intimidate you from offering up other names to include. If you know women who've contributed to the Navy- we want to know who they are! Send your recommendations via the U.S. Navy CNO social media platforms (linked below).

We know this is a small representation of Navy Women's accomplishments, but I know you will enjoy reading about them. We hope this will be an inspiration to all.

Congratulations to this growing list of Trailblazers!

Linda Gilday



Lt. Marie Lei Acuna

Lt. Marie Lei Acuna is an active duty MH-60S Seahawk pilot who, during her first deployment as part of the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), Carrier Air Wing 5 team, rescued two aircrew who ejected during a training flight in 2018.



Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Annie Adams Lieutenant Junior Grade Sarah Black Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Aerial Lucky Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Dayna Williams

Assigned to the "Ghostriders" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC-28), this group of women conducted MH-60S Seahawk operations aboard the Blue Ridge-class command and control ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) during a successful deployment in March 2019.



### Rear Adm. Lore Aguayo

Rear Adm. Lore Aguayo became the first woman officer to oversee Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), Atlantic, in 2021. She is also dual-hatted as the U.S. Fleet Forces Civil Engineer. A registered Professional Engineer in the state of Arizona, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Stanford University. Aguayo is also a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Executive Development Program and is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare officer.



#### Command Master Chief Dee Allen

Command Master Chief Dee Allen was the Navy's most senior enlisted woman in 2018 while she served as the Command Master Chief of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet (FCC/C10F). A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Allen enlisted in the Navy in 1986 as an undesignated seaman recruit and was selected to attend Cryptologic Technician Administrative "A" School in Pensacola, Florida. She served at the National Security Agency, Naval Support Group Activity Misawa and Okinawa, Japan, aboard USS Frank Cable (AS 40), USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) and USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79), and she also served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Office of Women's Policy. She retired from the Navy in 2020 after 34 years of service.



Rear Adm. Annie Andrews

Rear Adm. Annie Andrews became the third Black woman promoted to Rear admiral. After beginning her career in 1983 at Naval Station Whiting Field, Florida, as an administrative officer, and at Joint Intelligence Center Pacific in Hawaii, as an intelligence officer, she rose to leadership roles such as director of counseling and assistance at Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, and officer-in-charge of Navy Personnel Support Activity detachments in the Philippines. She also served the executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserves Affairs, as a senior fellow in the CNO Strategic Studies Group, the director of Total Force Requirements Division, Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, and commanding officer of U.S. Navy Recruiting Command. Andrews retired from the Navy in 2013 after 32 years of service. She currently works at the FAA as assistant administrator for human resources management.



Cmdr. Meghan Angermann

Cmdr. Meghan Angermann became the first woman to command a jet training squadron when she took command of Training Squadron 9 (VT-9) in 2020.



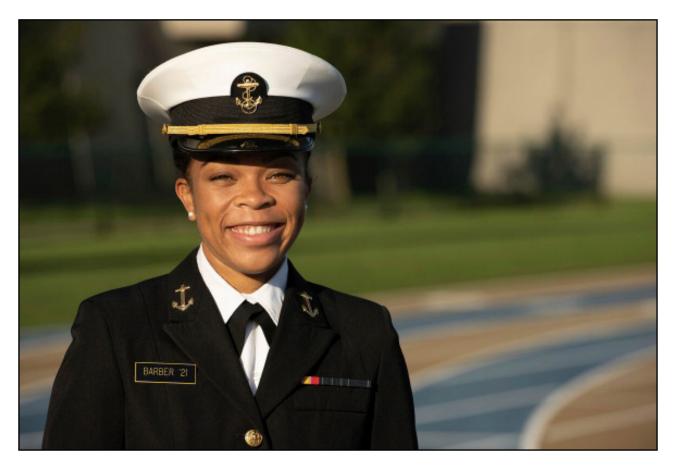
## Master Chief Storekeeper Alicia Aitken

Master Chief Storekeeper Alicia Aitken was a pre-commissioning crew member, a plank owner, and became the first Command Master Chief of the USS Grapple (T-ARS 53) at a time when few women were allowed to serve on ships. She served aboard USS Grapple from December 1985 to June 1991.



Jennifer Balisle

Jennifer Balisle assumed her current role as Vice Director for the J-8 in July 2021. She is responsible for overseeing efforts to evaluate, validate, and align development of joint requirements and capabilities; conduct force structure and warfighting studies and Analysis; and evaluate Department of Defense plans, programs and strategies for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She has had a diverse career serving on staffs of the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), and Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). Balisle was accepted into the Senior Executive Service (SES) in March 2015, and is the recipient of two Civilian Meritorious Service Awards and two Civilian Superior Service Awards.



Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber

Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber was the first Black woman to serve as the U.S. Naval Academy's Brigade Commander, a semester-long position she assumed in 2021. Brigade commander is the highest student leadership position, selected by the U.S. Naval Academy senior leadership. Barber, of Lake Forest, Illinois, was a mechanical engineering major, and is the 16th woman to serve as brigade commander in the 44 years since women have been allowed to attend the U.S. Naval Academy.



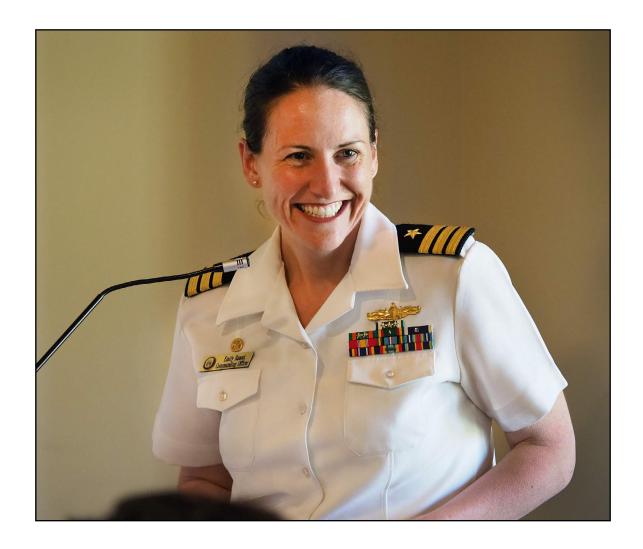
Kayla Barron

A 2010 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Kayla Barron became one of the first women to qualify as a submarine officer aboard USS Maine (SSBN 741). Barron was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. She reported to NASA in August 2017, completed the initial astronaut candidate training, and is scheduled for a mission assignment in October 2021. She is the fifth woman who graduated from the Naval Academy to be selected as an astronaut candidate.



**Cmdr. Elizabeth Barrett** 

Cmdr. Elizabeth Barrett became the highest ranking woman naval officer in Vietnam and the first to hold command in a combat zone in 1972 when she served at Saigon as the U.S. Naval Advisory Group, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, commanding officer, enlisted personnel.



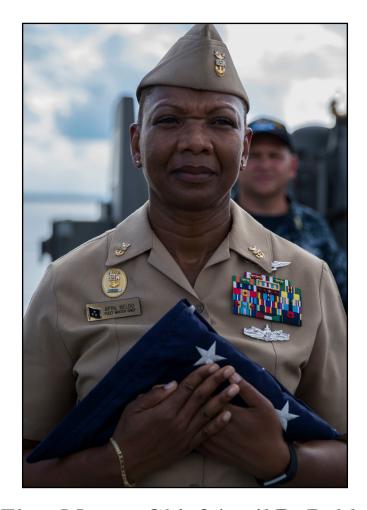
Capt. Emily Bassett

Capt. Emily Bassett currently serves as the Force Nuclear Propulsion Officer at Naval Air Force, Pacific (2021). Recognized for her work in bringing people together from across the Navy, she leads a mentoring and connection group called "Lean On Navy." A 2009 Olmstead Scholar, she has served in a number of challenging assignments, including as Reactor Officer for the USS Ford (CVN 78), and commanding officer of the USS Manchester (LCS 14).



Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt

Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt became the first woman commanding office of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier when she took command of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in the summer of 2021. Bauernschmidt was also the first woman to serve as the executive officer aboard an aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, a position she held from September 2016 to January 2019.



Fleet Master Chief April D. Beldo

A woman of many firsts, Fleet Master Chief April Beldo became the first woman Command Master Chief (CMC) of Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, in 2006, the first Black woman CMC to be assigned to an aircraft carrier (USS Carl Vinson [CVN 70]) in 2009, the first woman and first Black Force Master Chief (FORCM) for Naval Education and Training Command in 2012, and the first woman to be the Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education (MPT&E) Fleet Master Chief in 2017. She retired in January 2017 after 34 years of service.



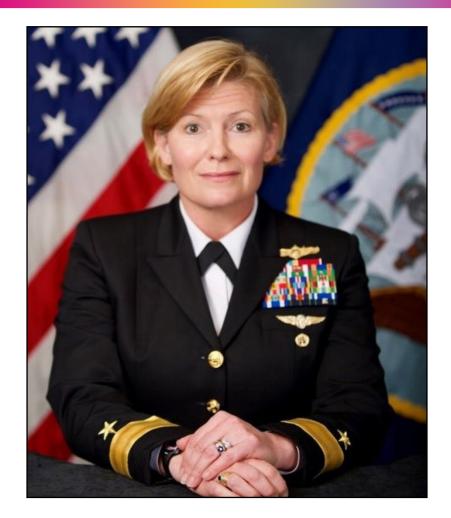
Rev. Dianna Pohlman Bell

Upon joining the Navy in 1973, Rev. Dianna Pohlman Bell became the Department of Defense's first woman military chaplain. She served from 1973 to 1976.



Juliet Beyler

Ms. Juliet Beyler enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1984 and served as a Korean cryptologic linguist and intelligence analyst for ten years before receiving her commission as one of the Marine Corps' first women to become a combat engineer officer. Over the course of her Marine Corps career she completed numerous deployments around the world to locations such as Thailand, Russia, Haiti, the Philippines, and the Balkans. She commanded three times and served two combat tours in Iraq as a commanding officer and battalion operations officer. Before re-joining the Department of Defense after a 23-year military career, Ms. Beyler served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the office of U.S. Senator Jim Webb. At the Office of the Secretary of Defense, she led the Department's five-year effort to open all military positions to women. She currently serves as the executive director for U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa as an SES (2021).



Rear Adm. Heidi Berg

A 1991 graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, Rear Adm. Heidi Berg commissioned as a Cryptologist. Fluent in Russian and Arabic, Berg received a Master of Philosophy in Modern Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic from St. Antony's College, Oxford University, United Kingdom. She has served on airborne, surface and subsurface platforms, commanded at multiple levels, supported U.S. and partner space capabilities, and served in combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is one of few women Cryptologists to be selected as a flag officer in 2018. She currently serves as Director, Plans and Policy, J5, U.S. Cyber Command (2021).



Rear Adm. Linda Bird

Rear Adm. Linda J. Bird, SC, became the first woman in the United States Navy Supply Corps promoted to flag rank in March 1998. Commissioned through the Naval Officer Candidate School in June 1974, she served aboard USS Frank Cable (AS 40) and USS Puget Sound (AD 38); a variety of shore locations, including the head of the Supply Policy Branch in the Supply Programs and Policy Division (N41), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) director of Navy Defense Business Operations Fund Division; NAVSUP deputy commander for financial management/comptroller; vice commander of Naval Supply Systems Command; director of Supply, Ordnance and Logistics Operations Division, N41, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. She was nominated for the rank of rear admiral (upper half) in July 2002 and retired from the Navy in November 2005 after 31 years of service.



Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar

A 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar retired in 2021 after serving as the Commander, Navy Region Southwest.

Designated as a Navy special operations officer (EOD/diving and salvage), Bolivar served aboard five salvage ships, including commanding USS Salvor (ARS 52), and became the first woman to command Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One in 2003. Among her many personal awards, she received recognition as the Chief of Naval Operations' Pacific Fleet finalist for the Vice Adm. James Stockdale Leadership Award and was a 2005 inductee into the Women Divers Hall of Fame. She retired from the Navy in 2021 after 36 years of service.



#### **Ann Bradford Stokes**

After escaping from slavery in 1863, Ann Bradford was captured and taken aboard the Union hospital ship USS Red Rover. After President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, she volunteered as a nurse with the Sister of the Holy Cross of Notre Dame. Stokes became the first Black woman to serve aboard a U.S. military vessel, and she was among the first women to serve as a nurse in the Navy. Officially rated as a "first-class boy," a rank given to young men under seventeen who performed general sailor duties, she became the first woman to apply and be granted a pension based on her own military service in 1890.



Vice Adm. Robin Braun

Vice Adm. Robin Braun became the first woman to command the United States Navy Reserve and the first woman to command any services' Reserve Component, when she took command in August 2012. The daughter of a career naval aviator and born in Pensacola, Florida, she graduated from Northern Arizona University and was commissioned in 1980. Designated a naval aviator in February 1981, Braun served as an instructor pilot, mission commander, aircraft commander and instructor pilot in the EC-1300Q aircraft. Braun also served as commanding officer of VR-48, Naval Air Facility (NAF) Washington, D.C., Navy Air Logistics Office (NALO), Navy Reserve Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10 supporting the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), and Joint Task Force Katrina and Tactical Support Center 0793, supporting Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 5. Her Flag assignments include deputy commander, Navy Recruiting Command; director, Total Force Management for the deputy CNO for information dominance (OPNAV N2/N6) and deputy director of operations, U.S. European Command, Germany. She retired from the Navy in 2016 after 36 years of service.



Rear Adm. Susan BryerJoyner

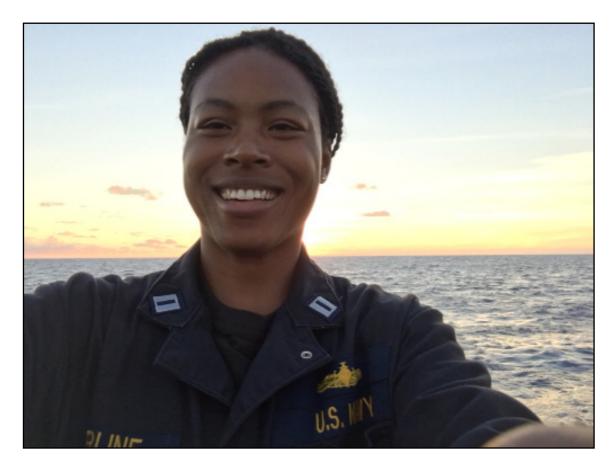
A Naval officer since 1991, plank owner of the Information Professional Community and two-time recipient of the Copernicus Award, Rear Adm. Susan BryerJoyner currently serves as the Director, Enterprise Networks and Cybersecurity Division at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (2021). During her distinguished career, she deployed to the high north and Norwegian Seas for the Navy's first Dynamic Force Employment deployment, as well as to the Mediterranean, Arabian Sea, Indo-Pacific, and Iraq in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Tomodachi.



Cmdr. Becky Calder

A 1998 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Cmdr. Becky Calder served as an F/A-18 Hornet pilot and became the first woman pilot to graduate from the Navy's Strike Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN).

During her 15 years as a pilot she supported Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. At the USNA she played varsity basketball and was the first woman to have her varsity number retired.



**Cmdr. Ashley Carline** 

Cmdr. Ashley Carline served as the Chief of Naval Operation's Flag Aide from September 2018 – October 2020. She is the first Black woman to serve as Aide-de-Camp for two different Chiefs of Naval Operation.



# Master Chief Navy Counselor Kimberly Cedar

Master Chief Navy Counselor Kimberly Cedar serves as the Reserve Force Career Counselor at Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) (2021). She is responsible for training and mentoring all 250 career counselors across the Reserve force, while simultaneously serving as an inspiration to women at every leadership level.



Navy Career Counselor (Recruiter) Master Chief Heather K. Charara

Master Chief Heather Charara attained the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer in 14 years of service and became the fastest woman to promote to the rank of Master Chief in the Career Recruiter Force rating in 2015. She went on to perform the duties as the Chief Recruiter at Navy Recruiting District Miami and led the district in attaining their first Gold "R" award in 2018, presented to the top Recruiting District in the Nation. In May of 2020, she was nominated and selected to lead the nation as Navy Recruiting Command's National Chief Recruiter, the first woman in history to hold this coveted position.



Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield became the first woman to lead the Naval War College, where she currently serves (2021) as its 57th President, a position she has held since August 2019. She is one of a few Flag officers who have attained their doctorate while on active duty, and Chatfield was also the first commanding officer of HSC-25, the "Island Knights." She subsequently commanded a joint provincial reconstruction team in Farah Province, Afghanistan, in 2008 and was type wing commander of HSC Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet from 2011-2013. Most recently, Chatfield commanded Joint Region Marianas from January 2017 to August 2019.



Capt. Elaine Collins

Capt. Elaine Collins is the commander of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9 (2021). A 1996 NROTC Washington State University graduate, Collins has served in multiple roles at sea, including aboard USS Momsen (DDG 92) as the commanding officer. Collins has deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of UN Security Council Resolutions, and Operations Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. She has also deployed to 7th Fleet in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, and to 6th Fleet in support of Standing NATO Maritime Group Two and Operation Active Endeavor.



Yeoman 1st Class Gina Colombo

Yeoman 1st Class Gina Colombo's full-time support (2021) at Regional Component Command (RCC) Great Lakes, Illinois, has provided her with a unique opportunity to share her 22 years of Navy experience with Sailors heading out to the fleet for active and Reserve support. In her main role as leading petty officer of the RCC's operations and training departments, Colombo uses her expertise to take care of the more experienced Sailors located throughout the 23 Navy Operational Support Centers (NOSCs) across her region. She manages the daily requests for orders and travel support and ensures her NOSCs are up to date on the Navy Reserve's latest policies and procedures.



Capt. Kathlene Contres

Capt. Kathlene Contres was the highest-ranking woman Hispanic-American officer in the U.S. Navy until her retirement in 2010 after 30 years of service. She was the first Hispanic-American woman officer to command the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. Contres selflessly and with great determination opened doors to a generation of women who followed in her footsteps. She was also president of the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO), an organization dedicated to the recruitment, retention, and promotion of Hispanics and Latinos across all ranks of the sea services.



Lt. j.g. Amber Cowan (right)
Lt. j.g. Jennifer Noonan (center)

Lt. j.g. Amber Cowan and Lt. j.g. Jennifer Noonan (USS Maine [SSBN 741], Blue Crew), along with Lt. j.g. Marquette Leveque (USS Wyoming [SSBN 742], Gold Crew), not shown, became the first women unrestricted line officers to qualify as submarine warfare officers in December 2012.



Rear Adm. Jennifer Couture

Rear Adm. Jennifer Couture is the commander of Naval Service Training Command (2021). Couture previously commanded Destroyer Squadron 28 from November 2018 to February 2020, and she previously commanded the USS Kauffman (FFG 59). She holds degrees from George Washington University and Old Dominion University, and is a Doctoral Student at Northeastern University. Couture is a recognized leader in the Surface Warfare community and an inspiration to many.



Lt. Susan Ahn Cuddy

Lt. Susan Ahn Cuddy joined the Navy in 1942 after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and she became the first woman Asian-American to serve in the Navy and also its first woman gunnery officer. During World War II, she served as an instructor in both combat air tactics and the use of the .50 caliber machine gun. She subsequently worked at U.S. Naval Intelligence as a code breaker and at the National Security Agency during the Cold War.



Cmdr. Kim DaCosta-Azar

Cmdr. Kim DaCosta-Azar was the third Skipper and first woman to become the commanding officer of the Navy's only Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP-19) in 2018. She won the Joy Bright Hancock award in 2020 for her leadership, specifically for her initiatives to retain aviators throughout pregnancy and parenthood. She created a pregnancy and parenthood program recognizing concerns from women in her command about remaining competitive in their careers while balancing family. She also worked with Naval Air Forces to remove barriers and change established instructions to allow pregnant women to continue flying (unmanned) into their third trimester. DaCosta-Azar currently serves at the U.S. State Department (2020) at the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation in the Office of Counter Proliferation Initiatives.



Capt. Sue S. Dauser

Capt. Sue Dauser became the first woman promoted to Captain in the U.S. Navy in December 1942. A 1914 graduate of the California School of Nursing, she became a Navy Nurse in September 1917, subsequently serving with Naval Base Hospital Number 3 in the U.S. and in Scotland during World War I, holding the grade of Chief Nurse for most of that period. Following the War, she was placed in charge of nursing activities at the U.S. Naval Hospital at San Diego, California. During the 1920s, Chief Nurse Dauser served on board several ships and in overseas as well as U.S. facilities. She tended President Warren G. Harding during his fatal illness in 1923. Dauser served as the fifth Superintendent of Navy Nurse Corps from 1939-1945, and guided the Navy Nurse Corps through WWII. She retired from the Navy in November 1945 after 28 years of service.



Rear Adm. Yvette Davids (left)
Capt. Shanti Sethi
Cmdr. Teresa Elders

All three women served on USS Higgins (DDG 76) under then-Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mike Gilday. Davids served as Executive Officer, Sethi as Combat Systems Officer, and Elders as Operations officer. Currently, Davids serves as U.S. Southern Command chief of staff (2021), Sethi serves as the Senior Military Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy, and Elders passed away in 2018 after a long battle with ovarian cancer.



Vice Adm. Nanette DeRenzi

Vice Adm. Nanette DeRenzi became the first woman Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Navy when she took command in 2012. Commissioned through the Judge Advocate Corps Student Program and a graduate of Temple University School of Law in 1986, DeRenzi began her career as a litigator, first as a defense counsel and later as a trial counsel (prosecution) in Newport, Rhode Island, followed by assignments in appellate defense and civil litigation in Washington, D.C. DeRenzi also served as the fleet judge advocate to commander, U.S. 7th and 3rd Fleets, as well as staff judge advocate to commander, Carrier Group 7. Before her appointment to flag rank, she served as the senior staff judge advocate for commander, U.S. Southern Command; special assistant for legal and legislative matters to the secretary of the Navy; legislative counsel for environmental programs in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs; and executive assistant to the JAG. In command, she served as commanding officer, Naval Legal Service Office, North Central. She retired from the Navy in June 2015 after 31 years of service.



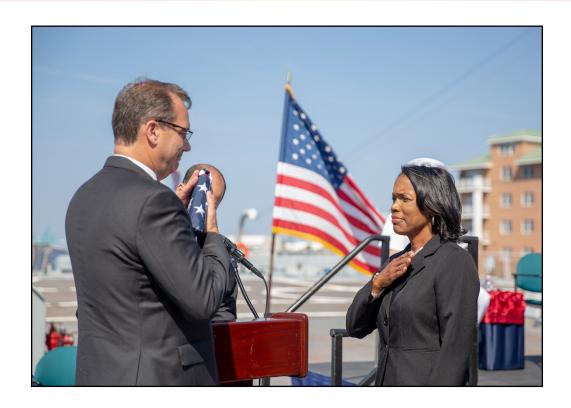
#### Master Chief Yeoman Anna Der-Vartanian

Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian became the first woman in the U.S. Armed Forces to be promoted to the rank of E-9 in December 1959. In 1943, Der-Vartanian joined the U.S. Navy as an apprentice seaman in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). She served at Great Lakes, Illinois, Naval Station Treasure Island, the Public Information Office in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Parachute Rigger and Aerograph schools at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, and other administrative roles. Following her promotion to Master Chief, she became the first woman to serve as Chief Clerk in the Office of United States National Military Representative, SHAPE, in Paris, France. She then served at the Legal Office at Naval Station Washington before her retirement from the Navy in July 1963 with 20 years of service.



Fleet Master Chief Jackie DiRosa

Fleet Master Chief Jacqueline DiRosa became the first woman to be promoted to fleet master chief in 2006. Having previously been appointed force master chief of Navy Medicine and director of the Hospital Corps in 2002, she became the first woman in U.S. Navy history selected for both Force and Fleet Master Chief. A native of Mount Olive, Illinois, she entered the Navy in 1981 and rose to Chief Hospital Corpsman in eight years. She retired from the navy in 2011 after 30 years of service.



## Steffanie Easter

Steffanie Easter became both the first civilian and the first woman to serve as Director, Navy Staff Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in January 2018. She previously served as executive director for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office, Arlington, Virginia, and as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education, where she was the civilian executive advisor for the planning and programming of all manpower, personnel, training, and education resources, budgeting for Navy personnel and for developing the information systems and tools to effectively manage the Navy Total Force. Easter was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in December 2002, and has more than 30 years of Federal Service. She was awarded the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2007, the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2009, and the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2013. She is also the recipient of the 2009 National Women of Color Award for Managerial Leadership, and the 2010 recipient of the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement.



Lt. Cmdr. Ashley Faires

Lt. Cmdr. Ashley Faires piloted the first all-woman combat mission of an E-2C aircraft for the U.S. Navy in 2012 when she and four crew members completed a multiple-hour mission of tactical combat management, airborne advanced warning, and command and control services over Afghanistan. She is the recipient of the 2016 Purdue Engineering Alumni Association Young Engineering Alumnus Award.



Cmdr. Billie J. Farrell

A 2004 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Cmdr. Billie J. Farrell is the executive officer of USS Vicksburg (CG 69) and the first woman to be selected to command the USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's ship of



U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Amanda Little

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Amanda Little was a member of a Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Shib Koh District in Farah Province, Afghanistan, July 10, 2010. Little is one of many Navy women who have served as part of Female Engagement Teams (FETs) in Iraq and Afghanistan. These teams undertook gender-suited tasks to engage with local women and adolescents in situations where male service members' involvement would have been culturally inappropriate.



First All-Woman Seabee Construction Team

Assigned in late 2011 to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, this was the first all-woman Seabee construction team (as part of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR). They built an operations center, gym, and two B-huts a week ahead of schedule.



First Enlisted Women in the Navy

Recruited to serve for the duration of World War I in order to free up male personnel for duty at sea, nearly 11,000 women were in uniform by Armistice Day (Nov. 11, 1918). Although they were subsequently discharged following the war's end, they paved the way for the establishment of the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service in World War II and the integration of women into the regular Navy in 1948.



# First known all-women crew for MH-60R training flight

Navy pilots and aircrew from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM-49) and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM-41) pose for a photo before taking off on the first known all-women crew MH-60R Sea Hawk training flight in April 2021. HSM-49 and HSM-41 are located at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California, and provide vertical-launched anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities to carrier strike groups, amphibious ready groups and independently deployed naval vessels.



# Cmdr. Kimberly Jones, Cmdr. Kathryn Wijnaldum, Cmdr. LaDonna Simpson

2020 marked the first time that three black women Surface Warfare Officers (Nuclear), served in command at the same time. They are: Cmdr. Kimberly Jones, commanding officer of USS Tortuga, (LSD 46), Cmdr. Kathryn Wijnaldum, commanding officer of USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), and Cmdr. LaDonna Simpson, commanding officer of USS Carter Hall (LSD 50).



Lt. j.g. Barbara Allen, Ens. Jane M. Skiles, Lt. j.g. Judith A. Neuffler, and Ens. Kathleen L. McNary

Some of the first women assigned to flight instruction at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, in March 1973. Allen subsequently became the first woman to receive her Wings of Gold.



## Rear Adm. Lilian Fishburne

Rear Adm. Lilian Fishburne, shown middle in the above photo taken in 2015, was the first black woman to hold the rank of Rear Admiral. Appointed by President Bill Clinton and promoted on Feb. 1, 1998, Fishburne retired from the Navy in February 2001. (Also shown in the photo, Rear Adm. Annie Andrews, left, and Adm. Michelle Howard)



### Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti

Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti earned her commission in 1985 through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Northwestern University. She was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral in 2018 and commanded the U.S. 6th Fleet, also serving as the deputy commander for U.S. Naval Forces Europe / Africa and Commander, Striking and Support Forces NATO. Additionally, Vice Adm. Franchetti has served as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea; commander Carrier Strike Group 9; commander, Carrier Strike Group 15; and chief of staff, Joint Staff, J-5, Strategy, Plans and Policy, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Development, N7. She assumed duties as director for Strategy, Plans and Policy (J-5), Joint Staff in October 2020.



CMC Susan (Sanson) Fritz

Command Master Chief Susan (Sanson) Fritz was the first woman to become command master chief of an aviation squadron, when she was assigned to Sea Control Squadron 22 (VS-22), a S-3B Viking squadron which deployed on board the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower (CVN 69), the first combatant ship with women on board. Fritz also served as the Command Master Chief for Naval District Washington before her retirement from the Navy in 2004 after 30 years of service.



Cmdr. Juliane Gallina

A 1992 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Juliane Gallina became the first woman to serve as a USNA brigade commander in 1991. She also was the coxswain of the women's crew team and a member of the track and lacrosse teams while at the academy. After serving in the Navy for 21 years and retiring as a reserve officer in 2013, Gallina then spent 10 years with the National Reconnaissance Office as a senior system engineer and program manager and later as deputy program director, and became the vice president of IBM. She became the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) chief information officer in April 2019.



Rear Adm. Katherine L. Gregory

A 1978 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Rear Adm. Katherine Gregory became the first woman to serve as the executive officer (1995) and commanding officer of an active duty Seabee battalion, the first woman to command Naval Facilities (NAVFAC) Pacific (2010), the Civil Engineer Corps' (CEC) first woman flag officer in 2009, and the first woman Chief of the CEC (2012). Gregory was among the first women to join the Seabees in 1986, where she served as a company commander and was the only woman officer with just a few women enlisted in the company. She spent time supporting the war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and took part in relief efforts following both Hurricane Katrina (2005) and the Haiti earthquake (2010). She retired from the Navy in 2015 after 34 years of service.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Peggy Sue Griffith

Petty Officer 3rd Class Peggy Sue Griffith holds the distinction of being the first enlisted woman to report for duty aboard a ship. She was one of more than 60 women assigned to USS Sanctuary (AH 17) in September 1972 as part of a pilot program to evaluate the possibility of women serving on board ships.



Capt. Joy Bright Hancock

Pictured here at center, Capt. Joy Bright Hancock served as a Yeoman (F) during World War I; worked at the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics during the interwar period; was commissioned as an officer in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) and served as Director of the WAVES during World War II; and became the first woman to hold a regular commission in the U.S. Navy on Oct. 15, 1948. She was instrumental in crafting and securing passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, which allowed women to serve as permanent, regular members of the U.S. armed forces. Hancock retired from the Navy as a Captain in June 1953.



Capt. Christina Hicks

Capt. Christina Hicks is an Information Warfare officer and the daughter of a Navy Chief. She is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional, Project Management Professional, designated Joint Qualified Officer, a member of Navy's Space Cadre community, and holds degrees in Professional Physics, Engineering Management, and Space Systems Operations. Capt. Hicks currently serves as Commanding Officer of Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command and Commander, Task Force 1020, whose mission is to execute defensive cyber operations and enable global power projection through proactive network defense (2021).



Capt. Kathryn P. Hire

A 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Capt. Kathryn P. Hire, a naval flight officer, became the first woman in the military to be assigned to a combat aircrew on May 13, 1993 when she reported to Patrol Squadron Sixty-Two (VP-62). Hire later continued her Navy Reserve duty with various units based in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. She was recalled to active naval duty supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of U.S. Naval Central Command staff. She served in the Navy for 35 years and achieved the rank of Navy Captain in 2002 before retiring in 2012. Selected for astronaut training by NASA in 1994, she flew aboard two space shuttle missions. Hire logged more than 3,400 flight hours in various aircraft, and more than 711 hours in space. She retired from NASA in 2019.



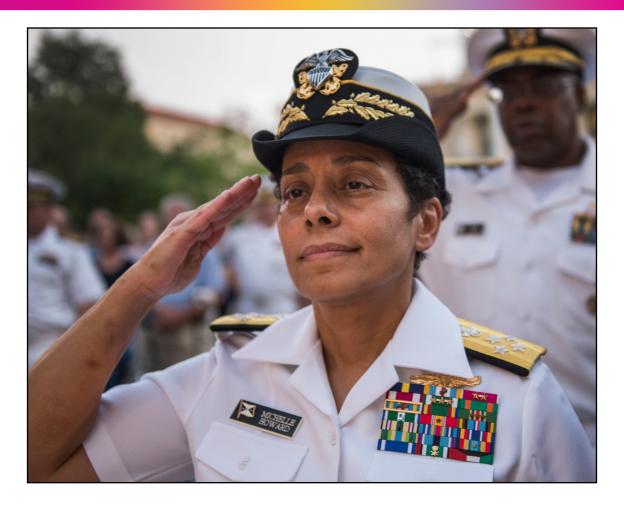
# Rear Adm. Grace Murray Hopper

A computer science pioneer, Rear Adm. Grace Hopper was a programmer for the Harvard Mark I computer in the final years of World War II. She also worked on the Mark II and Mark III computers. After working on the Mark computer programs, she joined the Eckert-Mauchly Computer Corporation in Philadelphiathe company building UNIVAC I, the first commercial electronic computer. As a senior programmer with this company, she published the first paper on compilers for programming language. Through the 1950s, she continued to publish papers on software and programming languages. She was part of the first meeting of CODASYL and instrumental in the development of COBOL—a standardized computer language. Hopper's long Navy career began in World War II when she joined the Navy Reserve and served in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. Her contributions to the Navy's computing infrastructure made her an invaluable asset to the service. After retiring from the Navy Reserve in 1966, at age 60, with the rank of commander, she was recalled and continued to serve until 1986 when she retired as a rear admiral. At the time of her retirement, at 79 years of age, she was the oldest commissioned officer in the United States Navy. USS Hopper (DDG 70) is named in her honor.



Karla Horn

Karla Horn serves as Naval Sea Systems Command's Comptroller. In this role, she oversees the annual disbursement of more than \$40 billion designated to deliver warfighting capability to the Navy and Marine Corps. She earned the Joint Meritorious Unit Award in 2015 and 2003 and the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in 2011.



Adm. Michelle Howard

A 1982 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Adm. Michelle Howard became the first Black woman to command a U.S. Navy ship (USS Rushmore [LSD 47]) (1999), and first woman promoted to the rank of four-star admiral (2014). Upon her promotion, Howard became the highest-ranking woman in U.S. Armed Forces history and the highest ranking Black woman in Navy history. She served as Vice Chief of Naval Operations from 2014 to 2016. Howard also became the first woman four-star admiral to command operational forces when she assumed command of both United States Naval Forces Europe – Naval Forces Africa and Allied Joint Forces Command Naples (NATO) from 2016 to 2017. Howard retired from the Navy on Dec. 1, 2017, after nearly 36 years of service.



Lt. Cmdr. Kyleigh Hupfl

With a Doctorate of Pharmacy from Rutgers University and an MBA in Materiel Logistics Support from the Naval Post Graduate School, Lt. Cmdr. Hupfl served the Navy and nation as part of the joint national response to the COVID-19 pandemic (2021). She provided pharmacy expertise during the initial stand-up of White House and FEMA task forces as well as in direct pharmaceutical logistics planning and execution support to USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy while assigned to DLA Troop Support.



Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Huynh-Breiland

At just seven years old, Josephine (Josie) Huynh-Breiland and her family fled from their home in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in search of freedom and a better life. Now, 43 years later, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Huynh-Breiland is on orders to Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command in Norfolk, Virginia (2021). She brings her medical expertise, and resiliency forged as a child, to assist deploying Sailors. Huynh-Breiland leverages experience gained over an almost 20-year career — one built on a foundation of courage, strength and perseverance.



Hospital Apprentices 2nd Class Ruth C. Isaacs, Katherine Horton, and Inez Patterson

On March 2, 1945, these pioneering women became the first Black Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) to enter Hospital Corps School at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.



Cmdr. Darlene Iskra

Cmdr. Darlene Iskra became the first woman officer to command a Navy ship when she took command of USS Opportune (ARS 41) on Dec. 27, 1990. One of the first three women to become a diving officer, her first assignment was as the diving officer on USS Hector (AR 7), a World War II vintage repair ship. When more ships opened to women in the mid-1980s, Iskra requested a transfer and was assigned as operations officer on the USS Grasp (ARS 51) during her pre-commissioning and through her first year of commissioned service. She was selected for executive officer afloat, and served on two different ships in a split tour: first on the USS Preserver (ARS 8) and then USS Hoist (ARS 40). Seventeen days after she took command of the USS Opportune (ARS 41) in Naples, Italy, the ship was sent underway in support of Operation Desert Storm. Iskra retired from the Navy in 2000 after 21 years of service. After the Navy, she went to graduate school and got her Ph.D. in Sociology, with the specialty areas of Military Sociology and Gender, Work, and Family; taught for nearly 10 years; and wrote two books about women in the military.



Vice Adm. Mary Jackson

A 1988 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Vice Adm. Mary Jackson became one of the first women to serve in Combat Logistics Force Ships in 1989 and on Cruiser-Destroyer (CRUDES) ships in 1994, after the repeal of the combat exclusion law. A career surface warfare officer, she commanded USS McFaul (DDG 74) - and was the first mother to command a destroyer with two children - Naval Station Norfolk, and Navy Region Southeast. Jackson also served as the commander of Navy Installations Command, where she led the Navy's shore enterprise comprised of more than 53,000 personnel at 10 Navy Regions and 71 installations around the world. She retired from the Navy in 2020 after 32 years of service.



Constructionman Camella Jones

Constructionman Camella Jones was the first enlisted woman to serve in a naval construction battalion and the first to qualify as a heavy equipment operator. She joined the ranks of the Seabees in November 1972.



Rear Adm. Sara Joyner

A 1989 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Rear Adm. Sara Joyner became the first woman to command an F/A-18 squadron (2007) and the first to command a Carrier Air Wing (2013). During her career, she made several extended deployments in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Married to a former Strike Fighter pilot and Tactics Instructor and as a mother of two children she provides inspiration and mentorship regarding managing dual military careers with a family. She currently serves as the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs (2021).



Capt. Angela Katson

Born in Bogota, Colombia, Capt. Angela Katson's family immigrated to the United States when she was a young girl, and she grew up in New Rochelle, New York. She joined the Navy as an undesignated seaman in 1982 and reported to USS Point Loma (AGDS 02). After becoming a naturalized citizen and completing her degree at the University of San Diego, she was commissioned as an officer and earned her surface warfare officer qualification while stationed aboard USS Acadia (AD 42). Katson then became a human resources officer and spent the next three decades helping others follow and achieve their dreams. She served as the Navy diversity and inclusion officer and then the OPNAV Education Strategy and Policy branch head. Katson is currently serving as the branch head, Enlisted Plans and Policy and deputy director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (2021).



**Senior Chief Shannon Kent** 

A specialist in cryptologic warfare and fluent in seven languages, Senior Chief Shannon Kent served multiple tours in Iraq, participating in numerous special operations that contributed to the capture of hundreds of enemy insurgents. She not only paved the way for greater inclusion of women in Special Operations Forces, but was also one of the first women to pass the Naval Special Warfare Direct Support Course. Kent was killed in action in Syria on Jan. 16, 2019, and posthumously promoted to senior chief petty officer.



Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben

Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben became the first woman chaplain at the U.S. Naval Academy, the first woman to serve as the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Marine Corps from 2010-2014, the Chief of Chaplains of the United States Navy from 2014-2018; and now she serves as the first woman to become chaplain of the United States House of Representatives (2021).



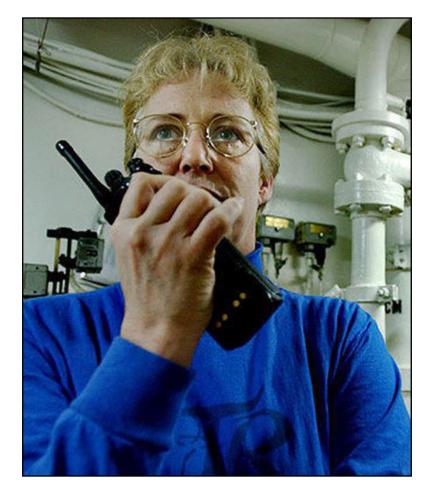
Rear Adm. Margaret "Peg" Deluca Klein

A 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Rear Adm. "Peg" Klein became the first woman Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy and was responsible for 4,400 Navy and Marine Corps officer candidates. A designated naval flight officer, she qualified as mission commander and airborne communications officer in the EC-130Q in 1983. During her career, she served as the Secretary of Defense's Advisor for Military Professionalism, Chief of Staff for U.S. Cyber Command and as director of operations for the Navy's Network Warfare Command. In 2011, she commanded an American military force of five ships, 30 aircraft and over 3,300 Sailors and Marines in combat operations in the Mediterranean Sea. Klein also commanded an aviation squadron and wing. She retired from the Navy in 2017 with 35 years of service. She now serves as the Dean of Leadership and Ethics at the Naval War College (2021).



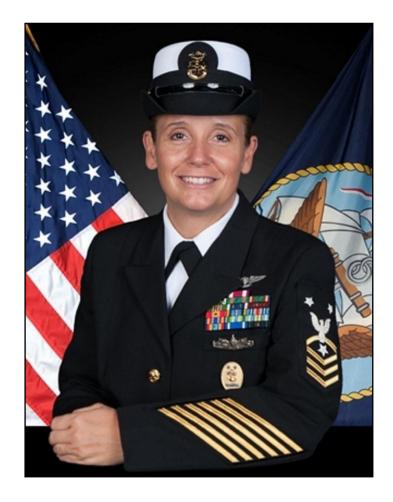
Lt. j.g. Laura Krueger

Lt. j.g. Laura "Bambi" Krueger, a naval flight officer of an E/A-6B, was stationed with Electronic Attack Squadron 141 aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in 2003 while it was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During a night strike as the Enemy Air Defense Suppression lead, Lt. j.g. Krueger and her team demonstrated extraordinary valor and expertise in the face of heavy enemy fire, and she was awarded an Air medal for her skillful airmanship, steadfast aggressiveness, and exemplary devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions.



**Command Master Chief Beth Lambert** 

In 1979, Command Master Chief Lambert became the first woman to be designated an Aviation Structural Mechanic (Structures). She went on to become the first woman to be selected as the U.S. Navy Shore Sailor of the Year in 1988, among the first women to be stationed on board an aircraft carrier (USS Dwight D. Eisenhower [CVN 69]) in 1994 and, ultimately, the first woman Command Master Chief of an aircraft carrier when she was selected to serve on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in 2003. Lambert retired from the Navy in 2008 after 30 years of service.



# **Command Master Chief Shay Craft Langejans**

Command Master Chief (CMC) Shay Craft Langejans became the first woman fire controlman to reach the rank of Master Chief and one the first few women to serve as CMC of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. In 2015, she received the Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award, which is awarded annually to enlisted personnel who foster a positive work environment while reinforcing and furthering the integration of women into the Navy.



Jennifer LaTorre

Jennifer LaTorre currently serves as the executive director for the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) (2021). She is the senior civilian advisor to the NAVFAC Commander, responsible for leading all aspects of NAVFAC's business. LaTorre has also served as the Director, Total Force Manpower Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) from 2010. She is the recipient of several awards, including, The DON Superior Civilian Service Award (2015), DON Meritorious Civilian Service Award (2006) and Commander Navy Region Northeast Civilian Employee of the year 2000. In 2021, she was named an honorary Seabee in recognition of her extraordinary and continuing support to NAVFAC and the Seabees.



Capt. Tamara Lawrence

Capt. Tamara Lawrence is a Duke University graduate who commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer before laterally transferring to Public Affairs. During her more than 20 year career, Capt. Lawrence has served as the Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs Officer and Naval Special Warfare Public Affairs Officer. Wife of a Surface Warfare Officer and mother of three, she serves as an inspiration to many dual military families. She currently serves as the Public Affairs Officer for Naval Forces Europe-Naval Forces Africa (2021).



Capt. Wendy Lawrence

A 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Capt. Wendy Lawrence became the first woman Academy graduate to go into space in 1995. A Navy helicopter pilot with 11 years of service, Lawrence has more than 1,500 hours flight time in six types of helicopters and has made more than 800 shipboard landings. While stationed at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SIX (HC-6), she was one of the first two women helicopter pilots to make a long deployment to the Indian Ocean as part of a carrier battle group. Selected by NASA in March 1992, Lawrence reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1992. She completed one year of training and qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist. A veteran of four space flights, Lawrence has logged over 1,225 hours in space. Lawrence retired from NASA in June 2006.



## Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Esperanza Lint

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Esperanza Lint had been stationed in Naples, Italy, for two years when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Lint rose to the occasion, becoming an indispensable member of a medical operations department at Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy. As the pandemic moved across most of Europe, her primary responsibilities grew to include taking consistent, accurate snapshots of evolving health conditions across the theater in order to provide U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet leadership a real-time total picture of the health of the force.



Yeoman Helene Lipman

Yeoman Helene Lipman served in the Navy from 1944-1946 during World War II. She said, "I joined for two reasons. Patriotism. It was World War II going on, and I really wanted to help." Yeoman Lipman was stationed in Jacksonville, Fl. "We were the pioneers," she said. "Before, no women were allowed in the Navy, except for nurses. We weren't allowed to leave the United States proper, so I felt we didn't do as much as the men. We did what we could."



Susan Morrisey Livingstone

Susan Morrisey Livingstone became the first woman to serve as Acting Secretary of the Navy (2003). She held many positions in government, including the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment (1989), where she was responsible for a wide range of programs including military construction, installation management, energy and environmental issues, domestic disaster relief and restoration of public infrastructure to the people of Kuwait following Operation Desert Storm; and Undersecretary of the Navy (2001), in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.



Rear Adm. Deborah A. Loewer

Rear Adm. Loewer was among the first women officers to be selected for shipboard duty and became the first warfare-qualified woman to attain flag rank (2003). She attended the Surface Warfare Basic Course in 1979, and graduated first in her class. She served aboard USS Yosemite (AD 19), USS Yellowstone (AD 1), and USS Monongahela (AO 178). She commanded USS Mount Baker (AE 34) (1993), USS Camden (AOE 2) (1998) and Mine Warfare Command (2005). She went on to serve as the director of the White House Situation Room during the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She became vice commander of the Military Sealift Command in July 2003 which made her second-in-command of the global transportation agency with a workforce of more than 8,000 and a fleet of more than 120 active ships whose primary mission is to move U.S. military cargo for deployed U.S. forces. Loewer retired from the Navy in 2007.



Rep. Elaine Luria

Representative Elaine Luria (D-VA) represents the Tidewater Virginia area in the U.S. House of Representatives. She attended the U.S. Naval Academy and served as a Surface Warfare Officer before retiring as a commander. She was elected to Congress in 2018, and currently serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs.



Ens. Kathleen Lux

Ens. Kathleen F. Lux became the first woman officer in the Civil Engineer Corps when she entered the Navy Reserve on Nov. 28, 1942. Lux served as an assistant in the office of Commodore C.P. Conrad, director of the Construction Department.



## Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Brandi Maddox

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Brandi Maddox joined the Navy Reserve in 2013. She served as an individual augmentee and deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa. Now in her eighth year in the Reserve, Maddox is deployed again — this time as a lead fuel accountant for Expeditionary Fuels Detachment, assigned to Commander, Task Group 56.3, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group Forward, Bahrain.



Cmdr. Elizabeth "Spike" Malecha

A 1994 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Cmdr. "Spike" Malecha became the first woman to graduate from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program (2001); the first woman to serve as an instructor at the Strike Fighter Weapons School Atlantic and Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific; and the first woman to serve as an F-14 Training Officer when she reported to the VF-103 Jolly Rogers (2004) and subsequently deployed with Carrier Air Wing 17 aboard the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67). Malecha served on active duty until 2006 and then transitioned to the Navy Reserve in 2009. She currently serves as the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet N5/N7 executive officer (2021).



Rear Adm. Connie Mariano

Rear Adm. Connie Mariano became the first Filipino-American woman promoted to Rear Admiral; the first woman to become the director of the White House Medical Unit; and the first military woman to be appointed as the White House Physician. Mariano retired from the Navy in 2001 after 24 years of service and joined the Mayo Clinic of Scottsdale, Arizona.



Capt. Rosemary Mariner

Capt. Rosemary Mariner was one of the first women to enter U.S. Navy pilot training and to earn her Wings of Gold in 1974. Daughter of a World War II Navy nurse mother and a U.S. Army air corps father, Mariner graduated from Purdue University in 1972 as the first woman graduate from the aeronautical program, where she earned a degree in aviation technology before joining the Navy in 1973. She also went on to become one of the first Navy jet pilots, flying both the Douglas A-4C Skyhawk and the LTV A7E Corsair II; and became the first woman to command an operational squadron, leading VAQ-34 during Operation Desert Storm. She retired from the Navy in 1997 after 24 years of service. Mariner died in 2019 from cancer, and her funeral featured the first known all-[Wo]man pilot flyover who performed a Missing [Wo]Man Flyover in her honor.



Force Master Chief Laura Martinez

Master Chief Laura Martinez became the first Black person and second woman to be selected as Force Master Chief of the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (2007). A Fleet Marine Force-designated specialist, she also held command leadership positions and served as Command Master Chief at Naval Hospital Okinawa, with 2nd Marine Logistics Group, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, and at the Field Medical Training Battalion-East (FMTB-East). She retired from the Navy in 2011 with more than 32 years of service. Shown here listening to Petty Officer 2nd Class Sarom Meas at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi in 2009.



Capt. Mildred McAfee

Capt. Mildred McAfee (Horton) became the first woman commissioned as a line officer in the Navy Reserve in 1942. A 1920 graduate of Vassar College who went on to earn a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago in 1928 and then become the President of Wellesley College in 1936, McAfee took a leave of absence to join the Navy Reserve. Commissioned as lieutenant commander, she immediately undertook the demanding task of director of the Navy's newly-established Women's Reserve. In November 1943, following the passage of new legislation by the Congress, she was promoted to the rank of captain. She was the first director of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) (1942- 1945), and oversaw the service's growth to a force of more 100,000 Navy women in a variety of occupational specialties. She continued on active duty until February 1946, when she returned to the Presidency of Wellesley College.



#### Command Master Chief Samira McBride

Master Chief Samira McBride became the first woman to be awarded the Master Chief Del Black Leadership award in 2020 for her unwavering dedication to mission success and the resiliency and mentorship of all Sailors aboard her ship USS Gonzalez (DDG 66). The award is named for the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Master Chief Gunner's Mate Delbert Black. He served as MCPON from January 13, 1967 until his retirement on the Chief Petty Officer birthday, April 1, 1971. His humility, can-do spirit, and actions on behalf of enlisted Sailors are viewed by the CPO community as a foundation for deckplate leadership.



## Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Amanda McDevitt

Master Chief Amanda McDevitt was the first enlisted woman to be stationed aboard a submarine, the USS Michigan (SSGN 727), where she completed two deployments. Master Chief McDevitt is currently serving as the first submarine-qualified woman selected as the Force Medical Master Chief role in the Submarine Force (2021). Shown here in a photo from 2007 aboard USS Theodore Roosavelt (CVN 71).



Rear Adm. Fran McKee

Rear Adm. Fran McKee became one of the first two woman to attend the Naval War College in 1969, and subsequently the first woman line officer to attain flag rank on June 1, 1976. Commissioned in the Navy in 1950, McKee served in administrative roles at Naval Air Station Port Lyautey, Morocco (1957), Damage Control School, San Francisco, California (1958), on the staff of the Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training (1962), officerin-charge of the Naval Women Officers School, Newport, Rhode Island (1965), and as a personnel officer at Naval Station Rota, Spain. After attending the Naval War College, she served in special roles at the Chief of Naval Personnel, and became the first woman selected to command a Naval Security Group. After her promotion to rear admiral (lower half), she served as director of naval education development at the Naval Education and Training Command, Pensacola, Florida, and assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for human resource management with additional duty as assistant deputy Chief of Naval Operations for human resource management (1978). She was promoted to rear admiral (upper half) in November 1978. McKee retired from the Navy in 1981 with 31 years of service.



Cmdr. Janie L. Mines

A 1980 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Cmdr. Janie L. Mines became the first, and only, black woman among the first group of women accepted to the Academy in 1976. She became the first black woman to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy and became a supply officer. She served as a supply officer and held numerous positions throughout her naval career, including as a senior advisor to the Secretary of the Navy. She is also a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. Mines left the Navy to earn a Master's of Business Administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1998) and has held positions in management in several corporations, including Procter & Gamble and Hershey Foods, and was the Senior Vice President of Strategic Sourcing at Bank of America.



## First All-Woman "Missing [Wo]man Formation"

Members of NAS Oceana squadrons conducted the first all-woman "Missing [Wo]man Formation" during a flyover on Feb. 2, 2019, to honor the life and memory of naval aviation pioneer Capt. Rosemary Mariner. Pictured in the back row (left to right) are Lt. Christy Talisse, Lt. Emily Rixey, Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Hesling, Lt. Kelly Harris, Lt. Amanda Lee. Sitting in the front row are Lt. Cmdr. Danielle Thiriot, Cmdr. Stacy Uttecht, Cmdr. Leslie Mintz, and Lt. Cmdr. Paige Blok.



# Kathryn Murphy

Kathryn Murphy, who currently serves as the senior scientific technical manager for software engineering at the Naval Warfare Information Center (NIWC) Atlantic (2021), was named the 2019 Women in Defense (WID) Palmetto Chapter's "Female Executive of the Year."



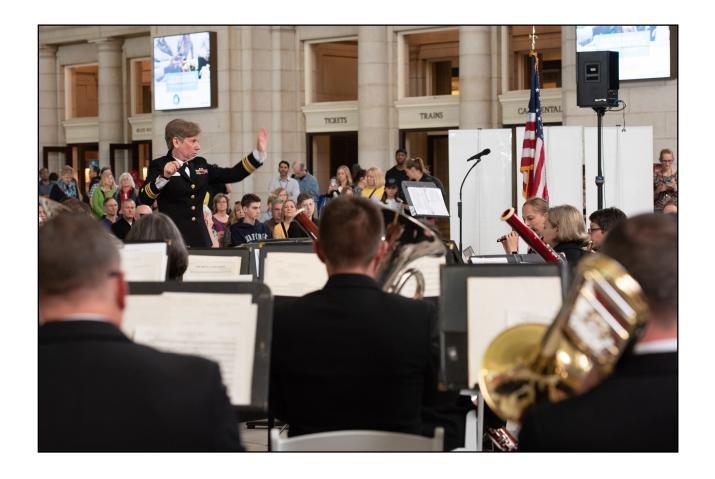
Elizabeth Nashold

Elizabeth Nashold serves as the deputy commander, Naval Information Forces (NAVIFOR). A former civil engineer corps (CEC) officer, Ms. Nashold assumed these duties in August 2019 where she leads a staff of more than 500 military and civilian professionals and directly manages an annual budget of approximately \$1.2 billion. Nashold is also responsible for the man, train and equip functions for Navy information warfare (IW) and Fleet C5ISR (command, control, communications, computers, combat systems, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) capabilities for 88 subordinate operational shore commands and 21,000 personnel.



Lt. j.g. Judith Neuffer

Lt. j.g. Judith "Judy" Bruner (Neuffer) became the first woman to fly solo in an aircraft and the first to become a P-3 Poseidon pilot in the Navy. One of the first women to qualify as a naval aviator in 1973, Neuffer logged several thousands of hours piloting the P-3, became the first woman P-3 aircraft commander, and also the first woman to pilot an aircraft through the eye of a hurricane. She transferred to the Navy reserve and continued her service as commanding officer of three units, and as the Navy's Science and Technology Reserve Program director. She retired from the Navy in 1998 after 28 years of service. Bruner began her career at NASA in 1981, where she currently serves as the Director of the Goddard Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate (2021).



#### **Cmdr. Diane Nichols**

Cmdr. Diane Nichols became the first woman Limited-Duty Officer Bandmaster promoted to the rank of commander in August 2021, a milestone for the almost 50 years of women's service to Navy Bands. Commissioned as a Navy Bandmaster in 2005, she has served as the assistant director and director of the U.S. Naval Academy Band, director of Navy Band New Orleans, director of Navy Band Southwest, and executive officer of the U.S. Navy Band in Washington, D.C.



Vice Adm. Nancy Norton

Vice Adm. Nancy Norton became the first woman, and only the second Navy flag officer, selected as the Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). Commissioned in 1987 through the Navy Officer Candidate School, Norton has served as the director, Command, Control, Communications and Cyber Directorate, U.S. Pacific Command; director of Warfare Integration for Information Warfare (OPNAV N2N6F); vice director, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA); and from 2018 to 2021 as director, DISA and commander, Joint Force Headquarters Department of Defense Information Network (JFHQ-DODIN). She served as a fellow on Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Strategic Studies Group XXXII and is a recipient of a Navy League Award; a Young AFCEAN Award; the Copernicus Award; and the National Security Agency's Frank B. Rowlett Award for personal achievement in Information Security. Norton retired from the Navy in 2021 after 34 years of service.



#### Command Master Chief Laura S. Nunley

Master Chief Laura S. Nunley became the fifth woman to be selected as a Command Master Chief (CMC) of an aircraft carrier when she became the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) CMC. Selected as a CMC in 2011, she also served as the CMC of USS Bainbridge (DDG 96), Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15). In 2021, Nunley became the first woman selected as the deputy MCPON, where she currently serves (2021).



**Chief Warrant Officer 3 Roseanne Oliveros** 

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Roseanne Oliveros became the third Seabee woman to graduate Second Class Dive School in 2000. She then completed First Class Dive School in 2004 as the honor graduate. In May 2009, Oliveros became the first, and, as of 2021, only, enlisted woman in the U.S. Navy to become officer in charge of a diving detachment. She also volunteered twice to deploy to Iraq, serving six-month tours in 2003 and 2007. In 2010, Oliveros became the first woman Navy diver selected for chief warrant officer. That same year, she was elected to the Women Divers Hall of Fame, joining an elite group of diving professionals.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Yona Owens

Petty Officer 3rd Class Yona Owens was instrumental in securing the right for women to serve aboard ships. She enlisted in the Navy in 1973 and in 1976 she launched a class-action suit (Owens v. Brown) against the Navy arguing that regulations prohibiting women from serving on board ships were unconstitutional. The court ultimately ruled in her favor on July 27, 1978, and by autumn of that same year the law was amended to allow women to serve at sea.



Rear Adm. Kathleen Paige

Rear Adm. Kathleen Paige became the first woman Engineering Duty Officer promoted to flag officer in 1996. The granddaughter of a World War II chief yeoman, she commissioned in the Navy in 1971 and was designated Engineering Duty Officer in 1981. While attending the Engineering Duty Officer Basic Course, she was awarded the Vice Adm. Bryan Award for academic excellence. In July 2001, she became the Missile Defense Agency's first Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System Technical Director, and in 2003, she became the Program Director, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), the sea-based element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) under development by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). Paige retired from the Navy in 2005 after 34 years of service.



Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Olga Perozocarreo

Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Olga Perozocarreo works as a transition assistant at the career transition office in Millington, Tennessee. Perozocarrero is active in trying to create a culture of excellence wherever she goes. She has written and filmed over 20 scripts for training videos on topics like domestic violence, drug abuse and suicide prevention, she is on her unit's honor guard team and serves as a SAPR victim advocate (2021).



Giao Phan

Giao Phan began her Navy civil service career in 1984 and became the first woman to serve as Naval Sea Systems Command's (NAVSEA) executive director (2021). In this capacity she serves a global workforce of more than 85,000 military and civilian personnel who execute the research, development, acquisition, maintenance, modernization, and inactivation of the U.S. Navy's Fleet. Additionally, she is leading the NAVSEA transformation office responsible for executing the Naval Sustainment System-Shipyard (NSS-SY) effort to reduce submarines and aircraft carriers maintenance durations to generate greater warfighting capability for the fleet. She is the recipient of several awards, including the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award (2019), AAGEN Stanley Suyat Memorial Leadership Award (2016), USCG Superior Achievement Award (2013), Federal Asian Pacific American Council Outstanding Individual Leadership Award (2013), and Women of Color STEM Career Achievement in Government Award (2010).



Lt. j.g. Harriet Ida Pickens (left) and Ens. Frances Wills

On Dec. 22, 1944, Lt. j.g. Harriet Ida Pickens and Ens. Frances Wills became the first Black women commissioned as officers in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). Pickens, who graduated as the top ranking member of her officer candidate program class, served as a physical training instructor while Wills was assigned as a classification test administrator. By the time World War II ended on Sept. 2, 1945, Pickens and Wills were the only two black women officers among the Navy's 86,000 WAVES.



Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper

Capt. Heidemarie Stefanysyn-Piper commissioned through Naval ROTC at MIT and became a Naval Salvage Officer. She completed several tours of duty as an Engineering Duty Officer in the area of ship maintenance and repair, qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer onboard USS Grapple (ARS 53), and served at Naval Sea Systems Command as the Underwater Ship Husbandry Operations Officer for the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (1994). She is a qualified and experienced salvage officer; her major salvage projects include de-stranding the tanker Exxon Houston off the coast of Barbers Point, on Oahu, Hawaii, and developing the plan for the Peruvian Navy salvage of the Peruvian submarine Pacocha. She was inducted into the Women Diver's Hall of Fame in 2007. She is also a former NASA astronaut. She flew on two Space Shuttle missions, STS-115 and STS-126, during which she completed five spacewalks totaling 33 hours and 42 minutes. Stefanyshyn-Piper retired from NASA in July 2009 to return to the U.S. Navy and went on to command Naval Surface Warfare Center, Caderock Division, and Southwest Regional Maintenance Center. She retired from the Navy in 2015 after 30 years of service.



Lt. j.g. Barbara Allen Rainey

Lt. j.g. Barbara Allen Rainey became the first woman to qualify as a U.S. naval aviator when she earned her Wings of Gold on Feb. 22, 1974, and was among the first women naval aviators to qualify as jet pilots. She was assigned to fly C-1s in Alameda, California, and became the first jet-qualified woman in the U.S. Navy to fly the T-39. She transferred to the Navy Reserve in 1977 until 1981, when she was recalled to active duty to help the Navy fill a shortage of flight instructors. She was assigned to VT-3 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Florida, flying the T-34C Mentor. On July 13, 1982, she was killed in a crash while teaching touchand-go landings at Middleton Field near Evergreen, Alabama.



# Logistics Specialist 1st Class Tchilalou Riggs

Logistics Specialist 1st Class Tchilalou Riggs, a native of Togo, applied for the diversity visa lottery program in 2005 and, despite steep odds, was selected to become a U.S. citizen. Now, as a Navy Reserve Sailor, she is the leading petty officer of the N4 logistics department at Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command — leading Sailors and supporting the force's supply needs. Riggs' story may have begun with a measure of luck, but her journey from her home in a small, West African nation on the Gulf of Guinea to leading Sailors in a key department at Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) in Norfolk, Virginia, is a tale of hard work, perseverance and making the most of every opportunity.



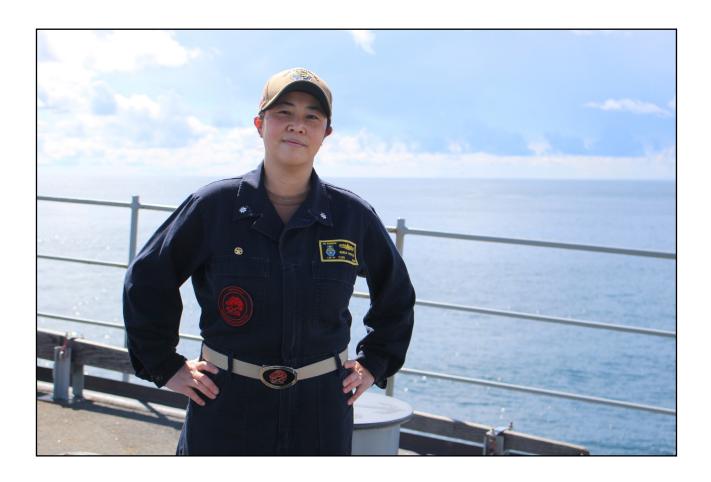
Lt. Cmdr. Brenda "Raven" Robinson

Lt. Cmdr. Brenda "Raven" Robinson became the first Black woman to become a U.S. Navy naval aviator when she earned her Wings of Gold on June 6, 1980. In 1978, Robinson was one of 10 women in the nation chosen to begin the Navy's flight program, one of three to graduate from her class and the 42nd to graduate in U.S. history. She then became the first woman to certify for C-1A carrier onboard delivery carrier landings in January 1981. She amassed 115 carrier landings while transporting mail, cargo, and passengers to aircraft carriers. Her entire career is peppered with firsts for Black women in the U.S. Navy: flight instructor, evaluator, and VIP transport pilot to name a few. In 1992 Robinson transitioned to the Navy Reserve and became one of the first Black women pilots at American Airlines, where she flew for 17 years. Robinson retired from the Navy Reserve in 2002 after 25 years of service.



Lt. Cmdr. Linda Rodriguez

Lt. Cmdr. Linda Rodriguez joined the U.S. Navy Reserve in November 2001. She was recalled to active duty in 2006 following the attacks of 9/11 in support of "Operation Vigilant Mariner" and "Operation Iraqi Freedom." During this time, she served as a Master-At-Arms conducting anti-terrorism force protection for U.S. Navy Vessels and Merchant Marine Sealift Command Ships in 5th Fleet. Following her demobilization in 2008, she received her commissioning through Naval Officer Candidate School and began her work in Logistics, where she continues currently continues to serve (2021). In her civilian career, Rodriguez joined the U.S. Customs and Border Protection as a Federal Law Enforcement officer in 2008, where she currently works as the Chief of Operations (2021).



# **Cmdr. Emily Royse**

Cmdr. Emily Royse became the first woman Warfare Tactics Instructor to command at sea when she "fleeted-up" from executive officer to commanding officer of USS Rushmore (LSD 47) in February 2021. Royse enlisted in the Navy in 1992 as an Electronics Technician, was selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral program, graduated from Old Dominion University and received her commission in 2003.



Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra

Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra became not only one of the first to serve aboard a Navy submarine, but also the first enlisted woman to earn her submarine qualification, or "dolphins," Aug. 2, 2016, while embarked aboard USS Ohio (SSGN 726), just prior to deploying aboard USS Michigan (SSGN 727).



### **Anne Sandel**

E. Anne Sandel currently serves as executive director at the Office of Naval Research (2021), where she is responsible for oversight of the coordination, execution, and promotion of science and technology for the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Previously, she served as the founding executive director in the Program Executive Office, Integrated Warfare Systems (PEO IWS). In November 2020, The American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) awarded its most prestigious accolade—the Harold E. Saunders Award for Lifetime Achievement—to Sandel for outstanding contributions to the Navy and nation over her career. Sandel is seen here being presented the award by Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. Lorin C. Selby in 2020.



**Cmdr. Mary Sears** 

Commissioned in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) in 1943, Cmdr. Sears served as the head of the Navy Hydrographic Office's new Oceanographic Unit where her research proved critical to the survivability of submarines. Following the war she was appointed the first officer-in-charge of the newly established Division of Oceanography. She transferred to the reserve in 1947 and retired as a commander in 1963. She was a member of nine scientific and honorary societies and was a longtime member of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI).



## Rear Adm. Gayle Shaffer

Rear Adm. Gayle Shaffer became the first dentist to serve as the Deputy Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy; and Director, Medical Resources, Plans and Policy Division, N0931 (2021). She has served in many roles at sea, in command and ashore, and she deployed as an individual augmentee to serve as the officer-in-charge of the Expeditionary Medical Facility, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. She also deployed as commanding officer of the NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support, Train, Advise, Assist Command-South.



Capt. Katie Sheldon

A 1999 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Capt. Katie Sheldon was chosen as the Navy's Female Athlete of the Year 2001, and was named MVP of the All Armed Forces Volleyball team at the International Military Sports Council world championships. During her Navy career she deployed multiple times as a Surface Warfare Officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and then transitioned to the Navy Reserve where she has commanded at every level. She also has supported her husband's Navy career for more than 21 years, encompassing 17 moves and seven deployments-including three commanding officer ship tours-all while raising their three children.



Rep. Mikie Sherrill

Representative Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) attended the United States Naval Academy and served nearly a decade in the Navy as a helicopter pilot. She was elected to Congress in 2018, and currently serves (2021) on several committees and subcommittees, including: the House Armed Services Committee; the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations; the Subcommittee on Tactical Air & Land Forces, Vice Chair; the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee; the House Education and Labor Committee; and the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment.



Vice Adm. Michelle Skubic

Vice Adm. Michelle Skubic became the first woman to command Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), the first woman selected as the Chief of the Supply Corps (2018), the first woman in the Supply Corps selected for Vice Admiral (2020), and first woman selected as the director of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) (2002). She currently serves as the director of DLA (2021). She was previously forward-deployed as commander, DLA Support Team in Kuwait, where her team, in concert with other DLA activities, supported U. S. Central Command, U. S. Army Central, and other department of defense organizations in sustaining the warfighter's requirements for Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.



**Senior Chief Jackey Smith** 

Senior Chief Jackey Smith is a breast cancer survivor, became the first woman combat photographer in the Navy to be awarded the Bronze Star, and was selected in 2021 to be a Command Senior Chief. On Jan. 13, 2019, Smith was announced cancer free. She currently serves as the Command Senior Chief aboard USS William P Lawrence (DDG 110) (2021).



Melissa Smoot

Melissa Smoot currently serves as the Submarine Integrated Power System Technical Advisor to the Director for Marine Engineering with the Naval Systems Engineering Directorate of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) (2021), where she provides stewardship of the submarine integrated power systems technical area to address design, testing, and performance issues as well as create and mature the processes, specifications, and standards necessary to support current and future integrated power system capabilities. Smoot retired from the Navy in 2007 after 25 years of service, where she served as an Engineering Duty Officer, and her tours of duty spanned the operational, maintenance, acquisition, naval nuclear propulsion, and Naval Special Warfare communities.



**Cmdr. Sara Stires** 

Cmdr. Sara Stires became the first, and as of 2021, only, woman in the U.S. Navy to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroic actions taken while serving as the Radar Intercept Officer of an F-14B Tomcat Aircraft in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001. After serving nine years as a Naval Aviator, Stires now serves as a Navy Oral Surgeon at the U.S. Naval Academy and is the first Dental Officer in school history to be in charge of Brigade Medical.



#### **Command Master Chief Marluis Stokes**

Master Chief Marluis Stokes became the first woman selected to be the Command Master Chief (CMC) of a Carrier Strike Group (CSG) in 2018. She served as Carrier Strike Group 12 CMC and embarked aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). She currently serves as the CMC at Operational Test and Evaluation Force (2021). Shown here in 2017 practicing repelling techniques at Naval Expeditionary Combat Command aboard Joint-Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story.



Dr. Kathy Sullivan

A retired Navy Reserve officer, Capt. Kathryn Sullivan holds the distinction of being both the first American woman to walk in space (1984) and the first to dive to Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, the deepest point in the world's oceans (2020). Sullivan served in the Naval Reserve from 1988 to 2006 as an oceanography officer. Sullivan joined NASA in 1978 and was part of the first astronaut groups to include women. She left NASA in 1993 after flying on three Space Shuttle missions and logging 532 hours in space. Shown here with Victor Vescovo, who piloted a submersible into the Challenger Deep, after their 35,810-foot dive.



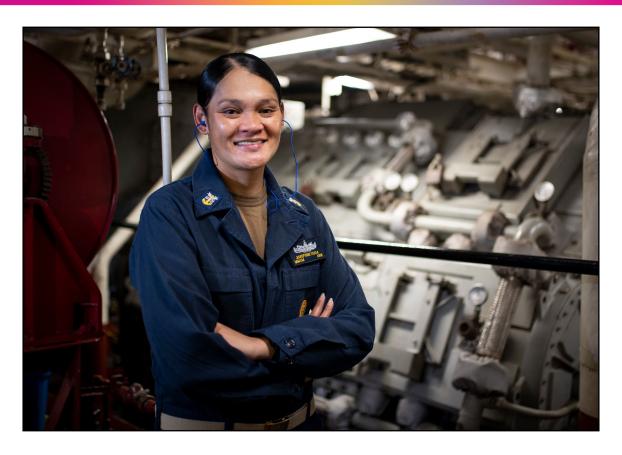
Capt. Kaye Sweetser

Dr. Kaye Sweetser, APR+M, began her journey in 1996 on active duty as a seaman apprentice journalist. Now 25 years later, Capt. Sweetser has a career of extraordinary experiences in her wake. Educated using the Navy's tuition assistance program and the Montgomery GI Bill, Sweetser commissioned into the Navy Reserve as a public affairs officer in 2001. This Afghanistan war veteran is currently a professor of public relations at San Diego State University and a leader in her field (2021). At SDSU, she's the coordinator of the Navy's longest-standing civilian graduate education program. In 2021, PRNEWS named Sweetser the Outstanding Educator of the Year.



Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle

Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle became the Navy's first-known Black woman to become a tactical air pilot when she earned her Wings of Gold on July 31, 2020. Swegle is part of a new generation of TACAIR pilots to qualify on the state-of-the-art aircraft launch and recovery equipment unique to the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78): the electromagnetic aircraft launch system and advanced arresting gear. She completed carrier qualifications in May 2020. She is currently stationed at Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ-130) at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington (2021).



Command Master Chief Josephine Tauoa

Command Master Chief Josephine Tauoa became the Navy's first Samoan woman promoted to Command Master Chief in 2020. Tauoa enlisted in the Navy in 1996 as a Machinist's Mate, which is typically a male-dominated rate. A modern-day trailblazer, she's been proving her worth for the last 24 years, with tours aboard USS Simon Lake (AS 33), USS Coronado (AGF 11), USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), USS Wasp (LHD 1), USS Halsey (DDG 97) and USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93), where she currently serves as Command Master Chief (2021). She earned a Distinguished Leadership Award while serving as a Recruit Division Commander (2009) at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois, and was named the Afloat Trainer of the Year 2017-2018 while serving at Afloat Training Group Norfolk (2016). In 2021, Tauoa was named the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Delbert D. Black Leadership Award recipient.



Lt. Victoria Thornton

Lt. Victoria Thornton is a Navy Nurse who currently serves as a department head of the only integrated DoD and VA facility in the country at the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Illinois. Instrumental in planning and operations for the intensive care unit's response to COVID-19, she has actively deployed ICU nurses, including herself, to assist in FEMA efforts for pandemic relief. Thornton has contributed to the Navy in lasting ways at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and also served as the only critical care nurse at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa. While there, she developed a 10-week sustainable trauma training curriculum program for reserve corpsmen and medical staff.



Capt. Kathy Manley Thorp

After losing her husband, Navy Capt. Owen Thorp, to cancer in 2017, Capt. Kathy Manley Thorp was part of a group of military spouses whose persistence ended the "widow's tax," a legal offset that cost young military widows thousands of dollars annually. Capt. Thorp served for 37 years as a Navy Nurse and retired in 2017.



Vice Adm. Jan Tighe

A 1994 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Vice Adm. Jan Tighe became the first woman selected as the commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, U.S. 10th Fleet, in 2014. She also became the first woman selected to command a numbered fleet, and the first woman Information Warfare Officer promoted to flag rank. Previous tours include duty with Naval Security Group Activities in Florida, Virginia, and Japan, Naval Information War Activity, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, and the 66th Director of Naval Intelligence (2016). Tighe also had staff assignments with the Headquarters of the Pacific Fleet, Naval Security Group, and Naval Network Warfare Command. She retired from the Navy in 2018 after 24 years of service.



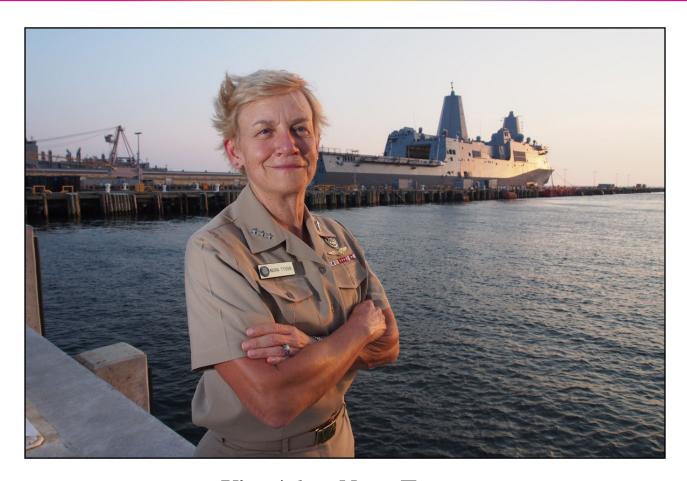
**Hull Technician 3rd Class Donna Tobias** 

Hull Technician (DV) Tobias became the first woman Navy diver in 1975. She asked her recruiter about becoming a diver when she enlisted in the Navy in March 1974 and was told "no way, women can't get in." Undeterred, she chose hull technician as her rating because she liked the physical labor and knew it would teach her a useful skill. While she worked as a shipfitter, Tobias undertook the lengthy process of acquiring a dive school waiver that would allow her to circumvent the gender restriction then in place. She served for eight years.



The Twelve Anchors

Several Navy nurses were captured by the Japanese at the fall of Manila in 1942 and remained in a prison camp until 1945. Initially serving in the infirmary at a prison camp in Santo Tomas, they voluntarily transferred to the prison camp at Los Baños, despite its notoriously poor conditions, to care for internees there. They were liberated from captivity in February 1945. Shown here are liberated Navy nurses with Vice Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid on Feb. 23, 1945. Left to right: Susie Pitcher, Dorothy Still, Basilia Stewart, Goldie O'Haver, Eldene Paige, Kinkaid, Mary Chapman, Laura M. Cobb, Maureen Davis, Mary Nelson (née Harrington), Helen Gorzelanski, Bertha Evans, Margaret Nash, Helen Grant, and Edwina Todd. All of the nurses received the Bronze Star and a Prisoner of War medal.



Vice Adm. Nora Tyson

Vice Adm. Nora Tyson became the first woman to command a carrier strike group in 2010. She embarked with USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) in the Mediterranean on its maiden deployment in support of operations in both 6th and 5th Fleets. Commissioned into the Navy in December 1979, Tyson had many firsts throughout her career: she was the first woman to command the forward-deployed Singapore-based Task Force 73; the first woman to command a battle fleet and the first woman to serve as Commander, 3rd Fleet (Eastern Pacific). She retired from the Navy in 2017 after 38 years of service.



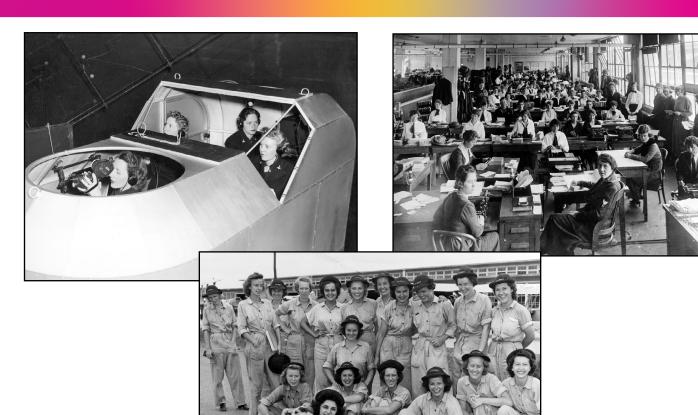
Ens. Marcia Villavicencio

Ens. Marcia Villavicencio joined the Navy as an undesignated seaman and commissioned as an officer in the Navy Reserve in 2020. A fitness fanatic, small business owner and reservist, she took her positive pro-fitness message to the fleet when she starred in a MyNavyHR fitness video inspiring Sailors to get moving on their own during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Villavicencio says a constant source of stability in her life has been the integration of her family life with her Navy career, something that wasn't always an option for military members in the LGBT community. She is proud of the way she brings diversity to the Navy — just by being herself.



Chief Yeoman (F) Loretta Perfectus Walsh

Chief Yeoman (F) Loretta Perfectus Walsh became not only the first woman to serve in the Navy, and its first woman Chief Petty Officer, but also the first woman to serve in a non-nursing capacity in any branch of the armed forces when she enlisted on March 17, 1917. She served as a Yeoman (F) in the U.S. Navy Reserve during World War I.



## Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service

The Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) played a critical role in the Navy during World War II, serving as machinists, metalsmithes, and instructors. During World War II, nearly 100,000 women served in the WAVES, many in administrative or office jobs, but nearly one-third of WAVES were assigned naval aviation duties. The Navy recruited college educated women with experience in engineering, math or physical science as officers in the WAVES, like WAVES member and later Navy Reserve Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, a computer science pioneer who oversaw the development of the first compiler and the first programming language to use word commands in the 1950s. The WAVES integrated into the regular Navy when the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act of July 30, 1948, allowed women to serve in the peacetime military with some restrictions. Capt. Joy Bright Hancock and Chief Edna Young became some of the first women sworn into the regular Navy on Oct. 15, 1948.



Fleet Master Chief Suz Whitman

Force Master Chief Suz Whitman enlisted in the Navy in August 1985 as a yeoman and became the first woman selected as the Pacific Fleet Senior Enlisted Leader in 2015. Master Chief Whitman served aboard the aircraft carriers Nimitz (CVN 68) and Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), at Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3, the submarine tender USS Holland (AS 32), Navy Recruiting District Boston, and multiple other commands. In 2011, she was selected as the Capt. Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award recipient and the Navy League's Capt. Winifred Quick Collins Award for Inspirational Leadership. Whitman retired from the Navy in 2018 after more than 32 years of service.



Capt. Sunita Williams

A 1987 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Capt. Sunita Williams is now a NASA Astronaut. Designated a naval aviator in July 1989, she served at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 8 in Norfolk, Virginia, and made overseas deployments to the Mediterranean, Red Sea and the Persian Gulf in support of Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort. In September 1992, she was the officer-in-charge of an H-46 detachment sent to Miami, Florida, for Hurricane Andrew Relief Operations onboard USS Sylvania (AFS 2). She was selected for Naval Test Pilot School and after graduating in 1993, she flew in several types of aircraft and was assigned several leadership roles. She then was assigned to USS Saipan (LHA 2), as the aircraft handler and the assistant air boss when she was selected for the astronaut program. She has logged more than 3,000 flight hours in over 30 different aircraft. Williams, who has spent a total of 322 days in space on two missions, now ranks sixth on the all-time U.S. endurance list, and second all-time for a woman astronaut. In 2012, she became the first person to complete a triathlon in space. She also ran the Boston Marathon in Space.



Capt. Dianna Wolfson

Capt. Dianna Wolfson was one of the Navy's initial group of women surface nuclear officers in the 1990s, and then became the first, and as of 2021, only, woman to command a public shipyard - Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in (2019). She then became the first woman to command Norfolk Naval Shipyard in its 253-year history in 2021.



Lt. Matice Wright

A 1988 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Lt. Matice Wright-Springer became the first Black woman to qualify as a naval flight officer in 1993. She logged thousands of flight hours in both the EC-130 and the E-6 aircraft. After serving in the Navy, she was presidentially appointed to serve as a White House fellow at the Department of Treasury. She returned to government service a few years later as a member of the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Defense. She currently serves on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors and as a senior vice president at Booz Allen's aerospace business (2021).



**Chief Yeoman Edna Young** 

Chief Yeoman Edna Young (center) became the first enlisted woman, and also the first Black enlisted woman, to be sworn into the regular Navy on July 7, 1948. She later became the first Black woman promoted to Chief Petty Officer. She retired from the Navy as a Chief.



U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1980

Shown here are some of the first 55 women to ever graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. Since 1980, more than 4,600 women have graduated from the Naval Academy and have gone on to excel in their military careers and beyond.



USS Gerald R. Ford "Iron Nine"

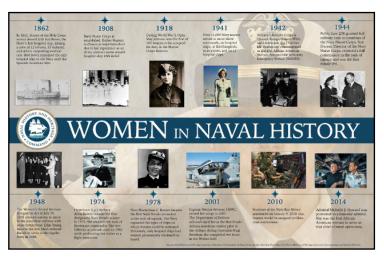
USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) bridge watch team was comprised of an all-woman Boatswain's crew during the ship's 12th independent steaming event in September 2020. This was the first time in Ford's history that all the deck department Sailors assigned to bridge watch teams have been women. The nine woman Sailors included on these landmark teams have dubbed themselves as the "Iron Nine."

# **Tingey House Display**



We want to hear from you as well. If you know a woman who is making a difference in the Navy, send your recommendations to the U.S. Navy CNO social media platforms (linked below). This is a small space, but there's room to grow!





Let's continue to write the story of Navy Women. Tag #NavyWomenMakingHistory with your own stories of service.