



Nurse Corps News

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In Memory of Rear Admiral Mary Nielubowicz



Rear Admiral Mary Nielubowicz,
15th Director of the Navy Nurse Corps

This past March I am sad to inform you that we lost one of our own. Rear Admiral Mary Nielubowicz was the 15th Director of the Navy Nurse Corps and the first woman to be selected for Commodore in the United States Navy Nurse Corps. Serving our Corps and the United States Navy for 36 years, Rear Admiral "Neil" was a true supporter of and advocate for our profession and our Corps during a time of great turbulence and change in our country and the Navy. From her first assignment as a Charge Nurse at Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, to her assignments as Director, Navy Nurse Corps and Deputy Commander for Health Care Operations at Naval Medical Command in 1983, Rear Admiral "Neil's" first and foremost mission was

to continue to improve and expand Navy Nurses and Navy Nursing. We will miss her dearly. Our thoughts and prayers extend to her family in this time of sorrow and loss.

RADM Bruzek-Kohler, NC, USN
21st Director of the Navy Nurse Corps

If you would like to send a card or an expression of sympathy to the family you can send it to her niece, Mary Vitale at the address below.

Family of Admiral Mary Nielubowicz, NC, USN (Ret)

c/o Ms. Mary Vitale

3155 Loring Dr.

Huntingtown, MD 20639

Funeral Information Attachments 

Rear Admiral Nielubowicz Reflections

I met Rear Admiral Nielubowicz as a mid-grade LT while aboard the USNS Mercy (T-AH 19). Admiral Nielubowicz had flown out to meet the ship as we returned from the Mercy's six month Humanitarian Mission to the Republic of the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji. This mission was to test the platform of this new ship and provide goodwill and humanitarian relief in support of the Philippine people and President Aquino's government.

The USNS Mercy's Director of Nursing Service, CAPT Pinky Glass, told us that Admiral Nielubowicz, 15th Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, would be joining the ship as we sailed home under the Golden Gate Bridge into the San Francisco Bay. Honestly, most of us were nervous about meeting Admiral Nielubowicz. However, she quickly made us feel at ease and she had an uncanny ability to get each of us to talk about the mission we had just completed and what we had seen and learned. She was so interested and it was obvious to this lieutenant that she was quite a lady, very bright but also very kind and real. She listened to our observations and our lessons learned and before you knew it we did not seem so anxious to talk to the Director. That was a special and memorable day for all of us. In the coming years I saw Admiral Nielubowicz many times. She was always interested in what I was doing and what was happening

within the Navy Nurse Corps. I will always remember her as a lady with moxie, great grace, faith and kindness. She was a true gem and will be greatly missed by all.

CAPT Kathleen M. Pierce, NC, USN



Rear Admiral Maryann Ibach and Rear Admiral Mary Nielubowicz

(Photo contributed by CAPT Catherine Wilson)

Admiral Nielubowicz was an old and dear friend of mine. CAPT Kay Bauer and I were discussing late one night (it was about 2 am) on how we could have an award for Navy nurses and felt that the award should be named after Mary Nielubowicz. Mary Nielubowicz was the most supportive of reservists and brought us forward from "the poor cousins of not being a Navy nurse," the old attitude of what active duty and reservists had been. Mary Nielubowicz always said "once a Navy nurse always a Navy nurse."

Those were always her words to us. She appreciated the contributions we had as reservists and saw us all working together.

CAPT Ann Holler, NC, USN (Ret)

One of my memories of Admiral Nielubowicz is of her dancing in the Conga line on the Navy Nurse Corps Association Alaska cruise to "When the Saints Go Marching In" in the piano bar onboard the cruise ship. The crew were quite impressed with the energy of our group. I believe we had almost all the previous Corps Chief Admirals in that Conga Line!

CAPT Marie Senzig, NC, USN

Admiral Nielubowicz was a mentor and a friend. She quickly spotted the positive qualities in others and had great pride in our Corps. She is a person that I admired, respected and love. We all stand on the shoulders of this giant leader and magnificent human being. Her memory will be cherished.

CAPT Catherine Wilson, NC, USN

Flag Officer Announcement

On behalf of RADM Bruzek-Kohler, Director Navy Nurse Corps, it is with great pleasure that I announce that CAPT Elizabeth (Betsy) Niemyer, NC, USN was selected to the rank of Rear Admiral Lower Half (RDML). This is a historic time in our history as this is the first time that the Nurse Corps has had a total of five Flag Officers (Active Duty and Reserves) in our ranks. We will cover her more in-depth in a future issue. Congratulations CAPT Niemyer!

CAPT Kathleen M. Pierce, NC, USN

28th Annual Black Nurses Scholarship Awards Luncheon

The 28th Annual Black Nurses Association (BNA) Scholarship Awards Luncheon sponsored by the BNA of Greater Washington, DC Area, Inc. (GWDCA) was attended by Nurse Corps officers from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and the U.S. Navy (USN) in addition to approximately 500 nurses from the D. C. metropolitan area. The attendees represented predominately nurses of color from varied locations throughout the United States.

Barbara Hatcher, PhD, RN, MPH, Director, Center for Learning and Global Public Health, was one of the keynote speakers. Dr. Hatcher is also the Secretary General of the World Federation of American Public Health Association in Washington, DC. Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, CEO of the National League for Nursing also provided a stellar and motivating presentation. The theme of "Health/Health Care Policy: Nurses on the Forefront of Change" was powerful, informative, and inspirational. Nursing issues related to globalization, changing demographics, personnel shortages, education and training and professional incentives were discussed. Additionally, the unique contributions of black nurses, past and present, were addressed. To promote the nursing profession as a potential career choice, the Black Nurses Association - GWDCA launched a new initiative, "Make a Difference: Choose Nursing." In support of this initiative, we, as parents, mentors, counselors, and colleagues need to start engaging students now at the elementary, middle, and high school level to consider nursing as a professional career option.

CAPT Shirley Bowens, NC, USN



USPHS Nurses: RADM Deborah Parham Hopson, RADM Denise Canton, CAPT Beverly Dandridge, CAPT Sylvia Trent-Adams, CAPT Joyce Prince, LCDR Anita Pollard, LCDR Allison Adams-McLean, LCDR Janice Davis, LT Paula Carter

Navy Nurse Corps Officers: CAPT Wanda C. Richards, CAPT Shirley M. Bowens, CAPT Maggie Richard, CDR Joy L. Murray, LCDR Andrea Petrovanie, LCDR Grace Aaron Not Pictured: LTJG Sheron Carter, LTJG Teresa C. Wilson.

National Naval Medical Center Nurses Reach Out to the Community

Navy nurses stationed at National Naval Medical Center reached out to the local community in support of the Surgeon General's recruitment and retention initiative and in conjunction with Black History Month. Members of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) Bethesda Chapter, partnered with the local Delta Sigma Theta Chapter to increase the awareness of African-American nurses in the military through participation in an innovative educational program sponsored by the Delta Academy. With support from the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission, the Delta Academy mentors young girls (ages 13-17) that reside in low-income communities throughout the county. CAPT Shirley Bowens, CAPT Joel Parker, LTJG Sheron Carter and ENS Koa Thomas participated.



CAPT Shirley Bowens, CAPT Joel Parker, Lieutenant Junior Grade Sheron Carter and Ensign Koa Thomas with Delta Academy participants.

Planting the seeds for the next generation of potential Navy nurses, each nurse gave a brief synopsis of her life events prior to joining the Navy and her professional contributions as Naval officers. The objective of this effort was twofold: to serve as an opportunity to raise awareness about the Navy Nurse Corps and to encourage young ladies to set goals and persevere in the midst of challenges and obstacles.

CAPT Parker's presentation "Navy Nursing- Past and Present" included various milestones in African-American military history. The historical information included: the first two African American commissioned officers, Harriet Ida Pikens and Frances Wills; the first black female naval flight officer, ENS Matice Wright, and Rear Admiral Michelle Howard, Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy. Photos of the "Sacred Twenty," the first Commissioned Navy Nurses in 1908, National Naval Medical Center- Bethesda, and USNS Comfort (TAH-20) hospital ship were also shared. The audience was intrigued by the ribbons, insignias, and various uniforms worn by the Nurse Corps officers and asked questions about the wide range of opportunities and benefits in the military. The girls were proud to learn that out of 133 US Navy NC Captains, seven are African American currently on active duty.

Brief bios were shared about the following Nurse Corps officers: Brian Dawson, Commanding Officer, NH Okinawa, Japan; Wanda Richards, Nursing Integration & BRAC, NNMC-Bethesda; Vanessa Scott, Nurse Corps Career Planner Bureau of Medicine & Surgery; La Francis Francis, Director of Nursing Services NH- Okinawa, Japan; Shirley Bowens, Assistant Director Public Health, NNMC- Bethesda; Maggie Richard, Head Nursing Research Service, NNMC- Bethesda; Joel Parker, Assistant Director Professional Education, NNMC- Bethesda.


Participation in this volunteer event was a wonderful success for the Navy Nurse Corps, the Nursing community, and the youth population. These four nurses knew that by sharing their own personal stories they were laying the foundation for the future of nursing, so that engagement in local recruiting initiatives will yield positive future results.

The NNOA actively supports the Sea Services through recruitment, retention and career development. The organization provides opportunities for professional development, mentoring, and support of cultural awareness. Additionally, the NNOA establishes and maintains a positive image of the Sea Services in our communities. The Bethesda NNOA Chapter is committed to addressing today's recruiting challenges and participating with local community organizations. For more information about the National Naval Officers Association see <http://www.nnoa.org/>.

CAPT Shirley Bowens, NC, USN

Changes for Reserve Retirement Points

How do inactive and active points contribute to the total retirement points awarded for a qualifying year and what is the limit for each?

Please refer to the enclosed attachment below as an example when reviewing inactive and active duty retirement points. When determining total points for a qualifying year you need to consider two columns: inactive points and active points. Both of these columns contribute to the total points awarded for any given year. However, the total number of points you can accumulate and receive credit for are very different. Also you must have at least 50 points in the inactive column to qualify for a good year. 

INACTIVE SUBTOTAL:

These include points earned for drills, correspondence courses and membership points (maximum 130 per anniversary year on or after 30 Oct 2007, 90 maximum points per anniversary year on or after 30 October 2000 through 29 Oct 2007 and 75 maximum points per anniversary year on or after 23 September 1996 through 29 October 2000). The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act approved an increase from 90 to 130 the number of inactive duty points that can be credited in any single anniversary year (sum of drills, courses and membership points). The maximum total of inactive retirement points per anniversary year under 10 USC 12733 has been raised to 130. Starting anniversary year, one that includes the date of October 30, 2007, is subject to the new maximum point rule. Remember, active duty points are in addition to the new maximum. Points credited for funeral honor duty are allowed to exceed the maximum of 130 points per anniversary year.

ACTIVE DUTY SUBTOTAL:

You can only earn up to 365 points a year. So when you are on AT or ADT orders these will not count against your total 130 points from the INACTIVE column. However, remember while in an active duty status you are earning pay and receiving retirement points (one retirement point per each day of active duty status). Therefore, you cannot get retirement points for any correspondence courses that you take while on active duty.

LCDR Myra McCune, NC, USN

Navy Reservist APPLY Website

It is that time of year again to register for APPLY. As a reminder, ALL Navy Reserve Officers, regardless of pay grade or status, are required to register on the APPLY website, whether or not they plan to apply for any command or non-command billets. This is a yearly requirement, and extends from the most junior Ensign to the most senior CAPT. All officers should log into the APPLY website at: <http://navyreserve.navy.mil/Public/Staff/WelcomesAboard/default.htm>. Online APPLY registration closes at 2400 CST on 31 JUL 2008.

LCDR Kathleen Harlow, NC, USN

USNH Okinawa Nursing Grand Rounds

USNH Okinawa instituted Nursing Grand Rounds in January 2008 with great success. Monthly presentations by Advanced Practice and Staff Nurses have included nursing care for Habu Snake Envenomation, Antibiotic Therapy, and Post-terrorism Trauma Care. Over 30 CE Contact Hours have been awarded to nursing staff; 25 medical and corps staff have also attended Grand Rounds. USNH Okinawa will be offering certification exams for Emergency Nursing, Flight Nursing, and Transport Nursing in May 2008, for all nursing staff within the Pacific Theater.

LT Lalon Kasuske, NC, USN

American College of Healthcare Executives



Bravo Zulu to CAPT Rebecca J. McCormick-Boyle, the Commanding Officer Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River, for her selection to the Navy's Regent Advisory Council (RAC) for the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The American College of Healthcare Executives is a professional society for healthcare executives. ACHE is known for its credentialing and educational programs and its annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership. ACHE also produces the *Journal of Healthcare Management*, *Frontiers of Health Services Management*, *Healthcare Executive*, as well as a variety of research and career development and public policy programs. ACHE seeks to be the premier professional society for healthcare leaders by providing exceptional value to its members.

A large number of ACHE's membership is comprised of healthcare professionals from the Navy, Air Force and Army. Currently, Brigadier General David Rubenstein of the Army serves as ACHE's Chairman. CDR Robert S. Fry, MSC, Ph.D., FACHE is the Navy's senior ACHE member, or Regent. While Medical Service Corps Officers form the majority of the Navy's ACHE membership, the organization is open to all who are interested in affiliating with a health care executive organization. Indeed, ACHE has large specialty groups for Nurse and Physician Executives. As a RAC member, she will serve as a liaison on matters related to ACHE and healthcare executive development, participate in the local chapters and assist in fellow advancement study sessions. If you are interested in learning more about ACHE, contact Captain McCormick-Boyle by email at Rebecca.mccormick-boyle@med.navy.mil.

Mark Your Calendar: Semi-Annual Admirals' VTC

On 28 May, Rear Admiral Bruzek-Kohler, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, and Rear Admiral Karen Flaherty, Deputy Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, Reserve Component, will conduct their semi-annual "All-Hands" VTC at 0900 and 1300 ET. Mark your calendars!

Nurse Corps History: USS Higbee



USS Higbee (DD/DDR-806) was a Gearing class destroyer commissioned on January 27, 1945 in the U.S. Navy during World War II. She was the first American warship to bear the name of a female member of the Naval service. Mrs. Lenah S. Higbee was the second Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps from 20 January 1911 to 30 November 1922. Superintendent Higbee was awarded the Navy's highest decoration, the Navy Cross for her "distinguished service in the line of her profession and conspicuous devotion to duty." USS Higbee was decommissioned on July 15, 1979 and during her 34 years of Naval service she also served in the Korean and Vietnam war conflicts. USS Higbee earned one battle star for her service in World War II and seven battle stars for her service in the Korean War.



LT Timothy Rousselow, NC, USN

Federal Nurses Association

In the late 1990s, the American Nurses Association (ANA) took historic action that illustrated its commitment to representing all registered nurses across the United States. It was in June 1999 that the ANA House of Delegates voted to change the organization's bylaws to permit the creation of a new constituent member association - the Federal Nurses Association (FedNA). The association was founded to represent active duty U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, and Public Health Service nurses. The seed that served to create the new federal constituency was planted in 1994. The Federal Nursing Services Council (comprised of the federal nursing service chiefs of the Air Force, American Red Cross, Army, Department of Veterans Affairs, Navy, and Public Health Service) submitted a proposal to ANA recommending that the ANA bylaws be changed to provide voting status to a representative of the Federal Nursing Services. That proposal did not pass in the House of Delegates. In 1995, a task force within the ANA conceptualized a model for a federal constituency and presented it to the Constituent Assembly for further work. In 1999, the ANA Task Force on New Constituencies and Professional Practice Advocacy crafted language for the ANA by-laws change that created the catalyst for the development of FedNA as an association.

ANA and the uniformed services have a proud history of collaboration. The Federal Nurses Association (FedNA) serves as a reminder that this collaboration remains vital now and into the future. Through FedNA, military and federal nurses have a phenomenal opportunity to provide leadership through an avenue in their own professional association. The Federal Nurses Association (FedNA) is the 54th constituent member of the American Nurses Association. The creation of the Federal Nurses Association has made ANA's 'one strong voice' for American nursing even stronger. Now, federal nurses have the opportunity to provide leadership through a new avenue in their own professional association. The creation of the Federal Nurses Association will make ANA's 'one strong voice' for American nursing even stronger. The purpose of FedNA is to:

- * Stimulate and promote the professional and educational advancement of military and federal health nurses.
- * Enhance the health and improve health care for beneficiaries served.
- * Foster high standards of nursing care in the military and federal sector.
- * Promote interaction with other nurses and nursing organizations on common issues and interests.

John S. Murray, Colonel, USAF, NC
PhD, RN, CPNP, CS, FAAN
President, FedNA

Federal Nurses Association Recap

So why join? Even as members of the federal nursing work force, we have a collective voice through the Federal Nurses Association within the ANA. Your voice matters and you can make a difference in our profession!

So who can join? Membership in the Federal Nurses Association (FedNA) is open to registered nurses who are members of the active component of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force or uniformed U.S. Public Health Service. How can you join or where can you get more information about FedNA? Go to the FedNA web site: <http://www.fedna.org/fedna> or contact our elected Navy Director, CDR Karin Warner NC USN at karin.warner@med.navy.mil or DSN (315) 643-7662 OR com 01181-611-743-7662.

Already a member of FedNA – we'd like to know! Please contact CDR Karin Warner via email and let her know.

John S. Murray, Colonel, USAF, NC

Bravo Zulu!



Bravo Zulu to LCDR Cynthia French of Naval Medical Center San Diego. She recently passed her ANCC CNS Adult Health Exam.

Bravo Zulu to LTjg Denise Harmeyer from Naval Medical Center San Diego who became an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®). She achieved this in February and is currently a staff member on ward 5 East (Med-Surg/Oncology).

Bravo Zulu to LCDR Maria Moreno-Chow. She was selected as the Naval Reserve Nurse Corps Junior Officer of the Year. She is currently the OIC, OHSU SD DET D, NOSC Pearl Harbor. She recently received the Naval Reserve Association's Bea Ratner Award.

Bravo Zulu to LT Michael Urton for achieving his Certification as an Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). He currently is the CNS of the Multi-Service Unit at Naval Hospital Jacksonville.

Bravo Zulu to CDR Linda Lake who is the new Medical-Surgical Specialty Leader and to LCDR Barbara Dittrich who is the new Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Specialty Leader.

Volunteers Needed for Parade of Nurse Corps Uniforms

Volunteers are needed for the Parade of Uniform's Fashion Show for the Nurse Corps Gala. The breakfast sub committee chair, Ms. Mary Smith, is looking for 20 active duty and reserve junior officers to participate in a fashion show displaying a handful of Navy Nurse Corps uniforms worn during the last century. Both male and female models are needed. The fashion show will be on Friday 02 May 2008 at 0800-1000. Please send your interest to CDR Victoria Wooden at victoria.wooden@med.navy.mil and it will be forwarded to Ms. Mary Smith.

Call for Nurse Corps Centennial Anniversary Activities

This is an official request to all commands for information on our centennial birthday activities for the Navy Nurse Corps. Please forward your P.O.C and any information you would like to have considered in the next newsletter to LCDR Kathleen Harlow. Activities, articles, and pictures will be posted in the Nurse Corps newsletter as well as posted on the Nurse Corps website. Please forward to KathleenHarlow@texashealth.org

LT Timothy Rousselow, NC, USN

NC News Staff

Editor: LCDR Kathleen Harlow
KathleenHarlow@texashealth.org

Design/Layout: LT Tim Rousselow
Timothy.Rousselow@med.navy.mil

100th Anniversary Count-

May 2nd 2008



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Days



Wreath laying ceremony at
the Navy Memorial at 1300.

Want to write a news article for
Nurse Corps News?

Submit your article via your chain of
command to:

LCDR Kathleen Harlow, NC, USN

Editor, Nurse Corps News

KathleenHarlow@texashealth.org

