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Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections & University Archives

Women Veterans Annual Luncheon

The 13th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon will be held Saturday, November 6, 2010 at the UNCG Elliott University Center. The speaker will be Sgt. Maj. Teresa L. King, the first female commandant of the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School at Fort Jackson, SC. King is a Clinton, NC native who enlisted right out of high school. She has earned the nickname "Sergeant Major No Slack." We hope you will be able to join us at this year's luncheon.



Photo credit Crystal Lewis Brown

Invitations will be sent in late September.

Last November, over 125 people gathered to hear Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender, U.S. Army, Ret. give an inspiring talk about the importance for each woman veteran to tell her story. There was also a presentation of colors from the Army ROTC, NC A&T; greetings from U.S. Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan; remarks from U. S. Representative Howard Coble; and musical entertainment by the UNCG male a cappella group, the Spartones.

You can see pictures of the luncheon at our blog: <http://bit.ly/5wgxo5>

Women Veterans Historical Project Founder Betty H. Carter Retires

On April 30th, 2010 UNCG bade a sad farewell to Betty Carter. Betty served as the University Archivist since 1974. In 1998 she founded the Women Veterans Historical Project (WVHP). The project was immediately met with a great deal of enthusiasm and support from women veterans. In 2006, the Project was officially named The Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Collection.

Beth Ann Koelsch, the curator of the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project, asked Betty a few questions about her experiences:

What surprised you most when you first started forming



the idea of the WVHP?

I guess I was astounded to learn just how little recognition these women had received. But then I started to check the index of general WWII history books and, truly, women were not there. Rosie the Riveter was there—but not the military women. So I

knew we had a job to do. Some of the women had developed a "meek and mild" attitude—a 19th century attitude—"I really didn't do anything" was a common response. I know this is more a World War II response—those are the ones I am closest to. That is when I lectured them on the importance of what they did. Today's women are much more outspoken.

What would you really have liked to find for the collection that you never were able to obtain?

Oral histories with a World War I veteran and a Native American woman.

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What is your favorite aspect of WVHP?

The oral histories—everyone has a story—and most of the stories are just great.

Did I ever think the WVHP would grow into what it is today?

Never. I was so concerned in finding veterans to interview—money to fund the interviews—finding material to buy—just the day-to-day activity—I really never thought about the future. I am pleased that it has grown because I do think we have helped to get recognition for a group that needed to be recognized and saved a lot of history.

What will you miss the most?

Learning to know the women—talking with them. These women are just fantastic. They are so grateful for what we are doing. I kept telling them that we were the ones who were grateful.

Explore the Women Veterans Project Website:
<http://library.uncg.edu/dp/wv/>

Women Veterans Historical Project Fund

Did you know that each oral history interview costs over \$500 to conduct, digitize, transcribe and put on the website? The WVHP is asking for any donations you can make to help us to preserve and promote women veteran's stories. For more information about donating, please contact Library Development Officer Linda Burr at (336) 256-0184. Thank you for your support!

Are you moving to a new home? Do you know of any one who will be changing their address? Please let us know so that we can update our address list and make sure that our invitations go to the right place.

For questions about donating materials relating to women's military service or oral history interviews, please contact **Beth Ann Koelsch**, the Curator of the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Collection at (336) 334-4045 or bakoelsc@uncg.edu.



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