



**Volume 8 • August 2013 • The University of North Carolina Greensboro •
Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections & University Archives**

2013 WOMEN VETERANS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The 16th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, November 9th** from 11:30-2 at UNCG's Elliott University Center.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Laura Browder, the author of the timely book *When Janey Comes Marching Home*. This collection of first-person accounts from dozens of military women who have



served in Iraq and Afghanistan provides a dramatic portrait of women at war. The oral histories give a presence and a voice to American women returning from service in a war

zone. Browder will highlight the stories of several women, she interviewed for the book, and discuss the current issues surrounding women in combat.

The program is open to everyone. Tickets are \$12 for all military veterans and \$16 or non-veterans. Table sponsorship opportunities to support student attendance will be available for \$300.

Invitations will be mailed in late September.

IN MEMORIAM



Elizabeth "Betty" Ray (1913-2011)

Elizabeth "Betty" Ray was a pioneer. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) as soon as it was created in

May 1942. During WWII, she was sent to the headquarters of General Dwight D. Eisenhower in Algiers, Algeria, and was then appointed commander of a WAC intelligence squadron at 15th Air Force Headquarters in Bari, Italy. In 1961, Ray was appointed director of Women in the Air Force (WAF), and then promoted to full colonel, the highest rank a woman could earn at that time. Ray was the first woman to achieve this rank. The WVHP was privileged to interview her for her oral history in 2008.

SPOTLIGHT ON A NEW WVHP ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW



Collecting the histories of UNCG students is a current focus of the WVHP. Last year we interviewed English education major Sergeant Tavia I.

Brightwell of Winston-Salem, NC, who served as

an aviation maintenance clerk in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2006-2010. Her first deployment was to Iraq in 2008. In 2010, Brightwell was assigned to the *USS Mesa Verde* which deployed to seven different ports worldwide including a humanitarian mission in Haiti. In October 2010 she left active duty, and in December 2010 joined the Marine Reserves.

NOTES FROM THE CURATOR

Outreach is a very important aspect to my job. This past year I incorporated letters and documents from the WVHP collections to teach UNCG class sessions about WWII and Women's History. I also went "on the road" to give presentations to the Triangle Seagals, the state meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Fort Bragg Women's History Month Observance, and a Memorial Day observance with the Chapel Hill American Legion/VFW. If you are involved with a group or organization that would be interested in learning about the WVHP, please contact me.

This year I have added nine oral histories, six new collections and expanded four more collections, including a rare 1952 Women Marines recruiting poster.

I have been appointed Library liaison to the UNCG Student Veterans Association and am working with them to encourage student veterans to become involved with the WVHP and to add their oral histories to the Project!

— Beth Ann Koelsch

MISSION STATEMENT

The Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project collects and preserves unique and rare historical materials documenting the female experience in the United States military and promotes the research use of these materials by members of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the broader scholarly community, and the public.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Contact Beth Ann Koelsch, the Curator of the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project at UNCG.

She can be reached at: (336) 334-5838 or bakoelsc@uncg.edu

<http://library.uncg.edu/dp/wv/>



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