



BETTY H. CARTER  
WOMEN VETERANS  
HISTORICAL ★ PROJECT

# NEWSLETTER

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO · MARTHA  
BLAKENEY HODGES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WOMEN VETERANS LUNCHEON



The Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project (WVHP) began with a luncheon in 1998 to honor the unrecognized military service of women, including many Woman's College (now UNCG) alumnae. To commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WVHP and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCG, we will be celebrating the history of the WVHP and hearing from some of the veterans who are a part of the project.

Thanks to the generosity of **Glenda Schillinger, UNCG alumna and U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps veteran**, tickets to the November luncheon will be free. As always, the luncheon is open to everyone, so please bring family and friends! Invitations will be mailed in late September. Please note the new place and time for the luncheon!

**Friday, November 3rd**  
**11:30 am - 2:30 pm**  
**Alumni House, UNCG**

## NEWS FROM THE CURATOR OF THE WVHP

One of my primary collecting focuses as curator is oral histories and this year we added 17 new interviews. These oral histories include those from UNCG student veterans Megan Mead and Rachel Puckett; Navy chaplain Barbara Marshall; Navy helicopter pilot Deborah Branson, Marine Lieutenant Colonel (and 2016 Women Veterans Luncheon speaker) Kate Germano; and Caroline Cleveland and Amanda Westfall Dayman, veterans of the Army's all-female Cultural Support Teams, soldiers who were trained to support U.S. Army Special Operations Forces in Afghanistan.

We have also added a number of great collections! Some highlights are from Lois Betlach Filewood, a Navy WAVE

who served from 1944-1949, whose collection includes five large scrapbooks containing photographs, correspondence, newsletters, military records and other keepsakes; Air Force veteran Bridgid MacSeóin who donated her uniforms, publications and artifacts from her 1981-2006 career; and Navy veteran Deborah Branson, whose research materials about the 1991 Tailhook Convention assaults and debates about women in combat are extensive.

Last year I taught 10 UNCG class sessions using WVHP materials and gave presentations and exhibits for the North Carolina School Library Media Association, the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Program

"Veterans in Society", the Women Veterans Appreciation Event at Forsyth Technical Community College, and at the Pennybyrn at Maryfield retirement community.



— *Beth Ann*

For more information or to support the WVHP, contact Beth Ann Koelsch, Curator of the WVHP at (336) 334-5838 or [bakoelsc@uncg.edu](mailto:bakoelsc@uncg.edu).

# SPOTLIGHT ON A NEW WVHP ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

**Megan Mead** served as an aircraft pneudraulics mechanic in the U.S. Army from 2007-2015. Mead was raised in Phoenix, Arizona by a single mother and was only 17 years old when she enlisted. Although she wanted to be a pilot, she understood the importance of her job to the overall mission. In her 2016 oral history interview, Mead described some of the challenges she faced as a 5' 3" 100 pound recruit during ruck marches. Mead was deployed in 2008 to Camp Taji, Iraq and then again in 2011 to FOB Bagram, Afghanistan. She says that the Army gave her direction, a sense of purpose, and opportunity to be who she is today. Megan is now enrolled at the UNCG School of Nursing and works at the campus Veterans Center.



## 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.*



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