

Our Website is Finally Here

First, thank you all for waiting patiently while we muddled through the madness of cyberspace and domain acreage. We appreciate everyone who visited us on Facebook, and hope you will continue to recommend us to your friends. As word of our foundation travels, the more we are contacted by veterans, asking for help. We have a busy year ahead of us. As some of you may know, *The American Legion* kindly put the spotlight on our foundation in their February issue, and since its publication our case load has jumped from 92 to 125. Needless to say, we have our work cut out for us, and we are thrilled to death.

We welcome visitors to browse through our site, get a feel for what we are about and definitely visit our photo gallery. Also find that we have a page with helpful links for those of you who want to search for information. We look forward to your feedback.

In the coming months, our newsletter format will change slightly. There will be three sections:

1. How Are We Doing?
 - Here we will be giving you an update or status report of our casework as well as any ceremonies we have participated in, upcoming ceremonies or events.
2. Did You Know...
 - Here we will we have articles that are interesting pieces of information that occurred in or about military history
3. Article
 - Informational topics that may help in solving some of questions regarding searching for and



President's Corner

As mentioned, our case load is increasing almost daily and with the creation and launching of our website, we have been understandably quite busy. If we haven't returned your call/email or you haven't heard from us in a while, please don't hesitate in contacting us and giving us a nudge. And if that wasn't enough, we will be participating in the Vietnam Veteran Homecoming celebration in Charlotte on March 31st. The organizers anticipate 50,000 veteran's in attendance. We are looking forward to the event and assisting as many veterans as possible.

preserving a veteran's legacy (based on questions posed to the foundation), or case examples.

4. Dedication Section

- This section we will use to thank various supporters, who without their assistance and cooperation, our job would be more difficult.

Did You Know...



During WW I and WW II millions of women around the world took to the fields and the forests to take the places of the men who had gone to war, and keep up the productivity of crops and lumber.

The Women's Land Army originated in Britain during WW I, in 1915. The Women's Land Army of America operated from 1917-1921 and employed 15,000-20,000 urban women. The American "Land Girls," or "Farmerettes" were established by several women's organizations, such as gardening clubs, suffrage and civic groups, women's colleges, and the YWCAA handbook of standards was created in 1919. In 2008, Elaine F. Weiss wrote in her book, *Fruits of Victory: The Women's Land Army of America in the Great War*.

During WW II, the WLAA was part of the US Crop Corps, and operated 1942-1947, employing over 200,000 women. Because of they were so badly needed, the "Farmerettes" were able to demand equal and overtime pay (same as the men), 8-hour workdays, descent living quarters, breaks, lifting limits, and worker's compensation. Radical for the times! One recruiting slogan used said: *"Joan of Arc Left the Soil to Save France. We're Going Back to the Soil to Save America."* They plowed fields, planted and harvested crops, operated and maintained farm equipment, and were as organized as military units. They were paid a modest wage and given healthcare at a reduced rate. The WLAA was disbanded in October of 1950.

There are groups of alumni in Scotland, England, and Australia for the women and descendents of the Women's Land Army and the Women's Timber Corps, also known as "Lumber Jills." Timber Corp member Mrs. Margaret Lynch said, *"I got my discharge on 21st June 1945 with back trouble caused by lifting heavy logs. I loved working in the woods. I'm glad I joined the Timber Corps. I loved every minute of it. It was great. I often return to Banchory on holiday. I go back to the woods we felled. The trees are fully-grown again as if we had never been there. It is a pity we never got a gratuity. So few people have heard of us that we have never felt we were appreciated."* Scots at War 1998. In 2008 a Badge of Honor was awarded to over 30,000 of these women for their service.

Although employed by the US government, no specific badge or commendation for the American counterparts.

If you or someone you know was a member of the WLAA or an American group of the Timber Corps, please let us hear your story

Congratulations on your efforts and thank you for your service.

Next time: Did you know that in 2000 the US Coast Guard honored its WW II women reservists by launching the USCGC “Spar” WLB-206, known as The Aleutian Keeper. Over 11,000 women served during WW II.

References

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- Weiss, Elaine, “Before Rosie the Riveter, Farmerettes Went to Work”, Smithsonianmag.com, (5/2009)
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- Weiss, Elaine, “Fruits of Victory: The Women’s Land Army of America”

Vietnam Veterans Homecoming



We are looking forward in participating in this event at Charlotte Motor Speedway. We are not sure where will have our booth, however it will be in the infield area. The gates will open at 0900. The following is the line up for the entertainment:

- The Charlie Daniels Band
- Rockie Lynne
- The 82nd ABD “All American Chorus”
- George Clinton
- The 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Band
- Chris Noel, Master of Ceremonies

Exhibits/Demonstrations: US Army Golden Knights, US Air Force Flyover, various military static displays, US Army Color Guard and Flag Troops.

The following is the actual schedule

- 0900: Spectator Gates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 8 Open
- 1045: Rolling Thunder Entrance onto Track
- 1100 : Opening Ceremonies Begin, North Stage
- 1220: Rockie Lynne Concert from, South Stage
- 1315: 2nd Marine Air Wing Band Performs, South Stage
- 1425: George Clinton & the Parliament Funkadelics, North Stage
- 1515: Charlie Daniels, South Stage
- 1615: Closing Remarks

Come early, we are sure that there will be a lot of traffic not to mention people everywhere.

Thank You



We would like to start the first article in this section with conveying our heartfelt thanks to the North Carolina National Guard. Since the early years before this foundation was created, we have prepared many ceremonies to honor local veterans. When an award is approved, we strongly feel that it is necessary to present the award properly and as it is stated in the accompanying document *“consistent with tradition and regulations, awards and decorations should be presented with an appropriate degree of formality in a fitting ceremony”*.

To meet this requirement we want to put just as much importance on who is presenting the award as the award itself. We have asked our NC National Guard and they have been more than delighted to meet the task. Representatives of the Guard have participated in 7 ceremonies throughout our State thus far, and we never hesitate in contacting them. Just another great example of the service our NC National Guard provides to our citizens.

