

VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.
P.O. BOX 362234
DECAUUR, GA. 30036



February 28, 2015

My fellow veterans, grace and peace to you and your family.

The next case lot sale at Fort Gillem will be April 23 – 25th. Hours for the sale are Thursday, Friday - 0900-1700 and Saturday - 1000-1600.

Electronic coupons are loaded on the Rewards Card. Each patron with commissary privileges can get a card. They go in and establish an account for them. Then they select the coupons they want to use. When they shop they present the card to the cashier who scans it. At the end of their order the register automatically subtracts any coupons for the products they loaded and purchased from the card. The patrons will need to get in touch with us to send them the cards.

Also, patrons can go on line under www.commissaries.com. There is a link there to take them to other sites that have coupons. The patron would then print them out and present them to the cashier when they shop.

Women Army Corp

The Woman's Army Corps Veterans Association Genevieve Chapter 94 officers are, from left to right, Sandra Thomas, Recording Secretary; Eileen Parker, Treasurer; Roberta Clark, Second Vice President; Adrienne Evans-Quickley, Chaplain; and Acquanetta Pullins, First Vice President. The organization meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Lions Club Park Senior Center in Killeen and gains four to five new members each month. It is the only WACVA chapter in Texas.



Women's vets group membership on the rise By David A. Bryant | Herald staff writer | **0 comments** Posted on Jan 17, 2015

Women play a significant role in today's military and nearly 12 percent of all veterans are female, according to statistics from the Department of Veterans Affairs. In Texas alone, women make up more than 12 percent of the estimated 1.7 million veterans using the VA health care system.

And until recently, those women haven't been active in veterans organizations, said Acquanetta Pullins, first vice president of the Woman's Army Corps Veterans Association Genevieve Chapter 94, an organization open to all women who served honorably, regardless of rank or military branch of service, including Reserves and National Guard.

"When I joined the organization, I was their first person to join in five years. I had kept saying that I was going to go one day, and then one day I did. I saw them out at a function in Harker Heights and started coming to the meetings. It was like coming home in terms of like-minded women and camaraderie. It was such a good feeling," Pullins said. "You look at the women who are getting out of the military today and what they're dealing with; being able to talk to someone with similar experiences who can understand what they've gone through and speak their same language I think is one of the things that bring us women together as a group."

Now, more than 40 women are attending monthly meetings with four to five new faces coming every month, she said. Getting out into the community and participating in events such as Veterans Day parades have helped get the word out about WACVA and what it represents, which is helping drive the increase in women wanting to join.

"The main purpose of our organization is to help and assist other veterans, a big focus being on helping veterans at the VA hospitals. That's really at the top of our list," Pullins said.

There is always somebody who needs help, whether it is financial or just moral support when going through a difficult time, Pullins said.

When it comes to fellow members, the WACVA is able to provide something most organizations cannot offer — the perspective of another woman who has served in uniform, often in combat, and been through the same situations.

Pullins served in the Army from 1972 to 1993 and retired as a sergeant first class in the medical field, working in patient psychiatry. "It was the best-kept secret in the hospital in terms of helping people. You never knew who was going to come through the door and what problem they were going to have."

A lot of women's issues aren't properly handled at the VA, so joining an organization able to have its voice heard in Congress is important, said Emeraldine Gordon, who enlisted in the Army in 1977 and served until 1999.

"I had heard about the organization before, but had always thought it was only for the Woman's Army Corps, meaning you had to serve prior to 1977," she said. "I kept saying I would go to a meeting, but not, and then I got an invitation from one of the guys I served with."

Gordon retired as a chief warrant officer 3, working as a property book officer. WACVA gives her the opportunity to continue mentoring other women who either want to join the military or are currently serving on active duty and need someone to talk to.

Any woman veteran wishing to join WACVA needs to bring a copy of their DD-214. As a nonprofit organization, the document is needed as proof to the government that WACVA is following the standard of only allowing women who served and were discharged honorably, Pullins said.

WACVA meets at the Lions Club Park Senior Center in Killeen at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information, email womenproudlyservin@hotmail.com.
dbryant@kdhnews.com | 254-501-7554

Female veteran shamed for parking in veterans-only spot

WILMINGTON, NC (WECT)



When Mary Claire Caine walked outside after finishing her routine grocery trip to Harris Teeter Friday, she couldn't believe what she found plastered to the front window of her car.

As a veteran of the Air Force who served in Kuwait and on the flight line of the F-117 Nighthawk, Caine felt proud to park in the reserved "Veteran Parking" spaces at the grocery store chain when she did her shopping. Her two kids were always excited whenever one of the spots was open, and no one had ever questioned her qualification for it, until now.

Just as she finished unloading the groceries from her cart, she noticed a note taped to the passenger window, written in sharpie.

It read, "Maybe [you] can't read the sign you parked in front of. This space is reserved for those who fought for America....not you. Thanks, Wounded Vet."

Caine's heart sank.

"The first thing I felt was confusion that there was a mistake, and that I had to talk to this person and ask them why they were so quick to assume I wasn't a veteran and that I was taking privileges that didn't belong to me," said Caine about the hurt she felt as she peeled the note off the window, tempted to crumple it up and throw it in the trash.

"For a split second I thought, 'Am I a worthy enough veteran to park in this spot?' And, then I got very angry at myself for even considering that," Caine recalled.

Caine said she waited by her car for a few minutes, hoping the note's author would emerge from the sliding doors of the grocery store to talk to her, but no one came.

Caine speculated that because she was a woman, whose car donned real estate agent information on the back instead of an armed services bumper sticker, the note's author drew a hurtful conclusion about her.

"I think they took one look at me when I got out of my car and saw that I was a woman and assumed I wasn't a veteran and assumed I hadn't served my country," Caine speculated. "They have this image of what today's American veteran is and honestly if you've served in the United States military, you know that veterans come in all shapes and sizes. I question whether the person who left the note was fully aware of that."

Caine knows the likelihood of ever finding out who it was who so quickly judged by appearance is slim to none, but she hopes her experience will teach a lesson to others who may have wondered the same thing about a female veteran or any veteran that didn't fit the stereotypical image they have in their head.

"I want them to know they owe me and every other female service member who's fighting now and who's fought in the past, an apology for jumping to conclusions," Caine said passionately. "It's true what the soldiers missing in action slogan is: 'All gave some and some gave all.' And, I think that's very important that sacrifice is sacrifice and I earned the title as a veteran and I'm proud of that."

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Post-9/11 vet unemployment ticks up in January

The jobless rate for post-9/11 veterans is considered to be a volatile measure. After a year that set record lows for post-9/11 veteran unemployment, the first report for 2015 showed a 1-point uptick in the group's unemployment rate, government data show.

The January unemployment rate for the latest generation of veterans was 7.9 percent, up from 6.9 percent in December and equal to the January 2014 rate, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Meanwhile, the U.S. added 257,000 jobs in January as the nation's unemployment rate nudged up to 5.7 percent from the December rate of 5.6 percent.

While the national unemployment rate typically moves by tenths of percentage points, the rate for post-9/11 veterans often moves by a full percentage point or more from month to month. That veteran rate is based on a much smaller sample size than the overall rate, making it particularly vulnerable to dramatic swings



(Photo: Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

Statisticians recommend looking for broader trends, such as annual unemployment rates, rather than focusing on any one month's unemployment report. Data released last month pegged the 2014 annual unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans at 7.2 percent. That was nearly 2 percentage points lower than the 2013 annual rate, nearly 5 points lower than the 2011 rate and, by a narrow margin, the lowest annual rate recorded for the group.

For veterans as a whole, the unemployment rate climbed to 5.3 percent in January, up from 4.7 percent the previous month but down from the 5.6 percent rate in January 2014.

You can sign up online to become an associate member for those that would like to support the VFC and our mission. The annual associate membership of \$100.00 can be used as a tax deduction for supporters. This can be paid on line through our PayPal web site account. You will get a free VFC T-shirt with your associate membership.

All Honorably Discharged Veterans are welcome to come and observe the VFC and ask questions you need answered. If we don't know the answer we know someone that does. Please browse our web site. There are tabs with information on many subjects of interest. We have the News Letter for your branch of service and links to Social Security and many other links with an abundance of information.

Our next Monthly meeting will be Tuesday Mar 10, 2015 @ 6:30 PM at the Clark Harrison Building 1st Fl. 330 W, Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur, GA. 30030. Our will be for approximately

one hour and a half unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon.

“Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong.” 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely

William A. Harris, Jr.

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