

Great Lakes Naval Museum Foundation

Restoring History for Future Generations



Mission

The Great Lakes Naval Museum informs, educates and inspires Sailors, family members and the public by presenting the history, diversity, rich tradition and proud heritage of American Naval service. The Museum uses artifacts, artwork, memorabilia and interactive exhibits, to tell the story of initial skills training for Sailors from the early Navy to the present time. The Museum shows how Naval Station, Great Lakes, located in the heartland of the United States, has played a unique role for millions of Sailors who have gone through the "Gateway to the Fleet."

Great Lakes Naval Museum Foundation

The vision of the Great Lakes Naval Museum is to enhance and become an integral part of the training mission of the Naval Service Training Command, Great Lakes, by instilling in our newest Sailors a strong sense of tradition and heritage of naval service in the United States. To realize this vision, the Museum, with guidance and assistance from the Foundation, is in the process of renovating historic Building 42 known as the "Hostess House," which will provide visitors with an interactive, multi-media experience designed to accomplish the museum's goals as set forth in its mission statement. The Foundation also envisions this facility will provide the training command with a place of gathering, with sufficient space for Command functions, receptions and veterans' group reunions. In addition, we are a cultural and educational institution dedicated to preserving and sharing our growing historical collections and extensive archives with our members, visitors, and the community. We connect the past to the future so all generations will understand and appreciate the richness of the United States Navy training and "boot camp."



From all parts of the country, young men and women come to Great Lakes to become United States Navy Sailors.

1968

Captain Gordon Ross Noyes, USN, becomes one of thousands of American prisoners of war in Vietnam.

Frequent Heritage Week is established in response to Hispanic Heritage Month in 1985.



1970

Master Chief Boatswain Mate Carl Boushka is the first African-American to become a U.S. Navy Master Chief.



1971

President Jimmy Carter establishes Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.



1974

Stewards and commissary men consider to form "Black Management Specialists" (BMS), today's Gunners' Specialists (GS).



1979

Edward Phibbs, the first Hispanic to serve as U.S. Secretary of the Navy, is named to the position by President Jimmy Carter in October 1979 after a long and distinguished naval career.



1981

Patricia O'Brien joins the Navy in 1981. She works as an instrument man and serves at sea repairing, adjusting and calibrating the wide variety of mechanical measuring instruments used aboard ships.



1990

President George H.W. Bush inaugurates the National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and recognizes both American Indian and Alaska Native people. Naval American contributions in United States military conflict continue in the 1980s and 1990s as they see duty in Grenada, Panama, Somalia and the Persian Gulf.



1992

Rear Admiral Mark Gaston becomes the first African-American Commander of the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois. Due to his efforts, the Navy decides to make Great Lakes the single site for the Navy's recruit training, "boot camp."



2006

Master Chief (SWPMT) Joe Campos, Jr. becomes the first Hispanic Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.



2008

Thirty-three men of Hispanic origin have earned the Medal of Honor, including 21 who sacrificed their lives.



2009

Barack Obama becomes the first African-American President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the United States military.



PRESENT

As we enhance and empower our diversity, we will remain a global force for peace and experience the ideas that make our Navy great and our nation the best hope of freedom. We will sustain our force through the fair, equal and ethical treatment of every member of the United States Navy.



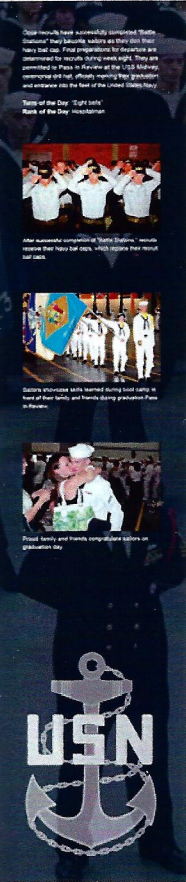
Leadership and opportunity have provided the basis for a culture that capitalizes on competence.

The Foundation's goal is to support a museum that emphasizes the quality of Navy training with a concentration on enlisted training that takes place at Great Lakes. The Museum will visually reflect how Naval Station, Great Lakes, located in the heartland of America, has played a unique role for millions of Sailors who have passed through the "Gateway to the Fleet." There will be a focus on: the founding, the history, and the past and present operation of Naval Station, Great Lakes; the history and role of ethnic diversity in the Naval Service; the first black enlisted school, the first black officers trained, and the first integrated schools (1944); and the story of the transition from Civilian to Sailor. Visitors can explore the history of recruit training and veterans will see the Navy they served juxtaposed against today's Navy, and they will find a forum in which to recount their Navy accomplishments.

Today's Initial Training Experience Emphasis is on the achievement of high standards. Physical - the physical standards required for shipboard service are acquired with scientifically designed programs. Emotional - the development of teamwork is critical to the role of a shipmate's attitude. Cognitive - coursework is strenuous, schools are accredited, achievement time is significantly less than in the civilian world. Battle Station Exercises - recruits learn to appreciate their newfound ability to react in conflict and battle situations and understand this significant change that is the result of their training experience. Although the technical skills are critical and extensive, Sailors must also be warriors. They must become a part of the Navy Team, capable of carrying out missions, meeting emergencies, and supporting, defending, and caring for each other.

WEEK 8

"I trust my shipmates with my life and know now they'll do anything for me."
~ Vincent, age 20, CA



Visitors will gain an appreciation for Naval Service by being able to explore mission and the operational history of the Navy, from the American Revolution and the origins of the U.S. Navy to the War on Terrorism. As well, they will be able to learn of the dedication and accomplishments of the enlisted Sailor as the backbone of the Navy through video products such as "Our Navy's Story."



Graduation from "Boot Camp" earns the title, "United States Sailor"

The Surface Warfare Association's "Hall of Fame" exhibit will allow Sailors and museum visitors to explore the stories and understand the extraordinary accomplishments of Sailors from the "Age of Sail" through the War on Terrorism.

1775-1783

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Women served on the battlefield as nurses, sutters, cooks, bandages and sutures.

1812

WAR OF 1812

Mary Marshall and Mary Allen nurse aboard Commodore Stephen Decatur's ship, UNITED STATES.

1846-1848

MEXICAN WAR

Elizabeth Newton enlists in Company D of the Missouri Volunteer Infantry as Bill Newcom. She is later discovered to be a woman and discharged.

1861-1865

CIVIL WAR

Women provide care and nursing at field hospitals and on the Union Hospital Ship RED ROVER. African-American nurses, Abner Ramsey, Sarah Hays, Ellen Campbell and Betty Young, served aboard the RED ROVER.

1898

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Thousands of U.S. soldiers overwhelm the capabilities of the Army Medical Department. Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee suggests that professionally qualified nurses serve under contract to the Army. Before the war ends, 1,500 civilian nurses are assigned to Army hospitals as well as to the Hospital Ship RELIEF. The Army appoints Dr. McGee Acting Assistant Surgeon General, the first woman to hold the position. The Army asks Dr. McGee to write legislation creating a permanent corps of nurses.

1908

U.S. Navy Nurse Corps is established on May 13, 1908. The first 30 nurses report to Washington, D.C. that October. By the end of World War I, The Great Twentieth has grown to 1,300 nurses.

1917

WORLD WAR I

The Navy enlists 11,680 women as Yeomen (Y) to serve stateside in shore billets and release sailors for sea duty. More than 1,476 Navy nurses serve in military hospitals stateside and overseas.

The first recorded woman in the U.S. Navy to fly is a Navy pilot in Yeoman (Y) Second Class Martha Baker. Piloted by Ensign Ray Appleton, Yeoman Baker went on a 20-minute flight over Lake Michigan on April 7, 1917.

1918

When the war ends, there are 11,275 Yeomen (Y) in the naval service. Assignments include: mousing, war bond drives, general clerical work, production in ammunition factories, designing camouflage, drafting, translation and radio operation. Men and women are both earning \$28.75 per month, the beginning of equal pay.

1920

The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote.

Navy Nurses serve aboard the first ship built as a floating hospital, USS RELIEF (AH-1).

1938

Naval Reserve Act allows for enrollment of qualified women.

1941

WORLD WAR II

Mildred McAfee, selected to lead the new Women's Reserve, is even as is Lieutenant Commander on August 3, 1942. Women are later authorized to hold the rank of Captain, and McAfee is promoted to that rank.

1942

The Navy recruits women into its Navy Women's Reserve (USNWR), nicknamed WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), starting in 1942. Before the war is over, more than 80,000 WAVES to shore billets in a large variety of jobs in communications, training, intelligence, supply, medicine and administration.

1944

More than 14,000 Navy nurses serve stateside, overseas on hospital ships and as flight nurses during the war. Battleship Navy nurses are captured and held as Prisoners of War (POWs).

The only Navy nurse to escape from Camp Ujevo, Lieutenant (junior grade) Ann Benardus, reported for duty to Great Lakes Naval Hospital in June 1944.

The Navy drops its color ban for women on October 19, 1944.

The first two African-American WAVES officers, Harriet Lee Pickens and Frances Williams, are sworn in December 22, 1944. Of the 80,000 WAVES in the war, 72 African-American women served, normally under segregated conditions.

1945

First U.S. Navy warship is named for a woman in 1945. The USS HOBEE (DD-806) is named for Leah Hobee, Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps, 1911-1922.

On March 9, 1945 Phyllis Dancy becomes the first African-American commissioned Navy nurse.

1947

The Army-Navy Nurse Act of 1947 gives permanent commissioned officer status to Army and Navy nurses.

1948

On January 6, Ensign Edith Devine is sworn into the Regular Navy Nurse Corps becoming the Corps' first African-American member.

On June 12, Public Law 825, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, grants women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps as well as in the newly created Air Force.

1950

KOREAN WAR

Servicewomen who had joined the Reserves following World War II are involuntarily recalled to active duty during the war. Navy nurses serve on hospital ships in the Korean theater of war as well as at Navy hospitals stateside. Many other servicewomen are assigned to duty in the theater of operations in Japan and Okinawa.

Historically, women have played a significant but unsung role in the Navy. Today more than 15% of the Navy's personnel is comprised of women. It is a story that must be understood and appreciated from the period of the WAVES of World War II to today's women Sailors.

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Artist's rendition of one of the display galleries

By focusing on the career options and opportunities provided by the United States Navy's training process, the museum will facilitate an understanding of not only the quality of the training, but the sophistication of today's graduate. --Potential recruits will see the significant role played by today's Sailor and be able to recognize the opportunities available.

The building in which the museum is housed has historical significance. Originally known as the "Hostess House," Building 42 was a meeting place for recruits and their families during WWII. Building 42 was designed by one of America's most prominent Modernist architects, Gordon Bunshaft, a Pritzker Prize-winning architect with the architectural firm of Skimore, Owings, and Merrill.

The private fundraising campaign seeks to raise funds for the building construction and for the endowment. The goal of the Foundation is to raise approximately \$15,000,000, for the purpose of assistance with ongoing renovations of the historic "Hostess House" and the design and upgrades of the museum exhibits.

Please help us continue to preserve the legacy, history and the spirit of the U.S. Navy and its training "boot camps" by making a generous, tax-deductible contribution today to help fund the construction of the Great Lakes Naval Museum.

Your special contribution today -- the most generous you can afford -- will be used to help us build a world-class Naval Museum. Please can be assured that a gift of any size will be truly appreciated.

Please make your contribution payable to: Great Lakes Naval Museum Foundation, Post Office Box 886307 Great Lakes, IL 60088-6307. The Great Lake Naval Museum Foundation (GLNMF) is a recognized tax-exempt, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Donations to the museum are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Location: The Great Lakes Naval Museum is located in Building 42, behind the Welcome Center on the main side of Naval Base, Great Lakes. Phone Number: (847) 688-3154 The museum is open to the public and there is no admission charge. Group tours are available by appointment only and large groups must contact the Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs office at (847-688-2201).

Please visit our web site at: <http://www.greatlakesnavalmuseum.org/>



The Hostess House (circa 1942) initially served as a meeting place for recruits finishing Boot Camp and headed for sea duty during WWII.

