

UMA Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter for USPTO Veterans and Families

December 2013, Volume 1, Number 4



Women's History 101

We served too

- ◆ 1775-1783 During the Revolutionary War, women followed their husbands to war out of necessity. Many served as laundresses, cooks and nurses but only with permission from the commanding officer.
- ◆ During the War of 1812, Mary Marshal and Mary Allen served as nurses aboard the USS United States at the request of Commodore Stephen Decatur.
- ◆ In 1917, women were first allowed to officially join the military, and 33,000 joined to serve as nurses and support staff for WWI.
- ◆ In 1941, the number of women who served in the military for WWII grew to 400,000. Women served as mechanics, pilots, nurses and other non-combatant roles
- ◆ In 1950, 50,000 women went into combat zones as nurses for the Korean War. They usually served on hospital ships.
- ◆ In 1976, women were finally admitted to the U.S. Naval, Military, and Air Force academies.
- ◆ Why do I write about this? Read on!

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AND WE NEVER STOPPED SERVING

In 1991, Congress finally allowed women to fly in combat zones and just two years later women began to serve on board combat ships. In 2000, Capt. Kathleen McGrath became the first woman to command a U.S. Navy warship, assigned to the Persian Gulf. In 2003, the first women were taken as prisoners of war in Iraq, and Col. Linda McTague became the first woman commander of a fighter squadron in U.S. Air Force history.

AND ... What does the future bring?

In January 2015, the first female officers will arrive at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Conn. and join the crew of the USS Virginia (SSN 774) and USS Minnesota (SSN 783)

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus stated that "Female Officers serving aboard Virginia-class submarines is the next natural step to more fully integrate women into the submarine force... There are many extremely talented and capable women with a desire to succeed in this field and the submarine force will be stronger because of their efforts. Our Navy has proven over the years that one of our greatest advantages is our diversity. This is an advantage we should capitalize on across all platforms, including submarines..."

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) said, "Further integrating women into our submarine force is a welcome step forward and will ensure that the Navy can continue to maximize the skill and talent of all those seeking to serve our country."

"The women who break this barrier in Janu-

ary 2015 will have earned the right by distinguishing themselves alongside their male counterparts, and I look forward to congratulating them in person when the proud day arrive," said U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT).



Rear Adm. Kenneth M. Perry is taking steps to allow enlisted females to serve onboard submarines as well.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2005, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester became the first woman awarded the Silver Star for actions in combat.

Since 2008, more than 16,000 women served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Germany, and Japan.



UMA Fitness

We stay fit. If you would like to join us, here is a good starting point:

Scuba Diving — POC Albert Gagliardi

Gym Workouts, Basketball/pick up games — POC Marta Dulko and Margaret Squalls

Tough Mudder run — POC Marta Dulko and Kat Wyrozewski

Sky Diving and other exhilarating special events — POC Brent Howard

Game/sports watching events — Basketball, Soccer, College Football, and Monday Night NFL football if anyone is interested --- POC Brent Howard

Fitness challenge — Gym workout team challenges you to attend total body conditioning class with Drew on Mondays at 4 p.m. It is a good preparation for Tough Mudder. Can you outlast Kat and Marta?

Veteran's Day Celebration

November 7, 2013

The USPTO Military Association (UMA) hosted another memorable Veterans Day ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 7. Attendees filled the Madison Auditorium South, and many more participated via WebEx, to hear remarks from UMA President Joe Hirl, Commissioner for Patents Peggy Focarino, and guest speaker Vice Adm. William Hilarides, and to view a short video featuring interviews with USPTO military veterans.

"Today we have 2,194 employees who have served in our nation's Armed Forces—more than 19 percent of our workforce," said Focarino.

She added that the agency's aggressive veterans hiring efforts resulted in more than 12 percent of new patent examiner hires and more than 19 percent of all other new hires being veterans or transitioning service members in fiscal year 2013.

Hilarides shared his own appreciation of veterans as a lifelong Navy officer, and most recently as commander of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). His headquarters at the Washington Navy Yard was the scene of a recent tragedy when a mentally disturbed shooter killed 12 civilian employees on Sept. 16.

Describing a "blurring of the lines between traditional military in uniform" with "the people who provide support", Hilarides praised the courage and contributions of his agency's civilians, noting that many of them were veterans or had served the military in other capacities in the past. He also encouraged USPTO employees

to get to know the veterans serving in their agency and to encourage them to tell their stories. One of the admiral's own stories, involving a submarine crew "running around the world" at the North Pole, drew a lot of laughter from the audience.

At the end of the ceremony, Hirl unveiled the newly minted UMA Challenge Coin, which he presented along with a plaque of President Theodore Roosevelt's "In the Arena" speech to Hilarides, who gave him a personal military coin in return. UMA members also received their own challenge coins at the conclusion of the ceremony.

The UMA has been an official affinity group of the USPTO since December 2011, providing fellowship, mentorship, and advocacy for the agency's military veterans, and helping educate others on the important contributions that veterans have made and continue to make to the workforce and the nation at large. Membership is open to all agency employees.



UMA President Joe Hirl presents a plaque of President Theodore Roosevelt's "In the Arena" speech to Vice Adm. William Hilarides, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), during the USPTO's Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 7 in the Madison Auditorium.



DID YOU KNOW?

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

To be killed in war is not the worst that can happen.

To be lost is not the worst that can happen... to be forgotten is the worst.

Pierre Claeysens (1909-2003)

www.wreathscrossamerica.org

National Wreaths Across America Day was held on Dec. 14 at the Arlington and Alexandria National Cemeteries.

*Remember the fallen,
Honor those who serve,
Teach our Children
about the freedom they enjoy.*



HR Corner

Veteran's benefits

Veterans' Preference gives eligible veterans preference in appointment over many other applicants. It applies to virtually all new appointments in both the competitive and excepted service. Veterans' preference does not guarantee veterans a job and it does not apply to internal agency actions such as promotions, transfers, reassignments and reinstatements.

There is no limit on how many times you can apply and claim an entitlement to veterans' preference.

Did you know that veterans' preference does not apply in the Senior Executive Service (SES)? It only applies to GS-1 through GS-15 grade levels.

Placement of Preference Eligibles with a Compensable Service-Connected Disability of 10 % or More (CPS and CP)

1) *For scientific and professional positions at the GS-9 or higher...*

Place qualified CPS and CP preference eligibles above non-preference eligibles within the same quality category for which they are assessed (CPS and CP eligibles do not "float" to the highest quality category)

2) *For all other positions (series) and grade levels...*

Place qualified CPS and CP preference eligibles at the top of the highest quality category (CPS and CP eligibles "float" to the highest quality category)

Qualified preference eligibles with a compensable service-connected disability of 30% or more (CPS) and those with a compensable service-connected disability of more than 10% but less than 30% (CP) are placed at the top of the highest quality category (except for scientific or professional positions at the GS-9 level or higher).

A tentative preference (TP) eligible will float to the top of their current category.

When applying to Job Opportunity Announcements, remember to submit a copy of your member 4 DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, VA Letter and SF-15, Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference, if applicable.

Members:
Do you know a military veteran with an Engineering or IT background who is interested in joining the USPTO?

Ask them to contact:
HireVets@USPTO.gov



HR Point of Contact

HR Representative for UMA and all USPTO Veterans:

Anthony Henderson 571-272-6160

Anthony.henderson@uspto.gov

HR Compensation and Benefits Division 571-272-6209





Current Events

UMA and YRF serve Wounded Warriors food at local military hospitals

The UMA teamed up with the Yellow Ribbon Fund and Pork Barrel BBQ to provide a meal for the Wounded Warriors' of Ward 4 at Bethesda's National Medical Center / Walter Reed Army Medical Center on Nov. 19.

Special thanks go to UMA VP Brent Howard for initiating the program; volunteers Brent, Ricardo, Clifton, James, and Lawana; YRF coordinators Ashley and Amy; and Pork Barrel BBQ for supplying all the food for the event.



The warriors, families, caregivers and staff are appreciative of our program, volunteers and the quality of the food. They can't wait for us to visit again.

If you are interested in volunteering for future events at the Wounded Warrior wards in Bethesda or Belvoir, please contact Brent Howard.

Classifieds

Photo contest: Please submit any photos you have of you and your family with a military theme. Top 3 winners will be included in the next issue of the newsletter. If you would like to post classifieds, please write to UMA@uspto.gov

Editors

Editor-in-Chief, Kat Wyrozowski
Asst Editor, Eric Atkisson
Asst Editor, Brent Howard

Looking for newsletter co-editors. If you would like to consider writing for the UMA Newsletter, please email us at UMA@uspto.gov.

For more details, please contact Kat at 571-272-1127 or Katarzyna.wyrozowski@uspto.gov

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) External Outreach

UMA members volunteer with ESGR in organizing H2H Events that teach veterans how to write effective resumes and how to gain proper interview skills. For more information, please contact Kat Wyrozowski or Lawana Hixon.

Challenge Coin — 200 coins have been purchased and distributed to dues-paying members who have requested them. Future distribution will be to "regular" dues-paying members: one coin to each member who pays at least \$1.00 per week for one year or an equivalent lump sum. The regular dues-paying members may buy one additional coin for \$5.00.

Website is up! – The UMA is proud to present our new website and UMA Facebook page. You can find our newsletters online at http://ptomilitaryassociation.org/vol1_no1. Check out the rest of the site while you're there.

As part of the site you have access to all UMA newsletters, events pages (which include a sync-able calendar), Facebook posts, news feeds, and much, much more! Please also remember to LIKE us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/USPTOMilitaryAssociation>.

USPTO Military Association Newsletter

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