

## **Long Island Women Join the Armed Forces**

Newsday, October 5, 1942

### **4 Nassau Girls Go In WAVES**

Four Nassau women will enter WAVES training schools as apprentice seamen next Friday, and after training will be promoted to special ratings. One of the girls, Miss Gundacker, 21, is following in her father's footsteps. He was a Navy veteran of World War I.

Newsday, October 9, 1942

### **Quit Job to Learn Radio, Nassau Girl Joins WAVES**

Garden City- A gal who wanted to be a radio operator so badly that she quit a good job to take full-time code lessons, got her wish yesterday when she left for the University of Wisconsin as an enlisted WAVE on her way to be a Navy radio operator.

She's Lucille Seielstad. She was employed as personnel woman for eight years, did volunteer radio work when the AWVS was first organized, and liked it so much that she left her position to take private lessons, full-time.

Then she went to radio school and eventually got her amateur radio operator's license, becoming a full-fledged "ham".

Lucille hopes, after her training is completed, to be made a radio code teacher, but she'll settle for any type of job that will help win the war.

Farmingdale Post, February 25, 1943

### **Mrs. Wm. Heath Enlists in U.S. Marine Corps**

Mrs. William Heath enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve, was sworn in on Tuesday. She will leave for active duty this weekend. Her husband, Sergeant Heath, is stationed somewhere in New England.

The Babylon Leader, May 14, 1944

### **Mimi R. LeSauvage is Sworn into WAVES as Apprentice Seaman**

Florence (Mimi) Rollins LeSauvage was sworn into the Women's Reserve (U.S. Naval Reserve) on Thursday, May 6, as an apprentice seaman in the enlisted quota of WAVES. She is the daughter of Lieut. Commander and Mrs. George Le Sauvage of West Islip Road.

She will soon be ordered to the training school at Hunter College, New York, for indoctrination into the WAVES.

- 1- Why are women being recruited into the armed forces?
- 2- Why did these women enlist?
- 3- The role of women in the armed forces continues to be debated. In your opinion, should women be allowed in combat or restricted to support roles? Why?

# The Women of War

## Events to honor female veterans of many wars

By Merle English

As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, a Queens group is paying tribute to women veterans from New York who served in every international conflict from World War I to the Gulf War.

Approximately 58,000 women veterans live in New York state. Women veterans were an obscure group until the 1990 Census revealed there were 1,158,900 nationwide, representing 4.1 per cent of the veteran population.

Ruth Young is president of Military Women of New York City and Friends, which she founded two years ago "to give voice and visibility to women veterans," especially "women of color." She said 8,500 (New York) women were veterans of the Gulf War; 8,700 served in the Vietnam; 4,500 in the Korean War; 16,900 in World War II and 100 in World War I, while 21,400 are in peacetime service.

Young, who did clerical work in intelligence and security in the U.S. Women's Army Auxiliary Corps from 1962 to 1964, and Syslin Francis, administrator of the New York State Veterans Home in St. Albans, are organizing the tribute. It takes place during National Women Veterans Recognition Week, Nov. 6 to Nov. 10.

Among the honorees is Evelyn Decker of St. Albans, a registered nurse who worked in the segregated Army Nurse Corps and with another group that were the first "colored" nurses assigned to a prisoner-of-war ward, caring for Japanese captives.

Decker was honorably discharged with a war-related disability and was awarded the Army Campaign medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the Army Occupation Medal of Japan and Germany, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars.

The honorees also include Adele Brenner, a Rockaway Park resident who, as a WAC corporal, supervised the dental clinic at Camp Monticello, a Japanese internment camp in Arkansas.

Nancy Lieutenant-Colon, a former Amityville resident now living upstate who achieved the rank of major in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps and retired as chief nurse, will also be recognized.

Lieutenant-Colon, the first black nurse to be commissioned during World War II, according to Young, integrated the Regular Army Nurse Corps. As part of her duties she supervised medical evacuations.

- 1- How many women who are World War II veterans live in New York state?
- 2- Why were these women veterans being honored?
- 3- Design a certificate of appreciation for one of the women being honored.
- 4- Did you know that the U.S. armed forces were racially segregated during World War II? In your opinion, why were African American women, who were suffering from discrimination at home, willing to serve in the armed forces?