

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our March 2012
Patriot of the Month



Ruth Stevenson Gladstone

Sponsored by:

**Prairie Chapter
Lee's Summit, Missouri**

Ruth Stevenson Gladstone spent her early years in the New England area. She went to Physical Therapy training at Boston University and graduated in 1942, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Following graduation, she went to work for a doctor near Boston and spent time going to military clubs visiting and dancing with service members. The doctor she was working with became involved in the medical care of the armed services, introducing physical therapy to the wounded soldiers. Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) began in August, 1942 when Mildred McAfee, President of Wellesley College, was sworn in as a Naval Reserve Lieutenant Commander and the first director of the WAVES. The combination of being born in Boston and raised in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and being an acquaintance of Miss McAfee,

influenced Ruth to enlist into the newly formed Navy WAVES.

Following her initial training for the Navy at Hunter College in New York City, she was stationed at the Bethesda Naval Hospital near Washington, DC. After serving there, she transferred to a new military hospital built at St. Albans, New York. She was one of twelve WAVES who were the first group to serve at this facility. She remained there until the end of World War II, serving over six years as a proud member of the U.S. Navy, providing rehabilitative physical therapy to injured military. It was during this time, she met her future husband, William G. Gladstone, USN.

William “Bill” and Ruth were married in 1949 and she came to live on his family farm in Northwest Missouri. Gladcrest Farms was established in 1848 with a land grant for service in the Mexican American War and continues to this day to be operated as a family farm, raising Angus cattle, corn and soybeans. From this union, two children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren have blessed her life. Bill passed away in 1999 shortly after they celebrated their 50-year anniversary. Ruth still lives on the farm and actively participates in its operation.

Other than her family, her Navy career was the highlight of her life. In 2011 Ruth and her daughter, Susan Tucker, traveled to Washington, DC with the Kansas City Honor Flight. She enjoyed the day immensely and has encouraged Veterans in her area to take the opportunity for this lifetime experience.