

**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors**



Patriot of the Month

January 2018



Victoria Wells Newman

United States Air Force

**Sponsored by:
Independence Pioneers
Chapter**



Victoria entered the United States Air Force at the Military Entrance and Processing Center in Boston, Massachusetts in November, 1978. She was in the delayed enlistment program, arriving at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas for basic training in January, 1979. She was in the 3703rd Basic Military Training Flight, Flight W004. She attended technical school as an Air Traffic Control Operator Specialist at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi. She was the only woman to graduate from her class.

Victoria's first duty station was 57th Fighter Weapons Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. She worked as an air traffic controller in the tower and was the second woman to ever work there. Later on, she transitioned to Base Operations from the tower – a related career field supporting the ground operations of flight.

After Victoria left active duty for the Reserve, she was stationed at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, where she worked in the 303rd Tactical Fighter Squadron/442nd Tactical Fighter Wing in Squadron Operations filing flight plans and maintaining Notices to Airmen for the pilots. She continued to work in Squadron Operations at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kansas, in the 117th Air Refueling Squadron/190th Air Refueling Group.

Victoria's medals include Marksmanship, Meritorious Service Medal, Longevity and others. One of her memories occurred at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. One of the duties of Base Operations was

to ring out the “Crash Phone” to all emergency personnel on base when there was an on-ground emergency. Nellis is home to the Thunderbirds air demonstrations team, and Red Flag exercises twice a year. Red Flag is a joint North Atlantic Treaty Organization training exercise for pilots. It brings aircraft and crews from all over the world.

One day, while working in Base Operations, a very frightened, agitated, enlisted French aircrew member approached her desk. She was only able to understand a few words he said, with the most important being “petrol”. Only the French pilots spoke English, and there were none available to translate. Based on her agitation and fear, coupled with the word “petrol,” she surmised there was a fuel spill on the tarmac. Victoria rang out the “Crash Phone” summoning the appropriate crews to deal with the spill. It’s important to note that a massive fuel spill on the tarmac is very dangerous and can easily result in a fire. The next day, Victoria was given a bottle of perfume from the aircrew and her commanding officer was given a plaque from the squadron for Victoria saving their aircraft. She still has the bottle of perfume and the note from the squadron. She was also awarded Airman of the Month for October 1981.

Victoria holds two baccalaureate degrees, one in civil engineering from the University of Missouri and the other in nursing from Research College of Nursing, Rockhurst University. She has volunteered as a nurse in the past at one of the free clinics in the metropolitan area and to be a medical standby for the “Bike Multiple Sclerosis Society” sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She is a member of the Independence Pioneers NSDAR Chapter.

Independence Pioneers Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Victoria Wells Newman as Patriot of the Month for her patriotic service to our great nation.