

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

March 2015



Lorna B. Jones

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Saint Charles Chapter



Lorna B. Jones entered the United States Army in St. Louis, Missouri on November 29, 1968. She received basic training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, and Flight Simulator Specialist training at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

In Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, as a Flight Simulator Specialist and Flight Operations Coordinator, Lorna supervised four flight operations clerks. She scheduled aircraft missions, dispatched aircraft, and greeted dignitaries arriving to visit the Command and General Staff College.

She served as Training NCO/Personnel Sergeant, 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion in Kaiserslautern, Germany. She was responsible for requesting school quotas and scheduling qualified personnel to attend career development courses. She supervised seven personnel clerks engaged in the preparation and processing of personnel actions. Also, Lorna scheduled flights for soldiers and their families departing Europe. She served as Administrative Supervisor/Senior Personnel NCO, 37<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group and supervised ten personnel clerks. She was responsible for the timely flow and accuracy of correspondence from 34 subordinate units; staff assistance visits; records and forms management; personnel and legal actions; regulations and directives; and inquiries from staff sections and subordinate units.

At Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, as Career Development NCO/Senior Test Administrator, HQ, Communications/Electronics Command, Lorna was responsible for implementing the Basic Skills Education Program; identifying, evaluating, pretesting, and counseling potential candidates. She served as administrator for the Army Apprenticeship Program and liaison with the Department of Labor, requested school slots, and managed a \$300,000 a year budget for all career development courses. She was responsible for coordinating and administering all Army personnel tests at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, as well as three other Army installations within the post's geographical testing area within the continental U.S. and overseas. This encompassed over 4,000 soldiers, 1,000 of which held both secret and top secret clearances. She was responsible for requisitioning, storing, and safe-guarding all non-classified test material.

Lorna was Senior Administrative NCO, 54<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group at Rheinberg, Germany, Community Schools Officer, Postal Officer, Funeral Liaison. In Stuttgart, Germany, 2<sup>nd</sup> Support Command, Lorna was Senior Administrative NCO. She supervised 16 military personnel and was responsible for their military training and career Development. She was also responsible for organizing and controlling the administrative and logistical requirements for a staff of 32.

At Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, Hq & HQ Company, U.S. Army Garrison, Lorna was Training NCO and NCOIC Transition Point. She was directly responsible for supervising 17 clerks, both military and civilian, who prepared DD Forms 214s and separation and retirement orders. She provided training for all newly assigned personnel in preparation separation/retirement documents. She was responsible for personnel career development. Lorna coordinated with other agencies, scheduled, and performed separation briefings to soldiers who were either separating from service or retiring. She was responsible for administering all classified/non-classified Army personnel tests, upon request for the installation. She requisitioned, stored, and safe-guarded all test material.

Lorna B. Jones received the following medals and awards: Expert Badge M16 Rifle, Army Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (4), Army Commendation Medal (1<sup>st</sup> OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal (7<sup>th</sup> Award), and Overseas Service Ribbon (2).

She retired at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, on August 31, 1990 as a Master Sergeant, E-8. After retiring Lorna worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for 20 years. She spent the first 5 years processing education claims under the GI Bill. In addition, she worked special projects, trained and did quality reviews. She then moved to the Compensation and Pension section. She processed claims for compensation, pension, burial benefits and dependency and indemnity compensation. As she gained experience, she also trained new employees provided refresher training, authorized claims, and did quality reviews.

"I entered the Army the day after Thanksgiving in 1968. At that time there were a little over 6,600 women in the Army and the only basic training site was Ft. McClellan, Alabama. During basic training we were taught to act like ladies and even had make-up classes. We were supposed to go to the field but it rained that weekend so we weren't allowed to go. My first assignment was to Sherman Army Airfield, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. I was the only female soldier. Women were assigned to either administrative jobs or to the medical field. I was a WAC Counselor/Army Recruiter in St. Louis for 6 years. Trying to convince young women and their parents to enter the Army was the hardest job I have ever had. During those 6 years I participated in uniform change trials, most of which are stored in my basement, saw regulation changes where female soldiers were required to qualify with the M16 rifle, we could get married and even have children. The first female soldiers were looked down on and hid it by buying bigger uniforms and wearing coats. I was 4 months pregnant when we were sent to Germany the first time. I wore civilian maternity clothes because they had not designed a maternity uniform yet. I worked really hard to prove myself and earn the respect of my peers and supervisors. Life got easier as time went on and more women entered the service. I earned promotions and was a supervisor at all my new duty stations. I was the first woman to graduate from the 2 year non-residency program for the Sergeants Major Academy, Ft. Bliss, Texas. When I attended the residency portion I was the only female in a class of 60. By the time I retired women were attending co-ed basic training, wearing fatigues and combat boots and were allowed into all jobs except combat. It was truly a career where I received equal pay as the men," said Lorna.

Lorna is a widow. She has two sons, one daughter-in-law, and one granddaughter. Lorna is currently serving her second consecutive term as chapter regent for the Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR. The members of the Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR are proud to nominate Lorna B. Jones as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for her service to our nation.