

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

March 2016



Joann Folluo

Sponsored by:

John Sappington Chapter



Joann's family has a long history of service in the military. Two of Joann's great-grandfathers fought in the Civil War. Her father served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Her brother joined the U.S. Navy, and she wasn't far behind him in joining too.

Leaving her job as a comptometer operator, which she thought was "extremely boring," Joan joined the Naval Reserves on 22 February 1953. It was the end of the Korean War era. And it wasn't long after she joined that she was asked to be one of the WAVES to go on active duty to fill slots that were left open after the men were shipped to Korea.

Joan did not have to attend boot camp, because she had attended two weeks of reserve training in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. Upon arrival in Willow Grove, a dozen women found themselves without a place to stay. As a result, they all stayed with Amish families for three days until a sick bay was converted into WAVES' quarters. When Joann went active at the St. Louis NAS with four other women, they still had no place to reside. Thus, she stayed home and continued to work.

Joan did have the opportunity for more travel during her two years of active duty. She was sent to Olathe, Kansas, for technical training where she earned an air traffic controller rating. However, she didn't get to use it back at Lambert because the tower was staffed by civilians. She was also able to see new places by finding rides with the pilots who were required to get flight time. They would fly to locations such as Colorado, Florida, or elsewhere, and Joann could stay at the destination's WAVES' quarters. Joann worked in the Navy Operations at Lambert and kept track of flight plans and radioed Wright Patterson AFB for clearance. At the time the Air Force kept track of all military planes. She also kept flight logs for all of the US NAS personnel. The NAS was also responsible for providing all the crash, fire, and rescue service, and snow removal for the airport. Her duties provided change and challenges for her.

Joann believes that when you serve your country you are also helping yourself. She enjoys her current ties with the Gateway WAVES and Post 404. Looking back, she realizes, "I needed to do something with my life that was interesting and it certainly paid off, it pays now, yes, forever."

The Daughters of the John Sappington Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Joann Folluo as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for her patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.