

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month
April 2017



Leona M. Obermiller

United States Navy

Sponsored by:
Jane Randolph Jefferson
Chapter



By the time Leona finished high school, World War II had ended. However, there was a need for nurses and she believed that such a profession would provide for her the greatest prospects for a career. She graduated from a nursing school in 1949. She spent the next two years working in a community hospital before making the decision to embark upon her military career.

Leona had friends who were nurses that had joined the Navy. That along with the inspiration of the old saying "Join the Navy, see the world," in addition to a certain level of boredom, she decided to enlist. In 1952, she travelled to Pennsylvania and joined the United States Navy Nurse Corps. She was commissioned as an Ensign as she was a registered nurse. Leona completed indoctrination training, where she learned basic military ceremony and protocol.

She served at Portsmouth Naval Hospital for three years where she worked on the surgical floor and later in post operation. Receiving orders to Tripler Army Hospital she transferred to Honolulu, Hawaii, where she assisted with delivery and care of babies. After a year she transferred to Midway Island where she spent four months working in a Navy dispensary. There she met her future husband, Jerry, who was an Air Force Officer. After they married, she transferred to the Naval Hospital, Oakland, California where she resigned her commission and was honorably discharged, having attained the rank of Lieutenant.

Leona received the Good Conduct Medal. She was also very proud to be an active participant to raise funds to create the Military Women's Memorial in Washington DC. She was instrumental in obtaining the donations required to get the project completed.

With her husband in the Air Force, they lived in many different locations and after he retired, they moved to Missouri. Leona has three children, four grandsons, and three great granddaughters. After raising her children, she went back to nursing part time as an RN at the local hospital. She worked for fifteen years and is now retired. She has led by example and raised her children to give back to their community.

Both Linda and Jerry help with the Meals on Wheels, organized through their church. Leona is very active in her local Presbyterian church. She has helped out the church's preschool class for many years and is active in several church circles.

Jane Randolph Jefferson Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Leona Obermiller as Patriot of the Month for her patriotism, dedication and service to our great nation.