

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month



March 2018



Martha Lois Yost

United States Navy

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Chapter

Lois completed pedagogy classes and began teaching in Nebraska, and Iowa, for three years prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She stated, "As you know, everyone was patriotic at that time." She had a sister working in Washington, her oldest brother enlisted in the service prior to the United States officially entering the war, and her younger brother joined the Navy as a Seabee. Not to be left out, Lois joined the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) at its inception.

Lois enlisted in the (WAVES) in June 1942. Parental permission plus the recommendation of her pastor and three neighbors were required. Lois served her basic training in New York City, living in a vacated apartment building. She took classes in the former Hunter College. From there she moved to Miami, Florida, as a gunnery instructor, training combat bound naval airmen in the PB4Y2 aircraft (equivalent to the Army B24). The training technique used mock turrets representing the upper, two side, ball and tail turrets. Each turret had a training room with a movie projected onto a screen depicting attacks by the Japanese aircraft. The trainer had a "pickle" switch that synchronized with the projector and was used to access accuracy of the gunner. This system was the precursor to our

modern day simulators used in all aspects of military training. WAVES were not allowed overseas assignments until post-war.

Creating the WAVES was a significant effort for the Navy because regulation limited service to men only, so new legislation had to be passed. President Roosevelt officially signed the law in on 30 July 1942. Over the course of the entire war, there were more than 84,000 women who would serve as Navy WAVES to include 8,000 female officers. This would be about 2.5% of the American Navy's total personnel end strength during the war.

Lois' medals include: World War II Victory Medal; Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal; American Campaign Medal; Philippine Liberation Medal; plus one more unknown medal. Lois particularly remembers that she, being from the Midwest, did not have to be told to hold her rifle against her shoulder AND that she was such a good shot with the pistol that the trainers were taking bets on her. Also, there was an article written about her, as she only had one miss from the bullseye!

Lois was discharged in April, 1944. Shortly upon returning home, she met her husband, was married, and started a family right away. Lois and her husband have been married 56 years and enjoy their three children, nine grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and are looking forward to the birth of their first great-great grandchild in 2018. She is a member of the United Methodist Church and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Gallatin Daughters are very proud and honored to recognize Martha Lois Yost as Patriot of the Month for her dedicated patriotic service to our great nation.