

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

February 2023



Anna Marie Janning

United States Navy

Sponsored by:
William Boydston Chapter, NSDAR

Anna Marie (Culver) Janning was a 20-year-old college student when she enlisted in the Navy in 1994. After changing majors and working 3 part-time jobs, she hoped the military would help her see the world, finish college, and figure out what she wanted to be when she grew up.



After graduating from Ocean Technician Analyst School in Norfolk, Va., she reported to Joint Maritime Facility St. Mawgan in Cornwall, England. She couldn't believe her luck going to England and getting paid! Her team helped collect oceanographic data on underwater acoustic signals in the region, and she continued taking college classes. About 3 months before leaving, she met a handsome Seabee (Andy Janning) who was deployed there, and the two fell in love, right before he headed off to Bosnia for Operation Joint Endeavor.

Anna Marie reported to the USS John C. Stennis Aircraft Carrier, back to Norfolk, while Andy was still in Bosnia. Her job had merged and her new title was "Sonar Technician," part of the Undersea Warfare crew. She helped maintain sonar equipment, kept track of the ship's position, and helped prepare flight crews for exercises. She also cleaned a lot! She married her Seabee Sweetheart shortly before deploying to the Middle East for a "World Cruise," where her ship was part of Operation Southern Watch. During the cruise, she took distant education classes and even a few live classes with professors who deployed with the ship.

After landing in San Diego she left active duty (Oct. 1998) and moved to London with her husband who had re-enlisted for orders back to England. She enrolled at Univ of Maryland (London campus), and ran into one of her USS Stennis buddies who was a Navy Journalist in the Naval Forces Europe Public Affairs office. He talked her into joining the Navy Reserve so she could come back on active duty for 4 months to help out his office. She loved the work, and 4 months turned into 2.5 years! She officially changed her job to Navy Journalist, and completed a BS (Liberal Studies) from Excelsior College, finally all those credits added up to a degree after 9 years! She and her husband traveled Europe, and were re-enlisted by President George W. Bush on his visit to London in July 2001. Two months later was 9-11, and she was honored to "stand watch" outside the US Embassy where thousands of Britons stood in line for the chance to lay flowers for the victims. She and her husband attended the

historic 9-11 ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral, where The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair were in attendance.

After returning to the US in Nov 2001, this time in Wiscasset Maine, Anna Marie joined Navy Information Bureau 101, a Public Affairs unit serving the New England area. She applied for and was selected for a direct commission in the Navy Reserve as a Public Affairs Officer (PAO). Her ceremony was onboard "Old Ironsides" the USS Constitution in Boston Harbor. PAOs write news releases, assist reporters in finding stories and interviewing Sailors, and help coach military leadership in speaking with the media. During that tour, she supported ship visits, homecomings and commissioning ceremonies, and supported Boston Fleet Week.

In 2005 they were on the move again, this time to Gulfport, Miss., and Anna Marie served as Deputy Director at a Reserve Public Affairs Center in Mayport, Fla., shortly after completing officer training. About 2 months after buying their first house, Hurricane Katrina devastated the city they called home. After evacuating, moving in with her family in Ky, giving birth to their second child, and Andy's family driving from Kansas City to repair their home, they got settled, just in time to send Andy off on another deployment.

Anna Marie continued PAO training via distance during his deployment, doing the bulk of her assignments after the babies were asleep. Her most memorable event during that tour was supporting Fleet Week New York, where her team took Marines and Sailors to the morning talk shows. She said it is true that New Yorkers buy drinks and pay for your dinner if you're in uniform! She knew deep down that this was the last "Navy Gig," of her career. The family was heading to Okinawa, Japan, where it would be challenging to do Reserve duty, and during that tour they added two more babies to the family. After 4 years there, they moved to Pt. Hueneme, Calif., for Andy's last tour.

During their 7 years in California, Anna Marie served as Navy Ombudsman for Andy's battalion, and went back to school, this time earning a degree in Holistic Studies. She later served Military families at the Fleet and Family Support Center, facilitating resume and career workshops. In the Summer of 2019, they made one last move near Anna Marie's hometown, to Bardstown, Ky. Since coming home, she has done AmeriCorps service at Larue County High School as a College Coach, and is now the head Archery Coach for Bardstown Middle School. She is also substitute teaching, until "she figures out what she wants to be when she grows up."

Anna Marie and Andy have 4 children, ages 19, 17, 14 and 11. When she isn't coaching or carting kids around, she helps with school events, volunteers at the Hal Moore Military Museum, and is a member of the U.S. Legion. Her coolest moment since moving to Kentucky was recognizing the military enlistees at Larue County High School during their 2021 graduation ceremony. She also recognized veterans and families in the audience and gave a short speech about "never forgetting where you came from." That moment she truly felt that her life with the military had come full circle.