

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

April 2024

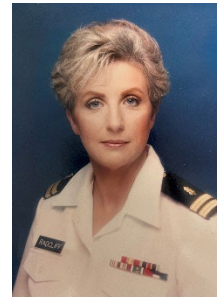


Jan N. Radcliff

United States Navy

Sponsored by:
Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR

Jan began her career in the United States Navy as a Reserve Officer. She was sworn in as a Lieutenant JG on September 3, 1989 in a private ceremony aboard the USS Arizona. Her husband, Dave, was in the US Navy and stationed in Pearl Harbor. There was a shortage of nurses so she joined the reserves to support the active troops. She never thought that she would go overseas having been told by her recruiter that active-duty troops would be deployed. In 1990, she was promoted to O3 full Lieutenant Navy. On January 16, 1991, Jan was activated to active duty to serve in Fleet Hospital 15/20, a Fleet/Field Hospital located in the Desert of Saudi Arabia 25 miles from the Kuwait border. As her husband was also in the Gulf on a Guided Missile Cruiser, she relocated their children (ages 4, 13 and 16) along with 2 cats from Hawaii to Missouri to live with Jan's brother and family during the war.



“I remember when I drove onto base for active duty, there were all these women along the fence protesting the war. Some were in wedding dresses with red paint. We were supporting their liberties, but they had the right to protest.”

“One of the most interesting things about being a nurse serving in a war zone was wearing a helmet, camo, boots and flak jacket with a cannister on my hip for a chemical warfare gas mask and pen injectors – so much different from a set of scrubs and stethoscope I was used to.”

After returning to Hawaii from Saudi Arabia, she continued for three years as a reservist while the conflict continued. In 1994, she changed to an Inactive Ready Reservist and in September 1998 she resigned her commission and was Honorably Discharged.

Medals she received include the Navy Marine Overseas, National Defense, Southwest Asia, Saudi Arabia Liberation of Kuwait, and awaits being awarded the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

“In 1991, I was assigned as President Bush's nurse for the 50th commemoration of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, along with a flight surgeon. It was an awesome responsibility having his health in our hands - not the Secret Service's. (I had flashbacks of Kennedy in Dallas.) We had so many 'what if' plans. I blended in with the rest of the troops. I was in full white dress, but my only focus was the

President. I was instructed not to be distracted with other dignitaries or distractions. It was so surreal.”

The best piece of advice Jan received was from the Attorney General of Hawaii: “You can’t un-ring the bell” meaning that once you say something, it can’t be unheard.

Since 1998, Jan has resided in St. Charles, MO with her husband, Dave, who is retired from the Navy. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), VFW Post 2866 and 1st Baptist Church of St. Charles. She is proud of her strong patriotic heritage. Her DAR patriot, Leonard Keeling Bradley, was married to Mary Polly Boone (the niece of Daniel Boone). Her father served in WWII and was part of the Leyte landing in the Philippines with MacArthur in 1944. Her father joined the Navy the day after his 17th birthday to avenge the death of his cousin who was a POW in the Death March of Bataan, later killed on an unmarked American POW on Board Japanese War Ship which the US military sank.

Jan is most appreciative and proud of her children who were resilient in living a military lifestyle which is not easy. In the military, the focus is the greater need, so all family activities come second. Jan has three children and three grandchildren.