



WE HONOR VETERANS

Celebrating Our Veterans

Mary E. Alston is one of the first women known to have enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. She entered active duty in Macon, Georgia and worked on radios during the Korean War. Later in life she was a reservist in the U.S. Air Force. There have been women in the United States Marines since 1918, however it was not until 1948 that women were able to become a permanent part of the Corps with the passing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. Today, women make up approximately 8% of all active enlisted Marines, and 7.5% of active Officers; the lowest percentage of any branch of the armed forces.



On August 18, 2020 surrounded by her sister, Jean, and other family members, Crater Community Hospice honored Mary with a Veteran Pinning Ceremony, to acknowledge her service to our country. The ceremony began with our We Honor Veterans Chairperson, Kathleen Wiltsie, LTC US Army, Retired, doing the honor of pinning Mary and presenting her with a Certificate of Appreciation. The pin is an American flag with the words "Honored Veteran." Crater Community Hospice Chaplain, Father Thierry Hakpon, and Volunteer Coordinator, Teresa Brockwell, presented her with a star and handmade quilt. The ceremony ended with a proper military salute to show respect and honor Mary's service.

Her sister talked about Mary's life and shared lots of stories with us. Mary held many jobs over the years and was friends with many country music stars. Mary was happy, full of smiles and singing during our visit. Mary's family was grateful that Crater Community Hospice honored, cared for and celebrated Mary for her service.

"We try to honor our Veterans the best we can for what they've done for us."

~ Volunteer Coordinator, Teresa Brockwell



Celebrating Life Every Day