

## ATTENTION WOMEN VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Karen Smith, PGM Unity Chapter #112 Camp Springs, Maryland

The Grand Chapter of Maryland will be hosting a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery on Monday, September 12, 2022. Our MWGM, Sister Glenda Winchester, and MWGP, Brother Lon Lowry, will join our WGM, Sister Carol Newman, and WGP, Brother Richard Naegele, in the wreath laying ceremony. This event will be followed by a luncheon reception at the Women's Memorial at the entrance to the Cemetery. The Women's Memorial is the leading Memorial and Education Center for honoring women's contribution to their service of our Nation. As the only historical repository documenting all military women's service, it educates and inspires through innovative and interactive exhibitions, world-class collections and engaging programs and events for all generations. The Memorial honors the commitment, contributions and experiences of every woman who serves(ed) in, or with, the Armed Forces.

## The Heart of the Memorial

The *Register* is a one-of-a-kind interactive database that records and preserves the names, service information, photographs and memorable experiences of each registered servicewoman. The *Register* records and preserves the history of the powerful women who have defended this Country—both past and present. From the earliest days of the Nation, women have been serving alongside men to gain and preserve liberty, but it was difficult to find them in our history books. There was no repository of women's service to the United States. That all changed in April 1987. Not long after legislation authorized the Women In Military Service For America Memorial (WIMSA) and 10 years before the Memorial would open to the public in 1997, the *Register* was created. Servicewomen and women Veterans were invited to make their military experiences visible by "registering" their service. By completing a simple form with their dates of service, branch of service, awards and decorations, at least one memorable experience and a picture in uniform, women took their rightful and visible place in history for all time. For the first time in American history, there was a place to learn about the extraordinary servicewomen who defend our country. For more than 30 years, the Memorial has been permanently documenting military women's experiences and their impact on American, military and women's history. Visitors are invited to look up servicewomen in the *Register* and learn about their impact on our collective history. You may purchase a print of individual profiles as a keepsake.

If you know a servicewoman or woman Veteran—please take advantage of the FREE registration to ensure HER story joins hundreds of thousands of individual stories that make up our *Register*. History is not complete until every military woman's story is told. To register yourself or a family member or friend, please visit their website at <a href="https://womensmemorial.org">https://womensmemorial.org</a> and complete the form. If you are already registered, you may also logon and update your service history at any time.

It is our desire to provide a list of names of those OES members who are registered to the Memorial staff and have those stories displayed on the giant screen in the center of the Memorial on September 12. In order to do this, we are asking anyone registered to send the following information to <a href="mailto:phsgrad69@gmail.com">phsgrad69@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:Charee r@yahoo.com">Charee r@yahoo.com</a> with the subject line "WIMSA Memorial Reception." Please provide current name, name(s) under which served, branch of service and dates, along with Memorial registration number. If the number is not known, it may be obtained by searching your registration on the website.

If you are in the area on September 12, you are welcome to join us at either the wreath laying ceremony, lunch or both gatherings. Please email the above Sisters if you wish to attend so we may look for you and prepare for your attendance. Any additional questions may also be referred to the emails above.

