

VWIN Mission Statement

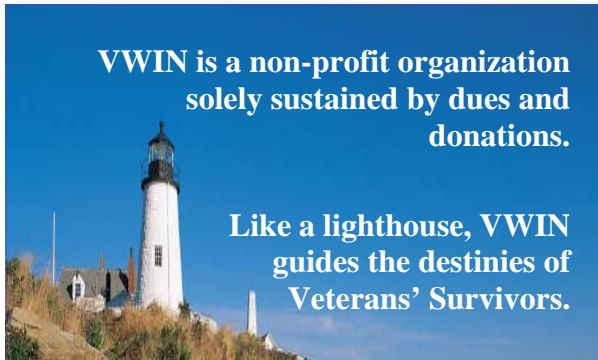
We are an organization of American Veterans' Widows/ers (Survivors), reaching out to other Veterans' Widows/ers Statewide and overseas. Our mission is to:

- inform Survivors of benefits for which they might qualify
- help them gather needed documents to substantiate and submit their claims and direct them where to receive best attention
- direct Survivors to where they will receive best attention
- keep them abreast of new legislative changes and other news touching our benefits through quarterly newsletters, and
- give all veterans' survivors a sense togetherness with other Veterans' Widows/ers



VWIN is vigorously pursuing the following goals

1. To foster the creation of a VA national office to oversee all Veterans' Survivors benefit inquiries. (We are getting very close to it)
2. To ensure Survivors who qualify for both SBP and DIC benefits be allowed to receive both benefits without any offset.
3. To lobby for elimination of the reimbursement of the last Veteran's retirement check of the Survivor.
4. To address the needs of those Survivors who do not qualify for either the Survivor Benefits Plan or Dependency Indemnity Compensation, and survive on less than \$1,300 total monthly income.
5. To amend the present requirement stipulating that a veteran be continuously rated 100% disabled for 10 years prior to death, in order for the surviving spouse to qualify for DIC.
6. To compensate Survivors of veterans who die from 100% disabilities rating incurred on active duty but are not qualified to receive the \$100,000 plus insurances death benefits allocated to survivors of those who die in Iraq & Afghanistan, with a \$250 monthly increase to their DIC benefits.
7. To encourage the Department of Defense to extend overseas Space-A travel to those Survivors who qualify for that distinction.



VWIN is a non-profit organization solely sustained by dues and donations.

Like a lighthouse, VWIN guides the destinies of Veterans' Survivors.

VWIN Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Birth day (Month & Day): _____

VWIN membership runs March through February. Annual dues are \$18.00. Anyone joining after October 1, will only pay \$2 for each remaining month through February 28.

Tax deductible contributions are welcome.

Make checks payable to: VWIN
Mail to: Marilyn Ogden
VWIN Membership Chairperson
1861 S Ivanhoe St.
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Since its inception, VWIN has achieved the following

1. Became an active member of THE MILITARY COALITION
2. Helped many Survivors collect due benefits.
3. Reached high levels of recognition among members of the U.S. Congress and military organizations.
4. Established a quarterly newsletter for members and worked diligently to reach American Veterans' Survivors across the United States and overseas.
5. Consistently and actively lobbies members of the U.S. House & Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, in order to bring them to redress the inequities impairing our benefits.



After years of pursuing our goal of obtaining a presidential proclamation of yearly June 28 as a day of recognition of all Veterans' Widows/ers, we have finally struck gold in Colorado. On June 28, 2008, under the tutelage of Governor Ritter, Colorado will become the first state of the Union to celebrate each June 28, as Veterans' Widows/ers Day. Hopefully, other states will follow suit. But it's up to all of you to contact your respective Governor and approach him/her with the request to contact Governor Ritter.

Throughout our country's history, women have supported their husbands when they are called to war. June 28, 1778 was selected by VWIN as a day of recognition of all veterans' Widows/ers, for it is the earliest historical date

where mention is made of military wives. On that day, the first of the 2 most popular "Molly Pitchers" Mary Ludwig Hays was on the Monmouth battlefield when her husband was felled by a heat stroke and she immediately took his place loading and firing his cannon. Her deed of heroism reached George Washington, and legend has it he granted her special recognitions. The other "Molly" Margaret Corbin, was at her husband's side at Fort Mifflin when on November 16, 1776, the British shot him dead. Margaret kept firing his cannon, until she herself was hit with grape shot.

Later, Congress' Board of War granted her half the monthly pay of a soldier.

"Molly Pitcher" was the slung word given any woman camp follower, who fetched water for thirsty soldiers, cooked and tended to the wounded. Water was also very vital for the operation of wetting and cooling the hot barrels of cannons just fired.

VWIN Leadership

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Edmée J. Hills**

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**VETERANS'
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INTERNATIONAL
NETWORK, INC.**

**Member Organization of
THE MILITARY COALITION**

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