

2ND  
PUBLICATION



# *Women's Veterans Monument*

*Del City, Oklahoma-2015*



*Designed and produced by:*  
*Geranium Carrington, Assistant to the City Manager*  
*Women's Veterans Monument Committee Coordinator*  
*City of Del City*  
*November 11, 2015*





*From the City we express our deepest sincere gratitude to the women of the Women's Veterans Monument Committee, Del City, Oklahoma.*

*This book is dedicated to the past, present and future service women of the United States Armed Forces.*

*It addresses the many facets leading up to the final product the monument itself.*

*It is meant to not only represent women who have gone before but also the present and those who are destined to answer the call in the future.*

*The Women's Veterans Monument is a representation to honor all veterans for their service and sacrifice for our freedom.*

*Proverbs 29:18, Says "Without a vision the people perish..."*

*Thanks to the vision of Del City our veterans will always be remembered, honored, and not forgotten.*

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- MAYOR BRIAN LINLEY



## IN THE BEGINNING

Late in 2010, my daughter, Jennifer Grant, said she had received an e-mail talking about the sacrifices made by our fighting men in the war on terrorism. Having just returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan as an Air Force nurse, it saddened her that it appeared that the women who also served were being ignored. Many men left children, wives, and other family members in order to do their duty. However, the women left husbands, children and family as well.

While serving on the City Council, the idea came to me that Del City could take the lead in properly recognizing military women who have served and currently serving their country. During the development of Patriot Park allowed Del City the opportunity to properly recognize these brave women since there are very few memorials dedicated to them.

In January 2011, I presented the idea of a memorial dedicated to women in the military to the City Council and received unanimous support. As a result plans to construct a Women's Veterans Monument was implemented.

Dick Carter

## CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL

## SALES TAX PASSAGE

Del City Council approved construction of the Women's Veterans Monument in 2011, the first step of the development procedure. Following the approval of the City Council a committee of originally ten veteran women were formed and later concluded with eight due to other obligations of the other two at the time. The Women's Veterans Monument was one of many projects slated as part of the 2012, 1.5 percent sales tax renewal project. On August 28, 2012, the citizens of Del City approved the sales tax renewal by 78%. The project is approximately 1.5 million dollar project. It is believed to be the second largest Women's Veterans Monument in the nation.



The Women's Veterans Monument in Del City, Oklahoma is thought to be the only Women Veterans Monument with as many as seven slightly larger than life-sized bronze sculptors.

## MEETING OF THE MINDS

The first Women Veterans Monument Committee's official meeting was held on October 6, 2011. The first meeting required nominating and voting on board members to serve in different positions on the committee and to establish regular meeting dates. The planning and design of the monument at this point was yet to be established. The following meeting was held one month later on November 3, 2011, at the Del City Community Center, which allowed everyone an opportunity to view the monument site location in Patriot Park. Ideas started to form, but it wasn't until the next meeting that more serious design ideas really started to take shape. By the end of the evening of the third meeting the committee had basically visualized a full outlined illustration that formed some serious thoughts that resulted in stick people drawings and pencil sketches on paper to put forth the vision.



*Drawings created in the planning stage*



After brainstorming several ideas and discussing symbolism it reminded one of the committee members of a candleholder she had at home. The candleholder consisted of three little angels forming a circle facing outward as if they had joined forces to build a fortress to protect the flame. What a revelation, this little angel candleholder became the angelic inspiration for what is the featured highlight point of the monument (The five statues hand in hand on top of the fountain). A full design scope had practically been created during one meeting as of December 1, 2011. Yet there were still work to be done, this was just the beginning. Meetings to follow encompassed tweaking the design, discussions of symbolism and arranging to meet with the architects and the sculptor.



## CONSULTING WITH THE PROFESSIONALS

Stick people drawings and a candleholder with three little angels, would it be enough for the professionals to make sense of it, and conceptualize the vision? Terry and Geoff Parker owners of Architecture Incorporated, P.C. understood the creative drawings and took on the challenge, delivering phenomenal results in a rendering that revealed the details of the vision in a professional design format. Frequent meetings and conversations with Architecture Inc. took place before the rendering was finalized. After several meetings with the architect finalizing the plan and design, attention shifted toward the details of sculpting the bronze statues.



## ON THE ROAD AGAIN (VISIT TO LUTHER, OK)

To accomplish the task at hand it was necessary to start communicating with a sculptor at this point. Terry Parker, the committee and the City formed an agreement with Joel Randell to sculpt the bronze statues. Several meetings involved collaborating with Mr. Randell either in person or over the phone. To start the process he attended the regular round table meetings to get a good understanding of the crucial expectations concerning the bronze statues. Eventually future meetings lead to everyone including the city manager, the committee, and Mr. Parker taking a few road trips to Luther, Oklahoma where Mr. Randell studio is located. It allowed an opportunity to view the progress of his work and critique specifics to assure the detailed specifications such as rank, branch, insignia, hat design, uniform design, different ethnicities and every detail imaginable met expectancies. In the end Joel Randell work by far exceeded expectations and everyone was pleased to say the least.



*Group picture on one of the visit to Luther, OK*



*Laurie authenticating the details*



## MONUMENT COMPONENTS AND SYMBOLISM

With all due respect, the design and sculpting of the monument were top priorities, however this narrative would be incomplete without an interpretation of the symbolic meaning of each of the parts that make up the monument as a whole.



Keeping all in perspective the entrance into the monument has a ramp made of concrete and granite, symbolizing the pathway that elevates to infinity, to join forces with the past, present and future servicewomen. At the top of the ramp is a fountain and in the center of it is the American Flag where they pledge to serve, protect and defend our nation.



The fountain is the most predominant component of the monument. A raised flowing circular fountain higher than ground level where five bronze service women sculptures are standing

tall elevated upon the fountain, representing readiness to defend. They are all in dress uniform representing the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guards respectively. Their rank structure were determined by the date of establishment of each branch of service from the oldest to the newest. They are facing outward, united hand in hand, forming a circle and a bond that cannot be broken, exemplifying unity and strength between them.



Their eyes are focused as on guard duty and their facial expressions are bold and fearless. They are in a protective stance ready to defend our nation as depicted by the American Flag in the center of them. Just as the three little angels in the angelic inspirational piece forming a fortress to protect the flame, so are they protective of our nation.

Lights are beaming on the flag and on their faces. The light symbolizing an eternal flame, shining continuously for infinity signifying the willingness to protect and defend eternally. Water moves softly and quietly under their feet, representing a peace about them that surpasses understanding. As the water recycles and flows from the fountain to the reflecting pool and continue to repeat the process the stream of water that bridges the two together symbolizes the journey from the past, present and future to infinity.



Seated at the reflection pool is an Army National Guard Service Woman communicating and enjoying her daughter's presence. They are either delightful in the mother's homecoming or seizing the moment prior to

her deployment.

Since the Army National Guard are the first to deploy, it was determined the image at the reflection pool should be an Army National Guard Service Woman in her battle dress uniform. Reflecting on her past, present and future, she may be reminiscing upon her homecoming or her deployment, but most importantly she is cherishing a moment in time with her daughter and reflecting upon her future.



The little bronze girl sitting at the reflection pool conversing with her mother is depicted by Elizabeth Disney, a family friend of the Artist Joel Randell. She represents the legacy of a future generation of service women. She is youthful and playful wearing her mother's cap in admiration of her mother with a desire to be like her.



The bronze servicewoman and mother sculpture at the reflection pool is depicted by



First Sergeant Rebecca Edwards, Oklahoma Army National Guard. Rebecca is a Del City native, recipient of two bronze star medals and daughter of City Manager Mark Edwards. Her service to her country encompass the May 3, 1999, Tornado, Hurricane Katrina, Operation Iraq Freedom - 2006-2007 - 1345th Oklahoma Army National Guard Transportation Company, (one of Del City's adopted units), Afghanistan 2012-2013 - 1245th Oklahoma Army National Guard Transportation Company.



The final details concerning the monument includes the layout of the landscape aspects that will beautify the surrounding grounds of the monument. The landscape will also have significance found within the foliage and trees that are yet to be determined, but will represent strength and endurance combined with femininity.

After finalizing design details of the monument, construction was planned to start soon after the groundbreaking celebration.

## LET'S BREAK GROUND

CMSWillowbrook, Inc., construction manager for the project worked with the City to plan the groundbreaking. After working out the details and preparations, plans were executed for the groundbreaking to take place on June 6, 2014. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Women's Veterans Monument set the stage for what was to come on November 11, 2014. On the scheduled day of the groundbreaking it was pouring down rain that started at 7:30 a.m. Friday morning, which lead to a change in locale; however cancellation was not an option.

The groundbreaking was originally scheduled to take place in Patriot Park but wet grass and avoiding the mud wasn't quite ideal. For the first time we held an event under the canopy to the entrance of the Del City Community Center, and it worked out great. The rain finally ceased by the end of the speaking engagements of the ceremony and we were able to walk over with our shovels to break ground in Patriot Park. The event started at 10:00 a.m. as scheduled. Our guest speaker for the morning was Representative Scott Iman, State District 94. Mayor Brian Linley served as Master of Ceremonies, he and City Manager Mark Edwards shared their thoughts on the project and expressed gratitude to all involved. There were approximately 150 in attendance.



# Groundbreaking

## June 6, 2014



State Rep. Scott Inman



Left: City Manager Mark Edwards

Right: Mayor Brian Linley



Five committee members were present at the groundbreaking left to right : Barbara L. Curry, Deborah L. McQuillar, Linda Kiselburgh, Laurel "Chip" Chambers and Dorothy Rimbold







Refreshments and setup for groundbreaking



WVM Committee left to right: Linda Kiselburgh, Barbara L. Curry, Deborah L. McQuillar, Laurel "Chip" Chambers, Dorothy Rimbold and WVM Coordinator, Geranium Carrington.

City Council Members left to right: Mayor Brian Linley, City Councilman Ken Bartlett, Bill Giles, Sam Tesney and City Manager Mark Edwards in the back.





After the groundbreaking ceremony, construction started a few days later, and the monument was complete in a matter of months. The endeavor to meet the November 11, 2014, deadline, for the Veterans Day Ceremony event had been accomplished. Completion also allowed an opportunity to observe the finish product.



Incorporated into the monument landscape is a big boulder, serving with dual purpose; as an accessory to the landscape and a mount for the monument dedication plaque. Although the boulder was not part of the original design, but complimented the design well. The ideal was discovered during the construction process. An excellent suggestion was made by Supervisor Scott Bryden, with CMSWillowbrook to mount the dedication plaque to the boulder.

City Manager Mark Edwards determined the metaphor "solid as a rock", which was very appropriate given the existing symbolic meanings. He also pointed out as we walked throughout viewing the progress of the monument several reflections revealing itself on every piece of granite, "a symbolic meaning within itself".

With construction completed the ceremony took place as planned on November 11, 2014, and was a great success.



The guest speakers were Col. Lea T. Kirkwood Vice Commander 72nd Air Base Wing, Air Force Sustainment Center, Tinker Air Force Base and Col. Cynthia Tinkham Commander 189th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Oklahoma Army National Guard. Thoughts and special remarks presented by others in reference to the momentous event included: Congressman James Lankford, State Representative Scott Iman, District 94, Joel Randell, sculptor and artist of the service women statues, Laurie Chambers, Women Veterans Monument committee member and Former Vice Mayor Dick Carter, who originally brought forth the ideal of a Women's Veterans Monument to Del City Council.

You may visit our website at:

<http://cityofdelcity.com/women-veterans-monument> to view more photos from the 2014 Veterans Day Ceremony event.



Col. Lea T. Kirkwood



From Left: Col. Cynthia Tinkham, Mayor Brian Linley and Col. Lea T. Kirkwood



Col. Cynthia Tinkham and Congressman James Lankford





**Left Back:** Artist Joel Randell, Committee Members: Julie Wende, Jennifer Grant , Carolyn Mischke **Front Left:** Laurie Chambers, Deborah McQuillar, Barbara Curry , Dorothy Rimbold, Linda Kiselburgh



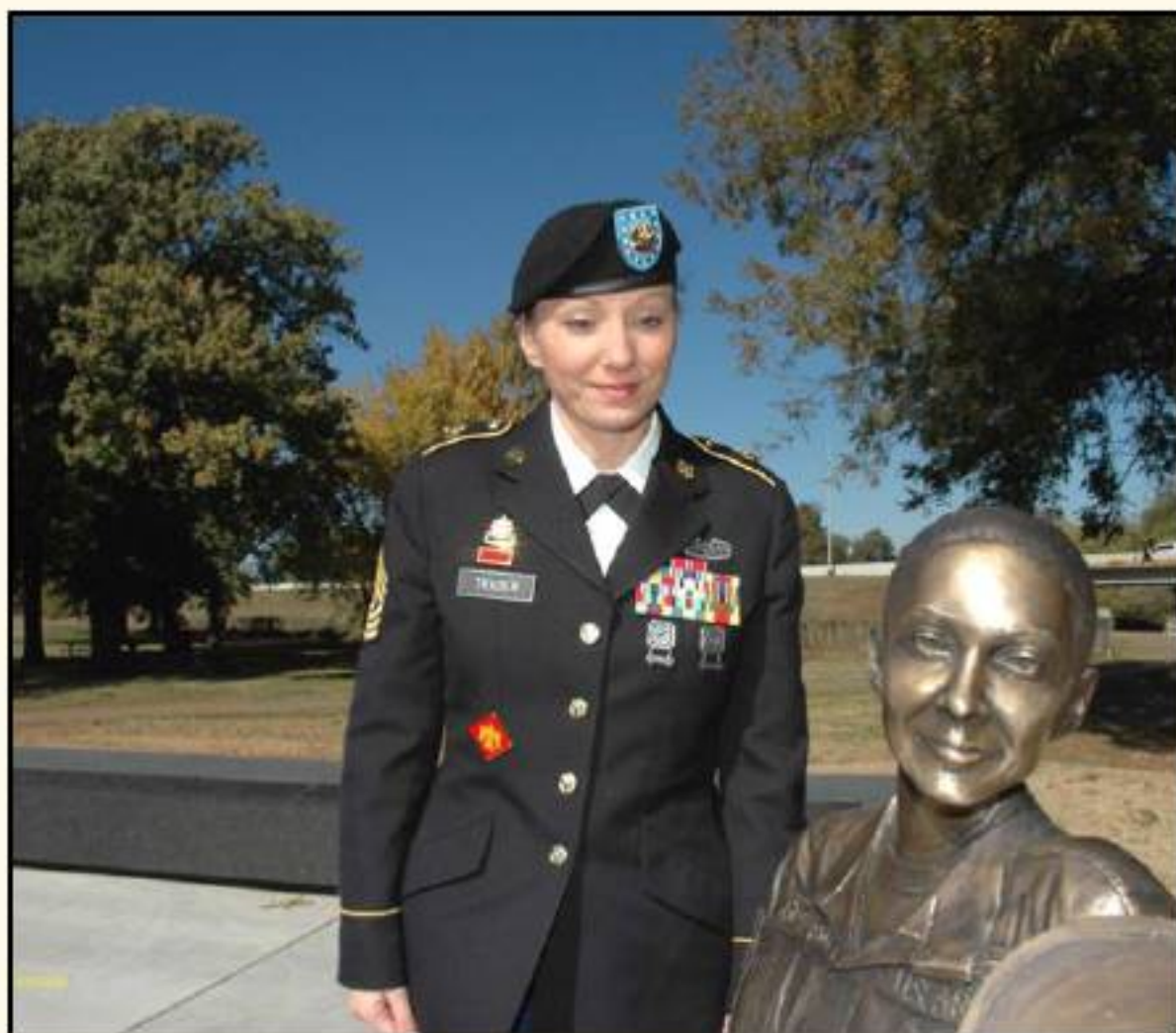
The Veterans Day Ceremony is an annual event normally held outside in Patriot Park if weather is permitting. On November 11, 2014, temperatures were below zero, therefore the first half of the event took place indoors of the Del City Community Center and concluded outdoor in Patriot Park with the unveiling of the statues.







On November 11, 2014, Veterans Day Dedication, Rebecca poses next to the statue of herself at the reflection pool.







In conclusion is a glimpse into the background of the eight ladies who committed their time and expertise on the Women's Veterans Monument project. They share their thoughts about serving on the committee and what it has meant to be a part of a momentous event. Also you will hear from the sculptor Joel Randell and final thoughts from City Manager Mark Edwards and Mayor Brian Linley.



**Laurel "Chip" Chambers**

SSgt

United States Air Force

Service Dates

April 1979 - Nov 1987

Air Force Career Field

Nursing Services

Tinker AFB, OK,  
Howard AFB, Panama  
Soesterberg, The Netherlands

I am married to Jimmy C. Baxter Jr.

I have three children Christa Levescy, Caroline Kuharske, and Clark Chambers and four grandchildren Grant and Griffin Levescy and Ethan and Wyatt Kuharske.



Laurie shares her thoughts during the groundbreaking.



Laurie "Chip" Chambers is portrayed in the USAF bronze sculpture.

## LAURIE'S STORY/THOUGHTS



As a product of a long line of patriots, my ancestors served in the Prussian Army, French-Indian War, Revolutionary War and Civil War defending our precious homeland. My grandfather served in the Army during the Spanish American War and my dad served in the Army-Air Corps. As a military brat I traveled all over the world. My father's desire was for all five of his kids to join the military as a thank you for our freedom. We all joined and

were stationed at various oversea bases. (It made my mother crazy with worry).

Following the footsteps of my ancestors I decided to answer my country's call and joined the Air Force in 1979. I enlisted in the medical field and earned my degree after completing my service to my country. My love for my country and freedom runs true in my veins. Proudly serving, my tours have included Europe, Central America and the US. Currently employed at Tinker AFB, every morning at 0700 hours the bugle wake up call for reveille sounds off and is accompanied by the raising of the National Colors, I still stand at attention to this day while it plays. (I bleed red, white and blue). Continuing the family military tradition my son joined the Air Force, fighting for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am proud to have served on the Women's Veterans Monument Committee, our voices were heard and the monument was conceived from our image depicting women veterans from the past, present and future. The sacrifice and love for their country may they never be forgotten.

Thank you.

Chip





**Barbara L. Curry**

MSgt (Ret)

Service Dates

17 July 1978 – 1 February 1999

United States Air Force

Air Force Career Field

Education and Training

Current Position: Designated Learning Officer, Oklahoma City VA Medical Center

1 Feb 1999: Retired Master Sergeant

1996-1999: Served as the NCOIC Education and Training Service for the 654<sup>th</sup> Combat Logistic Support Services.

1989-1996: Served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) Training Manager and Education Services NCOIC.

1985- 1989: 81<sup>st</sup> Security Forces Training Manager

1983-1985: 552<sup>nd</sup> AWACS Maintenance Training (Training Manager)

1983: Retrained as an Education Training Specialist

October 1978: Assigned to Tinker AFB, Oklahoma

August-October 1978: Chanute AFB – Technical Training for Fuels Systems Mechanic

July 17 1978: Entered Basic Training





Barbara listens attentively during the groundbreaking



Deborah and Barbara - BFF

## BARBARA'S STORY/THOUGHTS

It has been a blessing and honor to serve on this committee with such a talented and committed group of women veterans, city council members, architects and the sculptor. We've all worked hard to ensure this monument truly honors and represents all women veterans as a way to say "thank you" to those who have served, are serving and will serve. Each woman veteran, along with our male counterpart, have done their part in upholding the foundational principles of the United States, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." This monument embodies the women veterans contribution and I thank Del City for their foresight and enthusiasm to wholeheartedly support the development of such a monument.

Thank you for all your hard work, I know this booklet will be great!

Barbara





Jennifer Grant

Capt. (Ret)

United States Air Force

Service Dates

June 1985 - July 2009

Air Force Career Field

Register Nurse

## JENNIFER'S STORY/THOUGHTS

Following in the foot steps of my Grandfather, biological father, my dad, my step-mom, and my uncle, I made the choice to serve my country. I began as an E-1 at the age of 17 (as an accounting technician) and worked until I became a Registered Nurse and retired as an O-3. I served 17 1/2 years in the military both active in the Air Force and The Army Reserves During those years, I served 2 tours in support of Operation Iraqi/Enduring Freedom.. I was medically retired after suffering from injuries while in Afghanistan.

My Husband enlisted as an E-1 Active Duty in the Air Force and retired as a Major in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. Both of my children are medics in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. My niece also followed our steps and works in Logistics for the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

The idea for the memorial started with an email that was circulating around about all of the sacrifices that the men make during war. This email struck a chord within me, that while men DO make a lot of sacrifices, so do WOMEN. Not only do we serve in horrific circumstances (that we chose) during deployments, but we give up being there for our spouses (some) and the caregiving of our children. The best example I can give is a time when my son got pneumonia and was in the hospital. Being a nurse, I was familiar with what the situation was developing into, (chest tubes/ possible



surgery) and while I was able to connect over the phone, my son could not speak any words because he was so short of breathe. This is the most helpless that a mother can feel being half way around the world. So when we look around at the statues and the woman at the reflecting pool with her daughter, please consider the significance of the sacrifices women in the military make. We don't ALL get to be heroes but we ALL sacrifice.

I would like to thank my Dad, Dick Carter. When I told him about how the e-mail made ME feel, he took action. He went to the city council and made a proposal for this project and it was approved. The City Manager Mark Edwards assured that the funds would be present and established a task force. I was blessed to be a part of the inception of this project, serving as chairperson of the committee and helping to develop the idea on paper. There is symbolism in every aspect of the design that reflects the different eras of women serving, the different circumstances and branches that we served in however, we are held together by the eternal flame and will always reflect back on our days in the military.

It has always been my motto that "service before self" is a good motto. I was proud to follow in family footsteps and join the military when I was 18. I was fortunate enough to deploy twice to the "theater of war" where I felt like I REALLY made a difference. I have enjoyed the perks of seeing the world and the pitfalls of seeing the ugliness of war but I would not change a single minute of my service to my country. I am proud to be an American and proud that I was able to SERVE my country!

Jen



Jennifer's daughter Jordon is being sworn in.





Linda Kiselburgh

SP4

Women's Army Corp.  
U.S. Army

Service Dates

Sept. 1971- April 1974

Army Career Field

Communication Center Specialist,  
and Teletype Operator.

Ft. McClellan, AL

Ft. Gordon, GA;

Vint Hill Farms Station at Warrington, VA

Augsburg, Germany

Assigned to the Army Security Agency in the signal Corp, with top secret crypto security clearance.

In 1972 I married Gordon Kiselburgh at Ft. Gordon, GA, we have one son Kurt Kiselburgh. I have been a residence of Del City since 1977. I worked at Tinker AFB as an Air Craft Mechanic on the KC 135 Air Craft Refueler and retired in 2007.

## LINDA'S STORY/THOUGHTS

It was my desire to see this monument built to honor the women who came before us, who served our country in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. I want to pay tribute to the women who left their homes during an era when women didn't make decisions to leave their families to serve in the military. They answered their nation's call to "Free A Man to Fight". They worked in all types of jobs and did them well. My respect to the nurses who were captured on the Philippine Islands when they fell to the Japanese, and they had to go on the Bataan Death March and ordered to treat the Japanese soldiers, against their will.



Linda holds the angelic inspiration piece.



I hold the highest respect for the eight nurses, who's names are listed on the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. I want this monument to serve in remembrance of PFC Sarina Nicole Butcher of Checotah, Oklahoma, who joined the Oklahoma National Guard in April of 2010 and died November 1, 2011, in Paktya Province, Afghanistan. The vehicle that she was riding in was struck by an improvised

explosive device. She was only 19 years old and left behind a daughter Zoey. According to the Army, in death she holds two dubious distinctions. She was the first woman serving in the Oklahoma National Guard to be killed during wartime and the state's youngest guard member to die during the War on Terrorism. Others that I wish to pay tribute to as well:

- The 160 servicewomen who have lost their lives serving our country since the War on Terrorism began.
- The parents, both male and female that had to leave their children behind when they were deployed.
- Servicewomen that were injured while serving in the military services, especially those injured in combat.
- All the women who served before me, I want to say "welcome home" to all my Vietnam sister era veterans and my in country sisters too.
- Those serving today I say "Welcome home and thank you for your service." Those who will serve in the future, I say "Keep up the good work," you've got big shoes to fill.

I am thankful for this monument, especially since, in the early 1980's I remember going to the Oklahoma Veterans Memorial near the State Capitol, most of the speakers did not mentioned women serving in any of the military services, even when asked for women to be addressed. We were rarely addressed and was informed that women was not seen as serving in the military services. When everyone see this monument, they will know that women have served and are serving in the military services today.

Linda



Deborah L. McQuillar



SMSgt (Ret)

United States Air Force

Service Dates

22 August 1978 -  
30 May 2000

Air Force Career Field

Education and Training

Current Position: Education Services Specialist, Tinker AFB, OK

2000:Retired, Senior Master Sergeant

1991–2000: Maintenance Training Section Chief & Superintendent,  
Tinker AFB, OK

1987-1991: Maintenance Training Manager & Chief Training  
Management, Kadena AB

1982-1987: Unit Training Manager, Tinker AFB, OK

1978-1982: Food Service Specialist, Eglin AFB FL

1978:Basic Military Training, Santino AFB, TX





Deborah shares her thoughts at the groundbreaking

## DEBORAH'S STORY/THOUGHTS

I enlisted in the Air Force for a change of location. However, when I saw the pride in my father's eyes (he served too) the first time he saw me in my uniform; it in turn filled me with a sense of pride that guided my path in the service. I was one of ten females in my first squadron. At my last unit I was one of four senior noncommissioned officers assigned to the maintenance group. Facing challenges in the service as a female was one of my motivating factors to excel. My Air Force

service gave me a career focus, led me to my husband, and allowed me to travel. As in the quote "God, Family, Country", I am blessed to be an American who had the opportunity to serve her God and country in the military.

To be selected to serve on a committee assembled to plan a monument honoring and representing women veterans service to this great nation, past, present and future is.....truly beyond words.

Deborah McQuillar



Deborah and Barbara - BFF



AZCS (Ret)

United States Navy

Service Dates

1971-1995

Carolyn Mischke

After retirement from the Navy I finished my degree and was employed as an Elementary School Teacher. I served in Spain, Sicily, Bermuda and Bahrain, during the Gulf War. Currently I am retired from teaching and living in Lancaster, CA

Carolyn



## CAROLYN'S STORY/THOUGHTS

I remember when I was first asked to be part of the Women Veterans Committee. I was very excited! I remember some of the early on meetings, before I moved to California. However, I never doubted the enthusiasm and commitment these women demonstrated, ensuring the success of the project. Even though I have only visualized the progress through pictures...I saw the vision. I saw success! I appreciate all the hard work that was put forth and anxiously waiting to look and touch. God Bless all of you for your work and dedication to all women veterans.

Carolyn Mischke



**Dorothy Ann Rimbold**

SSgt

United States Marine Corps

Service Dates

Oct 19, 1959 - Oct 18, 1970

Service Career Field

Photojournalist

Retired from Tinker AFB

Editor, "Union Express" – AFGE 916, Tinker AFB

1971-1992: Tinker AFB –OCAMA/ AFLC – Jet Engine Components Repairer

USMC Recruiting Station, Oklahoma City, OK [Panco – Public Information NCO]

Camp Courtney, Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa (Photojournalist In The Information Office /Information Chief) 1967 - 1970

1966-1967: Defense Information School (DINFOS) Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana (Student)

1965-1967: MCRD San Diego, CA Supply Man; Training Aids Man,; Press Info Man

1963: NCO Leadership School, MCB, Quantico, VA

1960-1964: MCAS Cherry Point, NC Barracks Police And Property NCO

Oct 1959: MCRD Parris Island, SC - Recruit Training

## **DOROTHY'S STORY/THOUGHTS**

Being asked to consider becoming a member of the monument committee was an honor and one more wonderful opportunity offered to me as a citizen of Del City to learn and expand my knowledge and understanding of how things work. This opportunity has allowed me, to become a better person and citizen. I have enjoyed working with everyone on the Women Veterans Monument Committee,





The United States Marine Corps bronze sculpture is portrayed by Dorothy Rimbold.

especially how quickly we organized, came together, shared our thoughts and ideas in somewhat of a 'brainstorming' format. This allowed everyone to have a voice in the process and how working in this manner seemed to bring even more ideas to the table. There are not enough words to express how great it is to work with this group of wonderful women veterans as well as our coordinator, Geranium Carrington.

This, I believe, hastened the short time it took for the committee to come up with the initial concept and produce a drawing of it so quickly. Before we knew it we were meeting with the architects to begin the process. In what seemed like no time at all, we were working with the sculptor and others who had a part in bringing our dream to fruition.

In summary this has been a very wonderful experience and I hope that all those that come to see the monument in the future will be able to gain something intrinsically valuable, just as we have by the work that has been accomplished so far. Hopefully others will gain something very positive to take with them.

Dorothy A. Rimbold



Dorothy gets excited during introductions at the groundbreaking.





Lt Col

United States Air Force Reserves

Service Dates

June 2005 to present

Julie L. Wende

June 2005 to Present: Reservist at Tinker AFB Current Position: IMA to Group Commander, 848th Supply Chain Management Group

2003-2005: Logistics Career Broadening Officer (Active Duty): Tinker AFB, Oklahoma

2002-2003: Transportation Management Officer and Flight Commander (Active Duty): Spangdahlem AB, Germany

2000-2002: Installation Deployment Officer/Readiness Flight Commander (Active Duty): Spangdahlem AB, Germany

1998-2000: Chief of Logistics Plans and Programs (Active Duty): Robins AFB, Georgia

1997-1998: Chief of Logistics Programs (Active Duty): Shaw AFB, South Carolina

1995-1997: Chief of Protocol (Active Duty): Shaw AFB, South Carolina

1992-1995: Executive Support Officer (Active Duty): Holloman AFB, New Mexico



## JULIE'S STORY/THOUGHTS

It is an honor to be a member of this committee and to have the opportunity to work with such outstanding women veterans. It has been a privilege to represent all women veterans - past, present, and future. Thank you to all of our women veterans and their families for their dedication and sacrifice in honor of our country. Thanks to The City of Del City for honoring all veterans and for their first-class support of our military. I truly enjoy my Air Force career and feel blessed to have met so many wonderful people, traveled to locations all over the world, and participated in all different kinds of missions. Thank everyone for coming out today in honor of all veterans and for sharing in the celebration of our new monument.

Julie



## SCULPTING DEL CITY'S WOMEN'S VETERANS MONUMENT

Sculptor Joel Randell

As a sculptor who specializes in military history, I was elated to be chosen to sculpt the bronze figures for the Del City Women's Veterans Monument. In my mind

service women are truly heroic. These brave, self-sacrificing ladies are over-due for a fitting monument of significant size and scope. This monument is just such a grand tribute to their dedication and heroism!

My enthusiasm for this work of art arises from my profound respect and admiration of our nations' military. To date this is my largest sculptural commission. There are six life-size bronze figures and one child, all situated in an uplifting and appropriate monument. Given the scale of this endeavor, I have worked tirelessly to make the sculptures an inspiring reality.

An intriguing aspect of note is the collaborative nature of the design and execution of such a unique monument. The concept of the five ladies representing each branch of service joined at the hands represents a powerful bond. Encircled within that stronghold is the American flag standing proud and secure, yet not alone.

These sculptures are enveloped by the peaceful flow of a water feature that connects meaningfully with the other two sculptures. Those two sculptures symbolize a poignant moment between mother and daughter seated in front of a reflecting pool. This vision is the combined effort of the committee of eight women veterans, the architect and the supporting leadership of City of Del City. It has been a distinct pleasure to work within this environment of excellence and to offer my expertise in crafting the sculptural elements.





Mark Edwards

City Manager, City of Del City

It has been a pleasure to work with the Women's Veterans Monument Committee in the design and implementation of this honor.

Having been military myself (US ARMY MP 1971/1975) and served with women of all ranks during that time period, I have a true appreciation for the selfless sacrifice that women bring to our military. The father of a woman who has reached for the stars herself in the military, I am proud that Del City has rightfully, extended the hand of congratulations to women of our United States Military, regardless of branch. They are truly the "better angles of our nature."

Additionally, I would like to mention my Capitol Hill High School biology teacher, Ms. Ruth Craig Jones, a WAC (Women's Army Corps) during the Second World War, her job was to deliver fighter planes from the West Coast to Hawaii. Through words and deeds she inspired, a generation of students to understand loyalty, respect, and service above self.

City Manager High-Five's Channel 5 anchorman after interview about the monument.







Mayor Brian E. Linley  
City of Del City

Welcome to Del City's Patriot Park. I am very grateful for the men and women who played a part in making today's dedication become a reality. As a US Navy Veteran from the Vietnam Era, 1973-1974, USS Juneau LPD-10, a son of a Marine, father of three sons serving in the US Army and a daughter-in-law, an Army Veteran, I am honored.

The residents of our community came together and overwhelmingly approved funding for the development and installation of our new Women's Veteran Monument. This new tribute, sculpted by University of Central Oklahoma Art Education graduate Joel Randell, makes up the second largest bronze women's veteran monument in America, depicts women from all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and Army National Guard Reserves.

The original dedication at Patriot Park took place on November 11, 1995, when we unveiled the list of names of soldiers from Del City who had paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives to date. Thirteen years later we added the Battle Field Cross and the APC. On October 19, 2009 the City Council officially named this area "Patriot Park".

The following year on November 11, 2010, City Council dedicated our Soldier's Mausoleum which contains all the materials left behind at the base of the Vietnam Traveling Wall, from family and friends that came to pay tribute. The next year 2011, on Veterans Day we dedicated the Blue Star Mothers Memorial. Today, November 11, 2014, as we celebrate Veterans Day in honor of all veterans past, present and future, we pay special tribute to our women veterans that served protecting our nation's freedom.

As we dedicate our new Women's Veteran Monument let's remember that as of this time our country has lost 159 women in combat in Iraq



and Afghanistan. We hope and pray that Del City's "Patriot Park" is a place where all can come and reflect on our veterans past, present and future.

God Bless America, the land of the free, all because those that have served, protecting our nations freedom.

Brian E. Linley

Mayor

Email: [blinley@cityofdelcity.org](mailto:blinley@cityofdelcity.org)

**Thank you** to all who contributed to help make Veterans Day Ceremony 2014 a success:

*Del City Mayor Brian Linley, City Councilmen and former City Councilman Mike Grimmett for approving the project.*

*Mr. Dick Carter for bringing the idea to the Del City Council.*

*Del City Citizens for sales tax renewal passage.*

*City Manager Mark Edwards for allowing me the opportunity to coordinate the Women Veterans Monument Committee Project.*

*The Women’s Veterans Monument Committee for their three year commitment to the project.*

*All city employees for assistance in working the Veterans Day 2014 Ceremony Event.*

*Tom Leatherbee and the Community Service Department for organizing and coordinating the overflow parking.*

*Bill Graham and the Public Works Department for assisting with the set-up for the Veterans Day 2014 Ceremony Event.*

*Fire and Police for security and traffic control.*

*Bryan Beard, Steve Berner and Leslie Mount for providing the groundbreaking pictures for this booklet.*

*Recreation Department, Cynthia and Suzanne for assisting in the decoration and cleaning of the community center.*

*Brigadoon Army Surplus for donating the parachutes to cover the sculptures for the unveiling.*

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| JGVE           | Engineer             |
| Joel Randell   | Sculptor             |
| Terry parker   | Architect            |
| CMSWillowbrook | Construction Manager |

**Most important thank you to all veterans for serving.**





City of Del City



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