



# TC-e-NEWSLETTER

OKWVO-TC-0212 is a 501 (c) (19) non profit War Veterans service organization composed of women who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. The mission of OKWVO-TC-0212 is to provide an opportunity for communication and association with women who have served, retired, and are serving in the United States Armed Forces.



**Katrina Fisher** is our featured Veteran of the Month. "Trina" as many of us know her by, is a Combat veteran who works at the Tulsa Combat Vet Center as an Outreach Program Specialist. Her role at the Vet Center is to promote the Vet Center, serve as a facilitator to peer groups and disseminates information to other combat veterans. Her role is a most unique situation in that she is part of "Vets are Serving Vets" program which creates a very strong bond between the Center staff and the veterans seeking the benefits.

Just how did Trina find her way to Tulsa and the Vet Center? The road down to Tulsa, OK began in Tyron, Nebraska. Trina wanted to go to college and to earn money. The Army was the ticket. Her father, a Desert Storm veteran, had served in the CAV Artillery as a mechanic. He was a major influence who painted the Army landscape for Trina. She liked what she saw, so she too became a Light-Wheel Vehicle Mechanic MOS 63B.

In 2000, Trina did the Split-Option program between her Junior-Senior year of High School. Basic training at Ft Sill, OK was not a good experience. She did comment that they had a good pep talk from a female Drill SGT before graduation where she reminded all females to remain females in a world full of males. Then

after her senior year, she attended AIT at "Relaxin Jackson" Ft Jackson, SC in August of 2001.

In 2003 her Nebraska Army National Guard unit was deployed to Ft McCoy, Wisconsin in the wake of the beginning of the Iraq war. She got lucky and didn't deploy overseas, remaining on base preparing units to deploy overseas.

Again, in 2006-07, her unit was deployed to Al Taquddum at Camp TQ Marine Base on the Al Anabar Providence (Between Fallujah/Ramadi). There her unit provided convoy security for the units and nationals driving around Iraq and Syria areas.

When their unit returned home, I asked What was it like coming home? Trina replied, it was the most humbling experience. I don't watch the news-I'm me. She said she would go back in a heartbeat due to the lifestyle of not worrying about the day to day stress. "The focus is only on the mission and staying alive!"

Do you miss the military? "I miss the people a lot-especially the motor pool people. We have a Facebook unit page. Working at the Vet Center channels my love for the military and serving my country".

SGT Trina Fisher finished her tour of duty as a decorated Combat Veteran SGT with a honorable discharge from the Nebraska National Guard. She is very happy serving as an Outreach Program Specialist promoting the Vet Center and benefits for veterans of all branches here in Tulsa, OK. For information on the Vet Center, Contact 918.439.7424 or <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov>

Trina Fisher, is our OKWVO-TC Featured

Veteran of the Month,

(Interviewed by Tina Smith, [christina62@me.com](mailto:christina62@me.com))

## Calendar of Events

**2015 General Meetings at Woodlake Church**  
7100 East 31st Street  
Located between Sheridan and Memorial  
Tulsa, OK 74145

**Saturdays**

**10:00 - 12:15**

**April 11 Women Veterans Day**

**June 13**

**August 8**

**October 10**

**December 12-Elections**

**Women Veterans Recognition Day-October 16-17**

**Tulsa Veterans Day Parade**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 11**

## Board Meetings

**2nd Monday of each month**

**Email**

**womenvetstulsa@yahoo.com**  
**with your ideas and/or comments**

**April 13**

**May 11**

**June 8**

**July 13**

**August 10**

**September 14**

**October 12**

**November 9**

**December 14-Christmas Party and Election of Officers**



# Women Veterans Day Saturday, April 11, 2015



## Dusti Johns, VA Medical Center, to Speak about My HealthyeVet Chart

OKWVO-TC is excited to have Dusti Johns, Social Worker from the VA Medical Center in Muskogee, as guest speaker on the My HealthyeVet Chart. She will be speaking about the features, registration and where to go



### Lucy Coffey, Oldest Female Military Veteran, Dies at 108 In Texas

Lucy Coffey served with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in the Pacific Theater in WWII and retired after nearly three decades later of military-related service. She died in March 17th. Ms Coffey was working in the A&P grocery store in Dallas in 1943 when the WAAC was newly formed. President Obama met Ms Coffey last year after Honor Flight flew her to Washington DC just to meet the President last year. Ms Coffey served in Japan, New Guinea and in

the Philippines, where she was promoted to SSGT and received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon for service during the Luzon Campaign, according to the Defense Department.

After the war, Coffey remained in the Pacific region, working as an Army civilian in Japan. She transferred to Kelly AFB in San Antonio in 1958 where she worked as an accountant until retiring in 1971.

The WAAC accepted women aged 21-45 to fill military support roles and freed up more men to for combat, according to the US Army. About 400,000 women served in uniform during World War II.



### Chaplain's Corner Wear Love

via (in)courage

*"And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it." Colossians 3:14*

*Sometimes it's not the easiest thing in the world to love those*

*"special people". In my own life, loving my parents has been very difficult, especially my mother. Having grown up in an alcoholic and abusive home as a child and struggling to have a relationship with two people that had turned their backs on me over 25 years ago was a challenge that has been my toughest assignment.*

*The Word of God strongly communicates that we are commanded to love all men as ourselves. That's not always the easiest thing either...in the natural man, that is.*

*One of the greatest gifts God ever gave me was the ability to love my parents with compassion for what difficulties caused them to become who they are and to love them with the love of the Lord. He never said we had to like them though.*

*Life with my family became so much easier and likewise other relationships. Every day is a new adventure and a new challenge, but know that you are loved with the true love of one that sacrificed it all in the worst way possible to gain you everything*

Chaplain Christy Peterson, USN

### "So you wanted to go south, Jacquie?"

Jacquie Robertson USAF nurse, shared a story at our February meeting about wanting to transfer to a southern region of the US. After spending two years at Eielson AFB, North Pole Alaska home of the 354th Fighter Wing and 354th Medical Group, Jacquie requested "anywhere in the South". Jacquie got her wish and was transferred to Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, home of the 28th Bomb Wing!

## OKWVO-TC

### Offers One Time Financial Assistance, Care Packages and Scholarship-Tuition Aid to Women Veterans

Women veterans who are in need of Veteran one time financial assistance, Care packages, or Scholarship funds can contact OKWVO-TC at: [womenvetstulsa@yahoo.com](mailto:womenvetstulsa@yahoo.com) to apply for aid or tuition assistance. One time financial assistance is for \$50.00. A one time application for scholarship funds application is for up to \$200.00.

**50/50 Raffle Results!** At the February meeting, we had 22 in attendance. Ann Schermer reported that members and guests paid into the Raffle with a total of \$100.00. Elyses Holloway was the lucky winner! Thank you all for your wonderful participation in this fun event as this generates operating funds and funds that the Board and officers are able to use judiciously toward worthy causes throughout the calendar year. You all are very much appreciated.

**Book Review: *A FEW GOOD WOMEN America's Military Women From World War I to the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan***  
Evelyn M Monahan and Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee. Ms Monahan a retired psychologist from the Department of Veteran Affairs, served in the Women's Army Corps. Ms Greenlee served as a US Navy Nurse and retired from the US Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta in 2002. I highly recommend this historical book about [our careers in the military](#).

## Upcoming Vendor\* & Special Events

- ★ Saturday, April 18, 8-2:30 Trogman 5K Run and Walk at Stone Canyon Elementary, Owasso, OK 74055. This is a Fund raiser for DAV Chapter 44.
- ★ Saturday, April 25-USMC Medal of Honor at Veterans Park, Tulsa, 9 am - 3:30
- ★ Sunday, July 19-Military Night at Tulsa Shock vs Minnesota Lynx, 3:00 pm (Veterans are free and family and friends' tickets are \$12.00)
- ★ Saturday, May 2, Armed Forces Day Parade, McAlester, OK (2nd Oldest Parade in America)
- ★ Saturday, September 19-Tulsa Stand Down 8:00 -1:00 pm, 1:1 Volunteer to Veteran assistance

\*We need Vendor volunteers to serve as OKWVO-TC "Ambassadors" at our booths. These are fun people meeting people opportunities. Will you serve?

Please contact Tina Smith at 918-810-6703 for volunteer for information.

## 2015-OKWVO-TC-0212

### VA Choice program's distance rule to be revised

By Patricia Kime, Staff writer 7:43 a.m. EDT March 24, 2015

A veteran gets a physical exam. VA is changing its definition of the "40-mile rule" under the new VA Choice program. (Photo: Department of Veterans Affairs)

After much debate over how the Veterans Affairs Department chose to define the 40-mile distance rule for veterans to access the new Veterans Choice health program, VA will announce today that it's changing the definition.

Rather than use an "as the crow flies" measure of 40 miles, VA will rely on driving distance from a VA medical facility as the qualifier to use Veterans Choice, a program that lets veterans see a civilian health care provider if they live in a remote area or can't get an appointment at a VA facility.

Under the VA Access, Choice and Accountability Act passed by Congress last year, veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility were supposed to have access to the

Choice Card program. But VA's strict straight-line interpretation left some veterans with lengthy drives because of geographic obstacles or convoluted obstacles.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has a hearing scheduled today on the 40-mile rule. According to the VA, the policy change will be made through "regulatory action in the coming weeks."

But officials also stipulated that the change will affect only veterans who live 40 miles from any VA medical facility. Veterans who live within 40 miles of a community-based clinic or other VA health facility but need advanced care not offered at those facilities still will not qualify for the program.

VA officials said the law will have to be changed for those veterans to participate

"We've determined that changing the distance calculation will help ensure more veterans have access to care when and where they want it," McDonald said.

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**Remember our new meetings place-Woodlake Church at 7100 E 31st Street**

## OFFICERS

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Christina Smith

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**VA Choice (Con't)** According to the VA, about 45,000 medical appointments have been scheduled through VA Choice since the program launched last November.

A Veterans of Foreign Wars surveyed issued earlier this month found 80 percent of individuals who thought they qualified for the outside care options were rejected by the VA, a figure the VFW called "unsettlingly high."

Respectfully,  
Staff writer Leo Shane III contributed to this report.

Respectfully,

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**WOMEN'S COMBAT GROUP**

Tulsa Vet Center  
2nd & 4th Thursday  
5:00 - 6:00 PM  
Tina Bevans, LCSW  
Readjustment Counselor  
U.S. Navy Veteran  
Tulsa Vet Center  
14002 E. 21st Street Suite 200  
Tulsa OK 74134  
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