

**BUMED Oral History Project
Synopsis and Glossary
CAPT Julia (Julie) Barnes, NC, USN, Ret.**

Date and Location of Interview: August 28, 2015, Berwyn, PA
Interviewer: André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

SYNOPSIS:

CAPT Julia Barnes was born in Henderson, NC, and grew up in Philadelphia. She graduated Hahnemann University with a Nursing Diploma in August 1957 and was commissioned in the Navy in September 1958. During more than 31 years of active duty service, CAPT Barnes assignments spanned a continuum of nursing, health care administration and executive leadership positions. Her first ten years of service were concentrated in medical-surgical clinical nursing and Operating Room Nursing at Naval Hospitals Oakland, Guam, Great Lakes and Philadelphia. Throughout this period, she attended evening classes, accumulating undergraduate credits at local colleges or universities.

Nearing the completion of a tour as Operating Room Supervisor at Philadelphia Naval Hospital (the Navy East Coast Amputee Center during the Vietnam War), in 1970, LCDR Barnes was selected for Duty Under Instructions in the University of Pennsylvania's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (August 1972). In 1975 as Chief Nurse at Naval Hospital Guam, CDR Barnes played a strategic role in the tri-service medical support for the evacuation of 111,000 refugees from Southeast Asia. Following three additional assignments as Director of Nursing at Naval Hospitals Lemoore, Great Lakes and Portsmouth CAPT Barnes became the first Nurse Corps Officer to be selected for assignment as Executive Officer of a Naval Hospital (Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune).

On 28 July 1986, she became Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital Great Lakes and remained so for 2 ½ years. She was the first African-American nurse to serve as a Commanding Officer of a naval hospital. In 1988, at the request of CNO (ADM J. Michael Boorda, USN) CAPT Barnes remained on active an

additional year, becoming the first Nurse Corps Officer to serve as Director of Medical Operations for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's Southeast Region Health Care Support Office in Jacksonville Florida (July 1989).

Following retirement CAPT Barnes was Executive Director for Planned Parenthood of Southeast Pennsylvania 1991-1992. She has served on a number of non-profit Boards of Directors including The Retired Officers Association (now MOAA), Philadelphia Presbyterian Homes & Services, Presbyterian Children's Village, Navy Nurse Corps Association, Great Lakes Credit Union and the University of Pennsylvania's Board of Overseers (Nursing). Four of her 6 years on TROA's Board were spent on the Healthcare Committee as a member and then Chairman for 2 years. She has been a volunteer with the American Red Cross and a Counselor for Chester County Pennsylvania's APPRISE Program (Medicare/Medicaid Programs). She is a member of the Navy Nurse Corps Association and a founding, lifetime member of the National Naval Officers Association.

Her awards include a Legion of Merit, Navy Commendation medal with star and two Humanitarian Service Medals. In 1978 she graduated from Pepperdine University's off-campus program with a Master of Arts, Human Resources Management.

KEY TERMS:

BUMED—Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Camp Lejeune, Naval Hospital
DNS—Director of Nursing Services
DOPMA—Defense Officer Personnel Management Act (1980)
DUINS—Duty Under Instruction
Great Lakes, Naval Hospital
Guam, Naval Hospital
Hahnemann University, Philadelphia
MSC—Medical Service Corps
NAS—Naval Air Station
Oakland (Oak Knoll), Naval Hospital
Operation New Life
Philadelphia, Naval Hospital
Typhoon Karen
Vietnam

KEY FIGURES:

Boorda, Jeremy, ADM, USN (1939-1996), USN, Chief of Naval Operations, 1994-1996. Boorda was the only enlisted sailor to advance through the ranks to CNO. He committed suicide on 16 May 1996.

Boyle, Carey, CDR, NC, USN (1946-2002), a Hospital Corpsman-turned Nurse Corps Officer. Married to RADM Rebecca McComick-Boyle, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps (2013-2016).

Burcham, Janice Marion, CDR, NC, USN served in the Navy from 1948 to 1975. From 1963 to 1965, Burcham served as the Assistant Chief Nurse at Naval Hospital Guam.

Bynum, Joan, CAPT, NC, USN. In September 1978, Joan Bynum became the first African-American captain the Nurse Corps and first female black officer in the Navy to attain rank of Captain.

Cohen, Ruth, CDR, NC, USN (1911-1971)—Served in the Navy from 1937 through 1964. Her last duty station was as Chief Nurse, Naval Hospital Oak Knoll (Oakland), CA.

Condor, Maxine, RADM, NC, USN. Condor served as director the Navy Nurse Corps from 1975 to 1979. She was the Chief of Nursing Service at the Naval Regional Medical Center Philadelphia, PA before assuming this position in July 1975.

DuBois, W.E.B. (1868-1863)—American sociologist and historian. In 1896, DuBois served as an "assistant in sociology" at the University of Pennsylvania.

Gaskin, Walter, Lt. General, USMC. Gaskin is the former Commanding General of the 2nd Marine Division. He retired in 2013.

Gravely, Jr., Samuel B., VADM, USN (1922-2004). One of the legendary "Golden Thirteen" (first black officers in the Navy, Gravely would go on to serve in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He would be the first African-American to command a Navy ship (USS Theodore Chandler, 1961) and first to serve as commander of a battleship (USS Falgout, 1962)

Hall, Mary, RADM, NC, USN. The Director of the Nurse Corps

from 1987 to 1991.

Hopkins, John, Major General, USMC (1935-1998). In 1990, Hopkins deployed to the Middle East as CG, 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and later Deputy CG, I-MEF, leading combat troops in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Keys, William, Lt. General, USMC. Keys is the former Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment and Regimental Commander of the 6th Marines. As Commanding General, 2d Marine Division during Desert Storm, Keys led the Division in its successful assault across the Kuwaiti border, breaching Iraqi barriers and minefields, and into Kuwait City. He retired from service in 1994.

Johnson, Bernett "Bernie," CAPT, MC, USN (1933-2006) served as Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Yokosuka from 1977 to 1980. He is the first African-American physician to hold the position of Navy hospital CO. He retired in 1980 following a 22-year career in the service.

Langley, Ann, CAPT, NC, USN served as Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Okinawa from July 1987 to July 1989.

McKay, Bernadette, CAPT, NC, USN (1928-2008). In 1975, McKay made history as the first nurse screened for command. In 1975, McKay became the first Navy nurse to serve as the director for administrative services of any medical facility (Naval Submarine Medical Center, New London, CT).

Monahan, Dorothy, CDR (1911-?), NC, USN served in the Navy from 1936 to 1966. She served as a Chief Nurse of Naval Hospital Oak Knoll from 1958 to 1961.

Nielubowicz, Mary Joan, RADM, NC, USN, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, 1983-1987. Often referred to as "Admiral Niel."

Ormandy, Eugene (1899-1985) Hungarian-born conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra(1936-1980)

Pittman, Helen, LTJG, NC, USNR (1935-) served in the Naval Reserves from 1958 to 1972.

Poytress, Annie Jane, LCDR, NC, USN (1913-1980) served in the

Navy from 1939 to 1967. She served as the Chief Nurse at Naval Hospital Guam from 1963 to 1965.

Puller, Jr., Lewis, LT, USMC (1945-1994) was the son of General Lewis Chesty Puller. During the Vietnam War he lost both of his legs and parts of his hands in a mine explosion. Puller was treated at the Naval Hospital Philadelphia, PA. His memoir, *Fortunate Son* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992.

Shea-Buckley, Fran, RADM, NC, USN, Director of the Nurse Corps (1979-1983).

Sturtz, Donald, RADM, MC, USN was a pilot-turned Navy surgeon. He later served as Commander, Naval Medical Command, National Capitol Region, Bethesda, MD (1987-1989).

GLOSSARY:

Cessna 150— The Cessna 150 is a two-seat tricycle gear general aviation airplane that was designed for flight training, touring and personal use. It is one of the most common airplanes produced for civilian use.

Finocchio's Club—a San Francisco nightclub in operation from 1929 to 1999.

Mercy-Douglass Hospital, Philadelphia, PA—opened on 31 October 1895 as the Frederick Douglass Hospital and School for Nurses.

Naval Hospital Oakland, CA (AKA, Oak Knoll) was commissioned in July 1942. Originally, situated in a series of temporary structures and buildings once belonging to the Oak Knoll Country Club, a new hospital was opened in June 1968. Over the years the hospital became known as a leader in treatment of traumatic injuries and a major hub of prosthetic research and application. In 1996, the hospital was disestablished.

Navy Campus for Achievement Program—Now known as the Navy College Program (NCP), the Navy Campus for Achievement program was established in 1974 as a means of providing education counseling, testing, and funds for Navy personnel interested in developing personal and professional competencies.

Operation Babylift— the name given to the mass evacuation of children from South Vietnam to the United States and other countries (including Australia, France, and Canada) at the end of the Vietnam War (see also the Fall of Saigon), on 3-26 April 1975.

Operation New Life—from April to October 1975, Camp Pendleton and Guam served as home to over 50,000 refugees from Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries. The Navy and Marine Corps personnel created entire cities of tents and Quonset huts, accepting, housing, feeding and clothing over 50,000 refugees.

Typhoon Karen hit Guam in November 1962. It was the most destructive cyclone to hit the island and one of the most destructive events in Guam's history. Ninety-five percent of homes were damaged or destroyed, leaving at least 45,000 people homeless.

Wings Field—a general aviation airport located in Blue Bell, PA, just outside of Philadelphia.