

= WAVES =

The United States Naval Reserve (Women 's Reserve) , better known under the acronym WAVES for Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service , was the World War II women 's branch of the United States Naval Reserve . It was established on 21 July 1942 by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by the president on 30 July 1942 . This authorized the U.S. Navy to accept women into the Naval Reserve as commissioned officers and at the enlisted level , effective for the duration of the war plus six months . The purpose of the law was to release officers and men for sea duty and replace them with women in shore activities . Mildred H. McAfee became the first director of the WAVES . She was commissioned a lieutenant commander in the Navy on 3 August 1942 , and was the first woman commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve (she was later promoted to commander and then to captain) . McAfee , on leave as President of Wellesley College , was an experienced educator and highly respected in her field .

The notion of women serving in the Navy was not widely supported in the Congress or by the Navy , although some members did support the need for uniformed women during wartime . Nonetheless , the persistence of several women laid the groundwork for success . The Women 's Armed Services Integration Act allowing women to serve in the Navy became a reality , in large measure , through the efforts of the Navy 's Women 's Advisory Council , Margaret Chung , and Eleanor Roosevelt , the First Lady of the United States who would later become the United States Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights .

The age for officer candidates was between 20 and 49 , with a college degree , or two years of college and two years of equivalent professional or business experience . The enlisted age requirements were between 20 and 35 , with a high school or business diploma , or equivalent experience . WAVES were primarily white , but 72 African @-@ American women did eventually serve on a fully integrated basis . The Navy 's indoctrination of most WAVE officer candidates took place at Smith College , Northampton , Massachusetts , and was designated the U.S. Naval Reserve Midshipmen 's School . Specialized training for officers was held on several college campuses and at various naval facilities . Most enlisted members received recruit training at Hunter College , in The Bronx , and became the U.S. Naval Training Center (WR) , the Bronx . After recruit training , some women attended specialized training courses on college campuses and at naval facilities .

WAVES served at 900 shore stations in the United States , to include Alaska , Hawaii , and Puerto Rico and many entered fields previously held by men . As general line officers , Officer WAVES initially served in administrative and support roles , although many later served as attorneys (the Navy 's JAG Corps was not established until 1967) and engineers . Many enlisted women became aviation mechanics , aerographers , air traffic controllers , parachute riggers , hospital corpsmen and radiomen , but most worked in the administrative / clerical and supply fields such as yeomen , personnelmen , disbursing clerks and storekeepers . The WAVES ' peak strength was 86 @, @ 291 members .

The WAVES left behind a legacy of accomplishment . Upon demobilization , accolades came from many sources . The Secretary of the Navy , James Forrestal , Fleet Admiral Ernest King , and Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz all commended the WAVES for their contributions to the war effort .

= = History = =

= = Background = = =

In May 1941 , Representative Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts introduced the bill in the U.S. Congress to establish a Women 's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) . " As the word auxiliary suggests , women would serve not in the Army , but with it . " As such , women were deprived of full military status and denied the benefits of their male counterparts . Opposition delayed the passage of the bill until May 1942 . At the same time , the U.S. Navy 's Bureau of Aeronautics believed the Navy would

eventually need women in uniform , and had asked the Bureau of Naval Personnel , headed by Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz , to propose legislation , as it had done during World War I , authorizing women to serve in the Navy . Nimitz was not considered an advocate for bringing women into the Navy , nor was he about to change course . Soon , the Navy Department began receiving inquiries whether WAAC legislation for the Navy might be imminent . In response , the head of the U.S. Naval Reserve expressed the view that the Civil Service would be able to supply any extra personnel that might be needed .

The response did not put the questions to rest . On 9 December 1941 , Representative Rogers telephoned Nimitz and asked him whether the Navy was interested in a bill that would allow the Navy to use women similar to that of the WAAC legislation . In her book , *Lady in the Navy* , Joy Bright Hancock quotes his reply : " I advised Mrs. Rogers that at the present time I saw no great need for such a bill ... " Nevertheless , within days Nimitz was in touch with all Navy Department bureaus asking them to assess their needs for an equivalent to the WAAC . With few exceptions , the responses were negative . Yet , Congressional inquiries continued to increase about the Navy 's plan for women .

Then on 2 January 1942 , the Bureau of Personnel , in an about face , recommended to the Secretary of the Navy , Frank Knox , that Congress be asked to authorize a women 's organization . The following month , Knox recommended a women 's branch as part of the Naval Reserve . The director of the Bureau of the budget said no , but would agree to the Navy adapting legislation similar to the WAAC ? where women were with , but not in the Navy . This was unacceptable to Knox and the standoff began . Still , the Bureau of Aeronautics continued to believe there was a place for women in the Navy , and appealed to an influential friend of naval aviation , Margaret Chung . In *Crossed Currents* , the authors describe Chung and her involvement . " ... Dr. Margaret Chung of San Francisco , a physician and surgeon , had a long time interest in aviation , particularly naval aviation ... She had many naval aviation friends who referred to themselves as " sons of Mom Chung . " Having learned of the stalemate , she asked Representative Melvin Maas of Minnesota , who had served in the aviation branch of the U.S. Marine Corps in World War I , and was one of her " sons " , to introduce legislation independently of the Navy . On 18 March 1942 he did just that , ... "

Maas 's House bill was essentially the same as the Knox proposal , which would make a women 's branch part of the Naval Reserve . At the same time , Senator Raymond E. Willis of Indiana introduced a similar bill in the Senate . On 16 April 1942 , the House Naval Affairs Committee reported favorably on the bill . It was passed by the House the same day and sent to the Senate . The Senate Naval Affairs Committee was opposed to the bill ; especially chairman Senator David I. Walsh of Massachusetts . He did not want women in the Navy because it " would tend to break @-@ up American homes and would be a step backwards in the progress of civilization . " The Senate committee eventually proposed a naval version of the WAAC , and the president , Franklin D. Roosevelt , approved it . But Knox asked the president to reconsider .

= = = Creation of program = = =

It was apparent that women would eventually be allowed to serve in the Navy : the question was , in what form ? The quandary for the Navy was how to administer a woman 's program , yet fashion it to its own liking . Then they did what they had often done before , turn to academia for help . This time the Navy asked women educators for assistance , first contacting Dr. Virginia C. Gildersleeve , dean of Barnard College . She suggested that Professor Elizabeth Reynard , also of Barnard , become a special assistant to Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs , Chief of Naval Personnel . Reynard was well known for the academic work she had done on women in the work place . But her first @-@ rate performance as Jacob 's assistant silenced any fears the Navy may have had about women educators . Reynard quickly formed the Women 's Advisory Council to meet with Navy officials . Gildersleeve became the chairperson . Because of her efforts eight prominent women agreed to serve on the council . They included :

Dr. Meta Glass of Sweet Briar College

Dr. Lillian Gilbreth , a national authority on efficiency in the workplace

Dr. Ada Comstock , President of Radcliffe College

Dean Alice Crocker Lloyd of the University of Michigan

Mrs. Malbone Graham , a noted lecturer from the West Coast

Marie Rogers Gates wife of Thomas Sovereign Gates , president of the University of Pennsylvania

Harriet Elliott , dean of women at the University of North Carolina

Dean Elliot later resigned and was replaced by Dr. Alice Baldwin , dean of women at Duke University .

The council knew the success of a fledgling program would depend on the woman chosen to lead it . A prospective candidate would need to possess proven managerial skills , command respect , and have an ability to get along well with others . Their recommendation was Mildred H. McAfee , president of Wellesley College , as the future director . The Navy agreed . Yet , the task of convincing MacAfee to accept and to persuade the Wellesley Board of Trustees to release her was difficult but successful . Mildred McAfee was an experienced and respected academician , whose background would provide a measure of creditability to the idea of women serving in the Navy .

They also recognized the importance of a name : agreeing it should be one suitable for the organization envisioned . To Reynard fell the task of finding such a name . In explaining how she came up with the nautical name , Reynard said : " I realized that there were two letters which had to be in it : W for women and V for volunteer , because the Navy wants to make it clear that this is a voluntary service and not a drafted service . So I played with those two letters and the idea of the sea and finally came up with Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service ? WAVES . I figured the word Emergency would comfort the older admirals because it implies that we 're only a temporary crisis and won 't be around for keeps . " Raynard was later commissioned a lieutenant in the WAVES .

Then on 25 May 1942 , the Senate Naval Affairs Committee recommended to the president that the legislation to create a women 's reserve correspond with the WAAC legislation . He called on Knox to reconsider his position , but Knox , who did not favor the WAAC concept , stood his ground . Another deadlock , but council members Gildersleeve and Elliot took it on themselves to write the president 's wife , Eleanor Roosevelt . They explained their objections to the WAAC legislation and reasons for it . Eleanor showed Elliot 's letter to her husband , the president , and she sent Gildersleeves 's letter on to the Undersecretary of the Navy , James V. Forrestal , a former naval aviator . Within days Forrestal replied , saying that Secretary Knox had asked the president to reconsider . Then , on 16 June 1942 Knox informed Jacobs that the president had given him authority to proceed with a women 's reserve .

Days later , Knox informed Senator Walsh of the president 's decision , and on 24 June the Senate Naval Affairs Committee reported favorably on the bill . By 21 July , the bill had passed both houses of Congress and sent to the president , who signed it on 30 July 1942 as Public Law 689 . This created the Women 's branch of the Navy reserve , as amended under Title V of the U.S. Naval Reserve Act of 1938 . Less than a year later , 1 July 1943 , Congress refashioned the WAAC into the Women 's Army Corps (WAC) , providing its members with similar military status as the WAVES .

The idea behind the law was to free @-@ up officers and men for duty at sea , with women standing in for them at shore stations on the home front . Women could now serve in the Navy as an officer or at an enlisted level , with a rank or rating consistent with that of the regular Navy . Volunteers could only serve for the duration of the war , plus six months , but just in the continental United States . They were prohibited from boarding naval ships or combat aircraft , and were without command authority , except within the women 's branch .

Mildred H. McAfee became the first director of the WAVES . She was commissioned a lieutenant commander on 3 August 1942 , and was the first woman officer commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve . McAfee was later promoted to the rank of captain . In More Than a Uniform , Winifred Quick Collins (former WAVE officer) described Director McAfee as a born diplomat , handling difficult matters with finesse . She also said McAfee played an important decision making role on how women of the WAVES should be treated compared to men , what kind of assignments women

would take , housing conditions , and supervision and discipline standards .

In establishing the office of director , the Bureau of Personnel did not define the responsibilities of the office , nor establish clear lines of authority . " ... Lieutenant Commander McAfee was simply told that she was to " run " the women 's reserve and she was to go directly to the Chief of Naval Personnel for answers to her questions . Unfortunately , the decision was not made known to the operating divisions of the bureau . " No plans existed to help guide her : in fact , no planning had been done , by anyone , in anticipation of the Women 's Reserve act . For insights , McAfee turned to Joy Bright Hancock , a Navy Yeoman (F) during World War I , and a career writer and editor for the Navy 's Bureau of Aeronautics . She was asked to examine the procedures employed by the Women 's Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force , which had a complement of 6 @, @ 000 members . Many of her findings were later used by the WAVES .

August and September 1942 saw 108 more women commissioned as officers in the Women 's Reserve ; selected because of their educational and business backgrounds . They were drawn to the program by the good standing of McAfee and the Advisory Council . Four of these women would later become directors of the WAVES and another the director of the SPARS (U.S. Coast Guard Women 's Reserve) . The new officers began their work routine with no grasp of Navy traditions , or training in the operating methods in use , resulting in some difficult times . However , on 16 September 1942 the Bureau of Personnel issued a memorandum for the organization of the Women 's Reserve . It said the director would administer the program , set policies , and coordinate work within the bureau 's operating divisions . Soon , McAfee was able to bring together a capable staff , building a sound internal organization .

= = = Recruiting = = =

WAVE officers were first assigned to recruiting stations in the different U.S. naval districts , later they were joined by enlisted personnel with recruiter training . The primary sources of publicity used were radio , newspapers , posters , brochures , and personal contacts . The focus of their advertising campaign was patriotism and the need for women . McAfee demanded good taste in all advertising . At the end of 1942 , there were 770 officers and 3 @, @ 109 enlisted women in the WAVES . By 3 July 1945 their ranks had risen to 86 @, @ 291 , which included 8 @, @ 475 officers , 73 @, @ 816 enlisted , and about 4 @, @ 000 in training .

The age for officer candidates was between 20 and 49 , with a college degree , or two years of college and two years of equivalent professional or business experience . The enlisted age requirements were between 20 and 35 , with a high school or business diploma , or equivalent experience . United States citizenship was required in each case . WAVES were primarily white , middle class , and represented every state in the country . New York , California , Pennsylvania , Illinois , Massachusetts and Ohio led the way .

Little or no attempt was made to recruit African @-@ American or other women minorities until October 1944 , when President Roosevelt approved of accepting African @-@ American women into the women 's reserve , under pressure to do so by African @-@ American organizations . Harriet Ida Pickens and Frances Wills were the first African @-@ American women to become WAVE officers . By September 1945 , there were 72 African @-@ American women in the WAVES and integrated .

= = = Uniforms = = =

'The WAVES looked professional and attractive in stylish uniforms created especially for them " . The noted New York fashion house of Mainbocher designed the uniforms . Their design services were secured , without cost , through the efforts of Mrs. James V. Forrestal , wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy . The winter uniform was made from navy blue wool , worn with a white shirt and dark blue tie . The jacket was single breasted and unbelted , with a six @-@ gored skirt . Included were black oxfords and plain black pumps ; a brimmed hat ; black gloves ; black leather purse , and rain and winter coats . The summer uniform was much the same as the winter uniform ,

however , it was lighter in weight , made of white material and worn with white shoes . Later , a gray and white striped , seersucker work uniform for summer was added , along with the wearing of slacks and dungarees when appropriate .

= = = Training of officers = = =

The Navy chose Smith College at Northampton , Massachusetts , as the site for the training of WAVE officers . The facility offered much of what the Navy needed , and the college setting provided the proper training ground . The nickname for Smith was the U.S.S. Northampton . Captain H. W. Underwood , USN (Retired) was recalled to active duty and ordered to serve as the commanding officer of the United States Naval Reserve Midshipmen 's School at Smith College , 13 August 1942 . Underwood had a distinguished naval career and received the Navy Cross during World War I. In *Lady in the Navy* , Joy Bright Hancock described Underwood as intelligent , enthusiastic , and good humored , and serious of purpose .

Underwood and his staff quickly developed the indoctrination curriculum that would hasten the transformation of civilian women into naval officers . The curriculum would include : organization ; personnel ; naval history and law ; ships and aircraft ; naval communications and correspondence . There would be two @-@ months of intense training , yet too short a period to produce an overall naval officer . Still , the rationale was to teach the fundamentals of life and work in the naval service , focusing on administrative procedures . It was the type of work that most officers would eventually be doing . The curriculum did not change much over the life of the training program .

Following their two @-@ months of training , the midshipmen were commissioned as ensigns or lieutenants (junior grade) in the U.S. naval reserve . The school closed in December 1944 , after accepting 10 @, @ 181 women and graduating 9 @, @ 477 of them . It also trained 203 SPARS (United States Coast Guard Women 's Reserve) and 295 women of the United States Marine Corps Women 's Reserve . Many of these commissioned officers were sent to specialized schools for training in communications , supply , the Japanese language , meteorology , and engineering . The courses of study were held on the college campuses of Mount Holyoke College ; Harvard University ; University of Colorado ; Massachusetts Institute of Technology , University of California ; and the University of Chicago . The Bureau of Ordinance also opened its schools to WAVE officers , where some of them studied aviation ordinance . Other officers attended the Naval Technical Training Command School , while others trained to become aviation instructors . Unlike the training on the college campuses , the training offered at these facilities was coeducational .

= = = Training of enlisted = = =

The campuses of Oklahoma A & M , Indiana University , and the University of Wisconsin were selected by the Navy for both recruit and specialized training of enlisted WAVES . Training for the initial groups of enlisted women began on 9 October 1942 . But it soon became clear that these arrangements were unsuitable for recruit training , because of dispersed training facilities , inexperienced instructors , and the lack of esprit de corps . As a result , the Navy quickly made the decision to establish one recruit @-@ training center on the campus of the Iowa State Teachers College . The specialized training remained at the original locations .

Iowa State Teachers College , Cedar Falls , Iowa , became the new basic training center for enlisted WAVES . (The school 's original assignment was the training of yeomen) . Captain Randall Davis was named commanding officer . He arrived on 1 December , two weeks before the first class of 1 @, @ 050 enlisted recruits were to start their five @-@ weeks of basic training . The recruit training routine began each weekday with Reveille at 5 : 30 or 6 : 00 A.M. ; breakfast at 6 : 30 A.M. ; classes and drill for four hours before lunch , and classes and drill for another four hours in the afternoon . Followed by an hour of free time , dinner , and two hours of study or instruction , lights out at 10 : 00 P.M. Captain 's inspection on Saturday morning , then free time until taps . On Sunday , reveille was at 7 : 00 A.M. , with breakfast at 7 : 30 A.M. Then church services and free time until 7 : 30 P.M. , when study hours began . Recruits received immunization shots and were given a series

of job aptitude tests . The first class was to graduate in early January 1943 , but on 30 December 1942 the Navy announced that future WAVES recruits would be trained at Hunter College in the Bronx , a borough of the City of New York . The change came because of the Navy 's reassessment of how many more women would be needed , and the kinds of work they would be effective in doing . Iowa State Teachers College would return to training yeomen .

Hunter College became the main recruit @-@ training center for enlisted WAVES : chosen because of its space ; location ; ease of transportation , and the willingness of the college to make its facilities available . Captain William F. Amsden , also a recipient of the Navy Cross in World War I , was named the commanding officer . On 8 February 1943 the college was commissioned the U.S. Naval Training Center (WR) , the Bronx , and became known as U.S.S. Hunter . Nine days later , approximately 2 @,@ 000 recruits began their six @-@ weeks of indoctrination . The training objectives were meant to be similar to those of the boot camp for men . In *Lady in the Navy* , Joy Hancock described the indoctrination of the recruits in this way : " Each recruit went through a balanced training program . She was instructed in Navy ranks and ratings ; ships and aircraft of the fleet ; naval traditions and customs ; and of course , naval history . Physical training and fitness were stressed . As the women marched in platoons to classes , medical examinations , and drills , their approach was signaled by singing , their voices providing the cadence for marching feet . " Between 17 February 1943 and 10 October 1945 , some 80 @,@ 936 WAVES , 1 @,@ 844 SPARS , and 3 @,@ 190 women Marines completed the training course . The SPARS and Marine reservists used the Navy 's training center until the summer of 1943 , at which time they established their own training centers .

Of the graduating classes at Hunter , 83 % went on to specialized schools to train as yeomen ; radiomen ; storekeepers , and cooks and bakers . In addition to the college campuses , enlisted WAVES also trained at Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville ; Burdett College in Boston , and Miami University in Oxford , Ohio . The Bureaus of Aeronautics and Medicine opened their doors to enlisted WAVES . The training in aeronautics took place at naval air stations and training centers ; the training for medical technicians was held at the National Medical and Great Lakes Training Centers . Unlike the training on the college campuses , the training at these facilities was coeducational .

= = = Assignments = = =

The WAVES served in 900 shore stations in the continental United States . Initially , they were prohibited from serving in commands afloat and outside the country . But in September 1944 , Congress amended the law allowing WAVES to volunteer for service in the territories of Alaska and Hawaii . Hawaii became the only overseas station staffed with WAVES on a permanent basis . By the end of the war , 18 % of the naval personnel assigned to shore stations were women . Officers served in many professional capacities , including doctors ; attorneys ; engineers and mathematicians , and chaplains . One WAVE mathematician was assigned to Harvard University to work on the computation project with the Mark I computer . Another became the only female nautical engineer in the entire U.S. Navy . Enlisted WAVES worked in jobs such as aviation machinist ; aviation metalsmith ; parachute rigger ; control tower operator ; radiomen ; yeomen ; statistician ; administration ; personnel , and health care . Although some enlisted women had the opportunity to work in fields previously held by men , most of them actually worked in secretarial and clerical positions .

The WAVES enjoyed many successes in the work place , but they also suffered from intolerance . Some of the problems sprang from contradictory attitudes of men who supervised women . Often , the women were underutilized in relation to their training , with others it was assignments beyond their physical abilities , and in some cases women were utilized only out of dire need . The mission of the WAVES was to replace men in shore stations for sea duty . Still , certain men were hostile to WAVES because being replaced meant sea duty . The Navy 's lack of clear @-@ cut policies early on also contributed to the difficulties .

== Women of the WAVES ==

Wanting to serve their country in time of need was a strong incentive for young women during World War II . And thousands of them saw fit to join the WAVES . With some , it was for adventure , for others it was professional development , and still others joined for the chance to experience life on college campuses . Some followed family traditions and others yearned for a life other than as a civilian .

Ruby Messer Barber had this to say about joining the WAVES , " It was a choice of adventure . I didn 't have any brothers , and I thought that 's something I can do , one way I can make a contribution . My sisters thought it was great , but they were not interested . There was too much discipline and routine involved . I felt like it would be a challenge , to step forth and do it , to see what it was all about . It gave a sense of confidence . At the time girls just didn 't join the WAVES or go into the military . But my Dad , he said , you 'll be OK " .

Lieutenant Lillian Pimlott wrote to her mother , after being deployed to Pearl Harbor , and said , " I was fascinated by the ships which are making history in every battle . I 've talked to seamen and I 've met flyers @-@ from Iwo (Iwo Jima) , from Okinawa , heroes from every encounter . I know now what war means and my heart goes out to every one of them . Among them I am making , I hope , life long friends , for their experiences mean everything to my self @-@ satisfaction ... As long as they fight on , I have no desire to return home , for I feel I belong here ... I have learned much in these brief three months about life and living . And I know I have already changed in many ways and many viewpoints ... It is truly a most broadening experience and I shall never outlive it " .

During the course of the war , seven WAVE officers and 62 enlisted women died of unspecified causes . Numerous WAVES were acknowledged for their contributions to the country . The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Captain Mildred McAfee for her efforts as Director of the WAVES , and Commander Elisabeth Raynard received a letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for her work in developing the WAVES training program . Two WAVES received the Legion of Merit , three the Bronze Star , eighteen the Secretary of the Navy 's letter of commendation , and one , the Army Commendation Ribbon . Almost all WAVES looked upon their service as beneficial and many said they would serve again under the same situation .

== Demobilization ==

The Navy established five separation centers for the demobilization of the WAVES and Navy nurses , one in Washington , D.C. , Memphis , San Francisco , Chicago , and New York . The separation process began on 1 October 1945 , and within a month about 9 @, @ 000 WAVES had been separated . By the end of 1946 , almost 21 @, @ 000 more had been discharged . It soon became apparent that more centers were needed and ten additional centers were soon opened . By September 1946 , demobilization of the WAVES was all but completed . Most women spent two or three days at separation centers before being discharged , having physical exams ; orientation on rights as veteran ; final settlement of pay , and then the price of a ticket home . At the time , it was not clear whether demobilization meant phasing women out of the military services altogether .

Although a small contingent of WAVES was retained to help with the Navy 's over @-@ all demobilization plan , many of these women had volunteered to remain on active duty . At that point , Vice Admiral Louis Denfeld , chief of the Bureau of Personnel , announced , " Our plan is to keep a WAVE component in the Naval Reserve . Further , if Congress approves , we will seek to retain on active duty reasonable number of WAVES who wish to do so and who may be needed in certain specialties ... " On 30 July 1948 , the Women 's Armed Services Integration Act (Public Law 625) was signed into law , allowing women to serve in the regular Navy . The wartime assumptions that prohibited women from duty in any unit designated as having a combat mission carried over with the 1948 Act , which effectively incorporated women into service organizations ; legally keeping them from being integrated into the heart of the military and naval professions for more than a quarter of a century . Even though the WAVES no longer existed , the obsolete acronym continued in popular and official usage until the 1970s . "

With demobilization , the WAVES received accolades from the highest sources . Secretary of the Navy Forrestal wrote , " Your conduct , discharge of military responsibilities , and skillful work are in the highest tradition of the naval service . " Fleet Admiral King said , The Navy has learned to appreciate the women ... for their discipline , their skill , and their contribution to high morale ... Our greatest tribute to these women is the request for more WAVES " . Fleet Admiral Nimitz went on to say , they have demonstrated qualities of competence , energy and loyalty " . The WAVES left behind a legacy of accomplishment , which helped to secure a place for women in the regular Navy .

= = Song of the WAVES = =

Elizabeth Ender and Betty St. Clair wrote WAVES of the Navy in 1943 . It was written to harmonize with Anchors Away .

WAVES of the Navy

WAVES of the Navy ,

There 's a ship sailing down the bay

And she won 't slip into port again

Until that Victory Day .

Carry on for that gallant ship

And for every hero brave

Who will find ashore , his man @-@ sized chore

Was done by a Navy WAVE .