



MARIAN SIELAWA

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When I enlisted in the U.S. Navy on 6 October 1952, the Korean War was in progress. I left Grand Rapids, Michigan in the morning for Chicago where I was sworn in. I left by train with three other girls arriving in Baltimore, Maryland the next morning. One of my fondest memories was when I arrived at Bainbridge (NTC) Naval Training Center Administration Building to read the sign over the door: "Through these portals pass the women of the greatest Navy in the world."

Nine weeks of boot camp passed and I was on my way to storekeeper's school in NTC San Diego, California. After school my first duty station was North Island (NAS Naval Air Station) San Diego (March 1953 to February 1955). During that time, I worked at the Commissary store as a grocery checker and office secretary.

My last duty station was NAS Jacksonville, Florida, from February 1955 to October 1956. My job was secretary to the Warrant Officer of the Galley. Later, my career led me to the branch office of the Galley & Bakery where my commanding officer and I developed a life long friendship. CDR M. Duca and I still keep in touch to this day.

Having served my country makes me feel very proud and I wouldn't change one minute of my time spent as a WAVE of the U.S. Navy.

Military Decorations: National Defense, Good Conduct, and Honorable Discharge

Rank Achieved: 5k3 -Storekeeper 3rd Class



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