



# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: JP Tremblay  
Legislation and Public Affairs  
916-653-2192  
March 20, 2013

## World War II Veteran Evelyn Lackey and Vietnam War Veteran Shirley Shaw Recognized for Outstanding Military Service

Nearly 100 people gathered at the California State Museum today to honor the many contributions of women veterans. Especially recognized this evening were Shirley Shaw and Evelyn Lackey, both of Sacramento. Among attendees were Assembly members Susan Talamantes Eggman, Melissa Melendez, Shannon Grove, and Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Nora Campos. Also in attendance were independent filmmaker Marcia Rock to introduce her documentary "*Service – when women come marching home*" as well as various California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) executives. The event was co-sponsored by the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, CRB and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Nationally and statewide, the women veteran population will continue to grow," said Peter J. Gravett, CalVet Secretary. "Therefore, it is imperative that we remember to recognize and honor their service and contributions, as they often face unique challenges when transitioning out of the military and back into our communities."

Helping to highlight the multitude of problems women veterans face when returning from military service was the screening of "*Service – when women come marching home.*" This very touching documentary portrays the courage of several women veterans as they transition from active duty to their civilian lives. The film shows the horrific traumas they face, their invisible as well as physical injuries and all their challenges in receiving benefits and care.

The high point of the evening was the recognition for their patriotic and selfless service in times of war of Evelyn Lackey, World War II, and Shirley Shaw, Vietnam War.

According to the Valley Community Newspapers, Lackey, continues to be sharp as a tack and every bit as patriotic as she was when she became one of the first women to enlist in the Navy's "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" (WAVES) at the dawn of World War II. In an interview with the aforementioned newspaper, Lackey stated that "My dad was in the Navy. After (the Japanese attack on) Pearl Harbor, I left a good job to join the WAVES. I was one of the very first WAVES. Back then, women were only allowed to do mostly administrative things. Today, women do everything."

Shirley describes her Vietnam tour as "the most tiring, saddest, but most rewarding time of my life." Arriving in Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon, dressed in "Winter Greens" and high heeled shoes, the nurses were taken to the Post Exchange and told to buy all the "feminine things" they would need for a year. After lunch at the Officers Club, they all put on flak jackets and helmets and boarded the bus for Cu Chi. They were escorted by several armored vehicles with helicopters overhead. There are times when "being scared" is O.K. This was one of those times."

Today's reception is in keeping with Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr's. proclamation of March 18-24, 2013 as Women Veterans History Week in California.

Visit our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/mycalvet](http://www.Facebook.com/mycalvet) and follow us on [twitter/mycalvet](https://twitter.com/mycalvet).

###

You may unsubscribe from this list at any time by sending a "SIGNOFF VETNEWS" or "SIGNOFF NEWS FOR VETERANS" command to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.STATE.CA.GOV](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.STATE.CA.GOV)