

# VICKI DEW



Vicki Dew entered the US Navy on 20 June 1978. She had been raised in the Browns Valley Minnesota area., and wanted to find a change in life. For her, there was no question about which branch of the military she wanted to join. She went straight into the Navy Recruiter's office and told them straight out, "I want to join your Navy."

She was sent to Orlando Florida for 8 weeks of boot camp. At this time, the Naval Training Center in Orlando was the only location for women to go for Boot Camp. For Vicki, boot camp was pretty easy. She tried not to draw attention to herself, and do as she was told. To not stand out was the best way of not drawing undue attention to herself.



Originally Vicki had wanted to be a CTA, Cryptological Technician Administrative, (insignia shown left top) but she was not able to make it into that school in the Navy. instead she decided to go into the medical Corpsman (HM) school (left bottom). Vicki graduated from Boot Camp in Training Unit 3050 on 21 August 1978.

After basic she received two weeks leave before reporting for duty at Hospital Corpsman School at Great Lakes Illinois in September 1978. Her training lasted for 10 weeks. Here she was trained for her duties as a Hospital Corpsman in the United States Navy. Her job would be to provide care to Sailors and Marines as one of the primary Medical Specialists in the Fleet.



Vicki's Boot Camp Photo

Upon completion of HM School, Vicki was sent to her first duty station at Port Hueneme California. The Naval Hospital at Port Heuneme was part of the Naval Base of Venture County California. During Vicki's ten month duty here, she helped with the conversion from a Naval Hospital to a Naval Branch Health Clinic. They became the primary care managers for the Naval personnel in Ventura County. Hospital services were provided by the Base Hospital at Camp Pendleton.

After duty at Port Heuneme, Vicki was sent to Keflavik Iceland for a one year tour of duty.

While working in Iceland, Vicki was able to do a little traveling. She played on the base soft-ball and volleyball teams. For that she traveled to Germany and to Scotland to play in the Northern European tournaments. Her team took home the championships both times.

All to soon, Vicki's tour in Iceland was over and she was sent back to the United States for duty. She was on her way to Washington D.C.



Plaque for Vicki's service in Washington D.C.  
Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center  
Washington D.C.  
Presented to  
HM2 V. A. Dew  
for duty Nov 1981 - Apr 1983

In 1981 she was sent to the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Washington D.C. She worked as a Corpsman for the reservists.

Her job essentially ensured that the Reserve personnel were physically qualified for service. She assisted with shot clinics and regular physical examinations.

Another aspect of her duty in Washington was to maintain the medical records for the personnel. If the members of the units were called up for duty, all of the medical info needed to be up to date and readily accessible. Vicki needed to make sure that all pertinent information was in the records and was up to date.

On top of those duties, she also provided basic medical training to the reservists. She was also able to find time to play for the Command Softball Team and the Volleyball team. In Volleyball, her team traveled to San Francisco for the tournament.

Vicki's time in Washington D.C. gave her the opportunity to serve with her two sisters, Rita and Donna, who were also stationed in Washington with the Navy. It was in D.C. that Vicki re-enlisted in the Navy for her first time.







Vicki's Navy "Salt & Pepper" Uniform

In 1983 she was sent to Yokosuka Japan. In Japan, Vicki served as the LPO (Leading Petty Officer) of the clinic in Yokohama. At this time she was a Petty Officer Second Class. This gave her more authority and responsibility as she continued to provide medical services to personnel stationed there.



Vicki's Navy Summer Blue Uniform



USS Jason - AR-8



Plaque for her service in Japan



While in Japan, Dew was once again called upon to serve on the volleyball team. Recreational sports proved to be a bit of a relief from the day to day activities.

Vicki was assigned to duty on the USS Jason, AR-8. The Jason was a Naval Repair Ship which had a long history in the Navy. In 1979, the ship had removed its large guns in order to qualify as a non-combatant ship, and women were allowed to serve on board. While assigned to the Jason, Dew went to the Philippines (Olongapo) and to Korea. While docked in these areas, she had the chance to meet up with her sisters. Donna was stationed in

At left, Plaque for service on the USS Jason, Presented to HM2 V. Dew by Medical Detachment for Dedicated service on Board.

Korea, and her sister Rita was stationed in Guam. Although assigned to the USS Jason, they





During her time in the Navy, Vicki was very proud of her service and the service of her sisters, Rita and Donna. All of them were serving in the Navy at the same point. Many times they were able to get together and be photographed together throughout their careers. They met up while working in D.C. and again while stationed in Asia. The photos at left and above are from July 1984. Rita (left) was stationed in Guam, Vicki (middle) in Japan, and Donna (right) in Korea.



Joint Service Achievement Medal

In 1985 she was transferred to Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) in Richmond Virginia. This duty was similar to her duty in D.C. performing physical examinations and giving shots to new recruits. Being that it was a military processing facility, she did not only work with Naval personnel. She checked in Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine recruits. For her service in this joint military service operation, Vicki was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal.



In 1989, Dew was sent to serve at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth Virginia. This duty would have been a regular duty station for Vicki, providing medical care for Naval personnel, but all that changed in 1990.

On 2 August 1990, Iraqi military personnel under Saddam Hussein invaded their neighboring country of Kuwait. As a part of what would become Operation Desert Shield & Desert Storm, 85% of the personnel at Portsmouth were put on alert on 9 August.



Hospital Corpsman Vicki Dew was going to go to war. She was preparing for mobilization and deployment as a major part of Fleet Hospital 5.

As soon as orders came for the alert, preparations began of the supplies needed for deployment. The entire Fleet Hospital was packed into over 400 International Standardized Containers. This would be the first deployment of a Fleet Hospital.

The Containers were loaded on the ship MV Noble Star on 15 August and the Hospital set sail. Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees), CBU-411 & CBU-415 left to prepare the area of Operations.



The containers were shipped to Al Jubail Saudi Arabia, about 120 miles south of Kuwait and the combat zone. The Seabee units assisted in the assembly of the Field Hospital, operation of the power plants, and general maintenance and upkeep of the facility. The setup of the 22 acre, environmentally controlled 500 bed hospital was completed just days before the main body arrived in country. Because so much was ready, the Fleet Hospital was at fully operational status in just 15 days.

The Hospital tents were fully Air Conditioned and heated and the tent Vicki was in was 1/4 mile long. The entire Fleet Hospital 5 had 900 - 1,000 personnel working there.



Boots worn by Vicki during her deployment



In the desert Vicki got a feel of what desert heat was really like. It could be as hot as 130 degrees in the shade and get as low as 40 degrees at night. She even witnessed a “rainy season” while she was there. She had been told that the area only receives about 1/4” of rain a year, but joked that she “couldn’t understand why she was standing in rain puddles up to her ankles.”

Her main job in Saudi was Patient Administration, to follow up the paper trail of the patients in the hospital. She was also informed of a job that she didn’t look forward to having to fulfill.

If the hospital ever reached the condition of Mass Casualties, her job would be to sit with the patients that were imminent (dying) and help make their remaining time comfortable. After they died, she would have to begin the processing of the death, “Tag & Bag” them.

Vicki stated, “Thank God things never reached that point.” They did have to deal with death, but never on a mass casualty scale.

As a major medical facility in Saudi Arabia, the Hospital served as the casualty support station

for the First Marine Expeditionary Force of about 45,000 troops and the British 7th Armored Brigade.

On 16 January 1991 war began in the Persian Gulf. The following day, a corpsman with the 1st Marine Division was the first casualty of the war and was treated for shrapnel wounds at Fleet Hospital 5. He was the first Purple Heart awarded in the theater of operations.

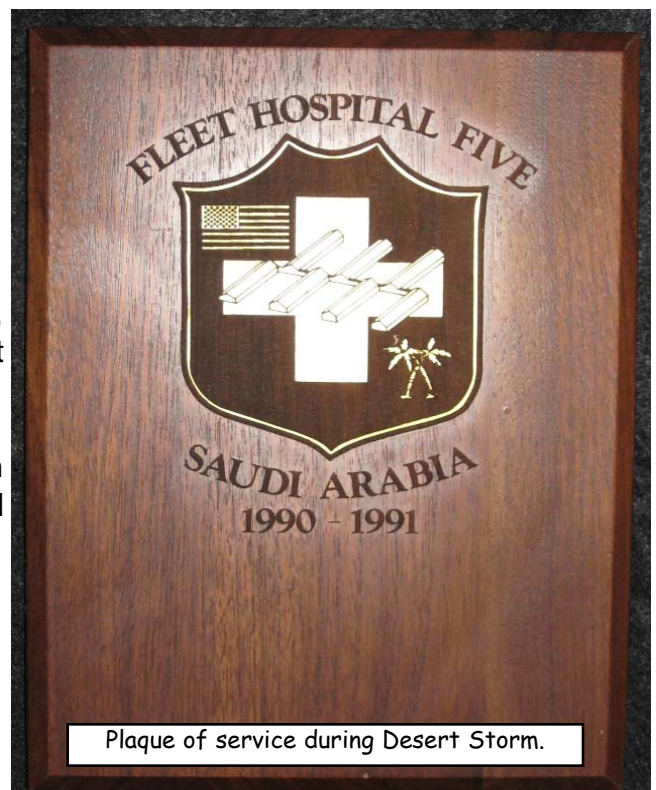
With the start of the ground war operations in February,

Medical Insignia worn by Vicki in Desert Storm.



Vicki still worked diligently not knowing what kind of casualties the Hospital may receive. By the time the war ended on 27 February, the Hospital had treated 32,526 medical patients and over 3,000 dental patients.

By March, the war was over and they prepared for home.



Plaque of service during Desert Storm.





Southwest Asia (Desert Shield / Desert Storm) Service Medal donated by Vicki. Awarded for service in Area of Operations of Operation Desert Shield/Storm



National Defense Service Medal donated by Vicki Dew. This medal is awarded to personnel who serve during a time of national Emergency. Vicki received heres for service during Desert Storm.

Although many of the deployed personnel in Operation Desert Shield & Desert Storm were issued 6 color Desert Camouflage uniforms, Vicki was only issued the woodland camouflage uniform (BDU). Even though their jobs helping casualties came first, during some of the recreational time Vicki played on the Hospital's Women's Football team.

On St. Patrick's Day, 17 March 1991, after serving 6 months and 17 days in the Persian Gulf she was a part of the decommissioning of the command and was sent home. Vicki returned to the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth Virginia.

In Portsmouth Vicki took over the Performance Evaluation Section. She stayed in Virginia until 1993.

In early 1993 Vicki was sent to San Diego California where she attended Medical Administration Tech School for 6 months. The course would help her advance her career. Vicki excelled in the course and graduated top in the class with 99.97%.

Following her graduation in San Diego, Vicki was sent to Norfolk Virginia in late 1993. She was assigned to the USS LaSalle, the Flag ship of the Sixth Fleet.

The LaSalle was in Norfolk in the shipyard being overhauled. It was built in the 1960's and commissioned in 1964 as a Raleigh-class amphibious transport dock.

By 1972, the ship was redesignated as Miscellaneous Command Ship and given the Hull classification of AGF-3. It had a distinguished service record in the middle east through he 1980's and early 1990's.





USS LaSalle AGF-3



Vicki was one of the first females aboard the LaSalle. She was assigned as the Lead Petty Officer (LPO) in the medical section on the ship. Dew's duties on board included taking care of sick call patients, keeping personnel up to date on their shots, and dealing with physical and medical emergencies.

In October 1994 the homeport for the LaSalle was moved to Gaeta Italy. Being stationed in the Mediterranean, Vicki was able to do a lot of traveling throughout Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and the Adriatic Sea.

The Flagship was nicknamed the "Schmoozing Ship" since it carried the commander of the Sixth Fleet who made many diplomatic visits to a number of countries.



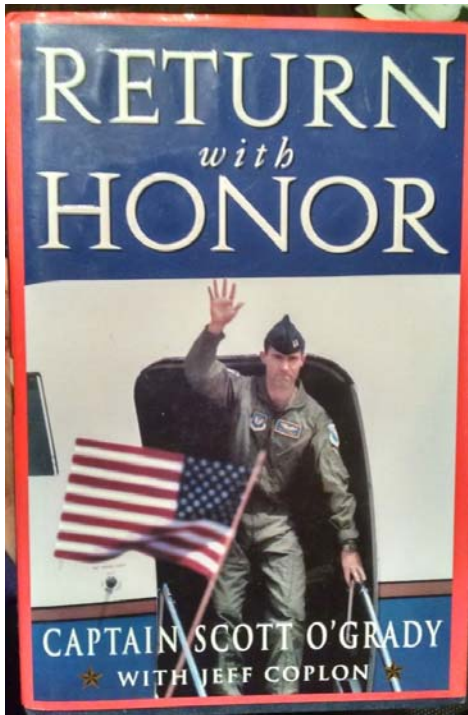
ADM Smith.

Beginning in 1993, NATO had enforced a no fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina. The endeavor, called Operation Deny Flight, was later expanded to include providing close air support for UN troops in Bosnia and carrying out coercive air strikes against targets in Bosnia. When Vicki was on the LaSalle, the operation was commanded by Admiral Leighton W. Smith, NATO commander. By 1995, the ceasefire was set to expire and it was expected that fighting in Bosnia would resume.

USS LaSalle AGF-3 ballcap worn by Vicki.







O'Grady's Autobiographical book of his experiences in Bosnia, Published by Doubleday 1995.

On 2 June 1995, Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady was sent on a routine no-fly zone patrol in his F-16. While on patrol, O'Grady's F-16 was shot down by a surface-to-air missile near Mrkonjic Grad. O'Grady ejected safely, but found himself trapped in Serb-controlled territory. After nearly a week of evading Serbs, he was finally rescued. It was thought by some in the US that O'Grady was deliberately targeted so the Serbs could take an American hostage.

Tensions continued to rise and on 28 August 1995, a mortar shell slammed into a Sarajevo marketplace, killing 37 people. The US blamed Bosnian Serb forces for the attack. Admiral Smith recommended that NATO launch retaliatory air strikes against the Serbs under the plan established for Operation Deliberate Force.

Between 30 August and 20 September 1995 Operation Deliberate Force took place over Bosnia. Vicki, stationed on the LaSalle, watched as her ship served as the command point which directed the bombings.

In November 1995, the Dayton Agreement formally ended the 3 1/2 year Bosnia war. Vicki was awarded the United Nations Medal for her service on the LaSalle in support of Operations in Bosnia.

Following her activities in the Bosnia campaign, Vicki began the process to qualify for the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. The process to obtain it was quite intensive. The qualification was designed to reflect the following; 1. A level of qualification above and beyond the normal level of professional and performance criteria necessary for advancement. 2. The qualification was applicable to and reasonably attainable by all "surface" ratings. 3. Qualification was an attainable goal for dedicated enlisted serving on ships and afloat staffs. 4. Management of the program would not become an administrative burden on the ship. 5. Qualification criteria would be well defined and specific. 6. Participation was voluntary, and there was neither a financial reward nor hazardous duty associated with the qualification.

In order to qualify Vicki had to meet certain criteria. First she had to be of proper rank, have been on a surface ship for at least 24 months, and have performance mark and leadership marks high enough.

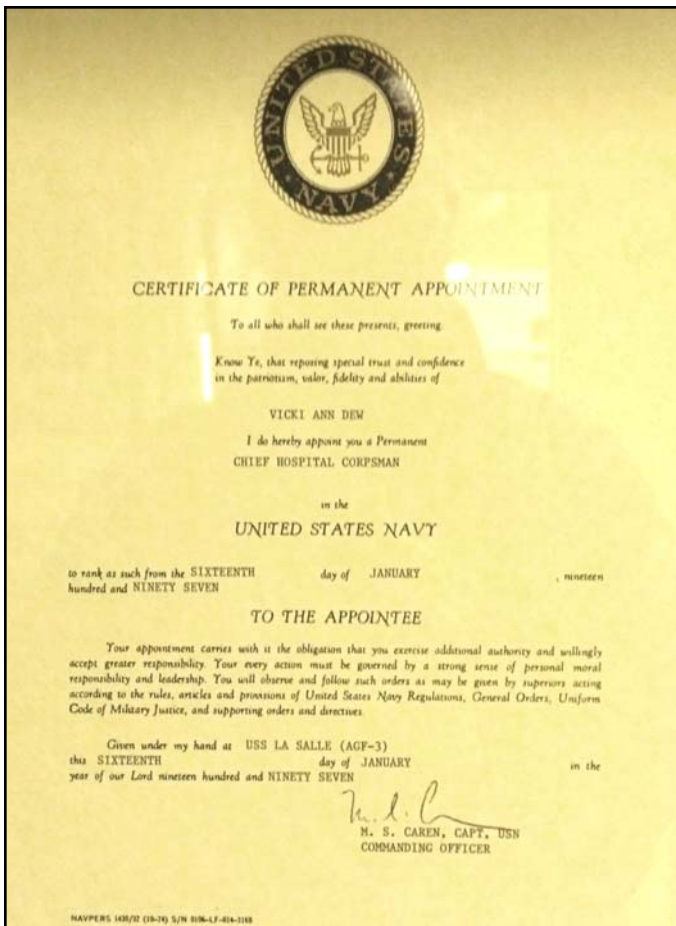


Enlisted Surface Warfare Qualification Badge

After those had been established she had to complete the Personnel Qualification Standard for Damage Control, Damage Control Petty Officer, Repair Party Leader, and Work Center Supervisor. For some of this, it required a number of hours of study and training for Vicki. These aspects of the job were not always something she had dealt with, but she wanted to try. Once she met those standards, she had to qualify in all watch stations for rating and pay grade.

Following completion of the other requirements, Vicki had to perform an oral review board held by the commanding officer, and Executive officer. When she successfully completed that, she had to be recommended by the chain of command, and approved by the commanding officer.





In September 1996, Vicki was promoted to the Rank of Chief Petty Officer (E-7). For the pinning ceremony, her mother, Helen, and sister, Carol, traveled to the Mediterranean for the ceremony.

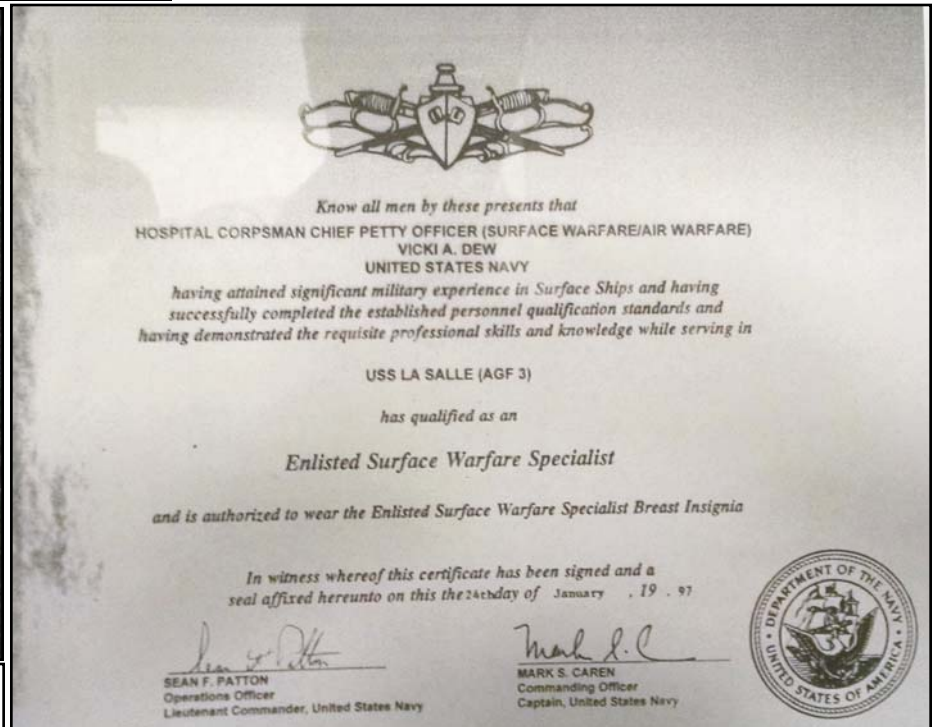
This was a special achievement for Vicki. Becoming a Chief was a goal that she set for herself, and was very proud to have achieved it.

Shortly after her pinning, she was also awarded the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. After many hours of work, she reached her second goal.

Soon, Vicki's time on the LaSalle was coming to an end. In February 1997 she left the LaSalle and returned to the United States. She was heading to what would become her final Duty Station.



Plaque given to Vicki for her service in the 6th Fleet.



Vicki was sent to Patuxent River (Pax River) Maryland to serve at the Naval Air Station. Located in St. Mary's County Maryland on the Chesapeake Bay near the mouth of the Patuxent River.

In Maryland, Vicki became the Head of Manpower at Pax River. She was the first enlisted person to hold this position. In April of 1997, she was awarded her fourth Naval Achievement Medal for her service.





Vicki being presented her "Honorable Discharge" at her retirement.

On 31 March 1999, Vicki Dew retired from the US Navy as a Chief Petty Officer (E-7). Vicki's Sister, Rita, also retired from the Navy on that day.

The Dew Sisters, from left, Rita, Vicki, and Donna. Taken shortly before the retirement of Vicki & Rita.



Vicki loved the Navy during her career and very much enjoyed being on ship. For her service she was awarded, the Joint Service Achievement medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Citation, Battle "E" award, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, United Nations Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) Kuwaiti Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Pistol marksmanship and Rifle Marksmanship medals, and the Enlisted Surface Warfare Badge.



Some of Vicki's medals donated by herself. Left to right, Navy Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Expert Rifle marksman medal.





Following her discharge from the Navy, Vicki returned to Minnesota, moving to Willmar. She began working in the Accounting Office for Walmart in Willmar. Her sister, Donna, was assigned to Recruiting detail in Willmar until 2000.

In 2001, Vicki and Donna (in Willmar on leave) attended the Veteran's day event by USMHC. Impressed with the collection and the display, she began looking through her items to add to the collection.

In 2002, Vicki began as a volunteer for the setup and operations for the annual Veteran's Day Observance in Willmar. The display of Vicki's and

her sisters items at the event became a staple of the display. She also helped visit with a large number of students who attended the event.

For Vicki, volunteering was a natural action. In the Navy she had volunteered and helped out whenever she could. Every time they came into port, the corpsman would go out into the towns and villages to see where they could help with medical care.

Shortly after she started at Walmart in Willmar, she became active in the Relay for Life project raising money for the American Cancer Society. Vicki had lost her father, William, to cancer and felt strongly on importance of this project. Over the years the Walmart team, Sam's Smiling Striders, raised over \$200,000 for the American Cancer Society.



She also became heavily involved in the Meals on Wheels program. The Meals on Wheels program in Willmar delivered hot meals to senior citizens and shut ins. During her volunteering, she delivered over 8,000 meals and with the help of the Walmart foundation helped raise over \$50,000 for the program.

In everything that Vicki did, she strived to be the best she could. She would devote herself completely to whatever the task was in front of her. With the Veterans Day event, she worked hard to find volunteers to help with setup, and actively promoted the event.



On 9 July 2011, Vicki was recognized for her military service, and continued community service at the Willmar Stingers Baseball Game.

During the Veteran appreciation game of the semi-pro team, USMHC had the honor to nominate 9 veterans for special recognition for their service, and continued service to their community. Vicki was at the top of the list to be recognized.

During the pregame, Vicki was presented with a special fleece blanket, and a laser

engraved Bat with her name on it. A brief introduction and history of Vicki's service and volunteer activities was read to the crowd. Following the presentation, Vicki and the other veterans carried the US, and Branch of Service Flags to the middle of the field where they were posted for the National Anthem. Vicki carried the US Navy Flag.

In November 2012, Vicki helped with the coordination and promotion of the Cold War Veteran recognition at the Veterans Day Observance. Over 200 veterans attended and were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their service during the Cold War. The certificates were presented by Mr. Harry Sieben, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, and Larry Shellito, Commissioner of the MN Department of Veteran Affairs.

Vicki gave of herself constantly in her volunteer efforts. Being able to help others was something that she loved. She never did it for the recognition, it was just something that she wanted to do. For her, the recognition was the knowledge of a job well done. Too soon, however, the recognition would come to her.





In the spring of 2013, Vicki was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She was battling the disease she had fought so hard against with the Relay for Life. She would be expecting some major treatments including a bone marrow transplant. The community banded together to try to help Vicki, hosting a fundraiser the day after the 2013 relay for Life event.

Vicki Dew's volunteer efforts have helped raised some \$250K. Now, as she battles stage 4 lymphoma, the community is giving a little bit back

## PAYING IT FORWARD



### ABOUT THE BENEFIT

The benefit for Dew will have a silent auction, raffle and live auction, along with a pasta dinner. The benefit will run from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday with a 5:30 p.m. celebration and unveiling of the sign that will hang in West Central Industries' cafeteria. The company is renaming its cafeteria after Dew.

### YOU CAN HELP OTHERS

Please turn to today's Page A7 for more information on benefits and fundraisers for various individuals and organizations in the region. Good Neighbors, the Tribune's regular calendar of these kinds of events, is published every Friday on the Community Page.

A benefit will be held this weekend for Vicki Dew, pictured Thursday in her office at Walmart in Willmar. Dew, who has helped raised thousands of dollars for charitable efforts, is battling lymphoma.

By Kayla Prasek  
kprasek@wctrib.com

WILLMAR — She has volunteered in the Willmar community for almost 15 years, helping raise more than \$200,000 for Relay for Life and helping raise more than \$50,000 and delivering meals weekly for Meals on Wheels. Now, Vicki Dew's friends and co-workers are giving back to her while she battles stage 4 lymphoma.

A benefit to help defray medical expenses will be held in Dew's honor from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church in Willmar. "I met Vicki when I started working at Walmart six years ago," Warren Sundstrom, food service director at West Central Industries and co-chair of the benefit, said. "She invited me to do Meals on Wheels with her and then she got me involved with Relay for Life."

Benefit/ Page A5

Visit the Tribune online at our  
Web site: [www.wctrib.com](http://www.wctrib.com)

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Tribune on Twitter: @wctrib

Friends from her job at Walmart, workers from the Relay for Life, Meals On Wheels program and many others helped coordinate the benefit dinner, and auction. Vicki was honored by the Mayor of Willmar, and West Central Industries named one of the Cafeterias after her.



Community Volunteer & Navy Vet

## Benefit for Vicki Dew

**SHE'S GIVEN AND GIVEN-- IT'S OUR TURN!**

*Vicki has stage 4 lymphoma & is being treated at Mayo*

<b>\$200K +</b> Raised Planning Co. Team Leader Relay For Life	<b>\$50K</b> Raised For Meals on Wheels	<b>21 YEARS</b> US NAVY Service, Retired Chief Hospital Corpsman	<b>8400</b> Meals Volunteer, Delivered To Local Seniors	<b>ACTIVE</b> With St. Mary's Veterans Dining House Relay4Life
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**4:30-6:30 PM Saturday, July 27 1st Baptist Church**

1000 6th St., Willmar (by Willmar Middle School)

5:30 BRIEF CELEBRATION / UNVEILING

**Salad, pasta dinner, beverage and cake!**

(meatball marinara or chicken Alfredo),

Suggested: \$10 Adults & teens, \$5 under 12.

**All gifts appreciated-- medical expenses add up!**

DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT BREMER BANK & WEST CENTRAL INDUSTRIES

**Silent Auction Raffle Live Auction**

Wear PURPLE, Vicki's favorite color!

Article from West Central Tribune about the Dew Benefit

Poster for the Benefit.

## Benefit

Continued from A1

Sundstrom's fellow benefit co-chair Jamin Johnson, special events coordinator and program manager for West Central Industries, said she met Dew 12 years ago when Johnson started working at West Central Industries.

"She's the driving force behind getting Walmart staff involved with Meals on Wheels," Johnson said. "She's been the catalyst for rounding up drivers and getting the Walmart Foundation on board for their support of Meals on Wheels."

Dew has helped rally her fellow Walmart employees over the years to raise more than \$50,000 from the Walmart Foundation for Meals on Wheels.

Connie Jensen, personnel manager for Walmart and co-chair of Dew's benefit, said a certain number of community service hours and number of volunteers are required by the Walmart Foundation to receive different levels of donations.

"We always want to receive the maximum benefits," Jensen said. "If we're behind on our hours or need more volunteers, Vicki will

go to individual people and get them involved so we can get the maximum benefits. She strives for that top dollar when it comes to fundraising."

Dew is the Willmar Walmart's "cheerleader" for community involvement, Jensen said.

"She gets the associates going for Relay for Life, she drives for Meals on Wheels and she cheerleads to get others to either ride with her while she delivers or to drive," Jensen said. "She likes to be involved in the community, and all of us at Walmart can volunteer with her."

Sundstrom said he's thankful for Dew's excitement for volunteering.

"If I wasn't asked to volunteer, I wouldn't have gotten involved," he said. "She's really devoted to these causes. She's just everywhere."

Dew, who works in invoicing at Walmart, said her mother is the reason she is an active volunteer today.

"My mother was always active doing whatever she could to help," Dew said. "When I was in the Navy, we always did community service when we arrived at foreign ports. At my last duty station before I retired, we delivered Meals on Wheels. When I moved here, I went looking for

one to volunteer with."

Dew said Walmart also had a Relay for Life team when she started working there in 1999, and she had lost her father to cancer two years prior. Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

"I just believe you need to give back whenever, wherever, however you can," she said. "As a volunteer, it doesn't matter how much or how little time you give, because it all matters to someone."

When Sundstrom, Johnson and Jensen approached Dew about holding a benefit for her, Dew realized she didn't like being "on that side of the fence."

"I would much rather be helping people, without a doubt," Dew said.

Sundstrom said he knew Dew didn't want to be in the limelight.

## Benefit for Vicki Dew

Sat., July 27  
1st Baptist, Willmar  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Pasta Dinner / Auctions

**\*\* 5:30 Celebration \*\***

LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY THEATRE  
PRESENTS  
**SHREK THE MUSICAL**  
BOOK AND LYRICS BY DAVID UNDSAY-ABRAIRE  
MUSIC BY JEANINE TESORI  
DIRECTED BY DAVE METCALF  
THE BERNIE AAKER AUDITORIUM



Vicki's 2013 Christmas Photo - After Treatment



Following the benefit, Vicki began part of her treatments. In October 2013, she received her transplant. It was a difficult process, and took a lot from her. Even going through all that, Vicki continued to stay in touch and check in on the things she loved. She even checked in on the Veterans Day Observance of 2013 from her hospital bed.

Following her treatments, she returned home and continued in her recovery. Soon she was right back at the activities she loved. She returned to work, picked right up in fundraising for Relay for Life, and helping out with Meals on Wheels.

In July 2014 Vicki was again instrumental in the Relay for Life activities in Willmar. She was a co-coordinator of the event.

She also traveled to Greece to spend time with her sister, Donna, who lived there serving as a civilian with the US Navy. She loved the trip and the opportunity to once again be in that area of the world. She was honored at the opportunity to serve as Maid of Honor in a friend's wedding.



2014 Veteran's Day Display "Dew Corner" set up by Vicki. the display included her items donated, and items donated by her sisters, Rita & Donna, and Brother in Law, Terry. Also included in the display is her Dress Blues Uniform, Whites, and her father, William's Uniform.

In November, Vicki again attended the Veteran's Day Observance helping with setup and tear-down. She attended every day of the display. Vicki coordinated the layout and look of the area of the display which dealt with the uniforms of her family.

She was on hand to talk

first hand with over 600 students from the local schools to discuss her experiences in the Navy. The kids that she talked to were just newborns when she had first began helping with the display in 2002. Over the 13 years, she had talked with over 6,000 students from the area about her experiences in the Navy.



### Vicki Ann Dew

Mundwiler and Larson Funeral Home of Browns Valley announces the death of Vicki Ann Dew, 56, who died on January 17, 2015, in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church beginning at 10:30 a.m. Visitation will be held one hour before Mass. Father David Breu will officiate and music will be provided by Norma Jung and St. Anthony's Funeral Choir. Honorary urn bearers will be her nieces and nephews: Michelle Boyle, Jeremy Rhoads, Tanya Johnson, Cherish Barthel, Donald Dew, Jr., Cody Lutmer, Will Lutmer, Amy Tripp, and Renee Dew. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Browns Valley.



Vicki Ann Dew was born on October 22, 1958, in Graceville, Minnesota to William R. and Helen L. Cooper Dew. She graduated from Browns Valley High School in 1976. She attended Granite Falls AVTI for one year.

In June of 1978, Vicki enlisted in the United States Navy and proudly served as a hospital corpsman until March of 1999, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. She was with Fleet Hospital 5 in Desert Storm/Desert Shield, the first field hospital set up during that conflict. A memorable experience for her during her career was the work she did at an orphanage in Romania. Upon retirement she moved to Willmar, Minnesota and began working for Walmart, a career she held for almost 17 years. She also worked part time at Divine House in Willmar, and lovingly referred to the clients as "her boys".

Vicki was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2013 and in October of that year she received a bone marrow transplant.

Vicki was a giver and always put others first. She was very involved in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Kandiyohi County, never turning down an opportunity to volunteer on their behalf, and she was passionate about fundraising for this organization. Her team, "Walmart Sam's Smiling Striders", raised the greatest amount of money several years in a row. For many years she helped with the United States Military Historical Collection, a yearly display of memorabilia (thousands of items) held on Veteran's Day in Willmar. Vicki delivered Meals on Wheels and she was honored by having the employee cafeteria at WCI named after her. Her home was always open to those who needed help. Vicki loved animals, especially dogs. She collected angels, enjoyed antique work of many kinds, and loved jewelry, especially antique jewelry. Reflective of her personality, Vicki adored things that were bright and colorful, with purple being her favorite color. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Willmar.

Cherishing her memory are her siblings: Carol (Darrel Johnson) Giroux of Wheaton, MN; Donald (Terrie) Dew of Surrey, ND; Deborah (David) Lutmer of Lismore, MN; Rita (Terry) Dew of Charlevoix, MI; Donna Dew of Kathiana, Crete, Greece; nieces and nephews: Michelle; Jeremy; Tanya; Cherish; Donald, Jr.; Cody; Will; Amy; and Renee; several great nieces and nephews; and a great-great nephew.

Vicki was preceded in death by her parents and her niece, Melissa.


In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be given to "Walmart Sam's Smiling Striders", Vicki's team name for Relay For Life.

Mundwiler and Larson Funeral Home of Browns Valley is in charge of arrangements. To leave online condolences, please visit [www.mundwilerfuneralhome.net](http://www.mundwilerfuneralhome.net).

Things were going well for Vicki, when suddenly in January 2015 she fell ill. She began having respiratory problems and was hospitalized. Her condition deteriorated rapidly, and tests revealed that her cancer had returned.

On 17 January 2015, Vicki Ann Dew passed away at St. Cloud Hospital. She was 56 years old. Services were held in her home town of Browns Valley MN, and she was laid to rest next to her parents on 21 January 2015.

A Celebration of Life service was held in Willmar at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Thursday 22 January 2015. Her passing was mourned by hundreds of people who's life she touched.



**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

for

**Vicki Ann Dew**

October 22, 1958– January 17, 2015

**OPENING HYMN: "On Eagle's Wings" #438**

**Leader:** We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** AMEN.

**Leader:** May the God of hope give you the fullness of peace, and may the Lord of life be always with you.

**ALL:** AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Vicki's military service and her service to others was an inspiration to all who knew her. She helped shape the look and feel of the Desert Storm section of the collection. She will be greatly missed by USMHC. She was a great friend, and a great supporter of the projects of the collection.





Navy Blue Overcoat worn by Vicki.



Navy Windbreaker worn by Vicki.



Navy All Weather Overcoat worn by Vicki.



Navy Khaki Windbreaker worn by Vicki.

Over the years of her activities at the Observance, Vicki continued to add more items to the collection. What started with a basic Chief Khaki uniform ended up becoming a huge representation of female Uniforms from the Navy, including items she kept from early in her career.





Navy Summer White Uniform worn by Vicki



Navy Working Blues Uniform worn by Vicki



Navy Blues Windbreaker worn by Vicki



Navy Working Khaki Uniform worn by Vicki





Navy Chief Khaki Uniform worn by Vicki



Navy Working Blue Uniform with Sweater worn by Vicki



Physical Fitness T-Shirt worn by Vicki



Navy Working Uniform with "Wolly Pully" Sweater worn by Vicki. This one had the Surface Warfare insignia on Name badge.