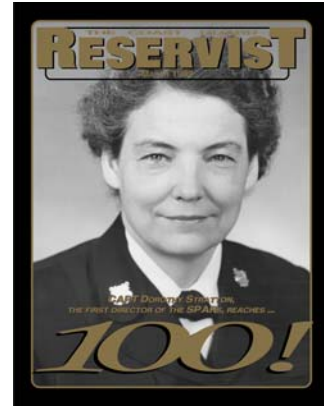


CAPT Dorothy Stratton's 107th Birthday:

You read that right! The first Director of the SPARs (Coast Guard Women's Reserve) will celebrate her 107th birthday on March 24, 2006! To read a feature story on CAPT Stratton when she turned 100 in 1999, click on the March 1999 *Reservist* cover at right. (Posted 1 MAR 06)



17 March 2006

Capt. Dorothy Stratton, USCG (ret.)
c/o Capt. Jeanne Gleason
5405-C Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20015-2705

Dear Captain Stratton:

As the National Commodore of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, I send my sincere best wishes in celebration of your 107th birthday, on behalf of our 31,000 members and myself. What a remarkable life you have led.

It is well-known within military circles that the courageous directors of the World War II women's services were extremely competent, good-humored, and exemplary leaders. Truly, you sailed in uncharted waters and helped lay a course for all women in the military today.

I feel that the prior Women's Reserve and the Auxiliary share a special bond, since both our organizations were established under the Coast Guard Reserve and Auxiliary Act. Although our members faced skepticism when they entered service, they proudly proved their vast worth to the Coast Guard and the nation. Both the women of the Coast Guard and members of the Auxiliary have gone on to perform duties and make important, heroic contributions unforeseen in those dark days of early World War II.

Today you continue to shine as a bright example for the women and men of our nation's military services. May we all be so blessed as to lead the long, productive life you have.

Again, please accept our heartiest congratulations.

Respectfully,

Gene M. Seibert
COMO Gene M. Seibert
National Commodore

Facts: SPARs was coined by Stratton from the CG motto, *semper paratas*. At the outbreak of World War II, Stratton held the position of Dean of Women at Purdue University, as a full professor of psychology; she is the only woman director to have held a Ph.D. (MA in psychology from UChicago; Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia Univ.). Stratton transferred from the Navy WAVES, where she had been commissioned a lieutenant, to the CG as the first woman to enter the Reserves* and assumed the post of director of the SPARs. She was one of a number of talented women educators who joined the services during the war. After the war, Stratton became the head of personnel for the International Monetary Fund and executive director of the Girl Scouts. She is the author of two books.]

* Women lighthouse keepers had been on federal payrolls since the mid-nineteenth century; the LH Bureau was incorporated into the CG in 1939. Women had always been allowed to join the Auxiliary; as of the spring of 1943, there ca. 100 members. Also ca. 2,000 women temporary Reservists joined, dating from the same legislation as the SPARs.