



Corps Chief's Message

By COL Rebecca S. Hooper
Chief, SP Corps

Just wanted to let everyone know that even a little rain on Friday April 18th didn't dampen our spirits or our enthusiasm as representatives from each of our AOCs placed a wreath at the ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The members of the AMSC Guild at Walter Reed arranged the event to mark the 56th Anniversary of the SP Corps.

A large crowd of active duty officers and enlisted soldiers was on hand. Several retirees joined us as well including COL Eloise Strand (former Chief SP), COL Roy Swift (former Chief SP), and COL Fran Iacoboni (former Chief Dietitian Section).

The ceremony at the tomb was very formal. At approximately 1305, just after the conclusion of the changing of the guard, a member of the Honor Guard announced there was to be a wreath laying ceremony in honor of the Army Medical Specialist Corps. At that time, the four of us walked down the steps, placed the wreath on the stand, and stood at attention saluting during the playing of taps. COL(R) Roy Swift (65A), CPT Tim Congdon (65D), and LT Renita Graham (65C) joined me in the official party. It was a once in a lifetime event for me that brought tears to my eyes. Afterwards, the Sergeant of the Guard invited us downstairs to Honor Guard quarters where the sentries wait during their 24-hour shift. We were honored to be given a tour and a short briefing about the requirements, training, and responsibilities of the soldiers in the Honor Guard.

The entire group reassembled at the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial. There we cut an anniversary cake and recognized the retirees in attendance. I then seized the opportunity to speak to everyone about a very serendipitous event.

I had come to DC for the wreath laying from the Biennial Retired Army Medical Specialist Corps Association (RAMSCA) meeting in Branson, MO. During the general business meeting, COL(R) Virginia Metcalf, presented a resolution (the text of the resolution follows) asking RAMSCA to complete the funding of a chair at WIMSA in honor of our first Corps Chief, COL Emma E. Vogel. In order to name a chair for someone, a total donation in the amount of \$10,000 is required. Up until last Wednesday, (it just happens that the 16th was the actual Corps anniversary) only \$1820 had been donated.

To make a long story short, the resolution passed! Through the generosity of individual contributions and the treasury of RAMSCA, I was able to hand carry and then present checks totaling \$8180 to BG(R) Connie Slewitzke, the Vice President of the WIMSA Foundation. As of 18 April 2003, a chair at the memorial has been dedicated to COL Emma E. Vogel, first Chief of the Corps.

Thank you to the AMSC Guild at WRAMC for putting together such a great event and thank you to RAMSCA for completing the funding of the Vogel Chair to make a wonderful event even more special.

Please take a moment to consider just how important RAMSCA is to our Corps. It is dedicated to the preservation of our Corps history and to assisting the members of the Corps through activities such as offering monetary awards for scholarly activities. If you missed this offer in the last edition of the Medallion, contact the Corps office for more information. The endowment for scholarly activity is planned to be an annual offering.

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By the way, you do not have to be a retiree to join RAMSCA! Many of us on active duty are already members. Also, if you wish to contribute to the memorial to COL Vogel, you can. Simply make your check out to "RAMSCA" with **specific** instructions to "**Apply to the Colonel Emma E. Vogel Theater Chair**" and forward your donation to:

RAMSCA, Inc.
P.O. Box 39451, Serna Station
San Antonio, TX 78218-1451
Attn: Treasurer

Resolution Funding the Colonel Emma E. Vogel Named Chair at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial's Education Center Auditorium

Whereas, one of the purposes of the Retired Army Medical Specialist Corps Association, according to the organization *Bylaws*, is "to preserve the history of the AMSC and support the endeavors of other organizations involved in the preservation of history," and,

Whereas, Miss Emma E. Vogel (later Colonel Vogel) is recognized as a pioneering woman who served as a civilian and later as an Army officer from 1917 throughout World War I and World War II and during the following peacetime years until her retirement in 1951; and

Whereas, while serving at Walter Reed Army Hospital in 1931, Miss Vogel had the wisdom and foresight to recommend to the Surgeon General that a Medical Auxiliary Corps be established that would consist of dietitians, physical therapists, and occupational therapists, separate from, but with the same salary, rights, and privileges as Army Nurses; and,

Whereas, Miss Vogel worked tenaciously during the interim between the two World Wars to resolve what she regarded as an inefficient, misguided, and even dangerous policy in its discrimination of women, and persistently tried to persuade those in authority to grant women a reserve connection with the peacetime Army; and,

Whereas, in 1942, the 77th Congress passed PL 828 authorizing military status for dietitians and physical therapists, and Miss Emma E. Vogel and Miss Helen C. Burns (Gearin) were appointed Director of Physical Therapists and Director of Dietitians, respectively, with relative rank of major but with pay and allowance of captain; and,

Whereas, MAJ Vogel and MAJ Burns campaigned throughout the years for full military status for dietitians, physical therapists, and occupational therapists, the 78th Congress passed Public Law 78-350 in 1944 authorizing the commissioning of dietitians and physical therapists only; and,

Whereas, the long hard struggle led by MAJ Vogel for military recognition and full commissioned status for dietitians, physical therapists, and occupational therapists was finally realized on 16 April 1947 when President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 80-36 authorizing the Women's Medical Specialist Corps and establishing the WMSC in the Regular Army of the United States; and,

Whereas, on 5 December 1947, Major Vogel was appointed as the first chief of the Women's Medical Specialist Corps by the Secretary of the Army and promoted to the grade of Colonel; and,

Whereas, Colonel Vogel continued to improve the efficiency and administrative organization of the Corps as Consultant to The

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Surgeon General on all administrative and general policies until she retired in 1951 after 34 years of remarkable and historical professional service and dedicated effort; and,

Whereas, the Women in Military Service for America Memorial has established naming opportunities to honor and pay tribute to prominent military figures; and,

Whereas, Colonel Emma E. Vogel is one of the Army Medical Specialist Corps' most prominent historical figures, and were it not for her tenacious efforts to establish and perpetuate professional education programs in the Army, and her persistent dedication to attaining military status for women, and her work to establish the Women's Medical Specialist Corps, many of us would not have enjoyed the privilege and benefits of being professional military officers;

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that the **Colonel Emma E. Vogel Memorial Chair** at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial's 196 seat Education Center in Washington, DC be funded by 1 May 2003 in recognition of this outstanding woman who played such a major role in the establishment of the Women's Medical Specialist Corps, now known as the Army Medical Specialist Corps.

Be It Also Resolved, that the Retired Army Medical Specialist Corps Association and individual members of this organization provide immediate financial assistance to accomplish this goal to recognize and memorialize the outstanding professional accomplishments of COL Emma E. Vogel (deceased), the first Chief of the Army Medical Specialist Corps.

April 16, 2003