

GLADYS SCHUSTER CARTER

WORLD WAR II VETERAN
1943-1945

I was a Junior at Virginia State University when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Like all Americans I was outraged that "our" country would be attacked. When it was announced that the Army was looking for women to join the Armed Forces, I was immediately ready to enlist. I had interesting experiences in the Army. I loved basic training with all of the marching, saluting, and learning to do things "the Army way".



WAAC Company 6 – Third Regiment Basic 5/29/1943
Gladys Schuster Carter (third row in circle)

Following basic training at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, I was sent to Army Clerical School. After graduation, I worked as a clerk in the X-ray department of the station hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas. I enjoyed my next assignment as Assistant Director of the Enlisted men's Service Club at Walla Walla Army Air Base in the state of Washington.



Gladys S. Carter (right)
Rouen, France -1945

My proudest service was with the [6888th Central Postal Directory](#) in England and France. We were the first and only African American Army women to serve overseas in WW II. Our battalion commanded by MAJ Charity Adams (the first female and black female officer commissioned in the WAAC). We were able to clear the seven football fields of backlog mail in three months time -- enabling all US soldiers in the European theater of operations to receive their mail.

While in the Army I married Oscar "Tank" Carter Jr. Upon our discharges, my husband and I both returned to Virginia State to complete our bachelor degrees. Using the GI Bill of Rights, I earned my BS in Sociology, and later my MA in Education. I had two wonderful sons, three lovely granddaughters, one fine great-grandson. Most of all, I enjoyed a loving marriage of fifty-six years.

I worked for the New York State Division for Youth and retired as principal after twenty-five years of service. I have been very active in community activities and served on the boards of the Columbia County Community College and the Columbia County Memorial Hospital. I had the opportunity to travel widely both in the states and abroad.

I am very active in veterans affairs. I have a passion for the National Association of Black Military Women. I am a Chartered Life-time member and served as the Chairperson of the Organizational Structure Committee (which was responsible for structuring the NABMW, creating by-laws, membership criteria, national officer's positions, and elections procedures). I personally developed the NABMW procedures to establish new Chapters within the NABMW Regions. I also served as the first Chairperson of the NABMW Northeast Region. I currently serve on the NABMW Executive Board as an advisor to the executive committee.

Now in my eighties, I am enjoying life and "hanging in there". I currently reside in Chesapeake, Virginia and can be contacted via my Email: GXCNABMW@COX.NET.



Gladys S. Carter, WWII veteran, accepts on behalf of the NABMW, a Certificate of Appreciation for honorable service from President Bill Clinton.