

Bridget Pamela Lightbourne

I was born on the beautiful island of Antigua in the West Indies. At age 7, I was relocated to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands and later became a proud naturalized U.S. citizen at just 15 years old. Inspired by a deep sense of purpose, I knew that serving was my calling.

I joined the U.S. Army through the Delayed Entry Program at age 17 and officially entered in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

I served with pride as a Chemical Operations Specialist, completing basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama one of the final all-women training units. My career spanned two decades, with assignments across the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Duty stations included Aberdeen Proving Ground, Germany (Coleman Barracks and Hanau), Fort Lee, Fort Riley, South Korea (Taegu), and Fort Huachuca, where I completed and retired my military career as a proud Staff Sergeant.

Throughout my service, I was recognized for my excellence with numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medals (4), Army Achievement Medals (3), Army Good Conduct Medals (6), National Defense Service Medal, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge with Driver-W Bar, among many others.

Following my military retirement, transitioned into civil service, joining the U.S. Postal Service in San Antonio, Texas, as a Mail Handler. I proudly served 21 years before retiring. My heart for service extended into ministry, where I have been actively involved. I am now an Ordained Minister, a member of Eph'phatha Christian Ministries House of Prayer Fellowship and continues my mission of compassion as a volunteer driver and meal deliverer with Meals on Wheels.

God placed it on my heart at the San Antonio Texas Woman Veterans Day 2023 to join NABMWSA. I hold an Associate Degree in General Studies, graduating with honors. I am also a proud mother of two sons, both married, each blessed with two daughters, making me a joyful and devoted grandmother. Grounded in faith and driven by love, I enjoy sharing the gospel of God, gardening, cooking, and giving back to my community. I will continually praise our Creator for strength, humility, and unwavering commitment to service as I continue to inspire those around me. ALL PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD!