

BETTYE VAUGHAN

South Central Region Chairwoman

Bettie Vaughan is the South Central Chairperson covering Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. A Life Member of the NABMW since 2008.

A native of Chicago after graduating high school attended Chicago Public School Practical Nursing Program and became an LPN. Continuing my education, I became a registered EMT and the second woman to drive an ambulance as an EMT in the City of Chicago.

Being a Healthcare worker was my first love. But I found a new passion. After taken a college PE course in Martial Arts, karate became my new love which I spent numerous hours training for when not working or going to school. Competing throughout the Midwest and east coast I was a top contender and became the first and only female on a full contact martial arts team. Joining the military afforded me the opportunity to use my skills to train fellow soldiers as part of the PT program while stationed in Munich, Germany. It also allowed me the opportunity to continue my martial arts competitions while stationed overseas.

After leaving the military and becoming the wife of a career soldier, I began working at Brooke Army Medical Center. Taking care of the patients coming home from Iraqi Freedom, Desert Storm, and Afghanistan has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The other being a mentor for teenagers as part of Top Ladies of Distinction a national service organization.

I am a Life-Member of the DAV. As Past Commander of Roy B. Hodges Ch 128 San Antonio, Texas I was the first female to hold that position in the 62 yr. history of the chapter, and it allowed me to continue to work with veterans after retiring from BAMC

I hold a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Texas A&M Kingsville majoring in history and a minor in political science. I have a strong interest in the history of black women in the military and the contributions made by them to include the Revolutionary War to the Present. Being a member of the NABMW has given me a greater appreciation for being a black female veteran and I am proud to be counted among these elite and special women.

I did not grow up in a military family, but I am proud to a part of one now. My family is army strong. My husband is a 26 yr. army Vietnam veteran, and my son and daughter are both army veterans.

I have forever been a strong supporter of the NABMW and will continue to tell our story every day and wherever I go.