
1942 CLASS MEMBER HONORED

Wilda Leads the Parade

by Marilyn Rubin, Class of 1954



Lt. Commander Wilda Steinkuhler (Ret.), graduate of the class of 1942, had an exciting experience during the 2007 Memorial Day weekend. She was chosen to be the Grand Marshall for the Brunswick-Topsham (Maine) Memorial Day parade. This was the first time that a woman was ever the Grand Marshall of this particular parade. One doesn't often see women as Grand Marshalls, if at all. The parade especially honored Women in the Military.

The Times Record newspaper, Brunswick, reported the event with Wilda's picture on the front page. They were impressed that Wilda was wearing her original Navy uniform. Wilda attended our Alumni Centennial Celebration in 2005 and one of her Navy uniforms was on display at Concordia Historical Institute at the time.

People lined the streets to see the parade and Wilda riding in the rear seat of a restored World War II jeep, driven by its owner. She waved to the crowds as they proceeded down the parade route and Wilda heard one of the spectators

say, "And she's 88 years old!" She is truly an inspiration to her fellow citizens of Maine. A part of the celebrations of the day included Wilda placing a wreath at the Veterans Memorial.

Wilda joined the Navy Reserves and reported for duty on January 5, 1944, at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, IL. Her career in the Navy took her to 12 different naval hospitals or clinics including two overseas assignments in Guam and Japan. During her service she received two letters of commendation for outstanding performance of duty as well as ribbons and medals: World War II Victory Medal, American Defense Service Medal, and National Defense Service Medal. She retired July 1, 1973, and resides in Brunswick where she is near a Navy base where she served for seven years.

When Wilda graduated from our Lutheran School of Nursing in 1942 and became an Ensign in the Navy, she never dreamed that one day she would be leading a parade. What a wonderful way to recognize our veterans and our Wilda!

*Wilda, you make us proud.
Thank you for serving our
country all those years.
As modest Wilda says,
“I am grateful to the Navy
that I had the opportunity and
privilege to work in my profes-
sion and serve my country.”*

*God bless Wilda.
God bless America.*

