



**Colonel Mary J. Guyette**

Colonel Mary J. Guyette was born in New Jersey on January 10, 2022. She is a graduate of New Jersey State Teachers College, Glassboro, New Jersey, with a Bachelor of Science degree in education.

She enlisted in the WAC on April 7, 1943 and graduated from the Women's Army Corps Officer Candidate School Class #36 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on July 14, 1943.

During 1948-1949 Colonel Guyette served as a recruiting officer for the Kansas-Missouri Recruiting District as part of a campaign for enlistment of ex-service women to the WAC.

Colonel Guyette served in Japan from 1950-1953 followed by variety of staff assignments during the next ten years. From August 1963 to September 1965, she was WAC Senior Advisor to the Republic of Korea Army, in Seoul, Korea. She then served as S-2 and S-3 of the U.S. Army Women's Army Corps Center at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

June 1968 she began a tour with the U.S. Army Element, Defense intelligence Agency, Washington D.C and from April 1971 to July 1972 she was the WAC Staff Advisor to U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany.

Colonel Guyette died on March 13, 1997 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Her military awards include: the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak-Leaf Clusters, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

## **Historical Note – WAC Promotions to Colonel (O-6) from 1942-1968**

In January 1968 - soon after enactment of Public Law 90-130, which reduced career restrictions on women officers, the WAC Director requested an increase in the WAC officer grade structure and action to select six WAC officers for promotion to colonel.

The Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel concurred and forwarded the request to the Army Secretary, who approved both the increase and appointment of a special board to select WAC officers for promotion to colonel.

He directed that the selectees meet the same criteria for promotion as had the male officers selected for colonel by the annual promotion board in the fall of 1967. Of twenty-seven eligible WAC officers, the board selected six: Elizabeth H. Branch, Lane Carlson, Mary J. Guyette, Marie Kehrer, Maxene B. Michl, and Charlotte I. Woodworth.

The women on this list received their promotions after the men on the annual list, but the Army later interspersed the WACs by date of rank on the lineal list of colonels. Subsequent boards selected both men and women. Prior to this action the WAC had only one Colonel (the WAC Director) from 1942 until 1965.

Lieutenant Colonel Mary J.D. Roberts a graduate of Class # 1 was a reserve officer for 23 years and President Johnson's Staff Secretary from 1953-1968. The President requested that she be promoted to Colonel and The Secretary of the Army approved the promotion on June 7, 1965. From that day until the six women selected by the 1968 board were promoted the WAC had two full Colonels.