



Uniformed Services University
of the Health Sciences
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD 20814-4799

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Contact: Ken Frager, Office of External Affairs

Voice: 301-295-3981 **Cell:** 240-281-2738

Email: kenneth.frager@usuhs.mil

For Immediate Release:

USU Nurse Participates in Memorial Day Storytelling Event

Recent USU alumna reflects on military values and personal memories

Bethesda, Md. – Army Capt. Margo Jenkins knows the meaning of Memorial Day. The nine-year Army vet has served her country as an Adult Nurse Practitioner and recently completed her Master's degree at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), to earn distinction as a Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner. And she did it with honors, accepting the Federal Nursing Service Chief's Award and the USU Board of Regents Award for academic excellence during USU's commencement exercises last weekend. She also is the first Army Nurse Corps Officer to be selected to complete her doctoral program straight from her Master's work.

Capt. Jenkins knows her effort will be of critical importance when she cares for service members on the battlefields and as they return from deployments. She personally has lost three family members this year who served in military uniform – one in each Armed Service – Army, Navy and Air Force. And her sister-in-law was engaged to a service member who was sent to Vietnam and never returned. His name – Bruce Morrow – is on the Memorial Wall Capt. Jenkins was facing when she told her story as one of several speakers participating in the Memorial Day Storytelling in Washington, DC, on Monday, May 30.

“It's important for people – men and women who have never served – to meet and hear from active-duty women who can tell them, from a personal perspective, what it is like,” said Capt. Jenkins. “As an Army soldier I honor those service members who paved the way for me. Without their contributions and sacrifices I wouldn't have the opportunities I have today.”

Capt. Jenkins told attendees that “Today, there are fewer and fewer veterans to share their stories. Many of our older veterans - especially those from World War II and Korea - tend to be reticent and don't want to talk about their service. But, unlike during past periods in our history, many Americans today have never even met a soldier. I stand today as a soldier who remembers.”

Captain Jenkins added, “You are doing an important thing, making a difference, by being here today. You are not forgetting the sacrifices of our soldiers and service members. I stand today as a soldier who remembers. My husband retired U.S. Air Force TSgt Timothy Jenkins stands here today as a representative of Desert Storm – he remembers. Both of my sons on active-duty in the U.S. Air Force, SSgt Christopher Pettingill, and Senior Airman Christopher Lussier – both remember.”

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, or USU, is the nation's federal health sciences university. USU students are primarily active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. Of the university's more than 4,500 physician and more than 900 advanced practice nursing alumni, the vast majority are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise. For more information, visit www.usuhs.mil.