



**Celebrating Women's History Month**

# **FEMALE VETERANS FORUM**

**Moderator: Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara**

**Female Veterans/Panelists:**

**Tabitha Dart**

**Penny Deere**

**Kathy Dunlap**

**Susan S. Rancourt**

**Christine T. Rem**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 25 at 6 p.m.**

**Stockade Building, Room 101**

**Schenectady County Community College**

**78 Washington Avenue, Schenectady**

**Program is admission free and open to the public.**

**For more information, contact Assemblyman**

**Santabarbara's office at 518-382-2941**

# Celebrating Women's History Month



## FEMALE VETERANS FORUM

**Moderator: Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara**

**MEET THE FEMALE VETERANS AND PANELISTS FOR THE EVENT:**

**Tabitha Dart** is currently a student at Schenectady County Community College. She is a 28 year veteran of the United States Army and served as an Ammunition Specialist from 2006-2010. During 2008-2009 she was stationed in Anaconda-Balad, Iraq. Currently she is majoring in Humanities and Social Sciences and will be graduating on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 from Schenectady County Community College. Ms. Dart hopes to start a career as an advocate, and a helping hand for those who suffer from abuse, neglect, hunger and/or poverty.

**Penny Deere** served the Army SFC for 20 years. She joined the Army in 1975 as a Woman Army Corps. Retired in 1995. She is an advocate for women veterans and other veterans. Ms. Deere spent 12 years in what was West Germany during the cold war. As Military Intelligence, she watched the dismantle of the Mother Russia (USSR and the IRON curtain, fall of the Berlin wall). She served active duty in Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990. She joined the Stratton VA Chorus. She considers herself very fortunate to have the opportunity to “hang out with history” meaning we have, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Desert Storm and IRAQ freedom all in this choir. She is member of the mental health counsel at the VA as well as its art subcommittee. She is a licensed massage therapist and has a daughter who was also in the Army.

**Kathy Dunlap** is currently attending Schenectady County Community College and is running the College's Student Veterans Office. She served in the U.S. Navy from 1980 to 1986, achieving the rank of Electronics Technician Petty Officer 2nd Class. Ms. Dunlap held a Top Secret Clearance while working on cryptographic communications. During her service she was stationed in FL, IL, CA, GA, VA and Scotland. Ms. Dunlap will be graduating this May 19<sup>th</sup> from Schenectady County Community College.

**Suzanne S. Rancourt**, MS, MFA, CASAC-T, has served as Editor of Bluestreak: Journal of Military Poetry. She is a multi modal Expressive Arts Therapist, Consultant, Educator. An Armed Services Veteran, (USMC and USA) recipient of the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas First Book Award, her work has been published in The Muddy River Review, Ginosko Journal, The Journal of Military Experience vol 2 and vol 3, Chiron Review, and Four Winds Literary Magazine. Ms. Rancourt has work in the February 2016 American Institute of Stress (quarterly) Combat Stress magazine. Ms. Rancourt continues to be involved in The Military Experience and the Arts organization and works regularly with veterans using expressive arts in trauma recovery. Ms. Rancourt is a NY state CASAC, has participated in Songwriting with Soldiers and received training from Center for Deployment Psychology.

**Christine T. Rem** COL (R) DNS, RN is a retired U.S. Army Reserve Nurse Corps COLONEL with 6 years Active Duty and an Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF 2007-2008) woman Veteran. Received a Bronze Star for accomplished service in Ramadi, Iraq (2008) as a Civil Affairs Officer on an Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (EPRT); a Meritorious Service Medal for services as a Nurse Case Manager in Little Rock, Arkansas (2009-2011) and a Legion of Merit for her 30 years of service (2012). These active duty assignments include: 1) Clinical Operations Officer OB/GYN services at the 67th CSH Wurzburg, Germany (2005); 2) Clinical Officer in Charge of the Army Reserve Trauma Training Program conducted at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn ( 2006); 3) Nursing Consultant, Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, Camp Ramadi, Iraq (2007-2008); and 4) Nursing Service Senior Officer, 90th RSC Surgeon's Office, Camp Robinson, Little Rock, Arkansas ( 2009-2011). Currently she is the Executive Director of the Capital District Women Veterans' Program, Inc. and is a Nursing Adjunct Professor at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY.