

Vietnam Era Veteran Carol Taylor

Vietnam Era Veteran Carol Taylor enlisted in the United States Air Force in June 1969, alongside her boyfriend at the time. She initially aimed to become an Air Traffic Controller but, due to her eye exam, was assigned to the Personnel career field. After basic training in San Antonio, Texas, she was stationed at Kessler Air Force Base in Mississippi just in time for the arrival of Category 5 Hurricane Camille in August 1969. They had to shelter in place during the storm, which became one of the largest acts of destruction in U.S. history, causing 259 deaths and \$1.421 billion in damage. Equivalent to \$11.887 billion today.



After completing her training, Carol spent four years at McCord Air Force Base, south of Tacoma, Washington, where she achieved the rank of Sergeant. She later joined the Army Reserves, serving at Fort Lewis, Washington, as a weekend warrior. In the Army Reserves, she held roles related to retention and was the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCIC) of the Motor Pool.

In 1988, Carol was discharged and moved to Oregon, where she met her husband, fellow veteran Dennis Walthall. It is amazing what meeting in an apartment parking space developed into. She parked in his space, and the rest is history. She embarked on a civilian career with the Department of Revenue, working as a collection officer and investigator.

Carol Taylor's journey reflects her dedication to military service and her subsequent commitment to public service in her civilian career. Her experiences, including weathering Hurricane Camille, undoubtedly shaped her resilience and determination.

Thank you for your service in the USAF, the USA, and of course the 8 years as Vice-President of the Sunflower Veteran's Club!