



This Is HerStory

Chaplain (Maj-Ret)

Betty W. Pace, U.S. Army



In August 1957, she proudly became Reverend Betty W. Pace, receiving her license to preach. Chaplain (Maj-Ret) Betty Walker Pace was commissioned a second lieutenant and two days later, promoted to captain in the Army through the constructive credit program. She was the first female to graduate from Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta in 1967. She joined the Army during the Women

Army Corps (WACs) and entered the United States Army Chaplain Corps in 1975. She completed her training at Fort Wadsworth, NY at a time where female chaplains were unheard of. She was sworn in for the first time at Fort McPherson Post Chapel.



She was one of the first two female chaplains to serve in the Army in 1975. Her background as an avid speaker would become her claim to fame throughout her time in the army. With the move of

the Chaplain School from Fort Wadsworth, NY to Fort Monmouth, NJ, the US Army Chaplain Center and School would become trainers of Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants in the same location. The newly trained Chaplain and Chaplain Assistant would now be known as an Unit Ministry Team (UMT). After training, she began her career as Battalion Chaplain. Her excellent oratory skills and love of people resulted in her being selected as a charter member of the Army Chaplain's Academic Board. Always receiving high accolades for emulating the highest of standards for soldiers and families by intervening on their behalf to those officials responsible for their welfare, she was known as the Soldier's Chaplain. She believed soldiers come first. She spent her time in the Army:

P- protecting
A- adjusting
C – correcting, and
E - emulating the highest standards of an Army Chaplain.

Chaplain (MAJ-Ret) Betty Pace often received assignments that would challenge her as a wife and mother with three young sons, serving in unaccompanied tours in Korea, where families were not allowed. Chaplain Pace was a mentor and leader in every area of her career. The most sought-after orator, she was consistently sought out for guest speaking or to simply grace an event with her presence.



Her assignments made great use of her Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and her master's degree in guidance counseling expertise by assigning her to not only Korea, but Fort Gordon, GA and her last assignment as an

active-duty chaplain, 142nd Supply and Service Battalion, United States Army Europe Seventh Army (USAREUR)-Wiesbaden, Germany. Chaplain Pace initiated several key community projects that included ministry to the soldier and the soldier's family. She integrated the new concept of the Chaplain Corps – *Unit Ministry Team* -

HerStory



Chaplain Betty Pace is the first Chaplain of Sergeant Major (Retired) Pamela A. Wilson. She provided the structure and legacy that this soldier lived with her sister, first sergeant – retired Cheryl Woodhouse, who served together with her in the military for a combined 58 years of military service. Today, she serves with her Battalion Religious Affairs

Specialist, SGM – Retired, Dr. Pamela A. Wilson in a newly formed female veteran organization. They are the first known Chaplain and Religious Affairs Specialist to serve together as a *Unit Ministry Team* after retiring.



President and founding member of International Association of Military Women of Color (I.A.M.WOC), Ernestine Faircloth met personally with her and declared Chaplain Betty Pace as founding Board Member of I.A.M.WOC.

Chaplain Betty Pace participated in the retirement ceremony of her Religious Affairs Specialist who rose to the highest rank, due to her initial influence in her career.





Chaplain Betty Pace is a member of the Order of Eastern Star and Zeta Phi Beta, Inc.

