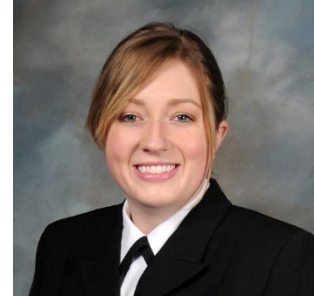


Woman Veteran of the Year

Monica Dean has been selected as the Kentucky Woman Veteran of the Year 2023.

Monica Nicole Dean is a Senior Scrum Master at Infor and the Event Director for Lady Veterans Connect; Co-Founder Vet Connect. She served three years active duty in the U.S. Navy.



"I served in the Navy as an Aerographer's Mate where my daily tasks revolved around meteorology and oceanography," Dean said. "I was on Type 2 sea duty and when my assigned ship was in port, I would report to a shore command daily for training and prep to deploy. I was on several ships including the USS Makin Island (Amphibious carrier), USS John C. Stennis, and USS Abraham Lincoln. I deployed on my 21st birthday - July 19th, 2010, and set sail out to the middle east in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn."



During her time in the service Dean received two Flag letters of Commendation, a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and became Air Warfare Qualified.

Today, Dean continues to serve by serving veterans following her time in the Navy.

"I do a lot of work for several nonprofits serving veterans across the state including Lady Veterans Connect, Vet Connect, Athena's Sisters, and Active Heroes," Dean said. "I intend to bridge the divide between all the organizations in the state that serve this population. We each have our strengths and missions so we must come together to form an unbreakable bond and network to serve our community and do the real work that will help our siblings in arms who are struggling."

Upon being selected for the Woman Veteran of the Year, Dean feels this is a milestone and plans to keep moving forward.

"It's an honor and an affirmation in the work that I do for veterans with a focus on women veteran issues," Dean said.

Finally, Dean wants to convey the importance of looking out for one another and there are resources here in Kentucky for women veterans.



The Kentucky Veterans of the Year program is an initiative of the Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana's signature veterans program, Operation Outreach. The Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana, in partnership with various community leaders, understood that veterans continue to make great contributions throughout their communities and wanted to ensure those veterans who "continue to serve" have the opportunity to be recognized and celebrated. —kentuckyveteransoftheyear.org