

Dorothy Paul Pritzker

Veterans and the U.S. Census Bureau



Ensign Dorothy Paul, 1943

The Indianapolis Star (Indianapolis, IN)
13 Jun 1943

The U.S. Census Bureau has always been a home to veterans of the United States Armed Forces. The first superintendent of the census, William Augustus Weaver, appointed in 1840, received wounds as a combat veteran in the War of 1812. Francis Amasa Walker, the highly influential superintendent of the 1880 Census, was a veteran of the Civil War and former prisoner of war. In 1890, census legislation made it clear that honorably discharged veterans of the armed services would receive preference for employment as enumerators—a practice that continues to this day and one that has been further strengthened and expanded through civil service reforms. In 2015, for instance, the U.S. Department of Commerce, to which the Census Bureau belongs, employed 5,684 veterans (12 percent). Throughout the history of the Census Bureau, agency employees proudly served in America's conflicts and the Korean War, from 1950 to 1953, was no exception.

During the Korean War, Census Bureau employee and Navy reservist Dorothy E. Paul received the call to return to active duty. Born on March 1, 1919, in Muncie, IN, Dorothy's father, Rolla, ran a hardware business and sold real estate. The family later moved to Indianapolis where Dorothy excelled in her studies at the Arsenal Technical High School. Dorothy attended Lake Forest University, initially, and then graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in Psychology

Paul Family, 1920 Census

from the University of Kentucky in 1942. On October 27, 1942, Dorothy joined the United States Naval Reserve, Women's Reserve, more commonly known as Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). Dorothy was one of the first officers to go through the WAVES training program, which had just been established on July 21, 1942, at Smith College in Northampton, MA. She received her commission as an ensign on January 8, 1943, after an intense two month training course.

The Navy stationed Dorothy in Washington, DC, where she served in administrative positions—WAVES primarily worked in administrative fields to free up men for ship and overseas service. Following the war, Dorothy remained in the U.S. Navy Reserves (USNR). Dorothy began working at the Veterans Administration where she entered the prestigious Administrative Intern Program in 1948. Soon after the completion of the intern program, Dorothy moved to the Census Bureau's Personnel Division, where she would remain until called to active service during the Korean War.



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The Korean War began when the North Korean Army invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. Dorothy received the call to return to active duty in April of 1951. For her new assignment, Dorothy transferred to the Office of the Chief of the Naval Division to work on supplementary communications activities. On April 1, 1953, the USNR promoted Dorothy to lieutenant commander (LCDR). With the signing of the armistice and the end of hostilities on July 27, 1953, Dorothy soon returned to her job in the Personnel Division at the Census Bureau. The same civil service reforms that ensured veterans would receive preference in hiring, also ensured that returning veterans would be able to keep the jobs they previously held.

After her temporary absence, Dorothy returned to the Census Bureau with a furor. She began setting up a variety of employee aids, and employee training and improvement programs. She started a reading improvement program in 1955, and ran an administrative improvement program in 1956. In 1956, Dorothy also expanded her military skillset when she graduated from a public relations program at the Naval Reserves Officer School in Washington, DC.



A new series of color slides on the Bureau's Civil Defense program will be on display in the cafeteria soon in the Census ADmatic machine. Dorothy Paul (Per), who did the art work for the 30 frames in the new show, is pictured above getting a sneak preview of some of her handiwork.

Dorothy stands next to her work
Census Bulletin (Census Bureau Publication)
 13 Aug 1954



NEXT STEP--PUTTING LESSONS INTO PRACTICE--Another group of em

Dorothy (right) with one of her classes
Census Bulletin (Census Bureau Publication)
 19 Apr 1957

In 1957, Dorothy participated in the safety committee and the performance review board. She provided counseling to employees looking to further their education and also coordinated numerous training programs within the Census Bureau. In fact, Dorothy was so devoted to education, that, in addition to being employed full time at the Census Bureau, she worked as an instructor at the U.S. Department of

Agriculture Graduate School from 1956 to 1965.

In 1956, Dorothy married fellow Census Bureau employee, Leon Pritzker. Leon also served in the armed forces during WWII, when he temporarily left his Census Bureau job to work as a cryptanalyst. Leon also taught at the USDA Graduate School with his wife, and was a fellow of the American Statistical Association. Leon and Dorothy lived in the Washington, DC suburb of Silver Spring in Maryland, and had two children together.

Dorothy continued to educate and improve employee programs until her retirement in 1963, after almost 15 years of civilian public service. After a lifetime devoted to the protection and improvement of her country, Dorothy passed away on April 9, 1970 at the age of 51. The Census Bureau is proud to count LCDR Dorothy Pritzker as one of our many veterans who have answered the call over the years.



Dorothy (right) demonstrating safety
Census Bulletin (Census Bureau Publication)
 6 Sep 1957