

Iva Lee Symes Duckworth

U.S. Navy WAVES



Iva Lee Symes Duckworth
United States Navy Wave, WWII

Iva Lee Symes was born in Wright City, Missouri on November 3, 1923 and enlisted in the United States Navy WAVES at Ferguson, Missouri on August 4, 1944. Her training began in September 1944 at the U. S. Training School in the Bronx, New York City, New York, formerly Hunter College. After training, Iva served at the U.S. Naval Barracks in New York City, New York. The barracks was formerly the twenty-one story Manhattan Towers Hotel.

Different administrative duties were assigned to Iva on a daily basis. Due to her previous experience as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, one of her duties was as a telephone operator. Other duties included serving as an elevator operator as a filing clerk. She also fondly remembers a large amount of marching. Iva held the rank of Seaman First Class when she was honorably discharged from the Navy WAVES on October 29, 1945 at the Personnel Separation Center in Memphis, Tennessee.

On August 24, 1943, Iva married Marion Duckworth, who was serving in the U. S. Army Air Force during World War II. Marion died in 1987 and a daughter, Phyllis, is also deceased. Iva currently resides in rural Fayette County, Illinois and enjoys the company of her four daughters, JoLayne, Mary Ann, Vicky and Brenda and three grandchildren, Jamie, Rob and Marion.

Iva Lee Symes Duckworth
Mulberry Grove, Fayette County, Illinois