

## **Guide to the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American War Mothers Organization Records**

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections  
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	American War Mothers
<b>Title:</b>	Southern Nevada Chapter of the American War Mothers Organization Records
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00396
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1947-1995
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1950-1980 (bulk)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.4 Cubic Feet (3 boxes and 1 flat folder)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.85 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Southern Nevada Chapter of the American War Mothers Organization Records (1947-1995) are comprised primarily of scrapbooks containing correspondence and minutes, numerous newspaper clippings, and photographs. Also included are pamphlets on American War Mothers organizational rituals, bylaws, history, ceremonial ephemera, flags, and a Henderson Chapter Charter. The materials also contain items relating to the North Las Vegas Chapter, the Rose Garden Chapter, and the State Chapter.

### Preferred Citation

Southern Nevada Chapter of the American War Mothers Organization Records, 1947-1995. MS-00396. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Historical Note

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Federal officials impressed with the food conservation and war relief work carried on by mothers of servicemen and women during World War One, requested the group be established permanently. The American War Mothers Organization was founded in response to federal officials impressed with and grateful for the Food Conservation and War Relief Work carried on by mothers of servicemen and women during World War I. On September 29, 1917 these officials requested that a permanent War Mothers organization be established. Enthusiastic response resulted nationwide, and by Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, two thirds of the states were organized into chapters. The first National Convention of War Mothers

was called by the Governor of Indiana and convened in Indianapolis on August 15, 1918. Delegates from other states were appointed by their respective governors. On February 24, 1925 the 68th Congress granted the American War Mothers a National Charter (PL-453).

The purpose of the organization is to keep alive and develop the spirit of world service; maintain the ties of fellowship born of that service; to assist and further any patriotic work, including assisting the men and women who served and were wounded in the World Wars or conflicts in the United States; and to foster and promote a friendship and understanding between America and the Allies. Membership is limited to women who are citizens of the U.S. whose children served in the Armed Forces of the United States or its allies in World War I, World War II, Korea or Vietnam Conflicts, or any subsequent wars or conflicts involving the United States, having an honorable discharge from such service, or being still in the service.

The charters' activities revolved around promoting patriotism and memorializing the war dead. Nationally, the American War Mothers instituted the practice of awarding a silver star banner to families whose son or daughter served in war, and a gold star banner to those whose son or daughter died in military service. American War Mothers also participated in the national project to memorialize the war dead by identifying Gold Star Memorial Highways. Locally, the American War Mothers donated trees and planted the City of Las Vegas Rose Garden in memory of the war dead. The Henderson chapter's main project was the erection of the Memorial Wall in Henderson. Although the chapters were still active through Desert Storm of the early 1990s, participation in this patriotic organization waned, and the Southern Nevada chapters of the American War Mothers disbanded in the 1990s.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Southern Nevada Chapter of the American War Mothers Organization Records (1947-1995) are comprised of scrapbooks that contain some correspondence and minutes, numerous newspaper clippings and photographs. Also included are pamphlets on American War Mothers organizational rituals, history, ceremonial paraphernalia, flags, and a Henderson Chapter Charter. The materials also contain items relating to the North Las Vegas and Rose Garden chapters, and to the State Chapter.

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## Arrangement

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Collection remains in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

This collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1997 by Mary Ann Jennings; accession number 97-17.

### Processing Note

Collection was processed in 1999 by Elizabeth Warren. In 2017 Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it up to current professional standards.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

Additional information on the American War Mothers is available at the Clark County Heritage Museum in Henderson, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Veterans -- Services for -- Nevada -- Las Vegas.
- Veterans -- Services for -- United States
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Women -- United States
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Women -- United States
- Korean War, 1950-1953 -- Women -- United States
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Women -- United States

- Photographs

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Booklet, American War Mothers Constitution and Bylaws as amended, 1975 September	oversized box 01
Booklet, American War Mothers Ritual, as revised, 1974 April	oversized box 01
Pamphlet, "Synopsis of American War Mothers", undated	oversized box 01
Booklet, "American War Mothers History," a fifty year history, 1917-1967, updated to 1981	oversized box 01
Guest Register, 1978-1993	oversized box 01
1 flag, Stars and Stripes. Stamped on grommet edge: "Roversford Flag Do." Handwritten name printed in blue ink on same edge: "Johansen." Blue paint splashes on topmost red and white stripes. 48 stars, 5 x 9 1/2, 2 grommets, undated	oversized box 01
Charter certificate, Henderson chapter No. 2, organized 1952 July 3, charter members and officers signatures on back, undated	flat file 04
1 candlestick holder, glass, 5 pointed star shape, undated	oversized box 01
1 gavel, oak wood, head reseated on handle, undated	oversized box 01
American War Mothers shield decal, 3 3/4" diameter, undated	oversized box 01
1 sash, red, white and blue grosgrain ribbon, with red, white and blue grosgrain rosette, approx. 5' x 3", undated	oversized box 01
1 flag, "American War Mothers" on shield, 7 3/4" x 11 1/2", undated	oversized box 01
1 flag, Stars and Stripes, 50 stars, 11" x 16", undated	oversized box 01
1 pin, American War Mothers shield with two bars and pendant star engraved on back, "Doris Pritchard" Topmost bar is engraved "Past State President, Nevada"; second bar is engraved "Past Chapter President" Gold Star is pendant from shield, undated	oversized box 01
Photo album, number 1, 1947-1995	box 02
Photo album, number 2, 1983-1984	box 02
Album, North Las Vegas Chapter, 1981-1994	box 02
Scrapbook number 1, 1951-1956	box 03
Scrapbook number 2, 1956-1959	

	box 03
Scrapbook number 3, 1959-1964	box 03
Scrapbook number 4, contains International Order Odd Fellows (IOOF), Las Vegas Oasis Rebekah Lodge #31 clippings and photographs, 1960-1967	box 03
Scrapbook number 5, 1962-1970	box 03
Scrapbook number 6, 1969-1976	box 03
Charter certificate, Silver State chapter, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1951 July 10	flat file 04