



Dorothy C. Stratton

Lafayette, Tippecanoe County

March 24, 1899 – September 17, 2006

Captain Dorothy C. Stratton, USCGR (W) was born in Brookfield, MO, on 24 March 1899. After receiving her Master's degree from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Columbia University, she joined the staff of Purdue University in 1933 as the first full-time Dean of Women and as Assistant Professor of Psychology. During her tenure, the number of women studying at Purdue nearly tripled from 500 to 1400.

In June 1942, she took a leave of absence from Purdue to join the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Naval Reserve (WAVES) and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Later that year, she became the first woman to be accepted for service in the Women's Reserve of the Coast Guard. While serving as its first Director, her first duties were to organize the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. She developed the name SPARS, by combining the Coast Guard's motto, *Semper Paratus*, and its English translation, *Always Ready*.

She later became the first director of personnel at the International Monetary Fund. In 1950, she took the position as National Executive Director of the Girl Scouts of America, serving in that capacity for 10 years, before retiring in 1960. In 1958, she appeared as a guest challenger on the TV panel show, *To Tell the Truth*.

Dorothy Stratton passed away in West Lafayette, Indiana, on 17 September 2006 at the age of 107. In 2008, the Coast Guard named its third National Security Cutter the *USCGC Stratton* in her honor. In January 2016, the National Women's History Project named Captain Dorothy C. Stratton as a 2016 National Women's History Month Honoree.

For more information about Dorothy Stratton, go to:
<http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/DStrattonBio.asp>.

For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to:
<http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Photo: U.S. Coast Guard (12 January 2016). *Dorothy C. Stratton*. Retrieved from: <http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/DStrattonBio.asp>.


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