

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

CEREMONIAL MISC. NO. 01-25

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE RETIREMENT OF MARY ANN FLYNN

Before ALLEN, *Chief Judge*, and PIETSCH, BARTLEY, GREENBERG, MEREDITH,
TOTH, FALVEY, LAURER, and JAQUITH, *Judges*, and
KRAMER, HOLDAWAY, GREENE, KASOLD,
HAGEL, MOORMAN, LANCE, DAVIS, and SCHOELEN, *Senior Judges*.

ORDER

Before the Court is the matter of the retirement of Mary Ann (Merri) Flynn, a career public servant who dedicated 40 years of service to the nation, most of them litigating cases before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court) on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Ms. Flynn's longstanding tenure at VA and her tireless efforts to develop and evolve the practice of veterans law merit special recognition.

Ms. Flynn graduated *magna cum laude* from Kenyon College and earned a law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law. Her involvement with the Court began when Ms. Flynn joined VA's Office of the General Counsel in 1992 as a staff attorney with VA's Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Litigation Group (CAVCLG). Her promotions over nearly 33 years at VA demonstrate that Ms. Flynn's legal acumen and professionalism were recognized and rewarded by VA. Her early responsibilities within CAVCLG grew, and in 2002 she was named Principal Deputy Assistant General Counsel—a position she held for 10 years. In 2012, she was appointed to the Senior Executive Service as the Deputy Director for Policy and Procedures in the Veterans Benefits Administration's Compensation Service. In 2013, Ms. Flynn returned to CAVCLG as Chief Counsel, where she guided that litigation group and mentored countless VA attorneys in her 12 years in that role.

Ms. Flynn's leadership and professionalism extended beyond VA: She never failed to answer the Court's call for volunteers. Ms. Flynn served for 6 years, several as Chair, on the Court's Committee on Admission and Practice, was a founding member of the Court's Judicial Advisory Committee, and consistently served as a judge for the Court's National Veterans Law Moot Court Competition. She was a valued presenter and panelist at myriad Court-related events, and at the Court's request, Ms. Flynn frequently acted as moderator/interviewer when panels of judges presented, a testament to the high regard in which she is held across the Court. In 2019 she was presented with the Hart T. Mankin Award, the Court's most prestigious recognition of outstanding service to the Court. Her integrity and work ethic are unparalleled, and the Court owes her a debt of gratitude.

Before joining VA, Ms. Flynn served on active duty in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Navy, with tours including assignments as staff judge advocate in Long Beach and San Diego, California, and as an instructor at the Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island. After leaving active duty, Ms. Flynn affiliated with the Navy Reserve and held a variety of billets, including Reserve special counsel to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, commanding officer of the unit in charge of legal assistance policy, and counsel to the Navy Inspector General. She served as an appellate judge on the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, and in July 2013, she retired as a captain (O6), having completed 30 years of service.

Ms. Flynn's legacy in veterans law and her impact on the Court are truly inspiring and her contributions and achievements most worthy of special recognition. Upon consideration of the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that Merri Flynn take with her our gratitude for the many years of outstanding public service she has rendered to this Court and the nation, our admiration for her many accomplishments, the warmth of our continued friendship, and our very best wishes.

DATED: April 29, 2025

PER CURIAM.