

Teacher Inquiry Kit: Grades K-5

Edith Rene Porter-Stewart

Title	Edith Rene Porter-Stewart - Chaplains in the Military
Author(s)	Dr. Rose E. Honey
Grade Level	3rd - 5th
Soldier	Edith Rene Porter-Stewart
Tribal Affiliation	Cherokee and Blackfeet
Branch of Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marines ● Navy
Dates of Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2nd Marine Air Wing, Headquarters, Air Group Chaplain, Cherry Point, North Carolina: 1989-1992 ● Navy USS Mount Hood, Command Chaplain, Concord, California: 1992-1994 ● Naval Air Station, Air Wing Chaplain, Alameda, California: 1994-1995 ● Naval Medical Center, Staff and USNS Mercy Chaplain, San Diego, California: 1995-1997 ● Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation, Assistant Director, San Diego, California: 1997-2001 ● Naval Station, Staff Chaplain, San Diego, California: 2001-2004 ● Naval Medical Center, Staff Chaplain, San Diego, California: 2004-2006
Essential Question	What role do chaplains play in the military and how is this position important to our country?
Contextual Paragraph	<p>Lieutenant Edith Rene Porter-Stewart, a Protestant Chaplain, served in both the Marines and the Navy. When Chaplain Porter-Stewart's was growing up, her mother and father directed plays and she has written, directed, and starred in plays and written poetry her whole life. After receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees in speech therapy, she worked as a speech therapist, and also toured with a professional theater company in the U.S. and Canada.</p> <p>After performing for military bases, she was led to follow in her father's footsteps who had served in the Navy during World War II. She attended seminary and went to Chaplain school in Newport, Rhode Island. Her first duty was with the Marines, where she was the first operational woman in the 2nd Marine Airwing working with the headquarters squadron, in Cherry Point, NC. This was during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield, when women were not yet being deployed, so she remained in the U.S. covering 27 supply squadrons in North and South Carolina. Her work included developing a</p>

	<p>program for key wives (spouses of deployed soldiers) and developing a television program called "Sense of Value," covering topics relevant to military families such as being reunited with returning soldiers. She also supported soldiers who were in legal trouble, and soldiers who had returned from combat overseas. She established an airport ministry where she offered worship services and prayer to troops who were being deployed or returning home. Her husband, Edwin Porter-Stewart was a great support to her during her service. Her next duty was aboard the U.S.S. Mount Hood, an ammunition ship out of Alameda, CA. Here, she produced an onboard newspaper and a television program called "Not Necessarily the News." This program broadcast information about what to expect from the culture of the different ports that the ship traveled to. Next, she worked in Naval Station Alameda and was the last Protestant Chaplain there before the base closed. Later at the Naval Hospital, she was in charge of the mental health ministry, was part of the Martin Luther King Gospel Choir, and was the assistant director for the Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO).</p> <p>Chaplain Porter-Stewart values what a colleague of hers called "million-dollar checks." These are the fond memories that she considers priceless gifts and lessons in life. The advice she would give to others is to "stay true to yourself, be who you are, stay fit, be up to being a big sister to all you encounter and love what you do." As a female, Chaplain Porter-Stewart was a pioneer, and faced discrimination based on both her religion and her gender. However, in the end, she feels that the support that she felt far outweighed the difficulties that she felt from the people she worked with. As of 2022, Chaplain Porter-Stewart lives in Spearfish, South Dakota and is 70 years old.</p>
<p>C3 Standards</p>	<p><u>C3 Standards:</u></p> <p>Civics - Civic and Political Institutions: D2.Civ.2.3-5. Explain how a democracy relies on people's responsible participation, and draw implications for how individuals should participate.</p> <p>History - Perspectives: D2.His.3-5. Explain why individuals and groups during the same historical period differed in their perspectives.</p>
<p>Primary Source 1:</p>	<p>http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.93902/</p>
<p>Primary Source Title</p> 	<p>Veterans History Project - Edith Rene Porter-Stewart (website): This collection from the Veterans History Project is focused on Edith Rene Porter-Stewart who was the first female chaplain to serve in the Second Marine Aircraft Wing. As a pioneer, she went on to found and host on-base television shows, on-ship newspapers, and an airport ministry to bless departing and incoming soldiers. Included in her collection is a selection of the poetry that she wrote while on tour.</p>

<p>Suggested questions for the source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What years did Chaplain Porter-Stewart serve in the navy? • How did Chaplain Porter-Stewart say she was treated at her first military post? What branch was this with? • Name at least two of the places that Chaplain Porter-Stewart lived during her time in the military.
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss with a small group of others why you think Chaplain Porter-Stewart decided to become a chaplain in the military? What does she say in the interview that gives you this idea? - With a small group, share what each of you learned about Chaplain Porter-Stewart's experiences as a Native American and a woman in the position of chaplain in the military. After everyone in the group shares their individual ideas, discuss any similarities and differences in the ideas that you have, how the interview helped to give you these ideas, and how you think things may or may not be different for a Native American woman in the military today.
<p>Primary Source 2:</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNKjArvT3tQ</p>
<p>Primary Source Title:</p> 	<p>Navy Chaplain - Ministry of Presence - The Full Experience (video): What does it mean to be a Navy Chaplain? This video demonstrates how being a military chaplain can mean making a difference for those who serve our country and is the kind of ministry that you can't find anywhere else.</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe what you think a Navy Chaplain's job is? What did you hear or see in this video that helped you with your understanding of what their role in the military is? • What questions do you have about being a Navy Chaplain after watching this video that will help you to better understand their role? • Based on what you have learned, what religions do you think Navy chaplains are focused on?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is it important to have chaplains in the Navy and/or other branches of military service? Why or why not? - Has the job of a chaplain changed over time? Do you think their role is different now than the role that chaplains played in the military 100 years ago?
<p>Primary Source 3:</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUlmXOsq_TA</p>
<p>Primary Source Title:</p>	<p>Four Things Chaplains Cannot Do (video): This video goes over the basics of why there are chaplains in the military including how the chaplain post started, what they are there to do, and four things that they cannot do in the military.</p>

	
Suggested questions for the source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Chaplain Kelley say is the main reason for having chaplains in the military? What are they there to protect? • How does he describe the duties of a chaplain in the armed services? What is their job? • When were army chaplains first established in the United States military? Who was the main person to decide that this position was important?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are some of the key points that Chaplain Porter-Stewart referred to during her interview in Primary Source 1 that align well with how the role of a chaplain in the military is described in this video. - Chaplain Kelley discusses that today we have a “pluralistic military”. Discuss what he means when he says this, and how chaplains play a role in protecting people
Primary Source 4:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPjg0_THkxE
Primary Source Title: 	Ballad of the Four Chaplains (song): This song tells the story of four chaplains and their greatest sacrifice aboard the sinking United States Army Transfer (USAT) Dorchester during World War II.
Suggested questions for the source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the context for this song - what year is it in the story, and where does the story take place? • What are two questions that you have about what happened in the story? • Do you think that the men in the song are practicing their roles and duties as chaplains - why or why not?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does this song have anything to do with a chaplain’s responsibilities? Why or why not? - Why does the song say, “each prayed to his higher god”? What does this mean?
Primary Source 5:	https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=435990201240677&_rdr
Primary Source Title:	U.S. Army Chaplain Corps (video): Listen to Chaplain Tim Maracle reflect on his Native heritage and what his grandfather taught him about the importance of helping others.

	
Suggested questions for the source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Chaplain Maracle’s heritage? What tribe is he a part of? • What are some of the lessons that Chaplain Maracle talks about learning from his grandfather? • How are Chaplain Maracle’s stories about his grandfather connected to him wanting to be a chaplain in the Army?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss what Chaplain Maracle is talking about when he brings up Native American influences in the armed services. What are some of the influences he talks about? Have you, or has anyone in your group learned about this before? - Chaplain Maracle’s grandfather told him, “Everything you are given is important.” What does his grandfather mean by this, and do you think this is something that is still important today? Why or why not?
Primary Source 6:	https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.93902/zoomturner?ID=pm0002001&page=1
Primary Source Title: 	Red and Blue Blanket (poem): Chaplain Edith Rene Porter Stewart reads a poem she wrote called Red and Blue Blanket: Red and Blue Blanket. The smell of sage. My face to the wind. Red and blue blanket, cover me. Tall and proud. To dance among the stars.
Suggested questions for the source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think the main idea of this poem is - what is it about? • If you could talk to the author, what are two questions that you might ask that are specifically about the poem? • Whose perspective is the poem being told from?

<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is it clear what the red and blue blanket is in the poem? Discuss some other ideas or perspectives that the red and blue blanket might be referring to. Ask and answer questions about this with one another. - Discuss how “the smell of sage,” is relevant to the poem and relevant to the perspective of Chaplain Porter-Stewart.
<p>Primary Source 7:</p>	<p>https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/603727/face-of-defense-native-american-navy-veteran-paved-way-for-women-sailors/</p>
<p>Primary Source Title:</p> 	<p>Face of Defense: Native American Navy Veteran Paved Way for Women Sailors (article): Navy Chief Petty Officer Old Horn-Purdy was one of the first females in the Navy to serve on a combatant ship. This article tells the story of her experiences in the Navy and how protecting America is important to her.</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What years did Navy Chief Petty Officer Old Horn-Purdy serve in the Navy? ● What tribe is Old Horn-Purdy a member of? ● She has some relatives who also served in the military. What branches did they serve in and what were their roles?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How did Navy Chief Petty Officer Old Horn-Purdy talk about how she was treated in the Navy? Did she feel she was treated well? In what ways, if any, does this differ from the experiences portrayed by Chaplain Porter-Stewart? - Talk in a small group about what it means when Old Horn-Purdy says, “We still have to protect America, no matter what. It’s in our blood.” Do you think that soldiers from all backgrounds feel this way? Why or why not?
<p>Primary Source 8: Permanent Link</p>	<p>https://www.baltimoresun.com/features/women-to-watch/bs-fe-female-firsts-20170804-story.html</p>
<p>Primary Source Title:</p> 	<p>Female firsts: What it means to be a groundbreaking woman in the 21st century (video and article): Listen to Major General Linda L. Singh, a former high school dropout, talk about becoming the first woman and first African American to command the Maryland Army National Guard. Read the article that provides an overview of women trailblazers.</p>

<p>Suggested questions for the source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are some of the struggles that Major General Linda Singh went through as a woman in the military? ● Name at least two other roles/responsibilities that Major General Singh talks about having while also being in the military. ● What year did Major General Singh enlist in the military (stated in the article)?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss what Major General Singh says about what it means for women in the military to be role models? - Do you think that being a woman in the military has changed since the time that women were first being integrated into the military? What evidence does Major General Singh give that makes you think this?
<p>Works Cited</p>	<p>“Ballad of the Four Chaplains.” YouTube, uploaded by Dead Men’s Hollow, 25 July 2015, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPjg0_THkxE.</p> <p>Collins, Shannon, “Face of Defense: Native American Navy Veteran Paves the Way for Women Sailors.” U.S. Department of Defense, 28 November 2014. https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/603727/face-of-defense-native-american-navy-veteran-paved-way-for-women-sailors/.</p> <p>“Four Things Chaplains Cannot Do.” <i>YouTube</i>, uploaded by Chaplain Kelley, 18 February 2021, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUImXOsq_TA.</p> <p>McCauley, Mary Carole, “Female Firsts: What it Means to be a Groundbreaking Woman in the 21st Century.” <i>The Baltimore Sun</i>, 27 September 2017, https://www.baltimoresun.com/features/women-to-watch/bs-fe-female-firsts-20170804-story.html. Accessed 27 July 2022.</p> <p>“Navy Chaplain - Ministry of Presence - The Full Experience.” YouTube, uploaded by America’s Navy, 12 December 2017, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNKjArvT3tQ.</p> <p>Porter-Stewart, Edith Rene. Creative Works. <i>Veteran’s History Project</i>, 12 October 2003. https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.93902/zoomturner?ID=pm0002001&page=1</p> <p>Porter-Stewart, Edith Rene. Interview. <i>Veteran’s History Project</i>, 12 October 2003. http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.93902/.</p> <p>U.S. Army Chaplain Corps, with Chaplain Tim Maracle, <i>Facebook</i>, uploaded 27 November 2021, https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=435990201240677&_rdr.</p>