



ONE OF THE HONORS for Theodore Chappell, right, (above) was carrying the casket of Charlotte Louise Berry Winters, 109, the last known female veteran and former Navy Yeoman of World War I. She enlisted in 1917 and her services were held in Frederick, Md. The ceremonial guards representing all branches of the military service, (below) carried the casket of Lady Bird Johnson at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum at her funeral. Theodore Chappell, third from left, represented the U.S. Navy. She was later buried at the LBJ Ranch in Austin, Texas.

Grandson serves as ceremonial guard

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When Theodore Chancellor, 23, a grandson of Evelyn Meitl of Oberlin, receives his discharge from the U.S. Navy on Nov. 9, he will have many memories to cherish while serving as a ceremonial guard at Arlington National Cemetery for 2 1/2 years.

The son of Ken and Rose (Meitl) Chancellor of McCook, he joined the U.S. Navy in January 2006, after graduating in 2005 from McCook High School. He took boot training in Great Lakes, Ill., in the aviation electronics division, then was chosen to train to become a ceremonial guard in May 2006 in Washington. Since he completed the training, he assisted with 2,545 military burials.

Among special assignments included carrying the caskets of former President Gerald Ford, Lady Bird Johnson, widow of President Lyndon B. Johnson, and Charlotte Louise Berry Winters, the last known female who served in World War I.

He was part of an eight-man joint military team carrying President Ford's casket into the domed rotunda for services and state viewing.

"I felt incredibly honored," he said.

He was handpicked to be a member of the ceremonial guard and often performed four or five funerals a day at Arlington. However, he didn't qualify until December of 2006 for the state funeral of a president.

"To be a casket bearer for the Navy, one has to be at least 6 feet tall, have no police record and be good for a picture, I guess," he said. "We're representing the Navy here, and they call us the pretty boys of the Navy."

He was most concerned, however, that his uniform look perfect and that he not mess up.

He also helped carry President Ford's casket when it was transferred from the Capitol to the National Cathedral for the official state funeral which was attended by President Bush and other dignitaries in January 2007.

He was also in the Navy Ceremonial Guard which carried the casket of Charlotte Louise Berry Winters, the last known

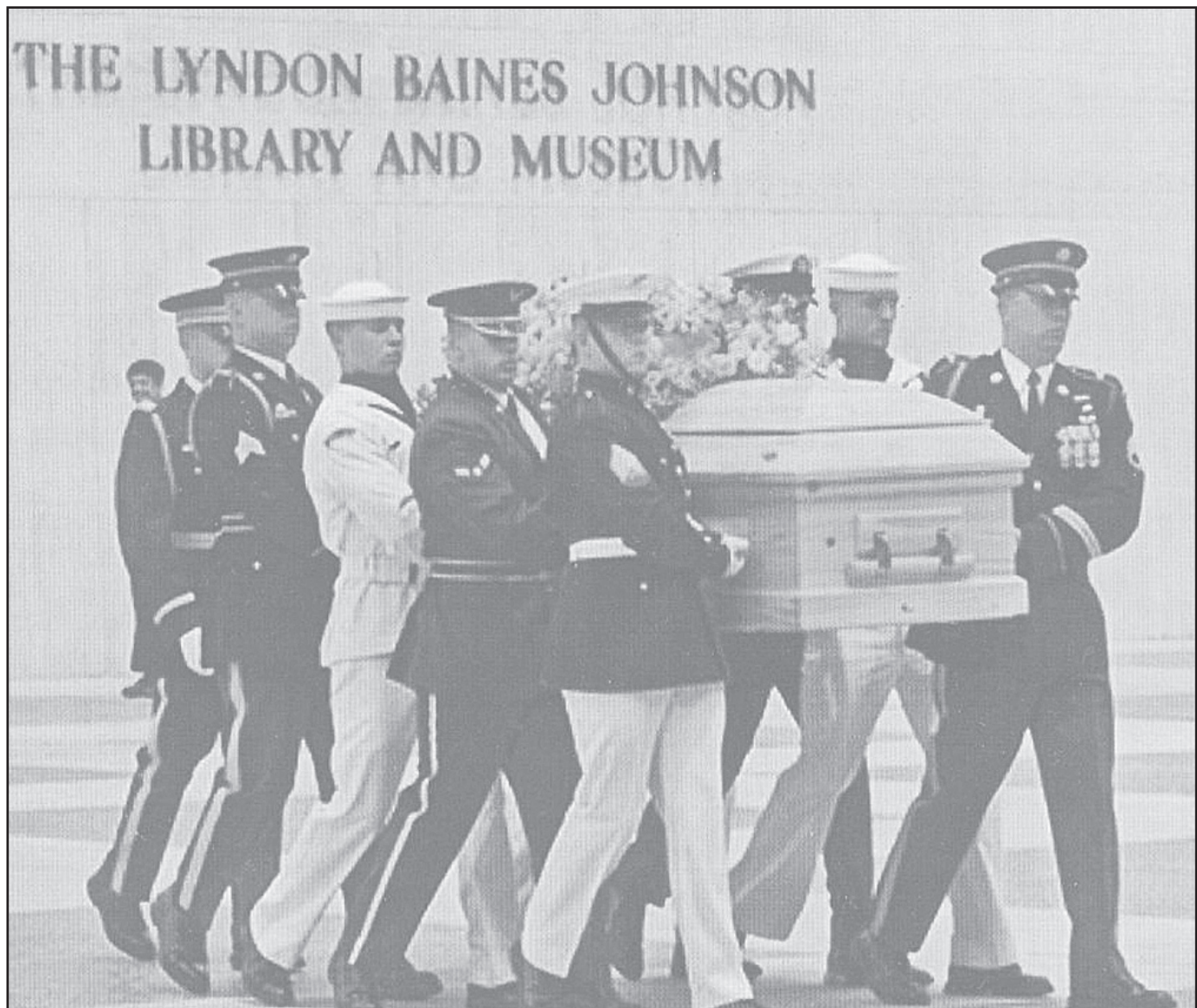


Theodore Chancellor

female veteran and former Navy Yeoman of World War I, from All Saint's Episcopal Church in Frederick Md.

She enlisted in the Navy in 1917 and was a founding member of the National Yeoman veterans' organization. She died on March 27, 2007, at the age of 109. The Yeoman, popularly called "Yeomanettes" to their objection, was established by Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels in 1917 after the United States' entry into the war. At the time the Navy and Marines were the only branches of the U.S. armed forces to enlist women to serve in similar status with men.

Later the same year, he was in the ceremonial guard which carried the casket of Lady Bird Johnson to the Ladybird Wildlife



Center for a eucharistic service in Austin, Texas. She was later buried beside her husband, President Lyndon B. Johnson, at the LBJ Ranch.

An athlete while at McCook High School, he participated in football, wrestling and track. Recently he accomplished a long-distance goal — running the Disney World Marathon held last January in Orlando. He was among the more than 16,000 runners that completed the 26.2-mile marathon run

in and around Disney World.

He said that the competitors were greeted with unusually chilly temperatures for the early morning run. Marathon competitors wore electric tracking chips during the event, allowing his parents and his younger brother, Derek, a senior at McCook High School, to receive automated text messages tracking his performance during various stages of the race.

The race was his first marathon and he

was excited to run at Disney World.

He said that both of his grandfathers, Ted Chancellor and Bernard Meitl, were World War II veterans. Mr. Chancellor served in the U.S. Marines and Mr. Meitl, in the Army Air Corps.

He has been stationed in Jacksonville, Fla., for the past 18 months. After his discharge, he plans to enroll at Jacksonville University and become a commercial pilot.