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SWOS Honors Staffer's 50 Years of Service

NEWPORT, R.I. – The staff from Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) in Newport gathered on the quarterdeck of Memorial Hall Sept. 19, honoring Connie Spofford's 50 years of government service.

Capt. Dave Welch, SWOS commanding officer, encouraged his staff to reflect on her remarkable achievement.

"Every single one of us who have served in surface warfare since 1974 has been impacted by Connie Spofford," said Welch. "She has had a wide-ranging, long-term positive impact on our community and our Navy; It's great to pause and recognize her loyal service."

Spofford's Navy civilian service began in 1964 at Groton, Conn., where she served for two years and met her husband, Johnny. From 1966 to 1967, she worked at Command Justice School in Newport, leaving that same year to work at Officer Commissioning School Command until 1974. She began at SWOS in 1974 where she welcomed the very first Division Officer Class (01) in Callaghan Hall.

She transitioned to Memorial Hall in 2004 and currently serves as the N72 Fleet Training Directorate quota control. She works all outstanding quota issues pertaining to the Advanced Shiphandling and Tactics Course in addition to the Surface Navigators Course and provides administrative support for the Littoral Combat Ship Officer of the Deck Course and the

Advanced Division Officer Course. Spofford interacts with fleet representatives and course leads to ensure the Fleet Training Directorate supports student needs including eligibility, class assignment, berthing and administrative support.

When asked what she liked best about the job, she said it was difficult to pick a favorite.

“It’s all good,” said Spofford. “I remember Mike Mullen when he was a director here. It was nice to see him come back when he was an admiral. I enjoy meeting everyone and then seeing them come back. It’s all been enjoyable.”

For more information about Surface Warfare Officers School, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/swos/>.

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Story by Lt. Jason Bilbro, Surface Warfare Officers School Command Public Affairs

