

Tournament Bowlers and Spectators:

Welcome to Merri Bowl. We are truly blessed here in Michigan and across our great nation to have so many wonderful people so willing to lay everything on the line and serve in our armed forces.

Here at Merri Bowl and as a regular bowler in our Wednesday Ladies Sundowners League we have a few of these very special individuals. Today we have Mrs. Velinda Stenson with us.

Velinda served 10 years in the US Army Reserves and completed basic training at Ft. Jackson South Carolina where she held the position of squad leader and earned the expert ratings for grenades and sharp shooting.

Velinda completed advanced training at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio TX as a Medical Supply and stock accounting specialist. Velinda served with 323rd mobil surgical hospital unit in Southfield briefly and was reassigned to the 645th Regional Support group where she performed various operation and training duties for the command unit. While there, Velinda was selected to be one of the founding members of the New Blue Devils Horse Platoon, the only Reserve Mount in the United States. The Blue Devils performed in many parades and other public events with other distinguished Allied Cavalry units from around the world.

Velinda is a 2 time Commendation Medal recipient and was honorably discharged in 2000.

Rolling our 2023 Womens State Tournament ceremonial first ball is Mrs. Velinda Stenson.