

# 1998

## Col. (Ret.) Suellyn (Wright) Novak

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*Class of 1973*



Col. Suellyn Wright Novak served the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General as the chief of the Air Force blood program. She also was the Air Force liaison to the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks and the Food and Drug Administration. In addition, she initiated the Air Force policy on blood donations.

Novak was the flight commander of the Clinical Laboratory, 89th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. As flight commander, she directed all aspects of clinical laboratory services, administered the annual budget, and ensured quality of over 450,000 reportable laboratory procedures.

Entering the Air Force as a personnel officer in 1973, Novak spent her career in the military. She was promoted to lieutenant colonel at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., in 1990, and promoted to colonel in 1995 at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. In 1993, Novak was honored as both American and International Woman of the Year by the American Biographical Institute and the International Biographical Center.

Novak retired from active duty in 2003 and moved to Alaska. She was selected for the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council in 2009; awarded the First Lady's Volunteer Award in 2010; the Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award in 2012; and in 2013 received the Armed Services Blood Program Lifetime Achievement Award. She is the current executive director of the Alaska Veterans Museum.

*Additional degrees: Master's degree, University of North Dakota; Master's degree, American Military University*