## Board Profile: New Chapter Relations Chair ~ CAPT (ret) Allison Cameron

*By Tara Ann Neville, Editor*

We are grateful to CDR (ret) **Trev Sterling** for his service on the Board. In December, after completing his term, Trev turned over the Chapter Relations Committee Chair role to CAPT (ret) Allison Cameron. Allison served in the Supply Corps as a reservist and on active duty for more than 26 years, before retiring in 2013.

"While I love having my weekends back, I do miss the drill weekends—the camaraderie. Even though we all had diverse backgrounds we shared that common interest in the Supply Corps," she said. "The Supply Corps pushed me beyond my comfort zone. It started in NROTC at [The University of] Notre Dame. There was no blending in as a woman there. There aren't that many women and they are looking for people who really want to lead. In a way, I was forced to be more of a stand-up leader."

Allison learned to be comfortable with being uncomfortable with the knowledge she had yet to know. "I was able to gain more confidence as I worked the same opportunities as men. I felt like as a female, it was head to head. I felt like I was able to do it, and was in an environment that accepted that idea, as well," she said. "I'm thankful for the opportunity to grow. I would not have chosen many of the experiences that I had in the Navy, if I was on my own."

Allison felt empowered and capable because of the confidence the Navy had in her. "I think back to when I deployed to Kuwait and Afghanistan as a senior officer," said Allison. "I had experiences, and leadership opportunities, that I would not have had otherwise."

Appreciating the opportunities to travel overseas, Allison has fond memories of sea tours. "I saw more of Europe on deployment than I ever have since then," she said. "I was on a repair ship and in the evenings we would take advantage of what was around us—it was a great opportunity to see different parts of the world."

Since retirement, Allison says it's been harder to stay in touch with the Supply Corps Community. "When I was in the Navy, I was at conferences and traveled so I would see people more," she said. "It's easy to get out of the loop once you retire. I'm excited to be more involved, to keep up-to-date with what's going on and be in touch with folks from the Supply Corps. I'm excited to pay back the Supply Corps for the good experience that I had and provide some leadership in the Foundation."

As the Chapter Relations Chair, Allison will aid Chapters in their effort to bring the Supply Community together, at the local level, through social, educational and professional events, as well as through the Foundation's global services of support.

Allison enjoyed various Chapter events and activities throughout her career and is keenly aware of the Foundation's Scholarship Program, as she has been donating to a memorial fund for many years. Additionally, when her daughters, Nicole and Madison, were preparing for college, they applied for Foundation scholarships to aid in their education. "My daughters were very fortunate to receive money from the Foundation," she said.

Using her own engagement as an example, Allison hopes to encourage more members to take advantage of the programs and services the Foundation has to offer. "Part of my work is to ensure Chapter rosters are updated and stay current," she said. "Being able to reach members and share the benefits of membership is important—especially to be that bridge throughout the lifecycles."

Above: CAPT (ret) Allison Cameron (2nd from right) with her family Kevin Weldon and daughters Nicole, Madison, and Cameron Weldon.