

**Ruth Virginia Bradbury** 

Waves (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service)

**United States Navy** 

World War II

**Born:** 15 May 1923

Place of Birth: Chelsea, Massachusetts,

United States of America

**Parents:** Edward and Florence (nee Frost)

**Bradbury** 

Although born in the United States, Ruth was raised in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland. Her parents, Edward, and Florence were both Newfoundlanders hailing from Bay Roberts and Trinity South, respectively.

The 1935 Newfoundland general census shows the Bradbury family living at Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts. John is thirty-

six (36), as is wife Florence. The children are Edward 14, Ruth 12, Irene 10, Donald 8, John 5, and Audrey 2.

The Bradbury family would grow to eleven children in all. Ruth would have four (4) brothers and five (5) sisters.

It seems that Ruth went back to the US and in 1943 enlisted in the WAVES, the US Navy's Corps of female members established in July 1942. More than 100,000 women served in this unit. Ruth served in the Waves from 1942 – 1947.

Ruth married Marvin Odel Rowland on 11 May 1959. Marvin was career military man who served twenty-seven (27) plus years in the USAF as an engineer and missiles expert. He saw service in WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. He retired in 1973 with the rank of Lt. Colonel. Marvin was an accomplished musician and electrical engineer. He worked on several missile launches in Florida, where he passed away in 2002. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

After Ruth's service in the WAVES, she worked as a government accountant in Maryland. When she married, the couple moved to a number of states including North Carolina, Maryland and retired to Florida.

At the time of the writing of this biography, Ruth was living in a seniors home in the United States.



## Enlist in the MAVES

NAVY RECRUITING STATION OR OFFICE OF NAVAL OFFICER PROCUREMENT