

### **A Notable Woman – Linda Burch**

Linda Burch, who held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, was a member of the military science faculty and women's swimming coach at UWSP for three years from 1972 to 1975. She was killed in 1989 in a one-vehicle car accident in Kansas.

At the time the young officer joined the faculty of at UWSP, she was the only woman in the country who was a member of an all-male Reserve Officer Training Corps. Chancellor Lee Sherman Dreyfus supported her assignment at UWSP when he served as head of the Army's national panel on ROTC affairs.

Her death occurred three days before she was scheduled to be promoted to the rank of full colonel. After leaving UWSP, she commanded a military police unit at Fort McClellan and then became the first woman staff leader at the Combined Arms and Services Staff School at Fort Leavenworth. At the time of her death, she was scheduled to assume command of the 14th Military Police Brigade in West Germany.

A native of Canton, Ohio, Burch had served in the Army for 23 years. Her degrees were from Kent State University, where she was co-captain of the Woman's Intercollegiate Swim Team and senior director of the university's synchronized swim club, the University of Southern California, Wichita State University and Golden Gate University.

She was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia following services at Fort Leavenworth.