



HONORING SERVICE & SACRIFICE

The Flagpole

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The Newsletter of the U.S. Army Women's Foundation

Volume LXVI No. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I joined in 1974, the Army was much different than today's Army. Married women had only recently been allowed to enlist. Women were discharged when they became pregnant. The military service academies and ROTC had not yet opened to women. All women were assigned to women-only units.

Today, women fight on the blurred front lines of combat. Like SSG Julia Stalker, they dangle from helicopters to rescue wounded soldiers. Some women are competing for the prestigious Ranger Tab. Others continue to break new ground in other areas: this summer BG Diana Holland became the first woman deputy commanding general for the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY.

So much has changed in 40 years! Women have far more career opportunities today, and they continue to prove themselves with the same skills and professionalism as the men with whom they serve.

Yet, the very core of who an Army woman is hasn't changed. That continuity is selfless sacrifice and a willingness to perform at the highest levels to achieve what is required to complete the Army's mission. It is the same fabric that makes any soldier a soldier – the intense desire to *serve*.

One shining example of that is Danielle Green. Danielle graduated University of Notre Dame, having played on the basketball team. After she enlisted, she served as a

specialist in Iraq in 2004, guarding the rooftop of a military police station. When the enemy launched rocket-propelled grenades her way, she was hit. Her thigh and face were injured, and the lower part of her left arm was gone. She recovered and left the Army, but not her comrades in arms. Danielle works now for the Veterans Administration, as a supervisory readjustment counselor therapist. You might have recently heard her name as the 2015 ESPY recipient of the Pat Tillman Award for Service.

Similar to the evolution of what the Army holds for women, the Army Women's Foundation also has evolved to offer more opportunities for women soldiers. We were founded to build a museum for Army women. We've done that and continue to preserve our place in history. We now also help women determine their futures.

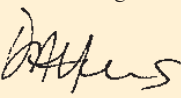
In March, we will hold our annual Hall of Fame reception and Summit. This year we will expand our Summit theme of workforce development by also examining healthcare and housing. We call these the "tactical tools for success."

Our scholarship program is aggressively expanding, providing \$75,000 in assistance to 38 students in 2015. We intend to award \$100,000 in scholarships to worthy candidates in 2016. Do you know someone who needs financial support for college or trade school? Please see the story on the scholarship program on page 3, or go to our website, www.awfdn.org, to learn more about eligibility and how to apply.

These scholarships help students such as: PFC Jenna Licorish and SPC Stephanie Padilla complete their community college programs; ROTC CDT Carolyn Denny and ROTC SGT Kimberly Denny, and Army widow Tonya Armstead, work toward their bachelor degrees; and 1LT Aimee Reisbeck, MAJ Cristina Gonzales and CPT Sharon Height earn their graduate degrees. We also award scholarships to Army women's sons and daughters, such as Catherine Daniels, Bobbi Miller and Cody Scott.

None of this is possible without your financial contributions. You are making a meaningful difference in the lives of *Army women – past, present and future* – and their children. We know you have many choices when it comes to supporting charities, and hope you continue to think of the foundation when reaching your decision.

On behalf of the Army Women's Foundation, I am very grateful for your support.

Warmest regards,

Dee Ann McWilliams
MG, USA (Ret)
President, Army Women's Foundation

RANGER TRAILBLAZERS



A ceremony was held at Fort Benning, GA on Aug. 21 to recognize the graduation of the 94 men and two women who successfully passed all phases of Ranger School. In April, the Army opened its first assessment open to females, and on September 2, the Army announced that "qualified personnel will be able to attend all future classes" of Ranger School "regardless of gender."

The Ranger School is a 61-day course of intense and grueling training divided into three phases to test a wide range of skills, including leadership and combat skills. The Ranger Course was created during the Korean War in 1950 and since then only 77,000 soldiers have earned the Ranger tab. In 2014, 1,609 graduated of the 4,057 soldiers who began the course. An average of 34% of soldiers from 2010-2014 recycled on at least one phase of the course and try again and an average of 42% graduate the course.

Capt. Kristen M. Griest
Hometown — Orange, CT
■ Attended Military Academy at West Point, New York - Class of 2011
■ Military Police Platoon Leader, 716th MP Battalion at Fort Campbell, KY

"I knew how badly I wanted to go [to Ranger School] when I was a second lieutenant, before I became a platoon leader," Griest said "I was hoping to go to this course because it is the best training the Army can provide, and I wanted to have that training before I had a platoon."

1st Lt. Shaye L. Haver
Hometown — Copperas Cove, TX
■ Attended U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York - Class of 2012
■ AH-64 Apache Pilot, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO

"The reasons I chose to come were the same as the men here: to get the experience of the elite leadership school ... and to give me the opportunity to lead my Soldiers the best that I can," said Haver. "I think if females continue to come to this course, they can be encouraged by what we have accomplished, but hopefully they're encouraged by the legacy that the Ranger community has left." ★

VISIT US AT AUSA'S ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION

Be sure to **visit AWF at Booth Number 1327** at AUSA's Annual Meeting and Exposition being held October 12-14 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. We are grateful to AUSA for their continued support of AWF and look forward to growing our partnership with them. This is a significant event for us to get out and meet our supporters and make new friends. We always look forward to it and will post photos and updates on Facebook throughout the event! For more information about the Association of the United States Army and their events, please visit their website at www.AUSA.org. ★

Inside This Edition

President's Message	1
Ranger Trailblazers	1
AUSA	1
From the Executive Director	2
New Website!	2
Hall of Fame SSG Julia Stalker Speech	2
In Memoriam	3
Legacy Scholarships	3
Social Media	3
Upcoming Events	4
Giving	4

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is summer: a time to relax and reflect. This summer, with news of history’s first fly-by of Pluto, daily reports of violence in the world, and sharks attacking swimmers, there is much to reflect on. But that is not what I want to talk about. I would like to reflect on the role of women’s organizations, the issues they tackle, and the way they share thoughts and discuss ideas and meet the needs of their members and supporters.

The AWF’s primary ways of connecting with Army women are through Summits on Capitol Hill, our website and social media such as Facebook. We are especially proud of how our Facebook has grown and serves as a “Go To” place to share information, news, and thoughts and ideas. On specific issues and postings we reach over 20,000 viewers with numerous “likes,” comments and shares. Viewers learn about Army women and we learn from you. Thanks to everyone who reads our Facebook postings, writes comments and/or shares them with their friends and colleagues.

But I also need to share with you some of my concerns about the declining number of organizations specifically

designed for women. Everyone knows that single sex colleges and institutions are rapidly diminishing. There are reports of other women’s organizations, some focused on professional areas and others that are related to military service, that are seeing a decline in membership, support, visibility and sustainability. WHY? Is it because women no longer feel the necessity to be a part of a woman’s group? Do they not have the time? The interest? Does gender no longer matter? I can leave the answers to those questions to those organizations, or to academia, because for now, our Foundation is not one of those statistics.

We at the Army Women’s Foundation have been working hard to remain relevant to Army women, to servicewomen. We want to provide our supporters with specific information and tools designed to help them, as current or former Army women. I am pleased to report that our approach is succeeding.

We have grown in outreach and scope. Our supporters and our outreach are not declining. It takes a team to remain relevant and sustainable. We have a

small, dedicated office staff that has accomplished much. Consider just how much our scholarship program has grown in a few years, how much our social media has increased. We are developing new and cost-effective programs and we are building a solid national reputation.

Here is where we need your help. Tell us what you think. “Like” us on Facebook and send our postings to friends and colleagues. Please visit our re-mastered website at www.awfdn.org. Take a look at our most recent short video and you will be proud of all the Army women who have served or are currently serving and I believe be motivated to assist us.

I cannot close without asking that you contribute to the Army Women’s Foundation. No donation is too small and it helps to spread the word about the history and service of Army women. Thank you to all our supporters. We will remain relevant and sustainable, thanks to you! Hooah!

Peggy Trossen
Executive Director



SSG JULIA STALKER

Distinguished Flying Cross Army Recipient Hall of Fame Induction

March 17, 2015

Many of our Hall of Fame Reception attendees were so impressed with SSG Julia Stalker’s speech given on March 17, 2015, given when she and the other Flying Cross recipients were being inducted into the Army Women’s Foundation Hall of Fame, that we have decided to share it with everyone here. We hope you enjoy reading this and celebrate these women with us!

When I joined the Army only seven short years ago I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be standing here today representing some of the most extraordinary women of our nation’s history. It is with great pride that I humbly represent these courageous and certainly tenacious women.

Although not a military woman, I cannot leave out the first female aviator to receive a Distinguished Flying Cross. Amelia Earhart was at the forefront of aviation, man or woman, of her time. When I was a little girl, maybe five or so, my mother took me to an airshow across the border in Canada. That day of watching aircraft whiz back and forth sparked something in me that clearly has never gone away. When I wouldn’t stop yapping about that day, a family friend gave me a book about Amelia. I was in awe! My childhood dream was to be just like her and many of my days where spent sneaking off to play pilot with a 1970’s striped tube sock wrapped around my neck in place of a traditional aviators scarf. She was my idle.

First Lt. Aleda E. Lutz was no less amazing. Lt. Lutz was the most experienced Army Flight Nurse in WWII with 196 evacuation sorties, 814 combat flight hours, and 3500 patients transported. She was a combat workhorse. In November 1944 her C-47 MEDEVAC aircraft crashed near France killing all on board. She was the first woman in a World War to receive a DFC.

First Lt. Roberta Schilbach Ross, also an Army Flight Nurse, flew over 100 missions. She was also involved in a MEDEVAC plane crash but survived and took charge of many of the remaining survivors,

ultimately leading them to safety. She spent nine months hospitalized with a broken shoulder, wrist, and skull fracture.

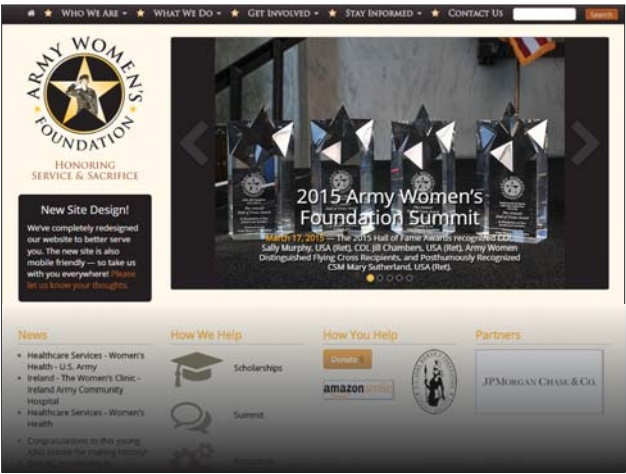
In Iraq 2006 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lori Hill was providing cover for ground troops involved in a TIC. Her Kiowa was hit by an RPG but continued to support the soldiers and her sister ship. While engaging the enemy CW3 Hill was hit in the ankle by enemy fire. Despite a failing hydraulic system and injury, she safely landed her aircraft at forward operating base.

All of these women are indeed amazing. I hope instead of disappearing into the obscure pages of our history books we continue to bring these courageous women to light. So why are we here today? Why am I here today? People that know me well will tell you. I would much rather dangle 100ft from a Blackhawk then speak in front of an audience full of folks, most of which are much smarter than I am.

Well . . .

The daughters of our nation deserve to have their Amelia. It is our job to make these and future stories of our military women accessible to them. With the Army opening more and more doors for women to not only succeed but do it in a combat MOS, we as a nation must do our part to prepare them to meet the standards. There has been a cultural shift in our girls and young women that must be fostered and encouraged. Woman lifting heavy weights in the gym has become common place. Muscle has become beautiful on a female. Our daughters are running faster and farther. They compete in Cross fit games and triathlons. Fifteen year old girls are out shooting their older male competitors at the pistol range. We must educate them what was possible to accomplish before women were “allowed” in combat and the woman that made their way to the front lines anyways. So much is possible for our next generation of women in the military but we must encourage them with knowledge and inspiration so that every girl seeking an Amelia in her life will find her. ★

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE – MARCH ON OVER!



We invite you to visit our recently redesigned and launched website. Included on the homepage is an “Army Women in History” timeline to reflect our continued mission to honor the history of Army women. While history is certainly the cornerstone of our Foundation, this site has also been crafted to highlight our other programs and serve as a resource for you. Our Legacy Scholarship program has an online application and newly created FAQs to assist applicants with the process. Additionally, the Foundation’s Annual Summit and Hall of Fame events are viewable by year with photos, videos, sponsors, and Hall of Fame awardee listings. We include Summit executive summaries prepared for Members of Congress, giving you a synopsis of the key points shared by panelists and participants. On our Resources page, we provide links to healthcare benefits, jobs and education information.

We hope that you find the site and tools we have prepared useful, informative and easy to navigate. Your thoughts and feedback are welcome and we have provided a link on the website for you to share them directly with us. ★

IN MEMORIAM

LTC IRENE EVANKOVICH



We are saddened by the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Irene Evankovich, USA Retired, longtime AWF Director Emeriti and former Board Member. She passed away June 30, 2015 at the Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital, Florence, Ala. on June 30, 2015 following a brief illness. She was born in Criswell, Penn. on Oct. 9, 1941.

After graduating from high school in 1959, Irene enlisted in the Women's Army Corps on Mar. 30, 1960. She served at Ft. McClellan, Ala., on Okinawa and at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, reaching the rank of sergeant, before being accepted for OCS at Ft. McClellan in 1965. In June

1965, Irene was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Her first assignment was as executive officer and then commanding officer of the WAC Company at Ft. Ritchie, Md. In subsequent assignments Irene returned several times to Ft. McClellan. She served overseas in Fuerth and Nuremberg, Germany, at the US Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. and at Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Her military schools included several Quartermaster Corps courses at Ft. Lee, Va., the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., and the Inspector General course, Ft. Belvoir, Va. Irene found her most challenging assignment (1979-81) as special advisor on women's issues to USMA Superintendent, Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster as the Academy was adjusting to the presence of women cadets. Irene's final assignment was to the 3rd ROTC Regiment at Ft. Riley where she supervised the staff providing personnel and

administrative support for military and civilian employees in eight states at over 100 colleges and universities.

Irene retired with 24 years of active service in 1984. Her military awards include: Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Overseas Service Ribbon. After living in Pennsylvania for seven years, Irene returned to the Anniston area, making her home in Weaver. She was active in many veterans and civic organizations and a generous philanthropist. Her memberships included Heritage Chapter 62 of the WAC Veterans Association, the American Legion, the WAC Museum, the Army Women's Foundation, Meals on Wheels, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and women's shelters. ★

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS – MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Legacy Scholarship program began in 2008 and since the initial launch of the program, the Army Women’s Foundation has awarded a total of 121 scholarships across 35 states. In 2015 alone, we were able to award 38 scholarships totaling \$75,000, and as we have seen the need for educational assistance grow, we are once again increasing our program budget to \$100,000 for 2016! We are grateful to be able to assist Army women and their children in this pursuit of achieving their educational goals and dreams, but this is only possible through generous donations from our supporters.

The Foundation’s Legacy Scholarship Program is available to all Army women – active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve and their lineal descendants. The Legacy Scholarship program offers financial support in four areas: Certificate programs, Community College coursework, Undergraduate Degrees, and Graduate Degrees. Scholarships are awarded only for coursework from

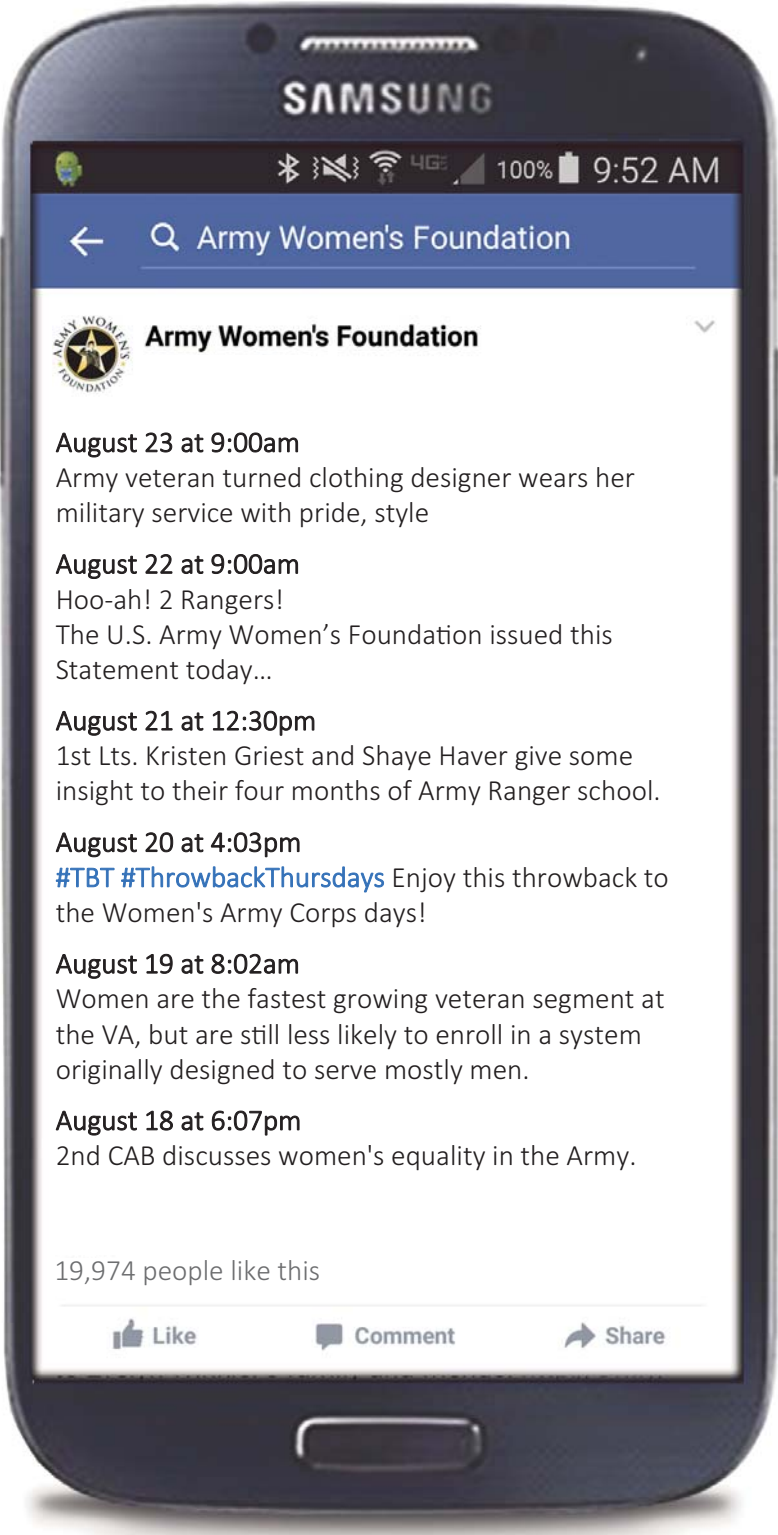


accredited institutions and are based on merit, academic potential, community service, letters of recommendation, and need.

The Legacy Scholarships are available for tuition assistance for certification, coursework at community college level or four year academic institutions and graduate schools.

- Community College and Certificate Program Legacy Scholarships will be awarded up to \$1,000.
- College, University, and Graduate Program Legacy Scholarships will be awarded up to \$2,500.

Applications are completed online! Application must be submitted by January 15, 2016 and supporting required materials must be mailed and postmarked by January 15, 2016. Criteria, details, and scholarship forms are available online at www.awfdn.org/scholarships.shtml. ★





Are you part of the social media craze? If so, **become a fan of the Army Women’s Foundation page on Facebook!** We hope to hear from you soon!

19,974 likes and counting!



Like



Connect with us

SUPPORT US BY SHOPPING AT AMAZON SMILE!

Go to smile.amazon.com. Search on “US Army Womens Foundation” and click the Select button beside our name. When you start your shopping at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our organization for any purchases you make through this site. ★





Army Women's Foundation
P.O. Box 5030 Fort Lee, VA 23801-0030

Phone: 804-734-3078
Fax: 804-734-3077

Email: info@awfdn.org
Web: www.awfdn.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 12-14, Washington, DC
AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition
Come visit us in Booth 1327!
www.ausa.org

October 12-14, Washington, DC
Warriors to the Workforce @ AUSA
americanfreedomfoundation.org

November 6, Boston, MA
Women Veteran Appreciation Day
www.mass.gov/veterans/women-veterans

November 11, National Harbor, MD
4th Annual Women Veterans & Women in the Military Veterans Day Extravaganza
womenveteransinteractive.org

November 11, Nationwide
Veterans Day

November 11, New York, NY
2015 America's Parade
americasparade.org

December 7, Washington, DC
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at the WWII Memorial
www.wwiimemorialfriends.org

December 12, Nationwide
Wreaths Across America Day
www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org

January 15, Nationwide
Deadline for AWF Legacy Scholarships!
www.awfdn.org/programs/legacyscholarships.shtml

February 21-24, Arlington, VA
DAV Mid-Winter Conference
www.dav.org

March 2015, Washington, DC
2015 Army Women's Foundation Summit and Hall of Fame Induction Reception
Stay tuned for more details!
www.awfdn.org

ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

Est. 1969
Honoring Service and Sacrifice
P.O. Box 5030
Fort Lee, VA 23801-0030
Phone (804) 734-3078
Fax (804) 734-3077
info@awfdn.org
www.AWFdn.org
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SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION!

An annual contribution of \$25 or more entitles you and/or your Friend to receive our semi-annual newsletter, notices of events and reunions, and program updates.

Name: _____	Address: _____
Rank (if any): _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____, **directed as follows:** (Check one, or if more than one, specify amounts for each.)

_____ Program Support & General Operations
_____ Bronze Plaque Memorial Fund* (Rank and/or Name of honoree: _____)
_____ Museum Support

*Bronze Plaque Memorial Fund offers the opportunity to permanently honor deceased members of the Armed Forces, their friends and family, and the fallen heroes of current conflicts by placing their name on a bronze plaque that is located at the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia. The plaques are cast bi-annually, and the required minimum contribution for memorialization is \$100. All proceeds in excess of costs from the Bronze Memorial Plaque program will be used to further the mission of the AWF and its programs. We are currently accepting names for Plaque XVIII through December 31, 2016.

Person to be Acknowledged: Method of Payment:

(Recipient of Friend's gift or next of kin for Memorial Fund)

Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check (payable to U.S. Army Women's Foundation)
Rank (if any): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover
Address: _____	Credit Card #: _____
Phone: _____	Name on card: _____
Email : _____	Signature: _____
Relationship to honoree: _____	Exp. date: _____
	Verification Code: _____ (on back of card)

The U.S. Army Women's Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and your contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

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