

The Flagpole

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

Volume LVI

Summer 2006

Museum expansion feasibility study begins

Ft. Lee, Va.—The Army Women's Foundation has awarded the contract for the feasibility study to expand the Army Women's Museum to Bowie Gridley Architects of Washington, D.C.

The Foundation agreed to fund the feasibility study and support the Museum's need for additional exhibit areas, research facilities, work areas and public space in January 2006. The feasibility study, a 2006 priority project, will be completed in November.

Plans to expand the Museum began with its opening in 2001. The footprint to add a wing was included in the original museum design.

"This is the first step in making our dream a reality—if you don't know where you are going, you won't get there" said Vicki Merryman, co-chair of the Foundation's Planning and Development Committee.

Bowie Gridley will work with Judy Matteson, the Museum Curator, to identify the museum's needs. Based on the curator's direction, the architects will design facilities to support her vision.



U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia

"Our museum staff is excited about the study. This project gives us a unique opportunity to expand our exhibit area to better tell the story of Army women, and add archival and community-related areas," said Matteson.

The study involves the preparation of the base documents for the expansion and is being fully coordinated with Fort Lee's Directorate of Public Works and Logistics. Bids will then be accepted for construction and the expansion costs identified.

Merryman said, "This is a long term project, but one that is achievable. Over 30 years ago, devoted members of the Women's Army Corps dreamed of building a museum at Fort McClellan, Ala. And they did it."

Bowie Gridley Architects is an experienced company with national and international clients. Their diverse projects include museums and cultural arts centers.—*by Nancy Dunn*

Coming soon!

To a computer near you
New Museum web site

www.awm.lee.army.mil

Keep checking!

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President's Message

We're moving out on the Foundation's programs!

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Greetings from Fort Lee! What a great trip to Sierra Vista, Arizona! The mountains were absolutely beautiful, the cacti were in bloom and the weather was wonderful.

This board meeting was the first time the board of directors met away from the museum. It was also the first time the board hosted a dinner for our long-time supporters and prospective supporters.

I was so pleased to see more than 75 people at our dinner. Some traveled a distance and spent the night. I get such energy from being around our supporters and listening to them. I always want to hear from you. I also want you to hear from us and not just by way of this newsletter. It is very important for you to know what the board is working on and what and where the Foundation's priorities are. I hope you took from that event as much as we gained by you being there with us!

Our Museum Curator, Judy Matteson, brought the new traveling kiosk to Sierra Vista. It honors the women who gave their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will grow with pictures and stories of our fallen heroes as the museum receives items from each soldier's family and friends. I know the kiosk was quite moving for some of you.

We were honored to have Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, Commanding General/Commandant of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, as our guest speaker for the dinner. She had a speech, looked out into the audience and realized what she was going to say was more than likely already known to the

crowd. Instead, Fast spoke to us about what Army women are doing now.

"Today, we (women) are no more special than anyone else. Every man and woman serving in Iraq believes they are making a difference," Fast said.

She went on to say all of us are a product of those who served before us—men and women. For years, women were not seen as having the capabilities of doing some of the things male soldiers did, but Iraq and Afghanistan are proving the stereotypical thinking of the past is not only outdated, but was wrong.

Her excellent speech recognized the women of the Women's Army Corps who not only started the path to success but journeyed along it through detours and rough passages. Fast, who entered the Army in the 1970's was part of the WAC.

Let's move on to the research study the Foundation is sponsoring with George Mason University. You ladies responded in a very big way. Thank you for taking the time to participate. The response rate was phenomenal—a 45% return rate. A typical rate of return for this type of survey is 10-15%. The university had to assign more graduate students to the study! Give yourselves a pat on the back. You did GREAT! Read page 9 for preliminary information on the survey.

You will see a list of individuals submitted for the memorial plaque who do not have the required \$100 to go on the next plaque on page 10. Our cutoff date for this plaque is December 1, 2006. Look the list over—if you would like to help

someone out by completing their fund that would be wonderful. Please mail your check to the Foundation office and indicate which person you are donating funds to.

In the final 2006 *Flagpole* newsletter we will provide a list of the names that will be placed on the memorial plaque in January 2007.

We have many exciting things happening. We have started the feasibility study for a much needed addition to the museum. The Foundation is sponsoring that study, which began in July.

Then, there is the Legacy Society (see page 8) that we are kicking off. We are also redesigning our web site to make it easier for supporters to make donations and get information on the Foundation.

Please consider making a donation to the Foundation if you have not done so in the last year. We would hate to drop you from our mailing list—then you wouldn't see all that your Foundation is involved in and doing! A donation of \$25 per year is required to keep you on *The Flagpole* newsletter mailing list. If you can give more, please do. We are striving to make our museum and this Foundation the "go to place" for women in the Army.

Hope you will all make plans to attend our 2007 Army Women's Reunion in Branson, Mo. (see page 5) It is sure to be a great time to renew friendships and celebrate women who have served or are serving in the Army.

Patricia A. Sigle

President

U.S. Army Women's Foundation

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An Oral History

Celebrating the life of Colonel Elizabeth H. (“Betty”) Branch

By Patricia Jernigan

Many adjectives can be used to describe Col. Betty Branch—patriot, leader and mentor, and friend are just a few. She was a consummate professional, a supporter of expanded roles for women in the Army, and a lover of the arts.

She served on the WAC and U.S. Army Women’s Museum Foundations’ Boards of Directors for over 30 years. She died February 26, 2006, after a short illness.

Branch was born in Stamford, Conn., in 1917. When World War II started she was working at Macy’s Department Store in New York City, hoping to break into the fashion business. She heard that women were allowed to join the Army, and immediately applied. She entered the fourth Officer Candidate Class at Fort Des Moines, Iowa in July 1942, and was commissioned a third officer (2nd Lt.) in October.

In March 1944, then 1st Lt. Branch sailed to England on the Queen Mary. The ship had been converted for troop duty, and bunks were shared on a shift basis—when it wasn’t your turn to sleep, you had to leave the area!



Elizabeth H. Branch
Photo courtesy of Norwich University

Arriving in England, she marched through blackout darkened streets; later, in London, she lived with the daily menace of German buzz bombs. After D-Day she served in France where she reported hearing the sounds of artillery each night. Branch returned to the U.S. after V-E Day to attend a war-shortened Command and General Staff College course at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

In 1946 she went to Nanking, China, where she was the personnel officer for the Military Advisory Group headed by Gen. George C. Marshall. She had to wait in Shanghai for a plane to be sent for her. She reported that the “Shanghai airport had one building and no plumbing. If you needed to go, you went beyond the building.”

Branch finally arrived in Nanking only to find that no one was there to meet her. Eventually a young captain took her to Gen. Marshall’s home (where he also lived) until things could be sorted out. When Mrs. Marshall learned she was there, Capt. Branch was invited to join the couple for dinner. She said this gave her quite a reputation!

She served several tours in the Pentagon, another tour in France, and tours at Redstone Arsenal and Fort McClellan, Ala. She was the Commander of the Women’s Army Corps Center during an early period of WAC expansion. She was one of the first six women promoted to full colonel when restrictions on promotions were lifted in 1967.

Her last assignment was as the command historian for the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam where she spent 18 months before returning to the States to retire at Fort McClellan in 1972.

Asked during her oral history interview what she thought important about her Army service she said: “...the Army expected things of me and therefore I did



Lt. Col. Branch receiving the Army Commendation Medal at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. in 1962.
Photo courtesy of Catherine Bander.

[them]....a job is yours and you do it. The Army gave me tremendous opportunity....to [travel] all over the world...it gave me a chance to give something [back] and I think that’s pretty good for any citizen.”

Branch lost two brothers in military service. A younger brother, Lt. Richard Branch, died in 1945 when his P-47 crashed during a training mission. Her older brother, Maj. Gen. Irving (“Twig”) Branch (USAF), was killed in 1966, also in a plane crash.

She continued an active life in retirement. She was instrumental in the development of The Fairfax, an Army retirement community near Fort Belvoir, Va. Branch volunteered at the Smithsonian and for public broadcasting fund raisers.

She enjoyed the symphony, opera and plays, and was a world traveler. She was recruited to join the Norwich University Board of Trustees in 1978 to “look out for women’s interests and rights” and stayed almost 20 years.

Continued on page 4 . . .

Taps for Fallen Comrades



Pfc. Amy A. Duerksen (above), 19, from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., died March 11, 2006, from a non-combat related injury in Baghdad, Iraq. She was a radio operator assigned to the 4th Combat Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas. An older sister, April, is also in the Army and in training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Her grandfather was a World War II veteran. She was posthumously awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal. Duerksen was buried at the new Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas.

From the Baltimore Sun, March 23, and April 9, 2006 and The Killeen Daily Herald, March 18, 2006. AP Photo.



Honoring Army Women who died in Iraq

Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson, 21, of St. Louis, Mo., died on March 16, 2006, when a mortar exploded at her unit's base in Tikrit, Iraq. Pinson was a signals intelligence analyst in the 101st Military Intelligence Detachment, 501st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

She enlisted in the Army following graduation from high school. In a St. Louis Post Dispatch interview in 2003 she said she "thought military service would help me excel— help me become my own person." In high school she assisted senior citizens and underprivileged children; she also enjoyed sports, playing basketball and softball with her high school team. She had hoped to become an FBI agent after finishing college.

She is survived by her mother, Chris Ehlen, her father, Tony Pinson, and a brother Bryan Pinson, 17. Pinson's parents were presented with the posthumous awards of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Pinson is believed to be the first woman listed on the National Security Agency's National Cryptologic Memorial Wall located at the NSA Headquarters at Fort Meade, Md.

From the St. Louis Post Dispatch, March 17, 2006; Kansas City Star, March 26, 2006; and NSA's memorial web site at www.nsa.gov/releases/relea00106.cfm

The Foundation will include both soldiers' names on the 2007 bronze memorial plaque. Duerksen is the 49th and Pinson is the 50th Army woman to die either in Iraq or Afghanistan.

At left, Duerksen's mother, Michelle, and father, Army chaplain Maj. Douglas Duerksen. Photo from the *Baltimore Sun*



Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson
Photo from St. Louis Post Dispatch

"Taps" is compiled by Patricia Jernigan and author Noonie Fortin. Visit Noonie's web site at www.nooniefortin.com. Features on the site include segments on female casualties from many eras in addition to the present conflicts, as well as information on Noonie's books.

Continued from page 3. . .

Branch was in the first group selected to be Directors' Emeriti of the U.S. Army Women's Foundation, but sadly died before she could be notified.

When Branch left the WAC Center in 1968 her parting words were: "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another (Genesis 31:49)."

We're very fortunate that the U.S. Army Women's Museum has an excellent oral history done with Branch by Col. Georgia Hill (Ret.) in May 1990. This article is based on the oral history and discussions with Paul Bova of Norwich University, Catherine Bander, Elizabeth Saus, and Georgia Hill.

Patricia Jernigan's personal interests include women's history and oral history. She has a bachelor's in history.

Army Women's Reunion 2007 in Branson

By Vicki Merryman
Co-chair, Planning and Development
 Mark your calendars; it's time to start planning for our Army Women's Reunion 2007. We're heading to Branson, Missouri!

Centrally located, Branson offers a great variety of live entertainment, breathtaking scenery, and unparalleled support to reunion groups. Branson is extremely veteran friendly and is hosting its Military Women Veterans Week from May 14 – 20, 2007. Our reunion, tentatively scheduled for May 18- 20, will take advantage of their scheduled activities.

Visit the Branson Women Veterans web site at www.bransonwomenveterans.com to see the work that committee is doing to support women veterans.

Traditionally, our reunions have been held in and around our Museum. Unfortunately, holding our reunion on a military post is no longer an option. The Army has

directed that posts will not support activities unrelated to the current war efforts. Ft. Lee's own Quartermaster Regimental Week, similar to our reunion, has been canceled until further notice.

The decision to go to Branson was not taken lightly. We considered other options and took a hard look at accommodations in Washington, D.C., and other areas in Virginia—all of which were unacceptably costly.

At the same time, we determined that Branson welcomes and celebrates veterans and their service. Branson has many area activities, a veterans museum, hotels and nearby RV parks—all at a reasonable cost. Their support, excellent facilities and central geographical location offer us an opportunity to truly gather together.

At the Reunion, we will present seminars on Foundation activities and the Museum. Look for more information on the Reunion in the next *Flagpole* newsletter!

Director Emeritus— Foundation honors former Board members

The Foundation has elected 11 women to the honorary position of Director Emeritus. The Director Emeritus Program is a new Foundation program which honors the dedicated service of former Board members.

The newly named Director Emeritus are: Brig. Gen. (Ret) Mildred Bailey, Maj. Gen. (Ret) Mary Clarke, Col. (Ret) Virginia Heseman, Col. (Ret) Georgia Hill, Brig. Gen. (Ret) Elizabeth Hoisington, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Helen Johnston, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Mary Lee, Lt. Col. (Ret) Dorothy Love, Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Grace Mueller, Maj. (Ret) Joyce Pennington and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Yzetta Nelson.

The Director Emeritus Program highlights the exceptional contributions of people who served

on the Foundation's Boards in the past. Nomination and election were based on years of service to the Foundations and Museums, coupled with life-long contributions to the Army.

Directors Emeriti have no official duties, and will be invited to Foundation activities. They can also choose to serve on Foundation committees.

The Foundation will hold an installation ceremony in conjunction with a future Foundation event.

According to Foundation President Patricia Sigle, "We plan to develop other formal recognition programs to honor people important to our Foundation and the Museum. The Director Emeritus program is just the first step in this process."—*by Nancy Dunn*

U.S. Army Women's Foundation

Established in 1969

Honoring Service and Sacrifice

The U.S. Army Women's Foundation is incorporated in the State of Virginia. It is a private, non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization. All donations made to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law.

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Volunteers needed!

The Foundation's Finance Committee is looking for volunteers with experience in finance and accounting, preferably with non-profits, to join the group. Interested volunteers can contact the Sue Pierce at 312.961.8169 or e-mail her at sue.pierce@kadantjohnson.com

News from the Curator

Archival project leaps into the 21st Century

By Judy Matteson
Curator
U.S. Army Women's Museum

Energy and excitement are in the air at the Army Women's Museum these days! Thanks to the efforts of our staff and the Foundation—we have made great strides with our archival project.

I have no doubt that the entire project will be finished by the end of this year. I believe our museum will be the only one in the Army system to have their archives digitized and in a searchable database.

This giant leap will move the museum closer to becoming the “go to place” for information on women in the Army, which is our goal.

New Education and Training Specialist hired

Our new Education and Training Specialist, Françoise Bonnell, began work on May 30 and hit the ground running. She has terrific ideas for establishing military, public school and civic organization educational programming.

On her fourth day, Françoise met with the director of the Talented and Gifted Program for the Petersburg Schools to discuss possible interactions. She has many ideas about how the museum can establish programs with the local schools so that more students will visit the museum as part of their educational curriculum.

In addition, she will be responsible for the museum's oral history and volunteer programs.

Françoise's education and work experience is directly related to her museum assignment. She has experience in teaching and education. Her bachelor's in history is from Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., and she has a master's in

history from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Françoise is no stranger to the Army. She is an Army wife, was on active duty in the Army herself and will retire from the Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Françoise lives with her husband, Charles, and their two sons, William and Benjamin, in Prince George, Va.

McGraw collection nearly completed

Thanks to Trinia Braughton, Sgt. 1st Class Kyla Alexander (our NCOIC), and Françoise, (who was a museum volunteer before becoming a full-time federal employee)—the more



Capt. Charlotte McGraw. Her collection of over 3,000 World War II photographs is part of the Museum's archives which is being digitized and organized into a searchable database.



Françoise Bonnell is the Museum's new education and training specialist.

than 3,000 photo Charlotte McGraw collection is almost completed.

McGraw's extraordinary photographs, taken when she was an official Army photographer during World War II, will be soon be available to researchers due to their impressive teamwork.

Capt. McGraw, while still an auxiliary (enrolled woman), set up the entire photographic facilities of the First WAAC Training Center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in 1942. She was responsible to the Director, WAAC, for all official pictures for recruiting and other publicity purposes.

In 1943, she traveled to Constantine, Tunis, and throughout Algiers—taking photos as the official WAAC photographer to the North American Theatre of Operations.

Patricia Wade, a new volunteer who walked in recently, has offered to work 2-3 days a week on this project.

Museum receives grant

I am happy to report that the museum applied for and received a small grant (less than \$1000) from the Army Historical Foundation to assist us in the archival endeavor. The grant was used to hire an archival consultant to review what we have done, get professional guidance and answer our questions to ensure that our archival work is on track.

Digital imaging specialist

Douglas Carroll has joined the museum staff temporarily as a Digital Imaging Specialist. The Army Women's Foundation is paying for his services.

He is photographing the museum's entire collection of more than 7,000 artifacts and uploading them into our artifact database.

His work will link all our pictures with the catalog information on each artifact. This is an important step in assuring we have a well-documented collection.

Reaching into our community

Ron Bingham, our Museum specialist, presents a one hour Lewis and Clark interpretive program to schools, Scouts and civic organizations in our community.

The Museum used this very successful program, sponsored by the U.S. Army Center of Military History and the Corps of Engineers, to begin working immediately with area schools.

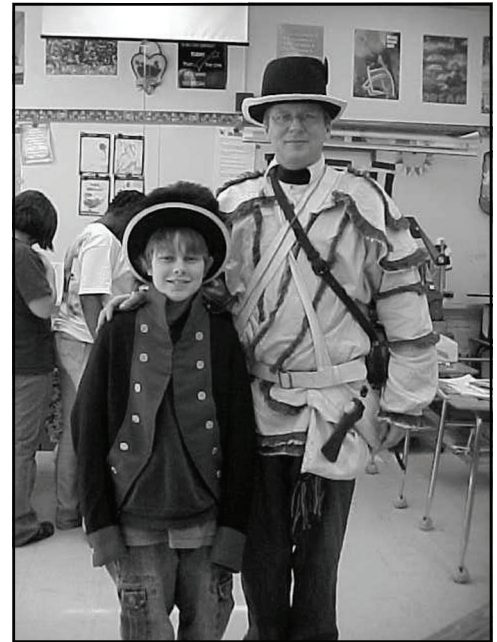
"When I came here—I wanted to raise our visibility within the community right away. We needed a program that met the standards of learning to get into the classroom. Since I had worked with the Lewis and Clark Program at the 4th Infantry Division Museum—I recommended we use it here," said Bingham.

Although this may sound like a unusual approach, Bingham's recommendation has paid off. Student's families have come to tour the Museum—just because of Bingham's presentations.

He has talked to classes in the city of Richmond, and Hanover and Chesterfield Counties. More than 16 classes with over 500 sixth graders have learned more about Lewis and Clark and the Army Women's Museum!

The Museum was able to get, at no cost, one of the \$2,000 "Discovery Trunks" from the Airborne and Special Operations Museum. The trunk was developed to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1806.

Bingham personally researched and developed a presentation that tells the story of the daily life of soldiers through the eyes one of the expedition's Non-Commissioned Officers, Sgt. Patrick Gass. He augments it with the trunk, which is filled with reproduction artifacts and memorabilia, uniforms, books, student study guides and classroom projects.



Ron Bingham, as Sgt. Gass, and a 6th grade student dressed as an 1803 infantryman pose in a classroom at Chester Middle School. Photo taken by the teacher, Mrs. Middleton.

He said, "I've done more than 70 lectures and I am always surprised at how much some students already know about Lewis and Clark."

"They love to practice poling the boats upstream. My favorite part is picking one student to dress up in the 1803 infantryman's uniform. I am never short of volunteers and this always gets a big laugh," he said.

The Museum is developing their own educational program which will be directly related to the Army women.



Judy Matteson became the curator of the U.S. Army Women's Museum in Nov. 2003. Visit the museum on-line at www.awm.lee.army.mil

Foundation Development

New Legacy Society being launched now

by Peggy Trossen

Director of Fund Development

The Foundation's Legacy Society is being launched this summer. It will provide all of our supporters the opportunity to make a "planned gift."

Planned Giving allows one to make a bequest or gift to the Foundation as part of estate planning. This bequest or gift is made now, but it does not impact one's current assets.

The "planned gift" actually comes to the Foundation at some time in the future. Although there is no immediate cash benefit to the Foundation, creating a known number of such expectancies can have tremendous impact on planning and goals for the future and greatly enhance the reach of the Foundation in carrying out its mission.

Naming the Foundation in one's will is one form of planned giving. Or one can designate the Foundation as



the beneficiary of an insurance policy. In both examples, assets are not transferred to the Foundation until after death. The Legacy Society can provide information on other ways to give in this manner.

It is easy to enroll. Just tell us that you are including the Foundation in your will. If you need help in determining what you would like to

include or how to do it, we can help. If you are uncertain, ask for information on other planned gifts.

The benefits to you can be significant. You can designate how you would like the Foundation to use your bequest. And you can work with us now to leave a lasting legacy—one that is important to you—as to how you want your bequest to be used.

A specially designed Legacy Society pin will be sent to you to wear and to outwardly demonstrate your commitment to spreading the word about the service and sacrifices of Army women and honoring them for all their work in the past, now and in the future.

For more information or to enroll now, please contact Peggy Trossen at 703-356-4050 or via email at ptrossen@yahoo.com.

Nothing very new about our Foundation's current programs!

by Vicki Merryman

Co-Chair, Planning and Development

In each newsletter, we update you on our Foundation's projects and programs.

It was a wake-up call to read in the late Col. Betty Branch's Foundation Board of Director meeting files that there is really not much new with our current Foundation projects!

Current WAC Foundation Programs in 1991 were:

1. Provide funds for the Museum needs the Army cannot meet.
2. Provide a voice in matters concerning women in the Army.
3. Develop a publicity and information program to attract visitors to the museum, educate the public on our history, and gain the interest and support of women in the Army today.

4. Develop an oral, visual and audio history of women veterans and women in the Army today.

5. Develop the research plan and facilities of the Museum

6. Continue landscaping improvements and develop further plans for beautifying the Museum grounds.

7. Develop fundraising programs.

8. Develop a "Traveling Trunk" program. Each trunk will contain reproduction artifacts, lesson plans, and audiovisual material.

The 1995 Mid and Long Range Plan included:

1. Investigate methods and costs on including the WAC Museum on the internet. (1996)
2. Prepare and produce an information film on the history of the

WAC for women in the Army and distributed by the Department of the Army. (1996/1997)

3. Build another wing on the Museum or examine other possibilities for Museum storage. (1998)

4. Advertise for Museum volunteers by the end of FY 1994

These are our programs today. It is the current Board's mission to complete the goals established by the Foundation as long as 15 years ago. By assigning funds and specific responsibilities to our Committees, the work will be accomplished—each of our plans will become a reality.

And with your support, we can make these programs happen!

Study on social/economic impact of Army service

by Peggy Trossen
Director of Fund Development

Why do women join the Army, and what impact does it have on their lives after Army service? Does the Army experience make any difference in civilian life?

Many opinions have been offered about these questions, but until now, there has been no serious effort to confirm them. The Foundation is about to change that, and the answers are proving the value of Army service.

The Foundation, in partnership with the highly acclaimed School of Public Policy at George Mason University in Virginia, is conducting a survey of Army women to find their reason for joining, and the impact on their lives after serving. To date, over 45% surveyed responded, an incredible return from a survey! Final results are not yet in, but we already have a glimpse of the many benefits derived from service in the Army.

Let's take a quick look at some of the tentative results. First, it appears that women do not join solely to enhance their economic future. Over 39% of respondents to date cited "to serve my country" as the primary reason, while others sought to adventure, escape a small town or a "better life" as reasons.

While serving, many took the opportunity to increase their education and professional qualifications—42% of women entering the Army had a high school diploma or GED equivalency. After departure, and because of increased educational opportunities, only 7% were limited to a high school or GED equivalency. The other 35% had added to their education.

Of the respondents, 5% had a graduate or professional degree when they joined the Army. The number of graduate and professional degrees increased to 36% after service. An impressive 54% used the GI Bill to further their education.

When asked about what they gained from their service, let's look beyond

the statistics and hear some of the comments from our respondents:

Typical responses included . . .

"Tough to say only one-- independence, personal courage, preparedness."

"Pride in self, confidence, determination."



Staff Sgt. Julia M. Bennett, above, had an extraordinary career in the Army from 1958 to 1986, retiring as a Sergeant Major. Her bequest to the Foundation sponsors the research study. Photo courtesy of the Bennett estate.

"A strong sense of purpose and perseverance."

"Opportunity to travel, numerous friendships, discipline, concept of selfless service."

"Got outside my small community, worked with people from other cultures, religions, etc. and just saw the world."

"A sense of fellowship and purpose; pride in myself and the soldiers I served alongside. I understand how vital a spirit of sacrifice, commitment and dedication are for our nation and freedom."

When asked, "How would your life have been different if you had not served," many women said they gained self-confidence, self-esteem, self-worth, and independence. Many women indicated that their lives would have been much more limited.

Other responses included:

"I would have married the local boy, lived in his mother's house and always wondered what I was missing..."

"Would not have had the exposure to other people, cultures, and philosophies. My military experience opened the world to me."

"I'd still be stuck in my hometown!!"

"Less stimulating, less interesting, may not have continued to be in good physical condition, wouldn't have the friends I have."

"Dull and Boring!!!"

One reply asked, "Why had it taken this long to ask me this . . .?"

The responses from this groundbreaking study are being analyzed. We expect an exciting and thought-provoking report. The data should assist in telling interested recruits, the government and the public what Army service has meant and can mean to women. We will keep you informed about the final results and they will be available on our web site. Stay tuned!

Museum Wish List

World War II Video \$25

Museum/School book \$30

Collections Planning Guide \$30

3 Folding Tables \$45 ea.

Museum Gallery Manual \$45

Cordless drill \$100

Label writer \$135

Scrim Vinyl \$155 a roll

Film scanner \$525

3 Exhibit mannequins \$800 ea.

If you wish to support any of these items, indicate the item name on the donation form and mail it with your check, made out to the **Army Women's Foundation**. Thank you!

Bronze Memorial Plaque Program

Incomplete memorial funds need your support

The Bronze Memorial Plaque Program offers any donor the opportunity to permanently honor deceased members of the Armed Forces, their friends and family, or Museum and Foundation donors/volunteers by having their name placed on a bronze plaque for a minimum donation of \$100.

The following individuals do not have the required \$100 for placement on the next plaque, which will be struck in January 2007. Our cutoff date for this plaque is December 1, 2006.

If there is someone on the list that you would like to help complete the required funds, please mail your check to the Foundation office and indicate which person you are donating funds to. The number indicates how much money each fund needs. Please use the donation form in this newsletter to complete any of these funds.

In the final *Flagpole* newsletter of 2006, we will list all the names that will be placed on the memorial plaque in January 2007.

The Foundation also includes the names of the Army women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan on the plaque. The last plaque was dedicated in 2005 and is displayed in the Museum's Memorial Garden.

GENSEMEN, Fannie Naugle		75.00
GRADY, Gwendolyn		75.00
HARRIS, Nellie P.		75.00
HART, Mary (Fundebok)		75.00
HEARD, Carol J.		50.00
JACKSON, Warren		75.00
JOHNSON, Bea		75.00
KAPPESSER, Florence		75.00
KINCAID, Roberta M.		75.00
KLEPFER, Ileene		75.00
KONDRAKI, DeAnn		90.00
LLOYD, Gene		25.00
MACE, James		75.00
McNAUGHTON, Marian R..		75.00
McPHERSON, Lillian		95.00
MIKKELSON, Helen L.		75.00
MINSKY, Edna		55.00
MOHR, Mary Estelle	SSG	50.00
MULLIGAN, Lillian		50.00
NELSON, Andreas		75.00
NELSON, Ardath		75.00
NOLAN, Eileen	BG	50.00
OBERLANDER, Frances		75.00
ORGILL, Genean		75.00
OSSENKOP, Eva L.		75.00
POTTS, Bertha C.		75.00
PRESTON, Chester M.		50.00
PRINCE, Rose		50.00
ROGERS, Margaret B.		50.00
ROSE, Anita		50.00
RUCKMAN, Della R.		75.00
SCHILCHER, Mary		60.00
SCHMIDT, Virginia (Ginny)		25.00
SHAFFNER, Lynn		75.00
SHOTTS, Ruth Lillian		95.00
SILVIS, Mary		50.00
SINGER, Sylvia	1LT	75.00
STARKS, Olga (Mickey)		75.00
STODDARD, Margaret L.		80.00
TAYLOR, Helen		25.00
THRUN, Edith		60.00
ULINE, Charles M.		75.00
VERDE, Dora		95.00
VON WAGONER, Dorothy		75.00
WELCH, Grace Peters		75.00
WHISLER, Jane		75.00
WHITE, Ann E.	SFC	75.00
WHITELOW, Edith	COL	75.00
WROBLEWSKI, Lottie S.		75.00
YONIS, Ruth		80.00

<u>Memorial Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>\$ Needed</u>
BARBADORA, Doris		75.00
BOCHNER, Helen		65.00
BORSZICH, Rose C.		75.00
BOWSER, Alice L.		75.00
BROWN, Bessie H.		75.00
BROWN, Ruby V.		75.00
BRYANT, Eleanor		75.00
BUCKNER, Millicent		75.00
BUCZEK, Vonnice D.		75.00
CAHALL, Rose		75.00
CAREL, Doris S.		90.00
COHEA, Susan M.		75.00
COMYS, Ida M.		75.00
COUTER, Ester		90.00
DAMIANAE, George		95.00
DePUE, Edward T.	WWII TEC 5	90.00
DOOLITTLE, Francis		75.00
DRUMM, Louise		75.00
ELIA, Virginia P.	LTC	50.00
ENGLE, Mary Emma		75.00
FARGHAR, Gloria (Stanfield)		65.00
FARMER, Teatta	SSG	75.00
FRECHETTE, Blanche E.		85.00
GARZA, Felipa		95.00

U.S. Army Women's Foundation Donation Form

P.O. Box 5030, Fort Lee, VA 23801-0030

YES, I want to support the Foundation! Here is my tax-deductible gift of:

\$25 **Friend** \$25 **Friend's Gift*** \$50 **Sponsor** \$100 **Supporter**

\$250 **Patron** \$500 **Benefactor** Other \$ _____

*An annual contribution of \$25 or more entitles you **or** your Friend to receive our quarterly newsletter, museum and Foundation information.*

Please print or affix an address label

Title/Rank Last Name MI First Name

Address City State Zip Code

Phone : (_____) _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is a check payable to: **U.S. Army Women's Foundation**

I wish to charge my gift to: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Signature _____ Today's date _____

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration date ____/____ Verification Code: _____ (On back of card)

Please direct my gift as follows: (Check one, if for more than one, specify amounts for each)

\$ _____ **General Operating Fund**

\$ _____ **Memorial Fund***

\$ _____ **In Memory of (In Lieu of Flowers)***

\$ _____ **Forward March Campaign** (Capital Campaign for Museum wing)

\$ _____ **Other (please add a note)** _____

\$ _____ **"Wish List" item from page 9:** _____

Individuals or organizations may establish a memorial fund for a specific person to be completed within a 2-year period. Names of deceased individuals are placed on a bronze plaque for a minimum donation of \$100. The period for the next plaque includes Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2006. The next plaque will be struck in 2007 and dedicated in the spring.

***Name and address of person or next of kin to be notified of your Friend's gift or memorial donation:**

Title Last Name MI First Name

Address City State Zip code

Phone : (_____) _____ Email: _____

Relationship to honoree Date of death, if for Memorial Plaque

The U.S. Army Women's Foundation is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization; incorporated in the State of Virginia. Your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law. All donors will receive a gift receipt. Thank you for your support!

FPSU06

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Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-0030
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Web site: www.awmfdn.org



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The Museum's very own ambassador!

Helen "Gig" Smith, our Museum volunteer and Foundation Board member, represented the Army Women's Museum at two programs for Women's History Month this year.

She spoke to a group of 50 military, civilian and family members from Fort Myer during their Museum visit and was featured in their newspaper.

The Fort Myer Garrison Commander, Col. Thomas Allmon said, "it is through visits like this to the Army Women's Museum and living histories that we can better understand, appreciate and honor women in our Army and the important role they have played and continue to play in support of our national defense."

Helen also traveled to Fort Monroe, Va. and made a presentation to over 200 people there. She discussed her Army service during World War II



Helen "Gig" Smith making a presentation at Fort Monroe. She is a Foundation Board member and a Museum volunteer. U.S. Army photo by Patrick Buffett.

and her days with the All-American Professional Baseball League.

She made the front page of the their newspaper with this photo—labeled the "All-American Girl".

Helen's Army service from 1943-1945 included doing top secret work designing and preparing

cartographic material pertaining to the war with Japan. Following her military and baseball service, she graduated from college and taught art and shop in the Richmond, Va. area for 31 years.

Helen is a wonderful ambassador for our Museum.—*by Judy Matteson*