



HONORING SERVICE & SACRIFICE

# The Flagpole

Spring 2012

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

Volume LXIII No. 1

## THE ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION: GROWING AND EXPANDING LISTEN UP! AWF ADDS NEW PROJECTS AND GRANTS

Seeking ways to honor the service of Army women, the Army Women's Foundation (AWF) is excited to be implementing five new collaborations to promote our mission.

### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE ARMY

AWF has pledged support for the National Museum of the Army and now will be listed as a Founding Sponsor. According to BG (Ret) Creighton Abrams, Jr., the "National Museum will be a place where we can honor the service and sacrifice of some 30 million soldiers who have worn the uniform of the nation's oldest and largest military service. We tell the rich story of these remarkable men and women who have given so much for their country."

AWF is pleased to be a part of the creation of the National Museum of the Army. AWF President Dee McWilliams says that "Our grant to the National Museum of the Army was made to chronicle and preserve the accomplishments of America's women soldiers." AWF's participation will be on permanent display at the Museum.



### ARMY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

AWF is supporting the Army Nurse Corps Association for their October Meeting in San Antonio. The Foundation's decision to support the Army Nurses who have selflessly helped all soldiers on and off the battlefields, adds another dimension to its efforts to honor all Army women.

### THE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL (WIMSA)

AWF is providing financial support to the Women's Memorial to build a trophy display case at the Memorial in Washington D.C., to memorialize the AWF's Hall of Fame Awardees. When one visits the Women's Memorial, one will be able to see the many special awards and recognitions of Army women along with those of women of other military services.

*More grants are in the works, including one to the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee. The Foundation is able to provide financial support to other organizations, supporting its goals, because of the generosity of our donors and supporters.*

### RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (ROA)

AWF participated in the annual Reserve Officers Association Meeting in Washington D.C. this year. This

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am proud that I can report to our supporters, we have had an invigorating and exciting six months since our last Flagpole edition. The October meeting of the Board of Directors was exceptional. All Directors came to the table full of energy and creative ideas to move the Foundation forward. We are focused on improving our outreach opportunities; thus, increasing the audiences that we share our mission of honoring the service and sacrifice of Army women.

We took advantage of one of those opportunities in February when we partnered with the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), and set up our booth at their annual meeting in Washington, D.C. With the unprecedented increase in missions of the Army, we thought it was extremely important to ensure women reservists knew about the Foundation's missions, goals, and opportunities.

March was our annual Women in Transition Symposium and Hall of Fame Luncheon. This year it was truly standing room only. And thanks to the contribution of a videographer by Booz Allen Hamilton and the vision and expertise provided by Hayes and Associates, the entire event will be podcast on our webpage in May.

A special thanks to our sponsors, panels members, guest speakers, participants and staff. It is a huge undertaking, and we could not do it without your support. This event is proving to pay big dividends as we are able to provide information to transitioning soldiers, honor exceptional Army women, and get wide exposure for the work of the Foundation.

Fifteen women Vietnam veterans were on hand for the Army Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony. As

they went down the line, repeating their contributions, I was more resolved than ever not to let their stories die...that the work of this Foundation is as important today as when the Foundation was conceived.

And as always, we could not do any of this without your support. Your contributions enable us to develop new programs and continue to support our current programs that spread the word of the value and contributions of Army women, past and present. There is much work to be done, and with you, and our expanding circle of partnerships, we will continue the mission.

I would be remiss if I did not give a special thanks to our Executive Director, Peggy Trossen, and our administrative staff, April Booth and Brenda Armitage. These are the folks that make it happen for the Foundation day-to-day and I appreciate everything they do.

Please visit us on Facebook and at [www.awfdn.org](http://www.awfdn.org) and I hope to see you on October at the AUSA Convention!

Warmest Regards,

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

meeting, held over several days, gave AWF volunteers and Board members a chance to meet some of our Reservists and hear their stories. Reservists from across the U.S. learned about AWF and shared their ideas for how the Foundation might better support them.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICE OF COMMEMORATIONS

AWF has agreed to be a partner in the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration established by the Department of Defense Office of Commemorations. The purpose of this Commemoration is to thank and honor the veterans of the Vietnam War for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the U.S. and to thank and honor the families of these veterans. Army women played an important role in this war and AWF named those Army women who served in Vietnam as its Hall of Fame honorees at our Capitol Hill event on March 13th. AWF is proud to be a part of this Commemoration when events kick off in May in Washington.

### BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

The AWF has become a "Resource Partner" for Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouses Mentoring Program. This innovative program established

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by the BPW Foundation will be an important resource and tool to help our service women as they transition back into the workforce and civilian life. AWF is very proud to be helping a part of this important program. We ask that if anyone would like to be part of the AWF Mentoring Team, please contact us at [info@AWFDN.org](mailto:info@AWFDN.org) or call (804) 734-3078 This initiative deserves the broadest possible support from AWF. ★



# AWF GRANT GIVING

The Foundation’s Legacy Scholarship program recognizes the importance of education by providing financial support toward under-graduate degrees to Army women and their lineal descendents. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service and need and are evaluated by the AWF Scholarship Committee. For more information, visit [www.awfdn.org](http://www.awfdn.org).

Seven deserving women, selected from an applicant pool from across the country, received the Army Women’s Foundation 2012 Legacy Scholarship. College tuition is on the rise and financial resources are declining, making scholarships even more critical to students today. The Legacy Scholarships are available for tuition assistance at the community college level or four year academic institutions:

Community College Legacy Scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000. College/University Legacy Scholarships are in the amount of \$2,500.

## 2012 AWF LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sabrina Higdon



“I am so very grateful to the US Army Women’s Found- ation for the award of this Legacy scholarship. Your confidence and financial support will help me move one step closer to my goal which is to work as a Registered Nurse in my local VA hospital. My experiences during my active duty years were truly remarkable. Each

experience forced me into a new level of growth as both a soldier and a woman. I take pride in knowing that I have served my country as a soldier. That pride will continue as I provide quality medical care for those that serve now and have served all of us in the past. Thank you.”

### 4-YEAR COLLEGE

Joy Cassagnol



“I am very fortunate to be given the opportunity to be the recipient of the Army Women’s Foundation Leg- acy Scholarship. I believe this scholarship will help me to stay focused, dedicated, and motivated in order to attain my educational and personal goals in life. This scholarship has not only been a blessing but also an

encouragement for me, as receiving it has taught me to persevere through all adversity no matter how tough the obstacle may seem to overcome. By representing this organization, I have been given the foundation and strength I need to continue my education, to fulfill my purpose in life, to give back to my community and inspire others so that I too can make a difference in this world.”

CW3 (Ret) Nancy Christiano



“I’m not sure that I can adequately express my gratitude, but would like to offer my thanks to the Army Women’s Found- ation for selecting me to receive this wonderful scholarship. This scholar- ship will benefit me tremendously by paying for nearly all the books and fees that I will incur in my

program of study at Indiana Wesleyan University. I realize this may not seem huge, but it is truly significant for me in reducing the out of pocket expenses that I incur on a monthly basis. As a widowed mother and sole provider, I am paying for both of my sons’ education expenses as they attend catholic high school and college. This scholarship eases the burden and stress associated with the costs to fund

my educational expenses. Their needs always come before mine and this money will cover the things that I might have otherwise struggled to cover by putting their education priority first and putting mine aside. You have helped more than just the one; you have impacted the future of all three of us. Thank you so much.”

SPC Maia Dihan



“Being a United States Army Women Foundation scholar- ship recipient is already a great reward for me and I couldn’t ask for more. However, being awarded the scholarship is very helpful for me especially because my books are very expensive. I also have been going to school so much that I am out of Tuition Assist-ance and

have to pay for my classes out of pocket. Being a single mother with three dependents sure makes budgeting a little tight especially with the rank I currently have so I am definitely happy to receive this award.”

Amber Gibson



“Receiving this scholarship will first of all give me the opportunity to finish school and also provide me with the necessary supplies I need. This award also gives me a sense of empower- ment. I will be the first in my family to obtain a college degree, which is something remarkable. Thank you for giving me the

opportunity to fulfill my dream.”

SPC (Ret) Latoya Lucas



“The Army Women’s Foundation is well known as a foundation that recog- nizes and honors the dedication and vision of women that have sacrificed in defense of our nation. As an Army Wounded Warrior, I am extremely proud to be a recipient of the prestigious Army Women’s Foundation Legacy Scholarship. As I

continue to pursue my own educational goals, I hope that I may also inspire more people with disabilities to continue pursuing their dreams.”

Yamese Wyrick



“I am extremely honored to be getting this award. Receiving the scholarship means I have succeeded. It gives me confidence that someone else believes in me. This will help me with my future endeavors and extend my college edu- cation. I would like to take my blessings and share them with the public by

sharing this knowledge that was gifted to me. The one thing I know for sure is I will always have people to thank for my accomplishments. Thank You.” ★



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Five years ago when the Foundation decided to reach out and serve a broader audience, I was relatively new at the job of Executive Director. While we all hoped for success, I think I can safely say that none of us had any idea of where the initial Symposium and Hall of Fame Luncheon would lead us. Since then, each year has witnessed still more vital, robust, successes for the Foundation and for the Army women it honors and serves.

The *Army Women in Transition* Symposium this March was another resounding success. We had a full house at our Panels with a robust question and answer session, a packed Networking Session and a very special Hall of Fame Luncheon. And thanks to Booz Allen Hamilton, for the first time, we videotaped all the proceedings so that they will be available via the internet. That first step has become a giant leap.

I am grateful to all those who participated in the event with their ideas, time, and contributions. Equally important to the continuing success of the program are the many comments and suggestions received after the Symposium from presenters and attendees. We can look forward to next year with enthusiasm. We could not do this work without this vast amount of support and encouragement.

Our mission is to honor the service and sacrifice of Army women. To do that, we must spread the inspirational stories of the contributions of Army women to their country. The Hall of Fame Award that we give during a

packed audience following the Symposium is the most visible expression of the significance of the contributions of Army women. Our first year, we honored two unique soldiers — BG (Ret) Pat Foote and CSM (Ret) Cindy Pritchett — leaders, trailblazers, and advocates for all Army women. As awardees they set the bar of recognition very high. Notwith- standing that, each year we find we have a difficult task when considering many different possibilities for honorees. It makes us realize the breadth, depth, and diversity of Army women and their contributions, both large and small.

This year, again the award was special. Listening to each of the women representing the nearly 7,000 Army women who served in Vietnam identify her contribution to the war effort made me realize how committed and dedicated these women were and remain. They were so very proud to be up there on stage and so grateful to finally be thanked publicly, something that has not been done in the past as much as it should have. They clearly were proud to have been part of perhaps the most difficult war in American history. And they were so very proud to have served in the Army.

Listening, I too, became proud. Proud of the opportunity given me by the Army Women’s Foundation to be part of a very special day, serving the needs of very special women and honoring extraordinary service. Hooah!

Peggy Trossen  
Executive Director





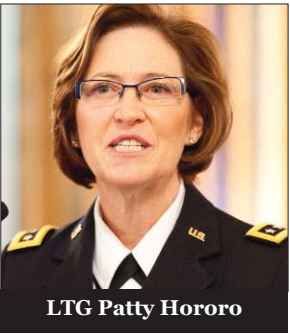
# 4TH ANNUAL ARMY WOMEN IN TRANSITION SYMPOSIUM

## CHANGING MISSIONS, CHANGING ROLES

The 4th Annual Army Women in Transition Symposium was held March 13, 2012 in the Cannon Caucus Room in the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The impressive setting set the stage for another outstanding and informative symposium. This year’s symposium’s theme was *Changing Missions, Changing Roles*. Army Women’s Foundation President Major General (Ret) Dee McWilliams opened the symposium to a standing room only audience. General McWilliams welcomed all of the attendees, panelists and sponsors. She then introduced Angela Messer, Senior Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton, and a 1980 graduate of the U.S Military Academy, the first class of women to graduate from West Point.



Messer said “She (General Horoho) is a testament to the evolving and changing roles of U.S. service women, rising through the ranks through a dedicated career, breaking traditional boundaries and assuming command at a rank previously unattainable by a non-physician.”



General Horoho began her remarks by thanking the Foundation for the privilege of addressing such an impressive group. Before she began her speech, she thanked all that had served, recognized all female General Officers in attendance, and all the Vietnam veterans. General Horoho highlighted the contributions of women from the Revolutionary War to the present conflict in Afghanistan. She said “women have served honorably and even died in every single conflict this country has fought.”

General Horoho told the story of Colonel Oveta Hobby. During World War II, she headed the War Department's Women's Interest Section for a short time and then became the Director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later the Women's Army Corps), which was created to fill gaps left by a shortage of men. Colonel Hobby was charged with identifying jobs women could perform. When she began, there were 54 jobs on the list. When Colonel Hobby finished, she had identified 239 jobs women could perform. Today, women can fill 97%, 412 out of 438 military occupational specialties across the enlisted, warrant, and officer corps thanks to the start of Colonel Hobby. She received the Distinguished Service Medal for efforts during the war. She was the first woman in the Army to receive this award. As a veteran, Colonel Hobby went on to become the first secretary, and first female secretary, of the new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, which later became the Department of Health and Human Services.

General Horoho used Colonel Hobby’s story as an example of a soldier that transitioned to be a successful civilian. “How are opportunities created for women veterans today that have served proudly?” she asked. General Horoho cited that 20% of female veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, approximately 50,000, are unemployed. She emphasized that we must ensure that military skills and training translate into skills that are perceived as valued by our civilian employers. Veterans that are returning home should have a seamless transition that respects their service.



Ms. Messer had the privilege of introducing the symposium’s key note speaker, Lieutenant General Patricia Horoho, Surgeon General of the Army and Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command. General Horoho is the first woman and first nurse to be appointed the Surgeon General of the Army. In her introduction, Ms.

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Unfortunately, in the current job environment, adjustments are understandably difficult. “Life in the military, as it turns out for some, is more certain that life at home,” said General Horoho. She continued by saying that “we have a resource in our female veterans that is too valuable not to take advantage of.” She thanked everyone in the room for their efforts to promote and assist opportunities for our female veterans.

General Horoho concluded her remarks by addressing the Vietnam veterans in the room. “You are the bridge that linked the WACS of WWII to the soldiers of today. Our women of Vietnam made sure that no one would forget that women could do a wide range of hard work and work in hard places. You continued to push open the door, creating opportunities for female veterans of today, inside and outside of the military. Thank you.”

General McWilliams thanked General Horoho for addressing the symposium. She then introduced the symposium moderator, Major General (Ret) Donna Barbisch, President, Global Deterrence Alternatives. General Barbisch started her Army career as a Private First Class in the Army Student Nurse Program. She served in Vietnam with the 91st Evacuation Hospital in Chu lai. She ascended through the ranks to serve as the Director of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Program Integration in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

General Barbisch thanked everyone for their support and said the symposium was about forging our future...what are those key issues of transition?

Two panels were conducted. The first panel was entitled “*Beyond the Battlefield: Coming Home*.”

The panel members were Major General Marcia Anderson, Deputy Chief, Army Reserve; Ronald Drach, President, Drach Consulting; Command Sergeant Major (Ret) Cynthia Prichett, Near East South Asia Center Liaison to USCENTCOM; Amy Wilkinson, Assistant Store Manager, The Home Depot.



The second panel was entitled, “*Beyond the Battlefield: Back to Work*.” Panel members included Maureen Casey, Executive Director, Military and Veterans Affairs, JPMorgan Chase; Dawn Halfaker, Chief Executive Officer, Halfaker and Associates, LLC.; William Offutt, Director External Affairs, Military to Medicine; Brigadier General (Ret) Gary Profit, Senior Director, Military Programs, Walmart.

***Beyond the Battlefield: Coming Home*** addressed the challenges veterans confront when returning from deployments and transitioning to civilian life.

***Beyond the Battlefield: Back to Work*** addressed the issues veterans face when trying to translate their military training for corporate America.

After panel discussions and comments from the audience, there were several themes that particularly resonated from all participants:



■ Women veterans experience unique stressors when returning home because they are often the primary care provider of the family. All presenters agreed it is imperative for women veterans to reach out to programs that provide counseling and resources to assist in coping with the transition back to civilian life.

■ Women often do not think of themselves as veterans. Much discussion centered on what can be done to make women self-identify as veterans. One panelist suggested asking the question “Have you ever served in the military?” rather than “Are you a veteran?” He saw a significant increase in his veteran employees when changing the question. Once identified, women in general are reluctant to admit their military accomplishments. The panel emphasized that women needed to understand their value, speak up for their talents, and transfer their military ethos to their civilian employment.

■ Corporate representatives on the panel emphasized that veterans need to take military records and translate into industry jargon. They said emphasize values, team work, integrity, patriotism, etc. because they are always looking for high caliber people. One member spoke of the importance of a cover letter telling the employer why you are different, why you are special, and why you want to work for their organization.

■ Corporate representatives agreed that they also had a responsibility when hiring veterans. Human Resource recruiters must understand how to read veterans resume and understand their license and certifications. They must also understand their return on investment when hiring a veteran.

■ All agreed that networking was vital for gaining employment. Women veterans should use social networking sites and join professional organizations in order to meet potential employers.



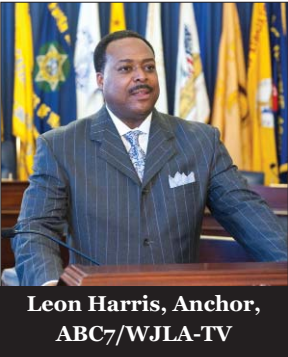
At the end of the panel discussions, General McWilliams thanked all participants for their contributions. Participants and audience members retired to the Veteran’s Affairs Committee Room for a very successful networking session. During the session, Senator Daniel Inouye (D) Hawaii, was recognized by the Foundation for his unwavering support of women soldiers and veterans throughout his long, distinguished political career. ★





# 4TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME AWARD AND LUNCHEON

Following the *Army Women in Transition Symposium* in the morning was the Hall of Fame Luncheon. Each year for the past four years, the Amy Women’s Foundation has inducted a woman or a group of women into its Hall of Fame. This year’s inductees were the Women Who Served in Vietnam. They joined the 2011 honorees, Sergeant Major Grace Mueller, USA (Ret) and the First Female Graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, class of 1980. As well as Brigadier General Evelyn P. Foote, USA (Ret), U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Cindy Pritchett, USA (Ret), the Honorable L. Tammy Duckworth and Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, USAF (Ret), all previous inductees into the Hall of Fame.



The Master of Ceremonies for the induction ceremony was Leon Harris, award winning journalist and anchor for ABC 7 news in Washington, D.C. Mr. Harris hosted the event last year and when asked why he continues to come back he said, “I am so proud to be in your company...it is an honor to host this event.”

Also returning was SFC Leigh Ann Hinton of the United States Army Band, whose rendition of the National Anthem left those in the room with a knot in their throat. The presentation of colors was flawlessly executed by an all-woman color guard from the District of Columbia Army National Guard.



After an introduction by Mr. Harris, the opening remarks were delivered by Major General (Ret) Dee McWilliams, President of the Army Women’s Foundation, who said that the “Army Women’s Foundation exists to keep the legacy alive... whether it was 60 years ago or last week, if you served, you will always be a veteran.”

She then began the introduction of the keynote speaker, Major General Janet Cobb. General McWilliams highlighted the fact that General Cobb had enlisted in the Army in 1974 as a Private First Class and risen to the position of Assistant Deputy G4, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, Headquarters, Department of the Army.



As those in attendance sat in the Cannon Caucus Room being served lunch, I am sure they were not expecting what they got... What was expected was just another speech, what they got was inspired and inspiring remarks, a reminder of where women soldiers have been, how they got to where they are today, and how proud they should be of their service. General Cobb’s theme of the journey was “They were just doing their job.”

After her personal donation to the Army Women’s Foundation, she began her remarks by revisiting her reasons for enlisting in the Army Reserve...no money for college, friends that were willing to enlist too, and a mentor in the form of her government teacher, Day Fullbright—a World War II Women’s Army Corps (WAC) officer and the first woman promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserve. General Cobb spoke of one of her most prized possessions, a photo taken of her in her starched cord uniform with white gloves with Brigadier General Mary Clarke, the 9th Director of the WAC Corps. She then commented on how times have changed, “I walk through the halls of the Pentagon, now a Major General and former Specialist Four, passing an African-American woman wearing an Air Force flight suit, leather flight jacket and senior pilot wings; a female Marine aviator and a Marine Gunny; an Asian female Navy Lieutenant wearing gold dolphins; and female soldiers wearing jump wings, Combat Action Badges, Air Assault Badges, pilot wings, Purple Hearts, and on the sleeve of their Army Service Uniform, a stack of overseas service bars.”

She went on to say “In my opinion, deployment, warfighting, and military service have simply become a matter of course. It is just part of life now for women in uniform—because *they are just doing their job*. The women of World War II, Korea, and you who served in Vietnam *were just doing your job*. You put down the early pavestones on which we walk today without thought of history of talk of breaking ceilings. We just put on the helmet, fly the helicopter, load the 9 mil, drive the gun truck, remove the combat damaged tissue, direct the intra-theater airlift...*we are just doing our job*.”

But as much as things have changed, some things stay the same. General Cobb spoke of the commonalities between the Vietnam Veterans and the veterans of today.

First is the commonality of being volunteers...the very small number of our population that has chosen to serve freely.

The second commonality is the integration of previously untapped capabilities, whether it is women, African-American women or the use of the Army Reserve and National Guard.

The third commonality is the sudden loss of camaraderie. “You had lived a life no one around you could comprehend and now were dropped by into the most traditional of worlds... the men in Vietnam were your brothers— men and women can have a real camaraderie borne out of shared sacrifice and risk,” Cobb continued.

The fourth commonality is those who could not readjust. Those veterans that self-medicate with drugs and alcohol suffer from PTSD or are homeless. General Cobb reminded all that these were our brothers and sisters and not to forget them.

And the final and fifth commonality is loss. Eight women died in Vietnam; the statistics for the Global War on Terror to date are 64 deaths from hostile fire, 47 non-hostile, 749 wounded in action. However, as General Cobb pointed out, there are many types of loss, “Loss coordinates are listed for POWs marking their last known location. 1959-1975: Those are your [Vietnam Veterans] loss coordinates...the years that frame the official start and conclusion of the Vietnam War. The years that bracket your youth—the span of time that reflect not just loss—loss of youth—loss of innocence—but represent the years that were the pavestones that you put down for those of us who have followed your path. The women veterans of Vietnam—whether officer, enlisted, or warrant officer—one-term enlistee or a career soldier—served and persevered during one of the most tumultuous times in American history.”

At the conclusion of her remarks, there were few dry eyes in the room. She received a standing ovation from a much appreciative crowd.\*



Hall of Fame Award: Women Who Served in Vietnam

Following General Cobb’s remarks, General McWilliams began the induction ceremony for the Women Who Served in Vietnam. Fifteen Vietnam veterans were present to represent their cohort and their induction to the Hall of Fame. Some in wheelchairs, some with canes, and others sitting perfectly erect as General McWilliams began the induction ceremony. One at a time, each veteran gave their name, rank, military occupational specialty and location of where they were stationed in Vietnam. Brigadier General (Ret) Pat Foote accepted the award on behalf of the Women Who Served in Vietnam, entertaining the attendees with short stories, poems and songs from her Vietnam experience.



BG Pat Foote, RET accepting award for the Women who Served in Vietnam & Dee McWilliams

Following the induction ceremony, Lieutenant Colonels (Ret) Alice Demarais and Mary Spring announced the 2012 Legacy Scholarship winners.



LTC Mary Spring, RET & COL Alice Demarais, RET announce Legacy Scholarship Winners

General McWilliams concluded the activities by thanking all of the contributors, sponsors, and attendees for making the 4th Hall of Fame Luncheon such as success...and an overwhelming success it was. ★

\* To read MG Janet Cobb’s keynote speech in its entirety, please visit our website at: [www.AWFNDN.org/programs/Symposium-2012](http://www.AWFNDN.org/programs/Symposium-2012).

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DAY...



CPT Dawn Halfaker, RET, President, Wounded Warriors Project



Nicole Funk, Sr. VP, Booz Allen Hamilton



Peggy Trossen, Executive Director, AWF



Angie Messer, Sr. VP, Booz Allen Hamilton and LTG Patty Hororo



# FACES OF THE FALLEN

## 1<sup>ST</sup> LT ASHLEY I. WHITE



1<sup>st</sup> LT Ashley I. White, 24, of Alliance, Ohio, died October 22, 2011 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked her unit with an improvised explosive device.

Ashley was assigned to the 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina National Guard of Goldsboro, NC. She was commissioned as an officer after graduating from Kent State in 2009. She trained at Fort Sam Houston, TX and Fort Benning, GA before being assigned to the 230th Brigade Support Battalion, where she served as an evacuation platoon leader.

Her awards and decorations include the Parachute Badge, the Ohio Faithful Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. She will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Combat Action Badge. ★

## PFC SARINA N. BUTCHER



PFC Sarina Butcher, 19, of Checotah, OK, died November 1, 2011 in Paktia province, Afghanistan from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device.

Sarina was assigned to the 700th Brigade Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma National Guard, Tulsa, OK.

Butcher was the first woman from the Oklahoma National Guard to die in fighting since women were allowed to join the Guard in 1971, according to a release from the Oklahoma National Guard. She was also the youngest Guard soldier to die in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. She joined the Guard as a way to help her support her daughter while pursuing her dream of becoming a nurse.

She is survived by a two year old daughter Zoey, her parents, step-parents, grandparents, a brother and a sister. ★

## SPC MIKAYLA A. BRAGG



SPC Mikayla A. Bragg, 21, of Longview, WA, died December 21, 2011 in Khowst province, Afghanistan as a result of being shot in a guard tower.

She was assigned as a motor transport operator with the 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Knox, KY.

Mikayla who graduated from Mark Morris High School in 2008, graduated basic training at Fort Sill, was classified as a sharpshooter and because of her accuracy with a rifle, deployed from Fort Knox to Afghanistan in August. She was due to return to the United States January 6. Mikayla joined the Army to help her pay for college and she hoped to go into a field where she could help people or animals.

She is survived by her father Steve Bragg, stepmother Amber Bragg, mother Sheyanne Baker, sister Kandyce Bragg, half-brother Allen Davids, and half-siblings Joseph Bragg and Ariel, Darien and Julian DeForge. ★


# BRONZE MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The Bronze Memorial Plaque program 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. Donations in any amount are welcome and will be held until the required minimum of \$100 for the individual is reached. The plaques are cast bi-annually, and once completed, all proceeds from the Bronze Memorial Plaque program will be used to further the mission of the Army Women’s Foundation and its programs. We are currently accepting names and contributions for Plaque XVI and will continue to through December 31, 2012. ★



AUSA ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

Be sure to visit our booth at the AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, D.C. from October 22-24! Visit our website at [www.AWFND.org](http://www.AWFND.org) closer to the event dates for more information! We hope to see you there! ★



 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!



 Connect with us





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](mailto:info@awfdn.org)  
Web: [www.awfdn.org](http://www.awfdn.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 8-10**, Richmond, VA  
*AUSA’s ILW Army Sustainment Symposium and Exposition*  
<http://www.ausa.org/meetings/2012/>

**May 14**, St. Paul, MN  
*From Boot Camp to Veteran Volume 6 “Honoring all Military Women; Past, Present & Future”*  
<http://www.mdva.state.mn.us/women/FromBootCampToVeteranVolume6-2011.pdf>

**May 19**, Casper, WY  
*Promoting Our Women Warriors of Wyoming*  
<http://www.cheyenne.va.gov/news/POWWOW2012.asp>

**May 31**, Fort Des Moines, IA  
*Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center’s 3rd Annual WAC Day Dinner*  
<http://www.fortdesmoines.org>

**June 16**, Fall River, MA  
*Massachusetts Conference for Women Veterans*  
<http://www.mass.gov/veterans/women-veterans/conference-women-veterans/conference-for-women-vets.html>

**June 25-29**, Richmond, VA  
*National Veterans Wheelchair Games*  
<http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/wcg/index.asp>

**June 26-29**, 2012, Detroit, MI  
*National Veteran Small Business Conference and Expo*  
<http://www.nationalveteransconference.com/>

**July 4**, Nationwide  
*Independence Day*

**August 22-24**, Scottsdale, AZ  
*Women’s Army Corps Veterans’ Association 2012 Annual Convention “ARMY WOMEN UNITED”*  
<http://www.armywomen.org/pdf/2012Convention.pdf>

**September 20**, Arlington, VA  
*Military Women in Transition Career Coaching Workshop*  
<http://academywomen.org/events>

**September 21 - 22**, Arlington, VA  
*Officer Women Leadership Symposium (OWLS)*  
<http://academywomen.org/events>

### ARMY WOMEN’S FOUNDATION

Est. 1969  
Honoring Service and Sacrifice  
P.O. Box 5030  
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While visiting our website, check out our online giftshop!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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April Booth ([abooth@awfdn.org](mailto:abooth@awfdn.org))

#### Administrative Associate

Brenda Armitage ([barmitage@awfdn.org](mailto:barmitage@awfdn.org))

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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

\*Individuals or organizations may establish a memorial fund for a specific person. The deceased individual’s name is placed on a bronzed memorial plaque once the minimum \$100 donation is reached. The Memorial Plaque is dedicated every two years—the current plaque will run from Jan. 1, 2011–Dec. 31, 2012; you may add names of persons who died in an earlier period.

#### Person to be Acknowledged:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email : \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of Payment:

☐ Check (payable to U.S. Army Women’s Foundation)  
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
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!

**Mail or fax this form to:** U. S. Army Women’s Foundation / P.O. Box 5030 / Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-0300 / **FAX:** (804) 734-3077

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**FP Spring12**