

# The Flagpole

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

Volume LVIII No. 2

Summer 2007

### Concept for the Museum Expansion

by Patricia Jernigan, Vicki Merryman, Peggy Trossen

We're pleased to report that the preliminary drawings for an expanded Army Women's Museum have been delivered. These drawings provide a footprint that could almost double the existing museum and will serve as the basis for further planning. This preliminary design effort focuses on the needs of the museum for added space for exhibits, public meetings, conservation, storage, and other requirements.

The 2005 decisions of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process are affecting Fort Lee and will impact on what we do and how it is done. Plans call for the formation

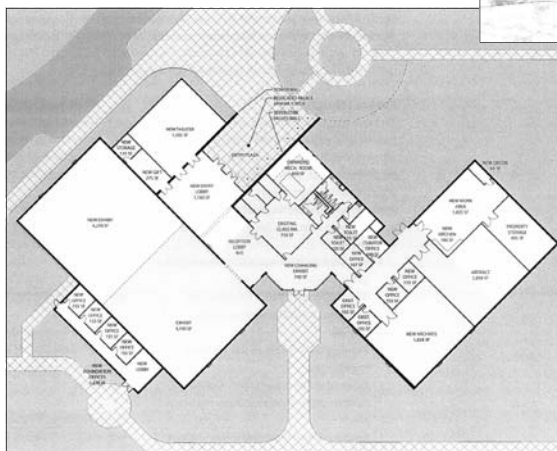
Ordinance artifacts presently in the open under cover. The Quartermaster Museum is also

include master planning, educational facilities, sports and recreation buildings, cultural centers and



Above: The concept sketch shows how the new entrance to the museum might look

Left: The floor plan sketch shows the additions to the museum



of a combat service support center with the relocation of most combat service support training and doctrine functions to Fort Lee. The Ordnance Center and School (Aberdeen, Md.), with the Ordnance Museum, is to move to Fort Lee. A huge facility is expected to be built north of the existing Quartermaster and Army Women's museums to bring

expanding, and these museums, with the Army Women's Museum, will form a significant Army museum center at Fort Lee. Our plans must not only meet the needs of the Army Women's Museum, but must also be in concert with Fort Lee and Army planning. We must carefully watch the scope of our plans to ensure that we remain within our fiscal capability.

To move forward with our vision the Foundation contracted with Bowie-Gridley Architects of Washington, D.C. for a design feasibility study. While we had a vision, we needed help to bring substance to the vision. Bowie-Gridley is a noted international firm whose projects

historic preservation. The firm delivered an impressive conceptual design package – three of the seven

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## President's Message

### Dear Friends of the Foundation



Greetings from hot and dry Virginia! It seems lately that the weather makes the news more than other events in the

United States. My prayers are with all of you suffering from events varying from flood to drought, to include wild fires and the never ending rains.

I want to tell everyone who was not able to attend the Women's Reunion celebration in Branson, Mo. that you sure missed a good time! I have never been anywhere in the United States where any veteran is treated so special. At the final dinner I told the mayor of Branson that I hope that when it comes to veterans and Branson it never changes. I don't care where you go in Branson, one of the first questions asked is: "are you a veteran?" They truly want to thank you for your service to our country and for keeping us all free. My hat's off to the Branson Women Veterans Committee for their excellent program! Additionally my hat is off to Foundation director Vicki Merryman who coordinated our activities with Branson's. Vicki you made it all so seamless and I thank you for a job well done.

Since the last Flagpole much has been happening with the Foundation and the Army Women's Museum – you'll see more detailed articles throughout the newsletter, but I want to mention a few: the grand opening of the "Raven 42" exhibit was a smashing success. The

Museum staff worked hard and long on this, with substantial help from the Post, the Foundation, the Quartermaster Museum, and many others. We were particularly impressed with the large delegation from the Kentucky National Guard who attended the ceremony. Well done all! The Foundation, with the services of a registered lobbyist (as required by Virginia law), were fortunate to secure a matching grant for \$100,000 from the Virginia legislature to help with our plans to enlarge the Army Women's Museum. Thanks go to directors Vicki Merryman and Pat Jernigan and executive director Peggy Trossen.

We have expanded our capabilities in the Foundation office by hiring Peggy Trossen as our first Executive Director. Due to our growing national foundation, we have also increased the staff capability for conducting day-to-day operations, to better respond to our supporters, and to deal with opportunities quickly. We welcome our new administrative officer, Ms. April Booth. For more details, see page 12.

Our work with the architectural firm of Bowie Gridley Architects from Washington D.C. (page 1) has yielded a preliminary assessment on expansion for the museum. We will continue to work this issue in close coordination with the Army Women's Museum and Fort Lee as we embark on a Capital Campaign to raise the money necessary to complete this much needed expansion.

Finally, I want you to know that we have been working with the museum on a grant proposal with the

Cameron Foundation to support the "Hands on History" program developed by education specialist Francoise Bonnell. This is an outstanding program bringing young students to a great facility, and continues to expand both the visibility and circle of support for the Army Women's Museum by bringing in teachers, students, and parents.

As we continue to work the remainder of this calendar year, we have set our priorities on expanding our circle of friends, further development of our plans for expansion in coordination with the museum, and continuing our oral history program. You can help us by spreading the word of our fantastic museum and foundation whenever you have the opportunity to speak in front of a group large or small. Brochures are always available and all you need to do is call the Foundation office at 804-734-3078. We plan to have the brochure available on line sometime this fall so that you can print it off at any time.

Continue to enjoy your summer no matter how hot, how wet, how dry or whatever the weather! Before you know it winter will be here. As always, let me know how we can help you help us! Contact me through the office or on line via the website, [www.awfdn.org](http://www.awfdn.org). Thanks again for all your support!

*Patricia A. Sigle*

President  
U.S. Army Women's Foundation

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If you would like to contribute articles and/or photographs to the Flagpole, please email the editor at: [editor@awfdn.org](mailto:editor@awfdn.org)

## Foundation receives grant from Virginia

by Patricia Jernigan

We're pleased to announce that the U.S. Army Women's Foundation has received a \$100,000.00 matching grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia for fiscal year 2008. Our efforts to secure this grant were planned, developed and led by Peggy Trossen. This is the first ever state grant for the Foundation. It was sponsored by House Finance Chair, Delegate Vince Callahan of McLean, Va., who served in the Marine Corps during the



Del. Vince Callahan (photo from WJLA)

in Richmond to tell them about the Foundation and the needs of the U.S.

Army Women's Museum. We received expert guidance from the Foundation's legislative consultant, former Virginia State Secretary of Health and Human Services, Jane Woods. As a result of these efforts, the Foundation had a unique opportunity to meet most of the Virginia Legislators and tell them

our story.

Peggy Trossen reports that delegates, senators and staff were impressed with Foundation programs and the



Vicki Merryman, Senator Colgan, Pat Jernigan, Jane Woods (photo by Peggy Trossen)

Korean War. Our profound thanks for his crucial support and leadership in sponsoring this budget amendment. The grant is part of the Virginia Legislature's Cultural and Community Projects budget.

After the Foundation requested inclusion in the State's budget, Board members, Pat Jernigan and Vicki Merryman, with executive director Peggy Trossen, spent several days attending budget hearings at locations around the state as well as visiting the Legislature in Richmond. In addition to the public hearings, we met with senators and delegates

Museum at Fort Lee. Many were hearing about both the Museum and the Foundation for the first time – and they wanted to learn more! They also wanted to hear about the military experiences of colonels Jernigan and Merryman, as both shared personal stories about their service in Viet Nam and Desert Storm.

This grant is a very important step that increases the visibility of the Foundation and Museum, and will assist in the planning for Museum enhancements.

### 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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# Reunion News from Branson, Missouri

## Something New...Something Old...

by Vicki Merryman

The 2007 Army Women's Foundation Reunion included features both new and old. The new feature...the location. For the first time since the Foundation began



*The generations at the reunion; **seated:** Mattie Stevens and Emma Pogge; **standing:** Whitney Byrd and Helen "Gig" Smith. Mattie, Emma and Gig are WWII veterans; Emma was the senior veteran attending the reunion. Whitney was the youngest. (photo courtesy of Mary Spring)*

hosting the biannual event, the reunion was not held on an Army post. Branson, Mo. is undoubtedly **the** most veteran friendly town in America and that welcoming manner was evident throughout the reunion. The Women Veteran's Week was a wonderful opportunity for Army women to join the many celebration activities as well as enjoy the friendly Branson welcome.

The Branson Women Veteran's Task Force, chaired by Mary Slivka, worked for over a year to arrange reunion activities and almost 50 event sponsors. Merchants sponsored transportation assistance, provided refreshments for attendees, free admission to the well done Titanic Museum, discounts for numerous Branson entertainment shows, and high quality door prizes for the receptions and banquet.

And what was old? The gathering of Army women veterans and active duty Army women was a great

opportunity to meet friends old and new. Without a doubt, Nona Harris wins the "Most Motivated to Attend the Reunion" award. Nona and her motorized wheel chair traveled two days by Greyhound bus from Fresno, Calif. Others came from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Oregon. Arguably the youngest in attendance was Pvt. Whitney Byrd, from Mountain Home, Ark., awaiting her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday so that she can go through Military Police Corps training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Former Tech. Sgt. Emma Pogge, 95, from Lawrence, Ks. was the senior woman veteran.

In a twist on our traditional golf tournament, reunion activities began with an all service miniature golf tournament. Two reunion participants, Paula Lane and Arlene Musik from Columbia, Md., won prizes for holes-in-one. A special country variety concert by Branson favorite, Dalena Ditto, gave special recognition to women veterans and provided lively entertainment. Updates on Foundation and Museum activities were presented by Foundation president Pat Sigle, executive director Peggy Trossen,



*Branson's mayor, RaeAnne Presley, welcoming everyone (photo courtesy of Patricia Jernigan)*

and museum director, Judith Matteson. A special symbolic check presentation from the estate of Sgt. Maj. Julia Bennett was made to the Foundation by Jack and Janis Wilkins on their behalf and on the

behalf of Sgt. Maj. Bennett's good friends, Sandy Wolfe and Bonnie Bowen. Unfortunately Wolfe and Bowen were unable to attend. In



*Left to right: Peggy Trossen, Jack and Janis Wilkins, Pat Sigle (photo courtesy of Vickie Hajduk)*

their remarks the Wilkins spoke of Bennett's love for and dedication to the Army, about her community service, and her desire to help people.

The Foundation reception at the Settle Inn hospitality room was packed and gave attendees the opportunity to visit, view the numerous displays from all the services, and enjoy a substantial cocktail buffet. Special reunion guest, Miss Connie Stevens, attended the reception, meeting and talking with veterans, and signing autographs. Her graciousness and genuine interest impressed us all!

The Army Women's Museum "Fallen Heroes" tribute kiosk, honoring the women who have died as a result of their service in Afghanistan and Iraq, was available throughout the course of the reunion. It features photos and biographical information on each of the young women and is a powerful reminder honoring their service. It was a much visited display, and was featured in the local newspaper. (The exhibit was developed by Trinia

*Continued on page 9...*

## Capt. Jerome Receives MacArthur Award

by Patricia Jernigan

The 2006 General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Awards, sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation, recognize outstanding leadership by active duty, reserve-component and National Guard company grade officers and warrant officers. Awards were presented to 28 Army officers in Washington, D.C. on May 16<sup>th</sup>; two of the 28 recognized are women: they are captains Josephine A. Jerome, Wisconsin Army National Guard (far left in photo) and Kate M. H. Conkey, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (far right in photo).



(photo courtesy U.S. Army)

In a telephone interview in June, Capt. Jerome gave a brief summary of her career for *The Flagpole*. She enlisted in the active Army in 1990 looking for opportunities to serve and to get an education. After Russian language training, described as very intense and demanding, she completed intelligence analyst training. She was assigned both in the U.S. and Japan. She noted that all assignments were challenging and rewarding. In 1998 she left active duty to attend college full time, earning a degree in business administration in 2002.

To continue her Army career Jerome joined the Army National Guard, completing officer candidate school in the summer of 2001. She chose the Engineer Corps to get as close as

possible to the battlefield. Following the branch course, she deployed almost immediately to Iraq as a platoon leader with the 229<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Wisconsin Army National Guard. Her platoon was responsible for horizontal construction (runways, landing pads and bridges) and faced many challenges including logistics, transportation, climate and security. She noted that the assignment was difficult for a new officer, but that she had excellent leaders.



Capt. Jerome with President Bush in the Oval Office during MacArthur Award activities.  
(photo courtesy Capt. Jerome)

Returning to the States, then Lt. Jerome was surprised to find the negative

media stories about service in Iraq. She made many speeches talking about the positive aspects of deployment for both the unit and the local Iraqi people. She noted also that deployment makes you appreciate many things we take for granted like green grass, warm showers, and brushing your teeth at a sink.

In May 2006 she was selected to command Company B, 724<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion. She volunteered for and graduated from the intensive Sapper Leader Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. This course involves extensive field exercises to learn engineer and infantry skills. Capt. Jerome is believed to be the first Army National Guard female to earn the Sapper tab, and one of only 13 females overall.

In addition to her position as a company commander, she is the full time budget and finance officer for the Wisconsin Recruiting and Retention Command. Capt. Jerome is proud to be in the Army and looks forward to continued challenges. When asked if she would do it all again her response was an enthusiastic yes!

### Museum Wish List

#### Books:

1. *All this Hell* (Monahan and Neidel-Greenlee)
2. *Angels in Vietnam* (Hornung)
3. *Letters Home* (Pullman)
4. *One Woman's Army* (Karpinski)
5. *Honor Unbound* (Abbott & Gair)
6. *Flying for Her Country* (Strebe)
7. *Women at War* (Wise & Baron)
8. *Love My Rifle...* (Williams)
9. *Take a Seat Make a Stand* (Nathan)
10. *American Women and the U.S. Armed Forces: A Guide to the... National Archives* (Seeley)

#### Videos:

1. The Hidden Army- Women in WWII
2. Blue Horizon – the WASP in WWII
3. Minority Units in WWII – Profiles of Courage and Sacrifice

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!

## Taps for Fallen Comrades

### Honoring the Army Women who died in Afghanistan and Iraq

Sadly, since *The Flagpole* began reporting on the casualties in the Global War on Terrorism over three years ago, 68 Army women have died as a result of their service in Afghanistan or Iraq. These casualties are a reflection of the increased roles of women soldiers in active military operations. Technically barred from service in some combat branches, women are fully at risk with their brother soldiers in a war that knows no rear area or secure zone. We can be proud of the record of these young soldiers, while we mourn the loss of all casualties. The U.S. Army Women's Museum honors fallen comrades with a special interactive computer-based exhibit. If you visit the museum at Fort Lee be sure to take in this very moving exhibit.

**Staff Sgt. Gina R. Sparks**, 35, from Drury, Mo. died Oct. 4, 2004 at Fort Polk, La. as a result of a non-combat incident. Sgt. Sparks was a medic assigned to the 115<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital, Warrior Brigade, Fort Polk. She had been deployed to Iraq. The casualty report on Sgt. Sparks' death was issued Mar. 21, 2007; further details are unknown. (photo from *The Washington Post*)

**Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn L. Gabbard**, 46, from Polk City, Iowa, assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters, Iowa Army National Guard, died on Jan. 20, 2007 when the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in which she and eleven others were traveling was shot down. Sgt. Maj. Gabbard, an administrative specialist, was a highly regarded 27 year veteran of the Iowa National Guard. She was the first Iowa Guard female command sergeant major, and well



known for helping soldiers deal with issues surrounding active duty service. She was in Iraq on a six month deployment as the non-commissioned officer in charge of the National Guard Affairs Team in Baghdad. Sgt. Maj. Gabbard is survived by her husband, a retired Iowa Guard command sergeant major, a daughter, six stepchildren, her mother, her twin sister, two brothers and other relatives. (photo of Sgt. Maj. Gabbard from [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org); photo of the funeral service by Douglas Wells, Des Moines Register)

**Spc. Carla J. Stewart**, 37, from Sun Valley, Calif., died on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> in Tallil, Iraq, from injuries suffered in a convoy accident. She was a driver assigned to the Army Reserve's 250<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company (El Monte, Calif.). Spc. Stewart wanted to enlist as a teenager, but it wasn't until she neared the upper age restriction that she fulfilled her goal. Just five feet tall, Stewart was highly regarded by fellow soldiers who described her as "first to help... [she] always greeted you with the biggest smile." Her commander wrote "whether she was working as a gunner or a driver she did her job well and with a smile on her face." Spc. Stewart is survived by her husband, parents, and a brother. (photo from *The Los Angeles Times* on [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com))



**Sgt. Ashly L. Moyer**, 21, a military policeman from Emmaus, Pa. was killed with two other soldiers on Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near their vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq. The soldiers were assigned to the 630<sup>th</sup> Military Police (MP) Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, Bamberg, Germany. Her mother noted that

she lacked direction after high school and joined the Army to help find focus. Her father said "Ashley didn't think of herself as anything but equal if not better than any man." Spc. Moyer is survived by her parents, two brothers, a sister, and a stepsister; she was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. (photo from [coelacanth.aug.com/captbarb/](http://coelacanth.aug.com/captbarb/))



**British Army Second Lt. Joanna York Dyer**, 24, from Yeovil, England was one of four British soldiers killed in a roadside bomb attack while on patrol west of Basra City, Iraq on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Lt. Dyer was a graduate of Oxford University and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. She was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps, and was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. She was cited as a talented and energetic officer. She was a classmate of Prince William's at Sandhurst. She is survived by her parents, both of whom served in the British Army, and a sister who is currently serving.



**British Army Pvt. Eleanor Dlugosz**, 19, from Swanmore, England was killed in the incident



with Lt. Dyer. She was a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. She was respected by the infantry soldiers she patrolled with and held in high regard by all who knew her. She is survived by her mother and younger

brother.

(photos of Lt. Dyer and Pvt. Dlugosz are from the Ministry of Defense, United Kingdom)



**Pfc. Katie M. Soenksen**, 19, from Davenport, Iowa, died May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Baghdad, Iraq from wounds suffered when an IED detonated near her vehicle. She was a military

policeman assigned to the 410<sup>th</sup> MP Company, 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, 89<sup>th</sup> MP Brigade, Fort Hood, Tex. Soenksen participated in her high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (J.R.O.T.C.) program. In

a posting on the web site "America Supports You" she noted that being in Iraq "...makes me realize how good we have it in America."

Survivors include her husband,

parents, a sister and a brother. Two uncles are in the military; an aunt is an active duty Air Force

lieutenant colonel. (photo of Pfc.

Soenksen is from [nooniefortin.com/iraq.htm](http://nooniefortin.com/iraq.htm); bottom photo shows Pfc. Soenksen's husband, brother and mother from the Moline Dispatch)

**Cpl. Karen N. Clifton**, 22, from Lehigh Acres, Fla., died on June 21<sup>st</sup> in Baghdad, Iraq from wounds

suffered when her vehicle was hit with a rocket propelled grenade; three other soldiers were injured in the attack. She was a military policeman

assigned to the 554<sup>th</sup> MP Company, 95<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, Kaiserslautern, Germany. Cpl. Clifton had been scheduled to return home in early June, but her tour was extended. Her father was quoted as saying "Being in the Army was her dream."

She was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Action Badge. A contingent of Patriot Guard Riders (see photo)

provided an honor guard at her funeral service. She is survived by her mother, father and sister. (photo of Cpl. Clifton is from [ccun.org](http://ccun.org); Patriot Guard Riders from [herald-review.com](http://herald-review.com))

**Sgt. Trista L. Moretti**, 27, from South Plainfield, N.J. died June 25<sup>th</sup> in Nasir Lafitah, Iraq when her unit was attacked by indirect fire; 21 others were reported injured in the attack. Sgt. Moretti was a signals intelligence analyst with the 425<sup>th</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska. Described as a hard worker, focused, and determined, she loved the Army and enjoyed the opportunities to travel. Her parents

were presented with her Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Action Badge and Iraq Campaign Medal. She is also survived by a sister. (photo from [www.c-n.com](http://www.c-n.com))

**Cpl. Michelle R. Ring**, 24, from Martin, Tenn., died July 5<sup>th</sup> from wounds sustained from an enemy mortar attack in Baghdad, Iraq while on guard duty. Cpl. Ring was a petroleum specialist assigned to the 92d MP Battalion, Fort Benning, Ga. Cpl. Ring had

overcome many challenges to turn her life around in the Army. Her family noted that being a soldier gave her confidence and direction; she loved boot camp, but felt lost in Iraq. Despite her misgivings she recently reenlisted with hopes of becoming a military

policeman. She is survived by two sons, ages five and seven, her parents, and two sisters. (photo by Karen Harbuck, Anchorage Daily News)

**Capt. Maria I. Ortiz**, 40, died July 10<sup>th</sup> in Baghdad, Iraq of wounds suffered from enemy indirect fire.

Capt. Ortiz was born in Camden, N.J. and grew up in Bayamon, P.R. She enlisted in the Army in 1991 and was commissioned in 1999 after receiving her nursing degree from the University of Puerto Rico. She was assigned to the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. where she was the chief nurse in general medicine before deploying to Iraq last year. She was noted for caring for both the physical and emotional well-being of her patients. Capt. Ortiz is survived by her parents, fiancé, and four sisters (including a twin). (photo by Kenneth Lam, Baltimore Sun)

**The Patriot Guard Riders** are a motorcycle group that attends

military funerals at the request of the family of the deceased member. The group,

mentioned in the article above on Cpl. Clifton, was formed two years ago as a grassroots response to protestors who were disrupting military funerals of fallen heroes. In order to shield the family and others attending the funeral, they began by forming a line of motorcycles and flags along the funeral procession route. While they started with motorcycle riders, they welcome all who share their aims. The reactions of families who have participated have been very positive. (DOD courtesy photo)

"**Taps**" is compiled by Patricia Jernigan and author Noonie Fortin. Visit Noonie's web site at [www.nooniefortin.com](http://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.



## U.S. Army Women's Foundation Programs

by Peggy Trossen

Foundation programming is in high gear to increase the outreach and visibility of the Foundation and to spread the word about Army women and the Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee.

### **Museum**

The Army Women's Museum is the cornerstone of programming efforts. The Foundation underwrites the salary of a Museum archivist, and finances other non-funded needs. Foundation monetary support was instrumental in creating the Raven 42 exhibit reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter. A major effort will focus on Museum enhancement. This is a multi-year project that will begin with a capital campaign and culminate with the Museum expansion.

### **Membership**

Most supporters do not think of membership as a program, yet it is essential to increase our visibility and spread the word about Army women and their service. Increased membership through our "Friends of the Foundation" program improves sustainability and brings recognition of the mission and goals of the Foundation. Everyone reading this can help the Foundation increase in size. Please give a "Friends of the Foundation" gift to friends, family and colleagues. And of course, don't forget to renew your membership!

### **Legacy Society & Legacy Scholarsips**

The Legacy Society is the planned giving component created for donors to assist in making future gifts to the Foundation. Someone may want to leave a Legacy gift to help with Museum expansion, fund a research study, support the Legacy Scholarships, or to memorialize a comrade or loved one. Legacy gifts can be structured for contributions now, over a period of time or in the future. Life insurance no longer needed for the primary purpose can be credited to the Foundation. There are many ways to help. We can work with your

needs and your timeline. Let Foundation staff know if you need more information or would like to make a Legacy Gift!

### **Tell Your Story**

Tell Your Story is the Foundation's audio and video Oral History Program. To better understand the accomplishments of today's soldiers, it is important to recognize the achievements of women soldiers in the past. *Tell Your Story* compiles life stories and preserves and disseminates them. If we don't record our history it is very likely that it will be lost or forgotten. If you served, we want your story! Send an email to: [tellyourstory@awfdn.org](mailto:tellyourstory@awfdn.org) or call 804.734.3078 to arrange recording your own story.

### **Research Studies**



*Panel participants, left to right: Dr. Nancy Duff Campbell, moderator; Cadet Melanie Kwan, U.S. Military Academy (USMA), retired Lt. Gen. Carol Mutter, USMC; Cadet Chelsea Cunningham, USMA, Cadet Aaron Stark, USMA; Dr. Fowler and Col. Jernigan*

In partnership with Dr. Stephen Fuller and the George Mason University School of Public Policy, the Foundation conducted a groundbreaking research study that addressed the Socio-Economic Impact of Service on Army Women. This research has generated favorable publicity for the Foundation. Results of the study were presented in May at the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI) symposium at the Women's Memorial (see WREI photo, above). The Foundation is making plans with GMU for the next phase of study.

Contact me at [ptrossen@awfdn.org](mailto:ptrossen@awfdn.org) if you would like more information on Foundation programs.

## Honorary Director and Directors Emeritus Named

We are pleased to announce the election of retired Col. Mary Louise Milligan Rasmuson as an honorary director of the Army Women's Foundation and to announce the election of two new directors emeritus, retired Col. Doris Caldwell and Sgt. Maj. Martha McBroom.

Col. Rasmuson enlisted in the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942, serving in U.S. and Europe during World War II. In the Pentagon after the war, she worked on the legislation for permanent integration of women in the armed forces. In 1957 she was selected to be the 5<sup>th</sup> director of the Women's Army Corps, where she continued to work for expanded roles by women soldiers. In 1961 she married Alaskan Elmer Rasmuson. With him and the Rasmuson Foundation, she worked actively to improve life for Alaskans. Col. Rasmuson continues an active role with the Rasmuson Foundation and has been a long-term, strong supporter of our Foundation and the Army Women's Museum.

Both Col. Caldwell and Sgt. Maj. McBroom had distinguished active duty careers including many staff and troop assignments in the U.S. and overseas. Col. Caldwell served on the WAC, Army Women's Museum, and Army Women's Foundation boards for ten years; she has been active in other veterans groups. Sgt. Maj. McBroom was a board member for over 20 years; she is a past president of the National WAC Veterans Association and is active in other veterans groups. Both women made tremendous contributions to the Foundation and to the Museum.

### **Welcome Ladies!**



# WWI Army Nurse Awarded Silver Star

by Patricia Jernigan

In a moving ceremony held at the Women's Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, on July 31<sup>st</sup>, Major Gen. Gale Pollock, acting surgeon general and chief, Army Nurse Corps, presented the Silver Star Medal for Lennie Leckrone to her daughter, Mary Jane Bolles Reed. Miss Leckrone was awarded the Silver Star for her heroism under fire while serving as an Army nurse in France in 1918.

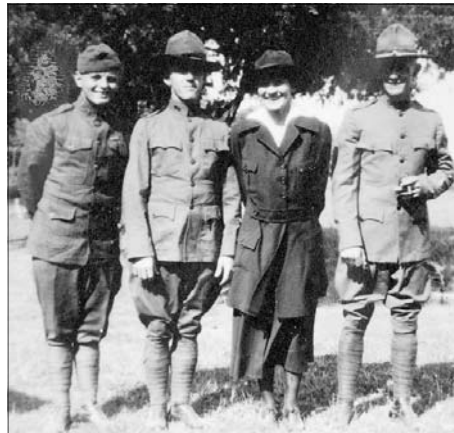
Miss Leckrone joined the Army Nurse Corps in May 1917. In January 1918 she was sent to France with Base Hospital No. 66. In July an urgent call was received for two nurses to serve on a shock team with Field Hospital No. 127 supporting the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division at Château Thierry. Nurses Leckrone and Irene Robar, both good friends, volunteered for this dangerous duty. With thousands of casualties per day streaming through the hospital, the work was extremely intense and conditions were difficult. The



Leckrone's daughter, Mary Jane Bolles Reed, with Major Gen. Pollock (DOD photo by Fred W. Baker III)

hospital was close to the front, and the staff often worked on the wounded under incoming artillery fire. Nurses Leckrone and Robar were cited for "attending to the wounded during artillery bombardment" on Jul 29<sup>th</sup>.

Leckrone returned to Base Hospital 66 in September; in February 1919



Linnie Leckrone with her brothers Orris, Dwight and Lyle (DOD photo courtesy the Reed family)

she returned to the States, and she was discharged in April. She married in 1923 and raised four children. Linnie Bolles died in February 1989.

The Citation Star was created for Army personnel by Public Law 193 (July 1918) for gallantry under fire. It was a silver star device, 3/16<sup>th</sup> inches, authorized for wear on the World War I Victory Medal ribbon. In July 1932 the Secretary of War authorized the Silver Star Medal to replace the Citation Star; however, recipients had to apply for the new medal.

Army Medical Department historian Dr. Sanders Marble researched the citations after being alerted by a colleague working on another topic. It is likely that the women never knew the significance of the citation. Nurse Robar has no known survivors. Relatives of a third nurse, Jane Rignel, could not attend the ceremony. Several other nurses may also have received the Citation Star – research is expected to continue.

Thanks to Major Richard Prior, ANC Historian and Dr. Marble for assistance in preparing this article.

## Reunion (continued from page 4)

Broughton, a former Foundation employee who worked for the Museum.) The Memorial Service and Plaque Dedication featured retired Lt. Col. Mary Spring as master of ceremonies and retired Maj. Gen. Dee McWilliams as speaker. Following the reading of the names of the fallen, a mock-up of the bronze memorial plaque to be erected later this fall was unveiled by Pat Sigle and Judy Matteson. The service concluded with a new memorial feature where each person attending was invited to come forward and place a rose petal in a memorial bowl.

The final reunion event was a special "Boots and Pearls" banquet on Saturday evening. The guest speaker, Connie Stevens, spoke with feeling about her experiences traveling with Bob Hope and USO shows over the course of many years. Miss Stevens has performed at



Connie Stevens with Mary Spring (photo courtesy Mary Spring)

virtually every U.S. military installation in the world beginning with the Korean War. Her talk reflected her admiration of the men and women who have served in the military.

After a busy and event-filled week we reluctantly headed for home. Our thanks to the Branson Women Veteran's Committee for their excellent support! And of course, our thanks to those of you who attended – we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

## News from the Museum Curator

### Raven 42 Exhibit Grand Opening a Success!



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

The U.S. Army Women's Museum has already had a banner year! Highlights came early with the grand opening of the *Raven 42* exhibit on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The display honors members of the 617<sup>th</sup> Military Police (MP) Company, 503<sup>rd</sup> MP

the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, Brig. Gen. Mark A. Bellini headed the Fort Lee contingent.

The exhibit is a major feature in the Museum's new Global War on Terrorism gallery. It includes a diorama showing Sergeants Nein and Hester engaging the insurgents. The visitor can read in depth about the action, watch a video actually made by the insurgents during the failed attack, and learn about each of the ten squad members.

Sgt. Hester is the first female recipient of the Silver Star since World War II, and the first ever to receive the award for direct combat action. Sgt. Nein's Silver Star was upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross, immediately below the Medal of Honor. Sgt. Jason Mike, the squad medic, also received the Silver Star. All three sergeants spoke at the dedication

ceremonies, each emphasizing the importance of team work, training, and leadership. Other squad members received the Bronze Star or



Brig. Gen. Bellini, Commanding General, U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, Sgt. Hester, Museum Director Matteson, Staff Sgt. Nein, Sgt. Mike, and Major Gen. Storm, Adjutant General, Ky. National Guard cut the ribbon opening the *Raven 42* exhibit. (Army photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile, Ky. Army National Guard)

Battalion (Airborne) of the Kentucky Army National Guard for their courage and skill in soundly defeating a large insurgent ambush near Baghdad, Iraq on Mar. 20, 2005. The soldiers, eight men and two women, included squad leader Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein and assistant leader, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester. The exhibit is named after the squad's radio call sign, Raven 42.

A large delegation from Kentucky, headed by State Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Donald Storm, including nine of ten members of the Raven 42 squad, family, friends, and fellow Guard members attended the exhibit opening. The Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee, Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson and



World War II veteran and former Tech. Sgt. Helen ("Gig") Smith shares a story about her days as a professional baseball player in the women's professional baseball league with Sgt. Hester. (Army photo by Sgt. Gina Vaile)

Purple Hearts for wounds received in the engagement. Specialist Ashley Pullen, the tenth squad member, was unable to attend.

This exhibit raises the bar on exhibit design and production and illustrates the great team effort by the Museum staff and many others (including the Foundation) who assisted. We plan to continue this level of effort as we prepare for our gallery expansion.

Speaking of our great staff, Ron Bingham has been busy with several projects. We have a new software program for artifact collections management. While every new program involves a learning curve and some glitches, we agree that this database system is superior to our old program, and look forward to working with it. Ron is also involved in rearranging our collections storage. We have just finished installing high density storage that almost doubles the capacity of our collections storage area. This is a physically demanding process, as we rearrange the collection, and a challenge to keep track, in the new database, of all artifact locations. Francoise Bonnell continues to be busy with school programs and plans for Soldier training. She also spearheaded a partnership with the Petersburg National Battlefield, the Quartermaster Museum, and the City of Petersburg to conduct a



Sgt. Hester viewing the exhibit (Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy)

Army Commendation Medals with "V" device signifying valor in combat. Several members received

Teacher Summer Institute. It was attended by eleven teachers from various school districts in the area and was extremely well received. One of the teachers said: "The workshop was the best one ever attended." All the teachers were impressed with our museum and voiced interest in bringing their students for a tour. We plan to participate in next year's event.

A few other highlights include our recently conducted successful weekend program for 400 Junior R.O.T.C. cadets. Several members of the group have other cadet programs and they also plan to bring their groups to the museum. We hope this is the start of a long lasting collaboration. The Museum staff also provided information for the official Army web site on the history of women in the Army; to view the web site go to [www.army.mil/women](http://www.army.mil/women) and note the credit to the Army Women's Museum at the bottom of each page.

Our new archivist, Robynne Dexter, a Foundation employee who replaced Trinia Braughton (see *The Flagpole*, winter 2007), has already made significant progress with the collections. She has catalogued 14 collections containing approximately 1,000 pieces of archival material. Additionally, she is assisting with some of the school programs by creating a first person impression of a female Civil War soldier. Robynne, her husband Erik, and their two daughters Elizabeth and Catherine are stationed at Fort Lee. We are excited and pleased to have Robynne on board. (See the article about the Foundation staff on page 12 for a photo including Robynne.)

I would like to relay a story to you that involves an article about the museum, an artifact recently placed on exhibit, and how the museum touched one visitor's life. The May 2007 issue of the *Cooperative Living* magazine carried a very nice two page story about our museum ("Honoring Service and Sacrifice: the U.S. Army Women's Museum preserves history at Fort Lee"). The article mentioned an exhibit showing a rabbit fur sweater made by a Belgian farmer for a World War II nurse tending the wounded in the freezing cold of the Ardennes Forest during the Battle of the Bulge.

In Staunton, Va. the article was read by a man who was convinced that the sweater belonged to his mother. He drove to the museum and was moved to tears when he viewed the exhibit and learned that indeed it was his mother's. Telling women's stories and having an experience like that is what makes this such

a great job! To read more about Lt. Fournelle's experiences visit the museum web site at:

[www.awm.lee.army.mil/pages/King\\_Fournelle\\_collection.htm](http://www.awm.lee.army.mil/pages/King_Fournelle_collection.htm)

Another exciting event occurred on May 15<sup>th</sup> when retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, former chief of staff of the U.S. Army, visited the museum. Now president of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA),

Gen. Sullivan was in the area for an AUSA function and specifically requested a stop at our museum. During his tour he was very



Gen. Sullivan looks at the exhibit showing First Lt. Linda Bray leading soldiers of the 988<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company in combat to seize an enemy objective near Panama City, Panama during Operation Just Cause in 1989. Her actions ignited a debate over the role of women in the Army. (U.S. Army photo)

impressed with the Raven 42 exhibit. Gen. Sullivan also offered his support to the museum.

The museum staff would like to thank you all for your support too. We have received several donations in response to our Museum Wish List. We have purchased external hard drives for our computers, specifically for the archive and graphics computers. We were very worried about losing all the valuable information stored on these machines. You responded to our request and we were able to purchase the needed equipment. We also received a substantial donation for exhibits. We appreciate this very much. Of all the various tasks we do in the museum, exhibits are the most resource demanding. They require a



great deal of money and staff time to complete. To all of you, who have sent donations for the Wish List, THANK YOU.

Visit the museum on-line at [www.awm.lee.army.mil](http://www.awm.lee.army.mil)

For the Summer Wish List, please see page 5.



The rabbit fur sweater worn by nurse First Lt. Louise Fournelle King during the Battle of the Bulge. (photo courtesy U.S. Army Women's Museum)



## The Foundation Staff is Growing

by Patricia Jernigan

Peggy Trossen, executive director, has been with the Foundation for three years, starting as the director of development and recently assuming her present position. Peggy



Left to right; front row: Donna Walthall, Lisa Foster, Nancy Moore; back row: Robynne Dexter, Peggy Trossen, April Booth

has an M.B.A. from Virginia Tech and taught business administration at the college level. Her 25 years of experience includes managing political campaigns, organizing special events and serving as a department head at the American Association of University Women. Asked what she likes most about the Foundation, Peggy's answer was quite simple...the people and the mission!

April Booth, chief administrative officer, came to the Foundation in early April and is responsible for the smooth operation of our office and support activities. Prior to joining the Foundation, April spent seven years with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership helping to bring companies and jobs to the Commonwealth. April loves being a part of an organization that honors the women who protect our freedom. "Working for the Foundation allows me the opportunity to show that respect instead of just talking about it!"

Nancy Moore, administrative

associate, is our longest-serving employee. She came on board four years ago, after retiring from a government position at Fort Lee with thirty years of service. She has been a dedicated part of the Foundation and often can be found in the gift shop.

She loves being a part of the great projects and programs that benefit women in the Army.

Lisa Foster, sales associate, joined the Foundation in April and is responsible for maintaining the gift shop located at the Museum. Lisa enjoys the people she meets during their visits to the Museum, and the people she works with! Lisa is a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician in Prince George County,

Va. Thank you Lisa, for all that you do for the community!

Robynne Dexter, museum archivist, joined the Foundation staff in February. Prior to joining the Foundation she worked in the nursing industry for over twelve years. When asked what she likes the most about the Foundation she replied "the untapped talent and stories waiting to be found." Robynne likes the fact that she is helping to preserve history to not only catalog the past, but preserve it for the future.

After serving as Foundation bookkeeper for over four years, Donna Walthall recently resigned. We want to say thank you for her contributions to the Foundation, which included introducing computer-based bookkeeping, and to wish her well in future endeavors. Her replacement, Dave Johnson, will be featured in our next newsletter

The staff is here to help. Feel free to call on them for assistance or if you're in the area stop in to say "hello."

## In the News...

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Christine Gilson, 513<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga. received the Soldier's



Sgt. Gilson (photo courtesy INSCOM)

Medal for non-combat heroism on Sept. 8, 2006. Gilson was spending a quiet Sunday night at home with her daughter on Nov. 6, 2005 when a disturbance in the apartment hallway attracted her attention. Smoke was coming from under her neighbor's door. While the night manager opened the door Gilson grabbed a flashlight from her nearby truck. She noticed that the smoke was about a foot above the ground and low crawled through the apartment until she found her neighbor unconscious on the floor. She managed to drag him towards the door as the flames continued to advance. Approaching the threshold, she yelled for help, and with the night manager, pulled him to safety. A few minutes later the roof of the building collapsed. The neighbor was seriously burned, but he was alive and very grateful to survive his ordeal. Interviewed for the *INSCOM Journal*, Sgt. Gilson said: "A man's life was at stake – and I did what I could to save him. I didn't think of it as a big deal."

## Upcoming Events

**Sep. 13, 2007:** San Antonio, Tex. Plan to attend the Army Women's Foundation networking and reminiscing social at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club, Building 2900, Harry Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Light refreshments and cash bar. Hosted by Foundation vice president Sue Pierce. For reservations or more information contact call April Booth at 804-734-4996 or email: [abooth@awfdn.org](mailto:abooth@awfdn.org).

**Oct. 26 to 28, 2007:** Fourth Annual Academy Women Symposium, at the Women's Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Va., visit [www.academywomen.org](http://www.academywomen.org) for the schedule and registration information. This is a very informative, dynamic symposium for anyone interested in issues involving the military academies and military women.

**Nov. 1-3, 2007:** Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc., 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, with events in Washington, D.C. and at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. Events will include a formal gala banquet Nov. 1 at the Great Hall of the National Building Museum, a more informal reunion program at the D.C. National Guard Armory on Nov. 2, and special anniversary observances at the Women's Memorial on Nov. 3. Visit [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org) and click on News & Events for more information.

**Nov. 5-11, 2007:** Branson, Mo., Annual Veterans Homecoming, "American Tribute to All Veterans". Activities include a women veterans memorial service with Vicki Merryman, AWF Director, as speaker, and women's luncheon. Visit [www.bransonveterans.com/veterans-homecoming.htm](http://www.bransonveterans.com/veterans-homecoming.htm) for details.

## Books of Interest to Army Women

**Correction: *The Stars Fell on Alabama***, by Eva Tirey, Publish America, Baltimore, Md., 2006 (ISBN: 1-4241-2345-3), \$24.95. Eva Espinosa, writing under her maiden name, tells about her WAC experiences in a fictionalized account. If you went through basic training or were assigned to the WAC Center at Fort McClellan you will identify with much in this book. [The *Flagpole* staff wishes to apologize to Ms. Espinosa for incorrectly citing her name in the winter newsletter.]

***Fort Des Moines***, by Penelope A. LeFew-Blake, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, S.C., 2006 (ISBN: 0-7385-4068-4), \$19.99. Part of the *Images of America* series, this second book by Dr. Blake is a photographic history of Fort Des Moines, Ia. Starting as a cavalry post in the 1840s, Fort Des Moines hosted a variety of activities including a World War I training center for African American officer candidates, and briefly, a hospital for wounded soldiers. During the interwar period it was a cavalry and artillery training post. Ronald Reagan trained here as a reserve Cavalry Corps officer in the 1930s. Most of the volume deals with the post as the training center for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and the Women's Army Corps. The photos provide an excellent account of the post and the women who trained there.

***Women at War: Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Conflicts***, James E. Wise, Jr. and Scott Baron, Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Md., 2006 (ISBN: 1-59114-939-8), \$29.95. A collection of oral histories and biographical essays, the authors concentrate on Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf. Included are essays on Pfc. Sam Huff who was killed in action in 2005 and Maj. Marie Rossi who died in 1991. Smaller sections focus on Vietnam, Korea, and World War II. The individual essays include women from all services.

***Where Valor Rests Arlington National Cemetery***, by Rick Atkinson, National Geographic, Washington, D.C., 2007 (ISBN: 978-1-4262-0089-2), \$30.00. With a well done and informative introduction by an award winning author, this book includes spectacular photos of Arlington National Cemetery. The early photos illustrate the long history of the cemetery, while the photos of families and funerals of military members killed in Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) are intensely moving and poignant. This volume is in two versions. The commercial version, reviewed here, is joined by a special boxed presentation edition presented to the families of military members killed in the GWOT who are buried at Arlington. The expense of this edition was completely underwritten by private and corporate donations to the nonprofit Arlington National Cemetery Commemorative Project, Inc. The U.S. Army Women's Foundation was one of 154 sponsors making this special edition possible; the special presentation volume is not for sale.

Just off the presses: ***Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq***, Kirsten Holmstedt, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 2007 (ISBN: 0811702677), \$27.95. This book details the stories of women of all branches of the armed forces serving in Iraq. Look for a detailed review in the next edition of *The Flagpole*.

Did you know that both Mattie E. Treadwell's classic *The Women's Army Corps* and Bettie J. Morden's *The Women's Army Corps 1945-1978* are available in their entirety online at the Center for Military History's web site? Google the author's last name and title to find the web site.

*Note: If you can't find these books in your local bookstore, most are available from a variety of online book sellers (usually at a discount) including Amazon, Alibris, and Abebooks.*

# Bronze Memorial Plaque Program

## Plaque XIV

The bronze plaque program provides a visible means of honoring deceased friends, colleagues, and family members with a permanent memorial. During the past 30 years thirteen plaques have been dedicated. The latest, plaque XIII, was dedicated at the Army Women's Foundation reunion in Branson, Mo. in May, and will be completed late this summer for installation in the U.S. Army Women's Museum Memorial Garden this fall. A donation of \$100 is required before a person's name is included on the plaque. All women soldiers killed in the Global War on Terror are included at Foundation expense.

The new plaque, number XIV, runs from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. Donations in memory of a person who died prior to January 1, 2007 are also welcome at any time.

When sending in a donation if you know the rank, service affiliation, and date of death please include the information. If you know that a person served in the WAAC or WAC, or perhaps in another service, please include the information.

A special pamphlet, "In Memory Of..." was part of the memorial service at the Branson reunion. If you missed the pamphlet it is available on line at the Foundation web site: [www.awfdn.org](http://www.awfdn.org). Look under programs and click on Bronze Memorial Plaque, and finally click on the button for the pamphlet.

If you spot an error on this list or if you know a rank for one of the persons listed below please write, email or call the Foundation (see page 3 for numbers and address).

### **MEMORIALS PENDING** (additional funds are needed)

Mae E. BAILEY, PFC  
Irene CAMERON, 2LT  
Helen F. (Carder) CRUICKSHANKS  
Mary J. KENNEDY  
Anna MACHUGA, T/5  
Orin L. McBROOM  
Ardath NELSON  
Andreas NELSON  
Geneva RAINEY  
Mildred REAR  
Margaret E. RICE  
Willa ROBERTSON  
Blanche L. SCOTT, MAJ (Ret)  
Jane S. STRAUGHAN, WASP  
Ruth YONIS

### **FALLEN COMRADES** (no funds needed)

Karen N. CLIFTON, SPC  
Marilyn L. GABBARD, CSM  
Trista L. MORETTI, SGT  
Ashly L. MOYER, SGT  
Maria I. ORTIZ, CPT, ANC  
Michelle R. RING, CPL  
Gina R. SPARKS, SSG  
Carla J. STEWART, SPC  
Katie M. SOENKSEN, PFC

### **MEMORIALS COMPLETED** (no funds needed)

Lucy A. ALIANO  
Valerie D. BELMONT, CPT (Ret)  
Catherine BRAJKOVICH, LTC (Ret)  
Helen F. CARR, SFC  
Marie J. CONNOLLY, SP5  
Mary C. DAVIS  
Ethel Foster DEGLASS  
Emily B. DUDAS  
Eileen EVANS, WAC WWII  
Ross FRAIR, CPT  
Miriam L. HANSON  
Llewellyn F. HOWE, SSG  
Irene D. HREBEC  
Eleanor HUTCHINS, LTC (Ret)  
Marie KEHRER, COL (Ret)  
Gabriella KNIPSCHILD  
Patricia F. KRISTOF  
Doris Sisson LATTA, MAJ (Ret)  
Laura L. MATA, SGM (Ret)  
Deloris A. MATTOX, MSG (Ret)  
Virginia M. MUSSELMAN, SFC  
Loretta B. NEVITT  
Angelo PELLEGATTO, JR.  
Helen QUICKE  
Lucy RIGBY, MAJ (Ret)  
Nadine J. ROBINSON  
Florence SCHAEFER  
Catherine R. SHEEHAN, USMC  
Helen M. SMITH, SSG  
Viola Maye TURNEY T/5



## Foundation Bequest

by Patricia Jernigan

Colonel Shirley Jolly Minge (USAR-Retired) was an enthusiastic long-term supporter of the Army



Photo shows then Major Minge in the 1960s. (photo courtesy of the U.S. Army Women's Museum, Shirley Minge Collection)

Women's Museum. When she died unexpectedly in August 2004 she ensured that her support to the Museum would continue through a very generous bequest. Shirley Jolly was born in Colorado in 1926. She

graduated from Pasadena Junior College, and attended universities in Denver and Oslo before enlisting in the Women's Army Corps in 1949. She took basic training at Camp Lee,

and was commissioned in 1950 after completing the officer candidate course. After a brief assignment at Camp Lee she was transferred to Sandia Base, N.M. Once there she met Ward Alan Minge, a historian at neighboring Kirkland Air Force Base; they were married in 1951. She left active duty about 1955, but retained her reserve affiliation until retirement in 1980. Assignments in the later part of her Army career included tours as a mobilization designee (MOBDES) in the Office of the Director, Women's Army Corps, and service on the Department of the Army Military Review Board. She contributed the sections on women in the Reserves and Guard to Bettie Morden's book, *The Women's Army Corps, 1945-1978*. When asked about her, General Hoisington said: "She was terrific!"

The Minges purchased a dilapidated 19<sup>th</sup> century house near Albuquerque, N.M. that they meticulously restored as replica of a

territorial *rancho*. They were avid collectors of colonial Spanish artifacts. Friends noted that Shirley loved visiting museums and went all over to attend special exhibits.

One friend, Edie Hinton, reported telling her that she "never met a museum she didn't like."

Colonel Minge was active in the WAC Veterans Association, serving as the president of Tumbleweed Chapter 80, Las Cruces, N.M.; she served on the WAC Foundation Board of Directors in the 1980s.

If you are interested in planned giving or leaving a legacy to the Foundation, please contact Peggy Trossen at 703-356-4050 or [ptrossen@awfdn.org](mailto:ptrossen@awfdn.org). Your gift -- no matter what size -- helps our Foundation honor the service and sacrifice of Army women.



## Become a "Friend" of the Foundation!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rank (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

An annual contribution of \$25 or more entitles you and/or your Friend to receive our semi-annual newsletter, museum and foundation information. 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 and all donors will receive a gift receipt. Thank you for your support!!

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ General operating fund  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze Plaque Memorial Fund\* - Name of honoree: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Forward March Campaign (Capital Campaign for Museum expansion)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ "Wish list" item from page 5: \_\_\_\_\_

\*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 Bronze Memorial Plaque is dedicated every two years—the current plaque will run from Jan. 1, 2007—Dec. 31, 2008; you may add names of persons who died in an earlier period.

### Person to be Acknowledged:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rank (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to honoree \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment:

- ☐ Check (payable to U.S. Army Women's Foundation)  
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ Verification Code (On Back of Card) \_\_\_\_\_

**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

FP Aug-07

**U.S. Army Women's Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 5030**  
**Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-0030**  
Phone: 804.734.3078  
Fax: 804.734.3077  
Email: [info@awfdn.org](mailto:info@awfdn.org)  
Web site: [www.awmfdn.org](http://www.awmfdn.org)

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### *Expansion (continued from page 1)*

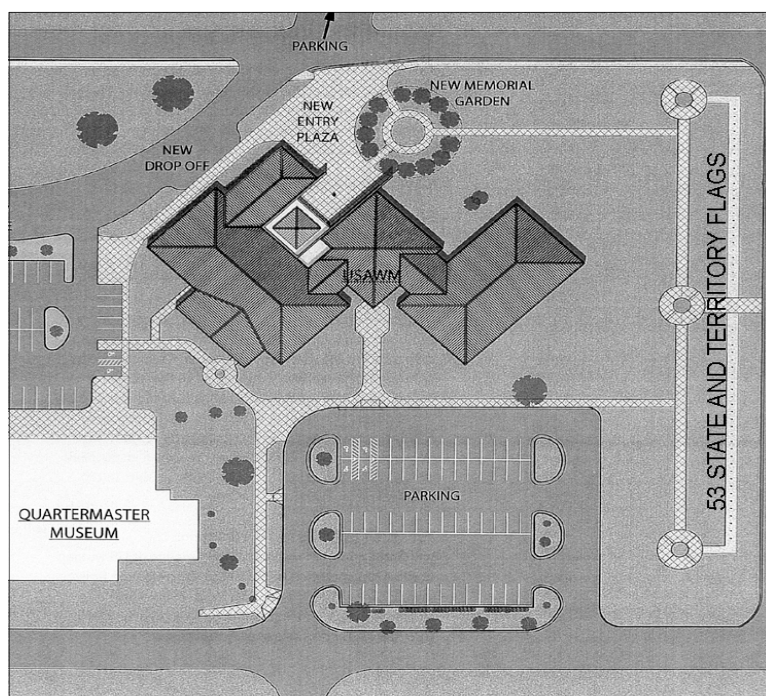
sketches are included with this article. The sketches expand on the strong geometrical framework of the current museum, providing an artist's concept of how the expanded museum might look. The main entrance is moved to the northern side of the building to orient on the anticipated new museum center grouping. These preliminary design sketches are an important step in the planning process and give the Foundation a visible tool for fund raising as well as provide a conceptual focus on a theme of Army values.

The sketches include a new entry plaza, memorial garden and donor recognition wall, a one hundred person theater, expanded exhibit, collections, and gift shop space, enhanced artifact storage, and expanded operations space to include museum and foundation offices and kitchen.

The Board has made the museum enhancement its number one project priority. This involves renewed emphasis on fundraising, membership

and major giving as the cornerstones to make this vision a reality. The Foundation's efforts will continue to be closely coordinated with the museum, and all work undertaken will respond to museum needs. The key to all enhancements is the support of Army women past and present – your help, whether large or small, is vital. Let's work together to make this happen!

As we move forward on this impor-



*Concept sketch for Museum grounds*

tant project, we welcome your input and suggestions. Call the Foundation office or Email your ideas to [info@awfdn.org](mailto:info@awfdn.org). We look forward to hearing from you!