

FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT 1ST QUARTER OF 2019

From the President...

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and Happy Spring to you and everyone of our Army Women's Museum family and friends. I hope you are already off to a great start in 2019 as we all take advantage of new and exciting opportunities this year in order to make a difference in our respective communities.

The Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association wish to express our sincere thanks to our donors, partners and friends for their continuous support of the Army Women's Museum.

I cannot say "thank you" enough or express how much your support allows the museum to showcase and tell of the many great contributions of Army women. We "Thank You" over and over again for your support over the past years and hope you will continue your support though this year and beyond.

Now, as we honor the service, legacy, and sacrifice of our Vietnam Veterans, first and foremost- we want to say "Welcome Home". Thanks also to the family members who stood watch and waited for your return. You all gave so much and received far too little for your service and sacrifice. We must also; not forget the names of over 58,000 Soldiers on the Vietnam Memorial Wall who perished during the war. They gave the ultimate sacrifice and we must never forget.

I wish you all the best in 2019 and hope you are making plans to visit the museum soon. We want to see you. Until then, take care.

~Delinda Creal, President

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From our Museum Director...

This spring has been very busy at the Army Women's Museum! As the number of visitors steadily increases we are getting great google reviews of the new galleries. We have several new initiatives we have begun working on.

One initiative is to put a virtual tour of the museum on line. We had this with the old gallery, but it needs to be completely re-done. This will allow people to "visit" the museum even though they can't physically make it here. We also plan to use it to support our educational programs. So when a teacher books a program to have our museum education team deliver it through our live broadcast studio, his/her students can actually "visit" the museum as part of the outreach experience. This is a large endeavor; the tour combines the visual aspects and also the history.

The other initiative is to produce a gallery guide. We had an excellent one that was done many years ago for the old galleries, but now we need an updated one. It was suggested that we put some of the many great stories behind the photographs and artifacts that are not completely told already into a format that would be informative and also work as a souvenir or gift. This project will take a considerable amount of time to put together and to write. More to come on that!

We are thankful to FAWMA in initiating the fundraising for these great museum resources in the coming months!

~Dr. Françoise Bonnell, Director



For the past several years, the museum has had the honor of teaching JMU Honors Program's Women at War class a few things about archives. Here students from James Madison University experience what it's like to arrange and describe archival collections.

IN MEMORY/ HONOR OF DONATIONS ARE WONDERFUL WAYS TO RECOGNIZE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER AND SUPPORT THE U.S. ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM!
WHEN YOU MAKE AN IN MEMORY/ HONOR OF DONATION, PLEASE LET US KNOW THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON YOU WISH TO HAVE NOTIFIED ABOUT YOUR DONATION.

“The Quarterly Progress Report” is published four times a year to inform donors about what the Association is doing to support the U.S. Army Women’s Museum. No part of the Report may be quoted, reproduced or used in any form, or by any means, electronic or mechanical, or by any information storage and/or retrieval system, without our specific permission.

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Your gift can help make history!



facebook.com/armywomensmuseumfriends/



FUNDRAISING 2019!



After the many months of managing the Preserve the Legacy Campaign in support of the Grand Reopening in November 2018, many will wonder what is FAWMA doing now that the museum is finished. Well, anyone that has ever renovated a home knows it is never done as once you get a new carpet or a fresh coat of paint, suddenly the furniture looks shabby or the curtains are all wrong. Right now, we are working with Dr. Bonnell to identify a few other things that will make the museum experience even better (is that even possible since it is so amazing!!) As we were thinking about future fundraising, we thought about all the generous donations we received starting in May 2017 with the kickoff of the Legacy campaign and what they made possible. Your contributions made such a difference and it is hard to imagine what the museum would look like if we you had not supported the us. Here is a bit more detail on where your dollars went:

One of the biggest items that the campaign was able to support is something a patron would not even notice. Close to \$115,000 went to gallery lighting!!! It's rather like buying tires for your car – they aren't pretty, you aren't going to “ooh and ah” over them, but if you don't have them, you aren't going anywhere. Gallery lighting is so important and it can be difficult to find the right mix of qualities. The lighting system must ensure the exhibits are well-lit, while creating a pleasant ambience, not damaging artifacts and also being eco-friendly. Imagine this exhibit with poor lighting -- the figures would be in the shadows making the scene less dramatic.

The addition of the various life-cast figures made many of the exhibits come alive. As a museum patron enters the gallery they are met by the women of the five eras representing the various galleries – Origins of Service, World War II, Permanent Presence, Be All You Can Be and 21st Century. These figures were created by a design company using live models to get the body forms. Then, the museum staff obtained authentic uniforms, patches, shoes and other items that were treated in order to dress the figures for the eras they represented. Some clothing items were purchased, others were donated. This “**Stepping Out**” exhibit cost close to \$80,000 and is considered a focal point of the museum. These life-cast figures and some of the others were only possible because of generous donations.



The Reflection Garden was the personal vision of Dr. Bonnell's. The area was transformed into a peaceful setting where people wander leisurely taking in nature and history. The garden is enhanced by honor benches, ten historical plaques featuring stories about Women in War, a commemorative plaque for the contribution of flora native to Alabama. The main feature installed was the tribute monument honoring the 14th Army Band (WAC). The monument was designed to incorporate the original band plaque from Fort McClellan. To get the garden ready, a landscaper cared for the plants and bushes, weeded and did some much-needed mulching. Approximately \$21,000 of contributions was used to create this outdoor exhibit

that proved popular during the grand opening and thereafter. It was even the site for the FAWMA hosted luncheon on the Saturday following the big event.

The gift shop was upgraded to better serve museum goers. We've added easy access display cases that are much better for showing the various items on sale. We are always on the lookout for new items to add to help celebrate Army women and the museum. We have a variety of polo shirts, hats, postcards and other items that will help people remember their visit. We spent about \$9,000 on the gift shop but we consider it an investment as it will continue to help support museum needs with each sale.



About \$18,000 was spent on general services and supplies to buy items for exhibits. There were numerous items but these are good examples. FAWMA covered the costs for transporting/restoring the OH-58 helicopter. Benches were added through the museum for the comfort of visitors as they watched some of the videos. Voice actors were required to record dialogue to bring the exhibit to life along with professional audio video services. A plaque was created to dedicate the Mary A Lee Gallery as well as set up the paintings done by a WWII WAC, Sergeant Ann B Tilson. And lastly, overall reunion social events as well as the official ribbon cutting reception cost about \$9,000.

As you can see, the grand reopening could have never happened without all the donations from supporters – corporate, charitable foundations and individuals. We will be continuing with mini-fundraisers to covers costs for additional items identified by the museum director and staff. More information will be provided soon and we hope you will continue with your support!

The Museum's Live Broadcast Studio is Back!!

With the grand re-opening behind us, the US Army Women's Museum's education team has been hard at work getting the live broadcast studio back up and running. Museum Education Specialists Nancy Phaup and Jimmy Price have delivered 20 programs to 8 schools in 6 different states and have reached a grand total of 442 students in the last several months. The studio is booked solid though the end of the school year and the team is hard at work developing new programs to offer in the coming months.



Army Women's Museum staff had a blast participating in Jamestown Settlement's annual Military Through the Ages event! This years' event placed special emphasis on women's role in the military.



Army women through the ages as seen at the Fort Lee observance of Women's History Month.

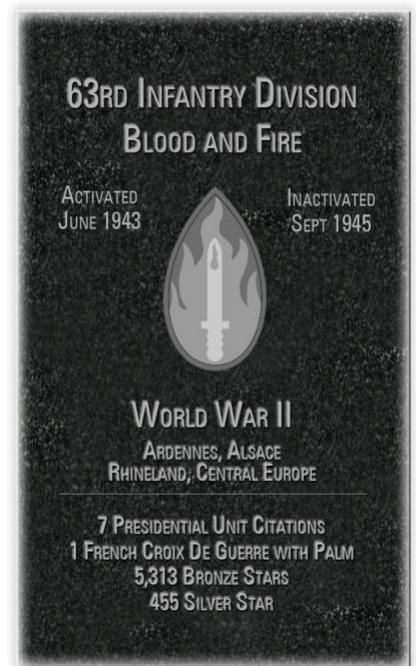
Several people have asked about sponsoring a “Unit Tribute” to those who served in the Women’s Army Corps between 1942 and 1978 at the soon-to-be-opened National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA). The Friends are going to help raise the \$5,000 for it. If you are interested in contributing towards the tribute please make sure your donation comes directly to the Friends of the Army Women’s Museum Association and states “unit tribute.” Here is the information about it from the web site: <https://armyhistory.org/unit-tributes/> through July 31st.

UNIT TRIBUTES

For over 240 years the United States Army has been comprised of men and women who live and work as units. Together, they make each other stronger, smarter, and more complete, as the most elite military forces in the world.

Recognize your unit and its accomplishments in perpetuity at the National Museum of the United States Army. Each Unit Tribute plaque is \$5,000.

Unit Tributes will line the *Path of Remembrance* leading up to the Museum. The 12”x 18” plaques will honor individual Army units of any size and period of time. The plaques are engraved in polished Mesabi Black granite. Format and content of each unit’s plaque is highly customizable, and can include a color rendering of the unit’s Distinctive Unit Insignia and/or Shoulder Sleeve Insignia. Our staff will work with you to create a plaque that speaks to your unit’s history. AHF has final approval on all plaque inscriptions and designs. See sample renderings below.



The design of the tribute is under development. Let us know if you have any suggestions. Some of the possible information it will include with symbology:

An example of a Unit Tribute at the NMUSA

Women’s Army Corps 1943-1978

Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps 1942-1943

Pallas Athene

Women Warriors



Grace and Grit

On March 23, 2019, the Virginia War Memorial hosted the “Grace and Grit” panel discussion held in Richmond Virginia. The program was moderated by Dr. Francoise Bonnell, Director of the U.S. Army Women’s Museum, Fort Lee, Virginia; the panelists featured, Gail T. Black, U.S. Army Veteran, Tamika Harris-Smith, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, Audrey Ross, Chesterfield Historical Society, and Amelia Underwood, U.S. Army Veteran. The panelists were asked to share their personal and professional military related experiences.

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THANK YOU!

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<http://www.armywomensmuseum.org/brick.htm>



**FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1027, PRINCE GEORGE, VA 23875**

Yes, I will support the U.S. Army Women's Museum with my tax-deductible donation! \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

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My check is enclosed and made out to: FAWMA

The Friends Association is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, educational organization. Financial documents are available from:

State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218

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