

FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT 4TH QUARTER OF 2020

From the Co-Presidents...

Hello Friends!

I'm sure most of us would agree that 2020 was a challenging year for many reasons. As we begin the New Year, and despite the challenges of the past 12 months, there have been many bright spots.

First and foremost, we are grateful for you—our donors and friends! You have continued to stick by us and our beloved Army Women's Museum (AWM), even while charitable donations have been trending down overall across the country. We can never thank you enough.

Most of you may be aware the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA), located in Northern Virginia, opened on Veterans Day to rave reviews. It is the newest addition to the Army Museum Enterprise (AME), a group of approximately 40 museums across the country and overseas which fall under the management of the Center of Military History (CMH). Previously, these museums were supported by the local commands on the posts at which they were located. Another bright spot from our perspective--CMH was realigned from the oversight of the Army Staff to Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), which better aligns with the training and education mission of our museum.

And speaking of education, our new Museum Curator, Tracy Bradford, has been hard at work upgrading both the museum's classroom and the broadcast studio to deliver professional education programs to Soldiers at Fort Lee and to local school systems. COVID-19 has accelerated the future of virtual collaboration and learning, which has necessitated technology upgrades to the museum's systems. Your support allowed us to upgrade these systems to deliver high quality education programs, a hallmark of the AWM. Another bright spot—we are very close to completing the hiring process to add an educator to the team to support our ever-important education mission.

(continued on page 2)

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FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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From the Co-Presidents... (continued)

Meanwhile, we participated in two CMH hosted events, the first of which was a Symposium for the non-profit organizations which support museums in the AME; and the second, a local event, which included only the nonprofits which support the museums at Fort Lee. We learned much, but most important was that two of the top priorities of CMH for the AME are the education of Soldiers and local school students, and outreach to the public. These CMH priorities have long been priorities of the AWM. The bright spot—participating in these events allowed us to forge a relationship with CMH leadership, and we gained firsthand knowledge of the future of the AME and the importance of nonprofits to its success.

As we cross over into the New Year and leave 2020 behind, we see many opportunities for bigger and better bright spots! We wish you a healthy and happy New Year and thank you again for your generous and devoted support of FAWMA and our wonderful museum.

Cheers!

Cydnee and Aimee
FAWMA, Co-Presidents

From our Museum Curator...

Happy New Year FAWMA!

When I first stepped into my office at the AWM, I was greeted with flowers and a note that said, “Welcome Home, Tracy!” This simple phrase captures my feelings perfectly and it is with great joy and excitement that I return to the Army Women’s Museum after three years at the National Museum of the United States Army. The AWM has a reputation for excellence, professionalism, and innovation and it is an honor to be given the responsibility of leading this organization into its next chapter.

I am very thankful to have the generous and steadfast support of the Friends of the Army Women’s Association. Your organization has made quite an impression on the leadership at the Center of Military History and the Army Museum Enterprise. I have also gotten glowing reviews of FAWMA from the Virginia Association of Museums. You have proven yourselves to be leaders in the non-profit world and your support is both recognized and appreciated!

Soon after I came on board, Cydnee, Aimee and I conducted a needs-assessment. In the New Year, our initial efforts will be focused on education. One of our first projects is a complete renovation of our classroom audio-visual system. This overhaul will improve the quality of our educational programs for both Soldiers and Civilians as well as increase our support capabilities for the Fort Lee Garrison and other military organizations. We will also be updating our Live Broadcast platform to revitalize and expand our distance learning program. A key element of this effort will be the hiring of our new educator.

As we step into 2021, I wish you and your families health and safety. I am truly grateful for our partnership and I look forward to working together again.

All the best,
Tracy

BRICK CAMPAIGN

Do you want to be a part of history? Order a customized brick that will be placed in the landscape areas around the outside of the US Army Women’s Museum. Donate a brick as a lasting tribute to honor a service member, a civilian, a spouse, a friend, a family member, a retiree or yourself in support of our country, our service and our museum. For more information go to our website at:

<http://www.army womensmuseum.org/brick.htm>



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Your gift can help make history!



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Report!! Let us know at
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Spotlight...

Member of 1966-67 Star Spangled WAC Unit Remembered



Staff Sergeant Daniel M. O'Rourke had a varied military career, but his most memorable tour was with the Women's Army Corps Exhibit Team as it traveled the country with the Star-Spangled Pageant. The pageant started in 1963, the 21st anniversary of the WAC, as part of an Army public relations program to promote the future of women in the military. Lieutenant Colonel Mildred I.C. Bailey was selected to head the team with a mission to educate people about WAC life, talk about the jobs open to women and to increase recruitment. The small team of WACs, with LTC Bailey and O'Rourke, traveled the US giving presentations to clubs, schools, civic organizations and other groups. The WACs modeled historic outfits as well as women's military uniforms from the past and present – all to tell the brave stories of women's contributions to this country.

No exhibiting tour is complete without an excellent narrator that can tell the stories of the women that helped create the United States. O'Rourke was chosen as the narrator during the 1966-1967 timeframe and he was a superb storyteller. His job was considered to be the envy of many soldiers with one officer signing a promotional picture of the pageant addressed to O'Rourke with the quote "The only man I would change jobs with". O'Rourke had very fond memories of LTC Bailey, who was later promoted to Brigadier General and became WAC Director from 1971-75. According to his son, Tom, his dad felt a sense of duty and dedication to LTC Bailey and a strong bond with the WAC team. During O'Rourke's assignment to the Exhibit Team, he visited many places to include Texas, North Dakota, Florida, California, Hawaii and Wisconsin and had an opportunity to meet Vice President Hubert Humphrey. O'Rourke's narration skills and enthusiasm were top-notch and attracted the attention of a primetime news network, says his son. Although offered the job, O'Rourke declined as it wasn't his dream.

O'Rourke served in the Army from 1962 to 1968 then moved back to civilian life where he spent 40 years in the transportation business in Wisconsin. Daniel Martin O'Rourke (age 79) passed on in November. His family was well aware of his fond memories of his time as the WAC Exhibit narrator and has asked that donations be made to support the Army Women's Museum at Ft Lee. O'Rourke was in attendance at the dedication of the Museum in 2001 when it was relocated to Ft Lee, Va. Information on donating is at www.armywomensmuseum.org/donate/ or can be mailed to Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association (FAWMA), PO Box 1027, Prince George, VA 23875.



SSG Daniel O'Rourke

THANK YOU to our Donors!

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Welcome to our Army Women's Museum, Tracy Bradford!

Tracy Bradford has worked in the Army Museum Enterprise for over a decade. She is returning to lead the Army Women's Museum after three years as a Museum Educator in the Programs and Education Department at the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA). At the National Museum, Tracy led a nationally recognized interdisciplinary team that recruited and trained over 200 volunteers for the NMUSA Docent Corps. Tracy was the Director of Education at the United States Army Women's Museum prior to moving to NMUSA. An educator for twenty-five years, Tracy has taught in secondary education, private industry, and the federal government. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from The College of William & Mary and a Master of Arts from The George Washington University. She served as the educational consultant for the PBS documentary *Unsung Heroes: The Story of America's Female Patriots*. Tracy has presented at the Smithsonian Institution, the Virginia Association of Museums, the American Association of State and Local History, and The Society for Military History.



Tracy Bradford, AWM Curator

Leave a Legacy that Supports Women's History

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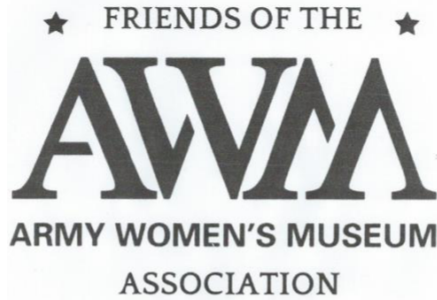
By including the Friends of the US Army Women's Museum Association in your will or trust, you can ensure the rich history of women serving our country can be enjoyed by future generations. Your bequest will help inspire so many to great actions.

Gifts through wills and living trusts are simple to arrange and may be changed at any time. A provision or amendment prepared by your attorney at the time you make or update your will is all that is necessary. Please note that we are only taking monetary requests, no real estate or real property.

To make your bequest to the Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association, please use the following language, while consulting with your attorney:

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