

FAWMA Focus

Friends of the U. S. Army Women's Museum Association

A Quarterly Newsletter

3rd Quarter of 2021

From the Co-Presidents...

Happy Fall!

Just like the change in weather to crisp, cool temperatures and the changing color of the leaves on the trees, we have some changes to share. 1) We welcomed COL(Ret) Mary Beth Taylor to the FAWMA Board of Directors. Formerly on the Publicity Education and Military Liaison Committee, Mary Beth has already been an asset to FAWMA and will continue to be as a board member. 2) Thanks to you, our donors and friends, we had a successful T-shirt Fundraiser through Custom Ink. We sold 128 shirts and raised \$1800. Please continue to "strike a pose" in your AWM tee by posting to #armywomensmuseum. We LOVE to see pictures of you sporting your tees and promoting the museum! 3) We are excited to report that our digital educator, Micaela Procopio, has partnered with several school systems to deliver programs to fulfill the Cameron Foundation Grant FAWMA was awarded this past spring. We were thrilled to have been invited by the Cameron Foundation to apply for a subsequent grant for education and marketing. 4) Tribute Bricks are still for sale, but you will notice that we have increased the price of the 4" x 8" brick from \$50 to \$100 to provide more dollars to our beloved AWM. Check out the new color options on our website and stay tuned for our holiday brick campaign. 5) FAWMA was proud to support the Gender Integration Initiative outlined below by Tracy Bradford, the AWM Curator. The Army-level multimedia tool kit is a game changer, and the result of the hard work and creative efforts of Tracy, the Ft. Lee Army Museum Enterprise, and the Center for Military History Teams! And we have to give BIG kudos to General (R) Martin Dempsey's powerful intro to the "Trust Transcends Gender" video. 6) Finally, our AWM was selected by Ft. Lee to host the visit of the Army Confederate Renaming Commission. Tracy provides exciting details below, and you can check out the website at <https://www.thenamingcommission.gov/>.

Before we know it, the holidays will be upon us. I know it's early, but since our next FAWMA Focus is published in January 2022, we want to wish you a happy holiday season.

And as we like to say, "Teamwork makes the dream work!" Thanks for being part of our team!

Aimee and Cydnee
FAWMA, Co-Presidents

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Curator's Corner...

It's Fall Y'all!

As we enter my favorite time of the year, I am happy to report that Fort Lee is looking beautiful as the leaves begin to change. This transition comes as we wrap up a major collaborative effort with the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and the Center of Military History (CMH). Last December, the Executive Director of CMH, Mr. Charles Bowery, asked me to lead a Gender Integration Initiative by designing a multimedia toolkit that would give unit leaders across the Army the historical context, materials, and tools to educate their Soldiers about the Army's experience with the post-9/11 integration of women into combat arms. With the support of many offices across our command, the Museum Educator, Elijah Palmer, and I had the privilege of creating several exciting and innovative products. You can read more about this endeavor and check out the "Trust Transcends Gender" website link later in the newsletter.

The AWM was also host to the Confederate Naming Commission visit in September. Commissioners Admiral Michelle Howard, Mr. Jerry Buchanan, and Mr. Laurence Romo visited Fort Lee to hold a series of meetings and focus groups about selecting a new name for the fort. The consolidated staff of the Fort Lee Museums put forward the name of LTC Charity Adams, Commander of the 6888th Central Postal Battalion, whose story is told at the AWM! If you would like more information about the Commission or if you would like to recommend a name, you can go to <https://www.thenamingcommission.gov/>.

Finally, we have welcomed a new staff member, Danielle Hackbarth, and a few new volunteers onto our team. It is great to have so much help in the museum as we have welcomed almost 9,000 visitors since reopening to the public in March. I hope you all stay safe and enjoy the new season.

Tracy



Renaming Commission visit to our Army Women's Museum – including commissioners Admiral Michelle Howard, Mr. Jerry Buchanan, and Mr. Lawrence Romo

Welcome to the Board of Directors!

COL(R) Mary Beth Taylor graduated from Iowa State University in 1990 where she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Transportation Corps through the ROTC and US Army Reserve Simultaneous Membership Programs. She holds a master's degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University Eisenhower School. Her military education includes the Transportation Officer Basic Course, the Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Eisenhower School. In July 2013, she took command of the 23rd Quartermaster Brigade, Fort Lee, Virginia. She served as the Military Assistant to the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and retired in 2018. Mary Beth most recently served as a DynCorp International defense contractor where she performed duties as the Director of Community Activities for the US Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll. She currently resides in Virginia with her husband LTC(R) John Taylor.



Mary Beth Taylor



Danielle Hackbarth

Welcome to the AWM Team!

Danielle Hackbarth has joined the AWM team. Danielle started with the Fort Lee AME in August 2020 as a Museum Technician for the Collections Staff. She received her Bachelor of Art in History and Education from Columbus State University in 2011. Danielle has been married to her active-duty Army husband, Brian, since 2013 and has 3 sons: Elijah (11), Liam (5), and Caleb (2). In her spare time, she loves to read, cook, and visit historical sites.

Spotlight...

Our “Hello Girl” exhibit will expand...



Marie Louise Ruffe was a “Hello Girl” telephone operator in support of WWI.

“Hello Girl” Uniform is on the Way

A reunion is in the making! For many years, the AWM has been home to the archival collection of Marie Louise Ruffe, a telephone operator during World War I. Ruffe’s collection is filled with amazing documents that capture her life from arrival at Ellis Island to her death in 1975. In 1918, Ruffe volunteered to work as a bilingual telephone operator with the American Expeditionary Forces. She was trained in New York then sent overseas to work in Paris and Verdun. Now, Ruffe’s uniform will be transferred from the Signal Corps Museum to the AWM and will go on display in the Origins of Service Gallery. This is a wonderful reuniting of the archives and artifacts that represent Marie Louise Ruffe’s amazing life story.

HELP US SAVE MONEY ON POSTAGE!

We need your help. Currently, we send out snail mail thank you letters to all donors who have not shared their emails with us. We also send out the quarterly FAWMA FOCUS via the Post Office. If you could send us your email address, we could send the donor Thank You letters and the newsletter electronically. This will reduce our postage costs as well as paper and printing costs. Send your email to ltfawma@gmail.com along with your name and address so we can ensure we update it properly in our database. We would really appreciate your help in reducing our costs.

Gender Integration Initiative woven between AWM and CMH...

The Gender Integration Initiative was launched on September 15th on the AWM and CMH Webpage. <https://history.army.mil/genderintegration/> The Initiative, led by our staff at the Army Women’s Museum, is a multimedia toolkit designed to give unit leaders the historical context, materials, and tools to education their Soldiers about the Army’s experience with the post-9/11 integration of women into combat arms. The project is designed not as a lesson plan, but rather as a conversation starter to show the changing roles of women in the Army over the past 20 years. Hosted on both the AWM and CMH websites, the page contains an overview video, an interactive timeline, a facilitator’s guide, and other additional resources to allow the user to interact with various aspects of the gender integration story at their own pace. The project has received positive feedback since launch, with people noting that it is engaging and consumable. One of the women featured wrote the museum to say she was very touched that we had highlighted her story, and a former Ranger was very glad that the Cultural Support Teams that he worked with in Afghanistan were represented.



“Trust Transcends Gender” was introduced by GEN (R) Martin Dempsey

“FAWMA Focus” 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 newsletter 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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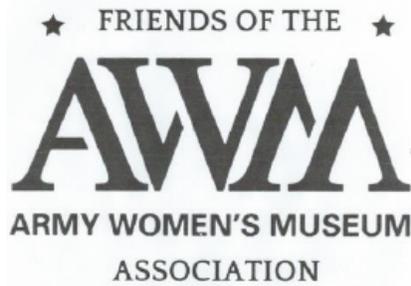
BRICK CAMPAIGN

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:

<https://armywomensmuseum.org/donate/brick-tributes/>



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.



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The Friends of the Army Women's Museum 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

Mailing Address:

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