

FAWMA Focus

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

1st Quarter of 2022

From the Co-Presidents...

Hello Friends!

The birds are singing and the flowers are blooming. Spring has sprung!

We celebrated Women's History Month in March. This year, the AWM launched the Center for Military History's Women in Army History webpage. Not only does it align with the galleries in the AWM, along with the Gender Integration Initiative tab, it provides information and materials that units and organizations can download and use for their own Women's History Month events. Check it out at <https://www.history.army.mil/index.html>.

FAWMA celebrated by posting an interview of LT Bobby Fallon, a physical therapist who served in the Army overseas during WWII, on our YouTube channel. In addition to her fascinating interview, Bobbie also turned 100 years young on March 11! Tune-in to the 20 min interview at FAWMA's YouTube Channel.

Spring is also the time for "spring cleaning," and FAWMA has started some "spring cleaning tasks of our own.

Similar to Major League Baseball players, we have "signed" our part-time Virtual Educator, Micaela Procopio, to another year with the FAWMA Team. She continues to "hit the ball out of the park." Micaela and Curator Tracy Bradford have put the new and improved Live Broadcast Studio that FAWMA funded to good use, presenting programs locally to schools, to Ft. Lee Soldiers, and even worldwide. To date, they have presented approximately 93 programs to 5,298 participants since we began broadcasting in Feb 2021. An impressive record of performance that we know she will exceed this year!

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FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1027, PRINCE GEORGE, VA 23875

PHONE: 804.734.5742

E-MAIL: ltfawma@gmail.com

Co-President's Message continued...

In addition to spring cleaning tasks such as contract renewals, we are working on our Fiscal Year budget (our fiscal year starts 1 July, 2022). Thanks to your generous support, we have funded the new Hello Girls Exhibit opening this year, we will fund the Bataan Angels Exhibit for our new fiscal year and will do some "sprucing up" in the AWM. The AWM has hosted promotions and other major events such as the Naming Commission, which brings military and government leaders into our museum! We look forward to the AWM hosting many more.

And speaking of highlighting the museum, President Biden signed into law legislation to award the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all African American woman unit, the Congressional Gold Medal for their achievements during service overseas in WWII. We are proud to have the collection of LTC Charity Adams, the unit's commander, at the AWM! Stay tuned as plans for this momentous event unfold.

In addition to Women's History Month and Spring Cleaning, Spring is also a time for renewal. After being closed for much of the last two years with COVID-19, we were elated that the AWM re-opened to the public. We are hopeful that the worst of COVID-19 is behind us, we THANK YOU, and seek to RENEW your interest, RENEW your excitement and RENEW your support of the AWM.

"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work."

Aimee and Cydnee
FAWMA, Co-Presidents



Co-Presidents Cydnee Gentry and Aimee Kominiak

Curator's Corner

Hello FAWMA and Hello Spring!

With longer days, better weather, and easing restrictions, we have much to celebrate! The past quarter was busy with special projects, programs, and of course, Women's History Month. We were able to support over 14 commemorations and observances for Soldiers across the Army and civilians around the country.

Much to our delight, in March legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was signed into law by President Joe Biden. The "Six Triple Eight," the only African-American women's unit to serve overseas during World War II, is featured at the AWM and the uniform of their Commander, LTC Charity Adams, is on display in the museum. I have the honor of serving as a liaison to the U.S. Mint with civilian advocates retired Army Colonel Edna Cummings, and retired Navy Commander, Carlton Philpot. Our team will work closely with the Mint staff throughout the Gold Medal design process. Senator Moran, a sponsor of the bill, has requested an expedited process in hopes that the six remaining members of the 6888th receive this symbol of the nation's gratitude.

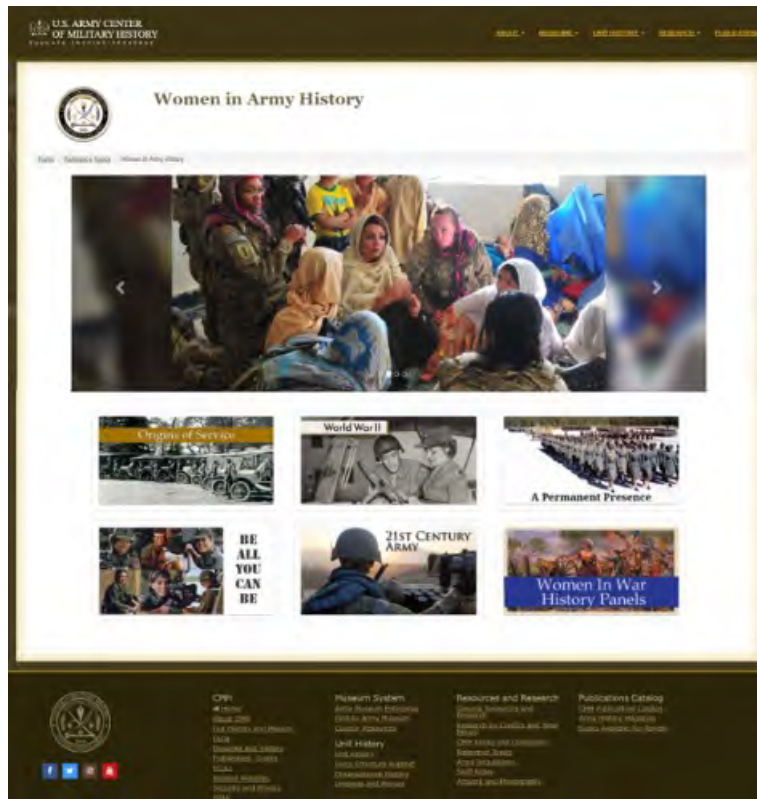
If you are in the area this summer, please come by the museum. Our beautiful redbuds are blooming in the Memorial Garden and we are fully open for business. We hope to see you soon!

Thank you all for your continued support,
Tracy



Spotlight...

Center for Military History: Women in Army History Webpage Launch



The new CMH Women in Army History webpage has launched! Accessible from the main CMH site, this website hosts six content areas that align with the galleries in the Army Women's Museum. The site contains over 5,000 words of intro text and contextual photo captions, 60 hi-res images and 10 hi-res interpretive panels, links to 12 additional online resources, easy and intuitive user interface (UI), all with a CMH and AWM education mission focus.

<https://history.army.mil/html/topics/women/index.html>

Congressional Gold Medal Update

HR 1012 was passed this year by Congress to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight" during WWII.

"The Award is authorized by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate and they shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (commonly known as the "Six Triple Eight"). It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available elsewhere". The AWM is proud to be named as one of the sites for the medal.

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



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.

Around the Museum...

Fort Lee Girl Scout Troop 5391 visit our museum!

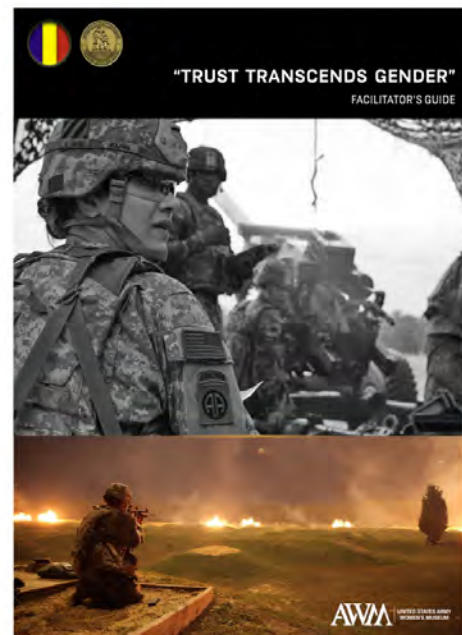


As a special Women's History Month treat, 15 Girl Scouts and 5 adult leaders from Fort Lee Troop 5391 visited the Army Women's Museum for a special program. The Curator gave the girls a tour of the galleries and used items from the education collection to illustrate how Army women's contributions and accomplishments have developed over the years. The girls, all with military parents, were very interested in the images displayed in the AWM of family units that moved with the Army during the Civil War and discussed how difficult that must have been.

Dynamic partnership!

The Army Women's Museum and the West Point Center for Oral History (COH) are partnering to collect oral histories in support of the Gender Integration Initiative. The AWM Curator, Education Specialist, and COH Director, LTC Dave Siry have been meeting to identify opportunities to capture and share these unique perspectives. The first collaboration was an interview with MAJ Nargis Mougey, a field artillery officer who saw her picture on the "Trust Transcends Gender" Facilitator's Guide and reached out to share information about her experiences integrating combat arms. The COH Oral Histories will be added as an additional resource on the CMH gender integration webpage.

To view MAJ Mougey's Oral History: <https://www.westpointcoh.org/interviews/my-passion-is-service-to-others-and-the-nation-an-afghan-immigrant-s-journey-to-west-point-and-the-field-artillery>



Photographing Artifacts

The Army Museum Enterprise supported a major effort at the AWM to get highlights of the collection professionally photographed. Pablo Jimenez, the photographer assigned to the Museum Support Center at Fort Belvoir, and Albert Tellez, a Museum Specialist at Fort Bragg, were sent on TDY to the AWM for an entire week. With the help of the Fort Lee Collections Team, they were able to take pictures of over forty items as well as capture images of the galleries.



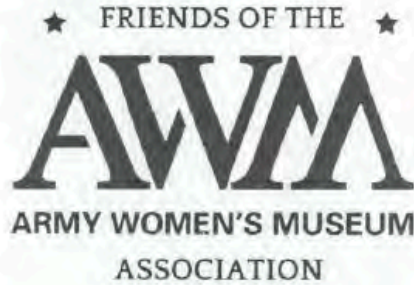
Pablo Jimenez and Albert Tellez photographing artifacts at the AWM.

GEN Funk, TRADOC Commander, promotes COL Yesina Hatcher at AWM

COL Yesina Hatcher, Chief of Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Command Planning Group, held her Promotion Ceremony at the AWM. The ceremony was hosted by GEN Paul Funk, Commanding General of TRADOC, and special guests included Mrs. Hollyanne Milley and LTG Maria Gervais. The AWM staff was informed by COL Hatcher that the museum was selected by GEN Funk because he wanted an historical backdrop for the ceremony. In his opening remarks GEN Funk said, “What a spectacular venue – what a way to celebrate one of our Army’s greatest Soldiers.” He then went on to note that COL Hatcher is the only female Hispanic officer in her year group selected for Colonel. Prior to the ceremony, the AWM Curator gave a museum tour to COL Hatcher and her family while the Fort Lee Education Specialist conducted a Leadership Professional Development program for the Command Planning Group staff. The Hatcher family has a personal connection to 9-11 and requested the ceremony take place in front of the Pentagon Exhibit. In her speech COL Hatcher noted, “It’s an honor to be promoted at the Army Women’s Museum surrounded by patriots and pioneers who served and sacrificed for our nation.” Later, she commented, “As we toured the museum today, it was really overwhelming to see how far we have progressed as an Army.”

The Curator also gave a tour to Mrs. Hollyanne Milley, wife of General Mark A. Milley, the 20th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mrs. Milley had never been to the AWM or to Fort Lee. At one point, Mrs. Milley told the Curator about Soldier therapy artwork she and GEN Milley have hanging in their quarters at Fort McNair. Mrs. Milley said that many people who see the artwork are awed and say they simply didn’t know it existed. She told the Curator, “This is how I feel today here in the Army Women’s Museum – I’m amazed and I just didn’t know all of this was here.” Mrs. Milley indicated she would like to bring GEN Milley to the AWM someday.





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P.O. Box 1027, Prince George, VA 23875

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