

FAWMA FOCUS

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

1st Quarter of 2023

From the Co-Presidents...

Hello Friends!

It is officially spring, and significantly the month of April. April is the month FAWMA focuses on our annual audit and our FY23-24 budget preparation.

But more importantly, April is National Volunteer Month—the month we recognize and celebrate the many volunteers across our great country. FAWMA runs on the shoulders of our volunteers. All members of FAWMA, to include the Board of Directors and Committee members donate their time. And as we always say, we couldn't afford to pay for the hours these dedicated individuals give to FAWMA and to the AWM. A sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers!

April is also the month that Fort Lee will be redesignated Fort Gregg-Adams, after LTG Arthur Gregg and LTC Charity Adams, the Commander of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. This is one of several redesignation ceremonies which will take place at Army posts across the country. Thanks to your generous donations, FAWMA is supporting the AWM's exhibit dedicated to the members and accomplishments of the unit during WWII. We are particularly excited to assist with an interactive kiosk, which will be one of the highlights. The exhibit is "in the works," and is scheduled to open early in 2024.

Although the exhibit will not be open for the redesignation ceremony scheduled for 27 April 2023, we anticipate that the soon to be Fort Gregg-Adams will have many guests visiting the post that day. Most notably, we are excited that some of the families of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion will be in attendance.

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FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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Co-President's Message continued...

Most of you know that actor and filmmaker Tyler Perry is filming a movie about the 6888th, which includes powerhouse celebrities such as Kerry Washington, Oprah Winfrey, and Susan Sarandon, but did you know our Digital Educator, Micaela, teaches a program, titled *Isle of Integration*, which features the 6888th? The program showcases the real stars of the story, the Army women of the 6888th. Micaela continues to deliver FREE education programs both locally and across the country.

Sign up for one at

<https://www.cilc.org/>

Just as many of us prepare for guests we host in our homes, we have been busy getting ready for visitors, and "spiffing up" the AWM, in the words of our talented and energetic curator, Tracy Bradford. If you are planning to attend the ceremony, or visit the post, please stop by!

Aimee and Cydnee



Co-Presidents Cydnee Gentry and Aimee Kominiak



Aim your smart phone camera at this QR code and discover a new way to continue supporting your legacy!

Curator's Corner

Hello FAWMA –

Greetings from beautiful Central Virginia! We enjoyed a busy and productive winter here at the AWM and are now set to tackle some exciting projects this spring. Over the past few months, we were able to complete the exhibit design for *The Courage to Deliver: The Women of the Six Triple Eight Central Postal Directory Battalion*. With the generous financial support of FAWMA, we contracted with Steve Feldman Design and now have the plans for a wonderful 720 square foot exhibit. The next step is contracting a fabricator to build the exhibit and hopes are to have a ribbon cutting early in 2024!

We had a busy March with Women's History Month. The AWM was able to support 22 Army and Civilian observances around the Department of Defense and our Digital Educator taught 18 classes that reached 1,179 students across the country. March also brought several media opportunities. We had a wonderful video made by our Public Affairs Office about the AWM, we were featured in the local CBS6 news, we were quoted or mentioned in a selection of print articles, and we were the focus of a Center of Military History Podcast (links to these features are available later in the newsletter). A big spotlight will come in April when MSG(R) Andrea Crabtree's interview, filmed at the AWM, will be featured on CBS Evening News with Nora O'Donnell.

Our efforts right now are focused on the April 27th Redesignation Ceremony. Fort Lee will become Fort Gregg-Adams in honor of LTG Arthur Gregg and LTC Charity Adams. We are anticipating big crowds on the installation that day and are very excited to host the Adams-Earley family and all the friends and family members of the 6888th who will be here to celebrate this historic event.

Thank you all again for your wonderful, steadfast, and generous support of the Army Women's Women!

Happy spring,
Tracy

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.



Spotlight...

50 YEARS BEYOND: The Vietnam Veteran Experience



MAJ(R) Flo Dunn

We are so excited that our friend, MAJ(R) Flo Dunn, is featured in a new exhibit called, “50 YEARS BEYOND: The Vietnam Veteran Experience” at the Virginia War Memorial. Flo, a Board Member with the Friends of the Army Women’s Museum Association (FAWMA), is a volunteer and advocate for the AWM. We are thankful that visitors to the War Memorial will learn about Flo’s service in Vietnam. The exhibit highlights 49 other Virginia Veterans through images and oral histories. Be sure to stop by if you are in Richmond!

FAWMA Digital Education and Live Studio (Micaela Procopio)

January to April was a busy couple of months for the Virtual Studio here at the US Army Women’s Museum! January had a total of 222 individuals viewing our programs, including a repeat request from a high school in New York. In February I presented to an entire school in Wichita Kansas, which had 225 students attend! I also presented to a group of the Connecticut National Guard and then partnered with the Museum of the Pacific War in Texas to share the story of Charity Adams and the 6888th to a virtual audience of 300 for Black History Month. March is, of course, very busy because of Women’s History Month and I presented to groups in Texas, Illinois, Virginia, Maryland, Louisiana, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut. I partnered again with the Museum of the Pacific War to share Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby’s story. I also was able to present the stories of women in WWII to the Center of Army Analysis at Fort Belvoir. In total, 1,179 people participated in programs during the month of March! I had such a wonderful time sharing the stories of these incredible women to so many great schools, and adult groups, including military members. It is a joy to hear how much people enjoy learning about these women for only an hour out of their day. We are looking forward to even more learning in the coming months!



“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.

DONATIONS

JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2023

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ESTATE OF NELDA RUTH CADE
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**THANK YOU TO
OUR DONORS!**

FRIENDS INDEED \$100.00 TO \$249.99

MS. MARGARET DONALDSON
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COL(R) PATRICIA JERNIGAN

DONOR

\$1.00 TO \$34.99

LTC(R) KIMBERLY A. ENDERLE
MYRTIS LEWIS



We can now accept electronic donations!

If you are interested in donating to the AWM or the new 6888th exhibit, click on our Donate Button <https://armywomensmuseum.org/donate/> on our website or aim your smart phone camera at this QR code.

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.

Happening at the Museum...

D-Day Memorial Staff visit the Army Women’s Museum



Thirty-five staff and volunteers from the D-Day Memorial located in Bedford, VA, visited the Army Women’s Museum for a professional development field trip. The visitors were given a tour of the facilities by the AWM Curator and the Collections Curator. The museums have enjoyed a long and collaborative relationship with the D-Day Memorial.

2023 Fort Lee Martin Luther King Jr. Observance

The Army Women’s Museum supported the 2023 Fort Lee Martin Luther King Jr. Observance. The guest speaker was MSG(R) Andrea Motley Crabtree, the first female Army deep sea diver who is featured in the “Be All You Can Be” gallery at the AWM. Crabtree shared a frank account of the challenges she faced in the Army diving program and the anger she felt when the MOS was closed to women and she had to reclassify. After the ceremony, MG Simerly hosted a reception at the AWM where MSG(R) Crabtree gave coins to outstanding Fort Lee Soldiers. A few weeks later, CBS Evening News with Nora O’Donnell filmed a segment with MSG(R) Crabtree at the AWM that is set to air in April.



Mecklenburg High School JROTC visit the AWM



The Army Women’s Museum hosted 30 Air Force JROTC students from Mecklenburg High School. The cadets participated in the Fort Lee JROTC Museum Challenge – an exercise based on the four leadership themes of problem solving, logistics, innovation, and individual Soldier’s stories shared across the AWM, the Quartermaster Museum, and the Ordnance Training Support Facility.

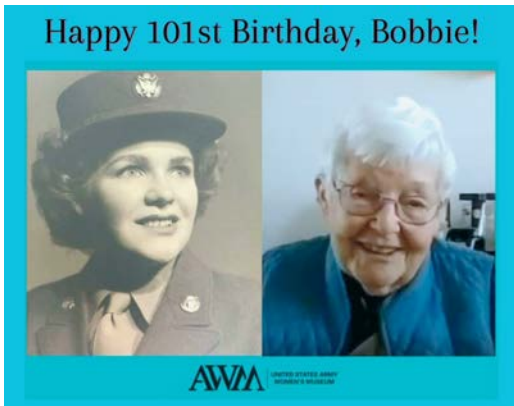


BRICK CAMPAIGN

Do you want to be a part of history? Order a customized brick that will 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://thatsmybrick.com/armywmnsva>

Outreach and Community Events...

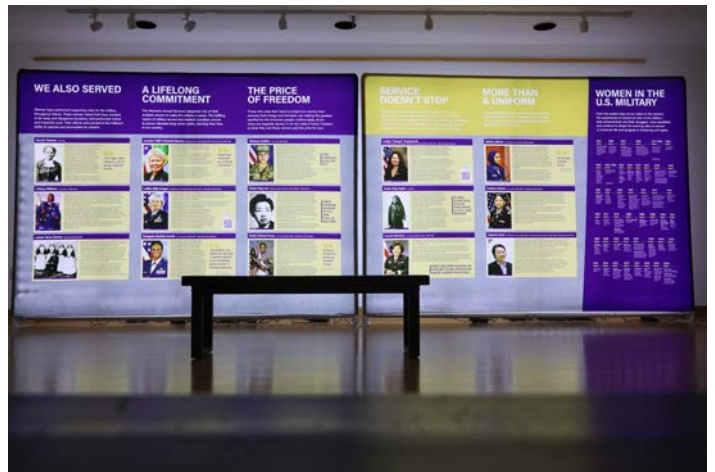
Happy 101st Birthday to our good friend, LT Bobbie Fallon



Bobbie turned 101 on March 11, 2023. We wish her all the best for this coming year. She served during WWII and joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps a short while after the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941. She was sent to the University of Wisconsin to study Physical Therapy and was later assigned to work with amputees in France. After the war, Bobbie married her fiancé, Dale Fallon, who served in the Pacific Theater. The Fallons went on to have six children and a happy marriage spanning many decades.

The Color of Freedom Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen comes to the AWM

In January, *The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen* opened at the AWM and will be on display from 5 January – 1 May 2023. The 40-foot-long traveling exhibition was created by the Military Women's Memorial with the goal of shedding light on the sacrifices and contributions of a selection of minority women who served in or alongside the U.S. Military throughout history.



Brick Upgrade at the AWM



The Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association wants to thank the Center for Military History, the Army Museum Enterprise, and the Department of Public Works at Fort Lee for the upgrade to our brick areas. We hope you will visit us soon to see how great the sites look!

AWM Curator and FAWMA Admin interviewed for article

Tracy and Danna were interviewed for an article entitled "Army Lt. Col Adams: A pioneer worthy of commemoration" by T. Anthony Bell and published on army.mil. This article was in support of the Fort Lee installation and redesignation communication and engagement strategy to promote general enthusiasm and acceptance for the new installation name.



ADFSD picks the AWM for the location of their annual photo

The Aerial Delivery and Field Services Department (ADFSD) selected the Army Women's Museum as the location of their annual photo. ADFSD highlights installation sights each year as part of their departmental historical documentation. It was great to have so many red hats on site!

Our Girls Over There: The Hello Girls of World War I

Tracy participated in two virtual and in person National Museum of the United States Army Battle Briefs entitled "Our Girls Over There: The Hello Girls of World War I." She presented with Jen Dubina, an Educator in the NMUSA Programs and Education Department. Using primary documents and an interactive Story Map, Tracy and Jen followed the experiences of three of the Telephone Operators as they served with General Pershing's American Expeditionary Forces in France.



Yes, I will support the U.S. Army Women's Museum with my tax-deductible donation!

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$1200 \$1500 \$2000 \$3000 Other \$ _____

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My donation is _____

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My donation is **In Memory of** _____

My donation is **In Honor of** _____

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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