

# FAWMA FOCUS

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

## A Quarterly Newsletter

4th Quarter of 2024

### From the Co-Presidents...

Hello Friends!

Happy 2025! The New Year is a time to reflect on the past year. And as we welcome the New Year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support throughout 2024.

The team of the AWM staff, FAWMA, and you, our dedicated supporters, have achieved great things in 2024: the AWM's successful opening of the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion exhibit--a major achievement showcasing the extraordinary accomplishments of this exceptional unit. Soon after, the AWM made its television debut on the Discovery Channel's Expedition Unknown which showcased the little-known story of the 18 WACS killed in a plane crash off the coast of Africa in World War II. These two events garnered media and social media attention across the country, elevating these "her-stories" of Army women on a national level!

Achievements continued in 2024 with our Education Programs--what we consider the hallmark of our support to the museum. Our education programs and reach have continued to expand locally, nationally and internationally. We owe much of our success to our friends at the Cameron Foundation, who again awarded a grant for \$20,000 for our live studio and education programs.

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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](mailto:ltfawma@gmail.com)

## Co-President's Message continued...

For those of you who participated in our Giving Tuesday Campaign, a BIG THANKS! Your generosity was instrumental in raising over \$16,700, far exceeding our goal of \$10,000. For all of our donors—our ratings on Charity Navigator and Candid (formerly GuideStar) continue to be at the highest levels, Four-Star and Platinum respectively.

Finally, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our Board, our staff, and our dedicated volunteers. Your commitment and hard work have been the backbone of FAWMA, and your efforts have made a significant impact.

As we look forward to 2025, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to honor and preserve the legacy of the women who have served in the Army, and we are confident that with your continued support, we will achieve even greater things.

“Teamwork makes the dream work!” Join our team!

Aimee and Cydnee  
FAWMA, Co-Presidents



Co-Presidents Cydnee Gentry and Aimee Kominiak



Tracy Bradford, AWM Curator

### Curator's Corner

Happy New Year! All I can say about 2024 is ... wow! What an amazing 12 months here at the AWM. This last quarter was packed with VIP visits, movie screenings, and lots of holiday cheer. We tallied some statistics and discovered that we had visitors from 47 states and almost 20 US territories and countries around the world. Our overall visitation numbers topped 15,000 this year. FAWMA educators taught 78 classes with 2,937 participants and the AWM hosted 96 events which included graduations, promotions, retirements, and lots of special programs.

Reflecting on the year, there were many highlights. The ribbon cutting for our “Courage to Deliver: The Women of the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion” exhibit was especially meaningful. We loved hosting the WAC Band reunion and still talk about their awesome concert. It was pretty amazing to have the AWM featured on the Discovery Channel’s “Expedition Unknown” and then a real honor to bring the Project Recover Historian to Fort Gregg-Adams for our POW/MIA Observance.

None of these wonderful opportunities would have happened without the support of the Friends of the Army Women’s Museum Association. Your generosity, encouragement, and creativity are inspirational. I know the AWM is the envy of many Army Museums because of the continued and plentiful ways your organization upholds and enhances the museum. I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to an amazing 2025. Stay tuned for historical information about the Army in the Revolutionary War, planned commemoration events, museum exhibits, and attractions as we celebrate the Army’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday!

All the best!  
Tracy

## Spotlight... The 6888<sup>th</sup> at Fort Gregg-Adams

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, two screenings of the Netflix film “Six Triple Eight” were shown at the Fort Gregg-Adams’ Beaty Theater. Attended by over one thousand Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Soldiers, and shown in advance of the movie’s release, the film was met with tears and cheers by audience members. “I loved the movie, I didn’t expect to be here at AIT and be able to watch a movie, let alone one like this,” said Pvt. Celsa J. Haro Vazquez. “Being a female in the Army, it’s incredible to see the women who came before us and to see that if they could endure all that they did, we can push forward too.” The film, directed by Tyler Perry, tells the Story of the 6888th under the command of Lt. Col. Charity Adams, one the installation’s namesakes. The AWM Curator supported the screening by attending all IPRs, working with Netflix representatives, and providing notes for the Command Team to share at the beginning of the event.



**Thank you for  
supporting  
Giving  
Tuesday 2024**



**We  
surpassed  
our goal and  
raised  
\$16,705**

**Please continue to support our efforts  
as a 4 Star Platinum charity!**



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

**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.

**“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

## OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2024

### SUSTAINING PARTNERS \$1,000.00 TO \$100,000.00

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**THANK YOU to  
our Donors!**

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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:  
[WWW.THATSMYBRICK.COM/ARMYWMNSVA](http://WWW.THATSMYBRICK.COM/ARMYWMNSVA)



# Happening at the Museum...



## AWM is all over the world!

In October and November, the AWM Curator gave several VIP tours. One was for the Brazilian Army Delegation at Fort Gregg-Adams. The purpose of the visit was to showcase the installation's robust roles and capabilities, facilitate knowledge exchange, and enhance cooperation between the U.S. Army and Brazilian Army logistics communities. Another tour was for the Commanding General of the Philippine Army's spouse, Mrs. Rina Galido. The purpose of the Galido's visit to the Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) was to explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing with the US Army.

## Ladies Club visit to AWM

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, women from the Lake Gaston Ladies Club visited the Army Women's Museum. This excited group had so many people sign up for the trip they had to cap the number of participants! They received a tour from the FAWMA Educator and had a lot of engaging questions.



Lake Gaston Ladies Club



AME Educator, Ali sitting for Women in the Army Documentary

## AWM Support to Army Media

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Army Women's Museum supported filming by the Enterprise Multimedia Center (EMC) and Army Recruiting Command for a project covering 250 years of Women in the Army. Education Specialist, Ali Kolleda, was interviewed for the project which entails a mini documentary and smaller social media spotlights to share with today's influencers and prospective recruits emphasizing women's role in the Army. These products will be available for the Army and AME to use in support of the Army Birthday and DoD observances in 2025.

# AWM in the Community...

## Honors to Harriet Tubman

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Army Women’s Museum (AWM) Curator attended the Commissioning Ceremony of Harriet Tubman in the Maryland National Guard at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park. Maryland Gov. Wes Moore and MG Janeen Birckhead awarded Tubman the rank of brigadier general during a Veterans Day ceremony, recognizing her service to the Union Army as a nurse, spy, and scout.



Maryland Governor Wes Moore



Tracy with LTC (R) Sherrie Bryant, COL (R) Edna Cummings, MSG (R) Lizz Helm-Frazier, and Dr. Carmen Jordan-Cox

## AWM presented to Center of Military History



Gabrielle with the late LTG Arthur Gregg, at a previous time at the AWM

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Gabrielle Pressley, a former William and Mary graduate intern at the US Army Women’s Museum, presented her capstone project to the Center of Military History personnel as professional development. During her time at the AWM, Gabrielle researched the experiences of Native American women in the military, primarily the Women’s Army Corps, during World War II. She focused specifically on how their Indigeneity impacted their military service, particularly in the context of a segregated military according to a black-white binary. Gabrielle was recently hired as the Museum Educational Program Coordinator for the City of Newport News, Virginia Historic Services Division.



## AWM and Education...

The last quarter of 2024 was a special time at the US Army Women's Museum. We hosted several tours, a STEM event for students, the TRADOC Army Band, and numerous AIT soldiers. We had an opportunity to present a program on the 6888th at Beulah Recreation Center in Chesterfield, VA and delivered a program at Union Branch Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA on Veterans Day. We look forward to 2025 and are very excited about our STEM in the American Revolution and the Civil War program, where students will learn about coding/ciphering, get to build ironsides (and try to sink them), learn a little Morse code, and practice sewing a button.

We look forward to January and the launch of our monthly Lunch and Learn program on various Wednesdays at noon. This month's theme will be the 6888th movie that premiered this past December on Netflix. We are excited about this new program and various topics on women in the military to share. Look for more information and times on our social media.



AIT Students/Soldiers show off their catapult from the STEM event



Petersburg Federal Correction Employees

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.

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

\$15 \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$1200 \$1500 \$2000 \$3000 Other \$

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*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*

**FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**, P.O. Box 1027, Prince George, VA 23875

804-734-5742 or email us at [flawma@gmail.com](mailto:flawma@gmail.com)

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