

# FAWMA FOCUS

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

## A Quarterly Newsletter

2nd Quarter of 2025

### From the Co-Presidents...

Hello Friends!

It's been another busy Spring at the AWM! First—we were honored to attend the 6888<sup>th</sup> Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony on Capitol Hill in April. Many of the “Who’s Who” of Congress were in attendance, and the remarks recognizing the incredible accomplishments of the 6888<sup>th</sup> were profound and moving, with just the right amount of humor (bravo to the speechwriters)!

More importantly, the “Who’s Who” of the family and friends of the 6888<sup>th</sup> were also in attendance, to include Stanley and Judith Earley, the son and daughter of LTC Charity Adams Earley. And a BIG kudos to COL(Ret) Edna Cummings and MSG(Ret) Lizz Helms-Frazier for their tireless work and dedication to recognize the women of the 6888<sup>th</sup>! A reminder that the 6888<sup>th</sup> exhibit at the AWM, which showcases this amazing unit, is awaiting your visit.

And speaking of visiting the AWM, you no longer need to show an ID card or identification to visit the AWM. The Defense Community Enclave is now open and allows visitors to access the AWM (as well as the Quartermaster and Ordnance Training Support Facility) without having to enter Fort Lee. We are anticipating that we'll have even more visitors to the AWM now that access is open to the public, AND the museum is open on Saturdays!

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**FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**

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

Although there have been some changes at Fort Lee (now named for Private Fitz Lee, a Buffalo Soldier and Medal of Honor winner), we recognize that we have the BEST donors, supporters, volunteers, Board members and staff! Thank you for riding the roller coaster of change with us! We couldn't support the AWM and all the great things they do without you.

"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work."

Aimee and Cydnee

FAWMA, Co-Presidents



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!**



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



Tracy Bradford, AWM Curator

## Curator's Corner

Hello FAWMA -

We have had some exciting changes this Spring! On June 13th, MG Michelle Donahue, the CASCOM Commander, cut the ribbon on the Defense Community Enclave (DCE). This transformative initiative has opened the Army Women's Museum, the Quartermaster Museum, and the Ordnance Training Support Facility to the public. By moving the installation's fence line, visitors can now get to these three wonderful facilities without having to enter through access points. Also, the AWM has resumed Saturday operations so be sure to plan a weekend to come by and see us!

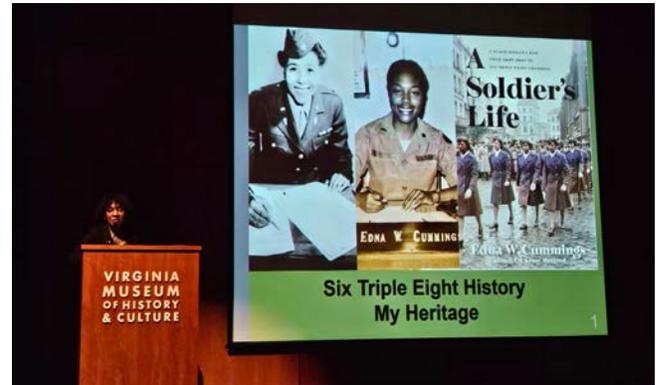
In April, we were very proud to support the 6888th Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony at Emancipation Hall on Capitol Hill. Several FAWMA Board members and the AWM Curator attended the ceremony. Our amazing Education Specialist, Ali Kolleda, worked closely with the Command and General Staff College to secure an Honorary Diploma for LTC Charity Adams. CGSC Dean Dave Cotter attended the CGM ceremony and presented the award to Stanley and Judith Earley immediately after the Gold Medal festivities.

Finally, you may have seen in the news that Fort Gregg-Adams has been redesignated as Fort PVT Fitz Lee as a part of a DoD renaming initiative. Originally named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee, Fort Lee was changed to Fort Gregg-Adams in 2023. The current Fort Lee honors Private Fitz Lee, a Buffalo Soldier and Medal of Honor recipient. I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer - stay cool!

All the best,  
Tracy

## Spotlight...

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the AWM Curator supported a Virginia Museum of History and Culture Lecture Series presentation featuring COL (Ret.) Edna Cummings and her recently published book, [A Soldier's Life: A Black Women's Rise from Army Brat to Six Triple Eight Champion](#). Edna gave an engaging personal and historical presentation to a filled auditorium. If you haven't read the book yet, be sure to get a copy - it's terrific.



COL (Ret.) Edna Cummings delivering a book talk at the Virginia Museum of history and culture.

## Three museums....One Enclave!



Opening the fence for the new Defense Community Enclave!

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the ribbon was cut on the new Museum Enclave at Fort Lee, making museums and training support facility accessible to the public without accessing the installation. The days, events included the reopening of the Drop Zone, the cutting of the ribbon on the Museum Enclave Gate, and a 250th Army Birthday Tattoo. These events were attended by the children of LTG Gregg and LTC Adams, the CASCOM Commanding General, the Garrison Commander, a State Senator and other local officials.

<https://www.wtvr.com/news/local-news/fort-gregg-adams-june-13-2025>

## 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.



## Happening at the Museum...

### A new marketing clip features the Defense Community Enclave



Tracy behind the camera!

In On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the AWM Curator was filmed by Petersburg Area Regional Tourism for short videos and commercials that will run on local media promoting the Army Women's Museum, the Quartermaster Museum, Ordnance Training Support Facility, and the Defense Community Enclave to the local public.

### VFW Members visit to AWM

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Education Specialist led a tour of the AWM for 11 members of VFW Post 622 of Petersburg, Virginia.



VFW Post 622, Petersburg, VA

### Three museums join to create one enclave!

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the ribbon was cut on the new Museum Enclave at Fort Lee making museums and the training support facility accessible to the public without accessing the installation. The day included the reopening of the Drop Zone, the cutting of the ribbon on the Museum Enclave Gate, and a 250<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday Tattoo. These events were attended by the children of LTG Gregg and LTC Adams, the CASCOM Commanding General, the Garrison Commander, a State Senator and other local officials. <https://www.wtvr.com/news/local-news/fort-gregg-adams-june-13-2025>

**A little bit more info** about the objectives & strategic vision for the Defense Community Enclave:

- Fort Fitz Lee is enhancing public access to its museums by investing in temporary fencing, with completion expected by June 2025. This initiative will expand tourism, support educational programs, and strengthen civilian-military engagement.
- Leverage our Opportunity Zone status to attract businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs eager to partner in developing the DCE.
- Establish a multi-use aquatic center for military training, physical therapy for injured Soldiers, community fitness, and competitive diving, reinforcing military readiness and public well-being.
- Collaborate with local businesses, educational institutions, and regional stakeholders to maximize economic and social impact across the region.
- Regional Economic Development: By integrating military and civilian interests, Fort Gregg-Adams fosters a collaborative economic environment, working alongside community leaders and the surrounding region to drive shared growth and development.

## AWM in the Community...



Time for some summer fun with visitors from the Goddard School in Chesterfield, VA!



Happy 250th Birthday U. S. Army!

## Snaps from the Ribbon Cutting of the Museum Enclave



Cake Cutting!



Reenactors of the Tattoo



MG Donahue (CASCOM Cdr) with VA Senator Tim Kaine



FAWMA Board members L-R Delinda Creal, Luann Kolleda, Vicki Archileti, and Flo Dunn



A member of the 250 Army Tattoo



Opening the gate to the new Museum Enclave

# The 6888<sup>th</sup> Receives the Congressional Gold Medal

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all-Black, all-female unit that served in Europe during World War II, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on April 29, 2025. This prestigious award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the United States Congress, recognizes their groundbreaking contributions to the war effort and the impact they had on military morale. The 6888th, also known as the "Six Triple Eight," faced the monumental task of sorting and delivering millions of pieces of backlogged mail. Despite facing unbelievable challenges, they successfully cleared the backlog, demonstrating exceptional dedication and efficiency. Their work significantly boosted morale among soldiers stationed in Europe. The award ceremony, held at the U.S. Capitol, was a moving tribute to these women, with many descendants and family members present. The Congressional Gold Medal for the 6888th was authorized by [Public Law 117-97](#), which was signed into law on March 14, 2022.



Presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal 6888<sup>th</sup>. Receiving the Congressional Gold Medal (Stan and Judith Early, Speaker of the house Mike Johnson and Hakeem Jeffries and other Congressional and Senate Representatives.



LTC Charity Adams family accepts her Honorary Degree



Library of Congress Reception!



FAWMA at the ceremony. L-R Mary Beth Taylor, Mae Lynn, Cydnee Gentry, and Aimee Kominiaak

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.

**FRIENDS OF THE ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 1027, PRINCE GEORGE, VA 23875**

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Civilian  Military  Rank/Grade  Active Duty  Former  Retired  Reserve

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Card Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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My donation is \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of the 688<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is **In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

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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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