

# FAWMA FOCUS

## Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association Newsletter

4th Quarter

2025

### From the Co-Presidents...

Hello Friends!

Happy 2026! 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 2025.

Education program achievements continued in 2025. Our reach has 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 education programs and live studio. With this generous grant, we are excited to continue to support the AWM's use of HistoryIT to build a digital museum online to showcase the history and stories of Army women.

For those of you who participated in our Giving Tuesday Campaign, a BIG THANKS! Your generosity was instrumental in raising over \$6,575! We did not meet our goal of \$10,000 this year, but we are grateful for every dollar. Good stewardship of donor money is non-negotiable, and we have maintained the highest ratings of Four-Stars on Charity Navigator, and Platinum on Candid. More importantly, we are grateful for your support—particularly during a year of museum closings and the government shutdown.

As always during the beginning of the new year, we like to recognize and thank the members of our Board, our staff, and our dedicated volunteers. Your commitment and hard work have been the cornerstone of FAWMA, and your efforts have made a significant impact.

Sadly, we lost a dear friend, donor and supporter in the beginning of the year. COL (Ret) Patricia Hess Jernigan, U.S. Army, passed away on 6 January. Not only was Pat a Vietnam Veteran, trailblazer, and mentor to many, she was always there to lend a hand, anytime, anywhere. Our tribute to Pat is below.

As we look forward to 2026, 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

### Board of Directors

Co-President	COL (Ret) Aimee Kominiak
Co-President	Ms. Cydnee Gentry
Secretary	COL (Ret) Mary Beth Taylor
Treasurer	Ms. Luanne Kolleda
Past President/At Large	LTC (Ret) Delinda Creal
At Large	SFC (Ret) Gail Taylor Black
	MAJ (Ret) Flo Dunn
	Ms. Vicki Archileti

Platinum  
Transparency  
2026

Candid.



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

PHONE: 804.734.5742

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

E-MAIL: [ltfawma@gmail.com](mailto:ltfawma@gmail.com)

## Spotlight...

### **Amelia: A Life of the Aviation Legend**

by Donald M. Goldstein and Katherine V. Dillon

Book Review by MAJ (Ret) Florence I. Dunn

Had Amelia Earhart not disappeared over the Pacific in 1937, would she have become a WASP? That question stayed with me throughout this biography. The book begins with her family life and follows her persistence as she charged ahead in an aviation world dominated by men. Particularly compelling is the attention given to her close relationship with Jacqueline Cochran, who later founded the WASP, a connection that adds depth to Earhart's place in the broader legacy of women in aviation.

Goldstein and Dillon include plenty of flyer jargon, and they carefully document each stop along Amelia's route. Each chapter details the ground crews, both civilian and military, who repaired and serviced her aircraft and kept in contact with her while she was in the air. This focus is an effective reminder that aviation success depends not only on the pilot, but also on the expertise, coordination, and teamwork supporting every flight.

The book closes with the enduring mystery. Chapter 31, "An Open-Ended Case," notes that as late as 1991, the search for Amelia was still underway. Even today, new reporting continues to revisit the story: the November 19, 2025 issue of *USA Today* covered the release of official documents related to her disappearance, and an earlier *USA Today* article noted that Purdue University's search for the plane was postponed until 2026. In the end, this biography offers both an admiring portrait of Earhart's determination and a reminder that her final flight remains an unanswered question.



### **Curator's Corner**

Hello FAWMA!

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to an amazing 2026 with several exciting projects in the works. The Defense Community Enclave (DCE) project is underway here at Fort Lee. We are working with our Army and community partners in charrettes and other planning meetings to shape the future of the museum complex. In October, the Capitol Region Military Alliance of Virginia leadership participated in a panel discussion at the Installation Innovation Conference in Monterey, CA. If you would like to see the DCE Plan, you can find it at <https://www.carmava.org/adciif>.

We finished the final quarter of 2025 with a federal furlough that closed the museum's doors for six weeks. We reopened mid-November and are ramping back up with many Soldier graduations booked in the new year. Looking ahead, we have a partnership underway with the Fort Lee Commissary, our upcoming annual Volunteer Appreciation celebration, and we are excited to continue building out our HistoryIT archival website with stories of Army women across the ages.

Thank you as always for your continued support of the Army Women's Museum. The Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association continues to be a shining star in the Army Museum Enterprise!

All the best,  
Tracy

**COL (Ret) Patricia Ann (Hess) Jernigan**  
09/06/1942 – 01/06/2026

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of COL (Ret) Patricia Ann (Hess) Jernigan, a pillar of the women veteran's community and a cherished friend to so many. Pat passed away on January 6, 2026, at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia. She was 83.

Pat began her military career in the U.S. Navy in 1964 as a cryptographer at the Pentagon, then transferred to the U.S. Army and received a direct commission in the Women's Army Corps in 1966, launching a distinguished career in Military Intelligence. A Vietnam veteran, she also served two tours in Germany and held key assignments at Fort Belvoir and the Pentagon. Promoted to colonel in 1986 and a graduate of the Army War College, she completed her 28-year Army career in 1992 as Chief of Staff of the Army Intelligence Agency at Fort Belvoir.

In retirement, Pat continued to serve as a senior intelligence analyst and later as a Smithsonian collection manager, while volunteering for organizations dedicated to history, education, and veterans. She was deeply committed to preserving the stories of women in uniform and was a devoted supporter of the Friends of the U.S. Army Women's Museum Association (FAWMA). In 2018, she was inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame.

COL (Ret) Jernigan will be remembered for her intellect, generosity, fierce advocacy, as well as her steady willingness to step in and help wherever needed. She meant a great deal to the U.S. Army Women's Museum, FAWMA, and so many across the veteran's community.

Pat is survived by her husband of 55 years, David Stewart Jernigan, her sister, Carol Hess Keim, many family members, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held February 28, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Military Women's Memorial. Please RSVP by February 20 to [PJCelebrationofLife022826@gmail.com](mailto:PJCelebrationofLife022826@gmail.com).



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



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

**We can accept electronic donations!**

“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...



### International Visitors

Each year, we are delighted to welcome visitors from around the world—so danke, gracias, asante, 謝謝, धन्यवाद, and thank you to all who walk through our doors. Your interest, thoughtful questions, and shared reflections bring these stories to life and help carry them far beyond our museum. We are deeply grateful for your support in honoring the service, sacrifices, and lasting legacy of U.S. Army women, and for helping ensure their stories are shared across cultures and generations.

### 49 out of 50 Ain't Bad!

At the end of each year, we love tallying our visitors from across the nation, and this year made us smile. We welcomed active-duty service members, civilians, and retirees from forty-nine states. That is almost a clean sweep. The only state we missed was Wyoming.

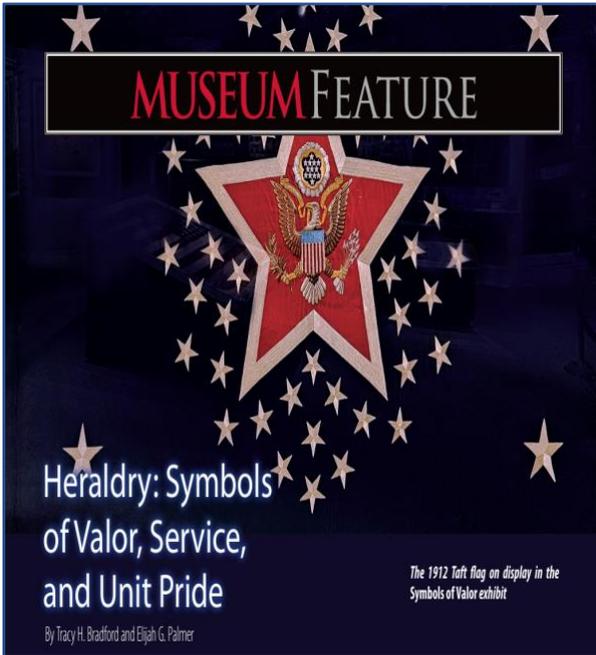
Fun fact Wyoming was the first state to grant women the right to vote in 1869, so we feel like it is only a matter of time before they make it to our guest book. The U.S. Army Women's Museum is a wonderful stop for anyone who enjoys discovering how the service and determination of women in World War I helped lead to the passage of the 19th Amendment and expanded voting rights across the nation.

We are keeping a spot open for Wyoming next year and cannot wait to welcome visitors from all fifty states. We look forward to seeing you in 2026.



**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.**



## Army History Magazine

Interested in learning more about heraldry? The curators of the AWM and the Quartermaster Museum collaborated to write an article for Army History Magazine. This effort includes the stories of Quartermaster MAJ Frank Kriwanek and Army Nurse LT Peggy Greenwalt whose collections reside in the museums. Read the article, beginning on page 32, here:

<https://history.army.mil/.../ArmyHistoryMag/pdf/AH136.pdf>

To read more about LT Greenwalt and see photos taken of Corregidor, take a look at her featured collection on our History IT website here:

<https://awm.historyit.com/digitalcollections>

## Education is KEY at the Museum!

Our educators are hard at work! In the last quarter, we reached almost 1,000 K-12 and adult learners through our museum programs. These classes were taught in the museum as well as through our Live Broadcast Studio. We reached audiences in New York, California, New Jersey, Canada, South Carolina, Virginia, and Ohio as well as several international classes in Mexico City, Mexico. If you have a school group, adult learning community, or club that may be interested in an educational program, please email us at [usarmy.lee.cac.mbx.lee-awmweb@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.lee.cac.mbx.lee-awmweb@army.mil).

You can find a list of our programs at the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration:

<https://www.cilc.org/ContentProvider/ViewContentProvider.aspx?id=522>



## Happening in our Community...



### Ordnance Day Brings People Together at Fort Lee

On October 27, 2025, Fort Lee hosted a well-attended Ordnance Day celebration led by the 59th Ordnance Brigade. The event brought together over 600 Soldiers, veterans, families, and supporters from across the Ordnance community.

Held at Williams Stadium, the day featured family friendly activities, food vendors, and community resource tables, with support from military units and partner organizations. Attendees also had the opportunity to learn more about the U.S. Army Women's Museum. LTC Delinda Creal, a retired Ordnance officer and board member, spent time with visitors sharing how the museum and FAWMA work together to preserve and tell the stories of Army women.

The strong turnout reflected the pride and spirit of the Fort Lee community. FAWMA extends sincere thanks to the 59th Ordnance Brigade for hosting a welcoming and successful event.

### A Day of Appreciation at Fort Hood

On November 1, 2025, the Fort Hood community gathered for its annual Retirement Appreciation Day, honoring Soldiers and Army Civilians for their years of dedicated service.

FAWMA was represented by SFC (Ret) Gail Taylor Black and CSM (Ret) Octavia Egyinam at the event. They connected with retirees and their families and shared information about FAWMA's work in support of the U.S. Army Women's Museum.

Retirement Appreciation Day brings together resources and community organizations in support of the military retirement community, and FAWMA was honored to take part in this event and help celebrate the lasting legacy of Army service.



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

**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 O t h e r \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter/Post/Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Civilian Military Rank/Grade Active Duty Former Retired Reserve

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

VISA MasterCard Discover Signature \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed and made out to: FAWMA

*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*

**Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association**, P.O. Box 1027, Prince George, VA 23875  
804-734-5742 or email us at [ltfawma@gmail.com](mailto:ltfawma@gmail.com)