

# FAWMA FOCUS

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

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

2025

### From the Co-Presidents...

Spring has finally sprung-ish! Punxsutawney Phil, our famous groundhog who predicts when spring will arrive, foreshadowed (pun intended) six more weeks of winter back on February 2nd. But finally, the warmer days are starting to outnumber the cooler ones here in Virginia. Birds are singing and flowers are blooming!

Spring is a time of rebirth and change. Most of you are aware there have been changes which have resulted in changes at the AWM. We want you, our donors and supporters, to know that FAWMA remains committed to supporting the AWM in their efforts to showcase the amazing stories and accomplishments of Army women—our sole mission.

Next time you visit the AWM, you will see the results of our efforts in area beautification! We have been working with Tracy, the Curator, to support her plan of new landscaping and more in and around the museums at Fort Gregg-Adams.

And many of you have been ordering our commemorative bricks, which not only represent something special in your lives, but also make our museum even more extraordinary—in addition to raising funds to support the museum.

While we're on the topic of change, we would like to give a big "shout out" to Valerie Markworth, our digital educator, who is moving to Mississippi to assist family. She has been a key player on our team, not only in her outreach and delivery of our education programs, but in her enthusiasm to do anything that needs to be done in the museum! Her contributions to FAWMA and to the AWM are immeasurable. We always say, "once in FAWMA, ALWAYS in FAWMA!" Valerie will always be part of the FAWMA "Dream Team."

### Board of Directors

Co-President  
Co-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Past President/At Large  
At Large

COL (Ret) Aimee Kominiak  
Ms. Cydnee C. Gentry  
COL (Ret) Mary Beth Taylor  
Ms. Luanne Kolleda  
LTC (Ret) Delinda Creal  
SFC (Ret) Gail Taylor Black  
MAJ (Ret) Flo Dunn  
Ms. Vicki Archileti

Platinum  
Transparency  
2025

**Candid.**



**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...

We want to thank you for your continued support of the AWM and FAWMA. We look forward to the opportunities ahead! Your generosity of time and treasure are truly inspiring! We couldn't be prouder of the AWM staff, the FAWMA Board of Directors and volunteers, and you—our fantastic donors and supporters!

We are looking forward to the upcoming “birthday party” for the US Army. We can't believe that our beloved Army is going to be 250 years old! Stay tuned for what's next as the Army rolls out plans to celebrate!

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

Aimee and Cydnee  
FAWMA, Co-Presidents



Co-Presidents Cydnee Gentry and Aimee Kominiak



## Curator's Corner

Hello Friends,

We've had an incredibly active and transformative few months here at the U.S. Army Women's Museum. With the many new Executive Orders and Department of Defense directives, we've been working diligently to adapt while staying true to our core mission. As a federal institution, compliance is essential, but so is our commitment to telling the powerful stories of Army women throughout history.

While some changes have been required—we remain steadfast in our purpose. The museum is open, and we are more dedicated than ever to preserving and sharing the extraordinary history of Army women from 1775 to today.

Our daily interactions with Soldiers, families, and visitors continue to energize and inspire us. A recent highlight was the incredible outreach effort led by our FAWMA Educator, Valerie Markworth. In March alone, Valerie engaged nearly 1,500 K-12 students and adult learners through live broadcasts, on-site tours, and school visits. Her passion and drive are truly uplifting!

Looking ahead, we are thrilled about upcoming events! On April 29th, the long-awaited presentation of the Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal will be live-streamed—we'll share viewing details soon. And be sure to mark your calendars for June 14th, 2025, as we join in the nationwide celebration of the 250th U.S. Army Birthday.

Thank you as always for the wonderful support you continue to give to the US Army Women's Museum!

Tracy

## Spotlight...



FAWMA would like to bid a fond farewell to Valerie Markworth, our dedicated educator whose passion and creativity have left a lasting mark on both FAWMA and the Army Women's Museum. Since joining us in September 2023, Valerie has poured her heart into sharing the stories of women in service, bringing history to life for countless students, soldiers, and visitors. As she embarks on a new chapter in Mississippi, we celebrate the incredible effort and enthusiasm she has brought to our mission over the past two years. Valerie will always be a cherished member of the FAWMA and AWM family, and we wish her nothing but the very best in her journey ahead.

**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 now accept electronic donations!**

If you are interested in donating to the AWM or the new 6888th exhibit, click on our Donate Button [www.armywomensmuseum.org/donate/](http://www.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

## JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2025

### Sustaining Partners (\$1,000.00 to \$100,000.00)

Ms. Helen W. Mault

### Partners (\$250.00 to \$999.99)

American Legion Post 284

COL (Ret) Julia Bell

Nicole Jones

Melody Smith

Ms. Diane M. Theiss

### Friends Indeed (\$100.00 to \$249.99)

Monica Baisden

Ms. Margaret Donaldson

Jennifer Ellington

Laurie Goetz

Kimberly Norwesh

Patrice Sutherland

### Friends (\$35.00 to \$99.99)

Linda Alford

COL (R) Thomas M. Ogle, Jr.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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:

[www.thatsmybrick.com/armywmnsva](http://www.thatsmybrick.com/armywmnsva)

### Brick Campaign

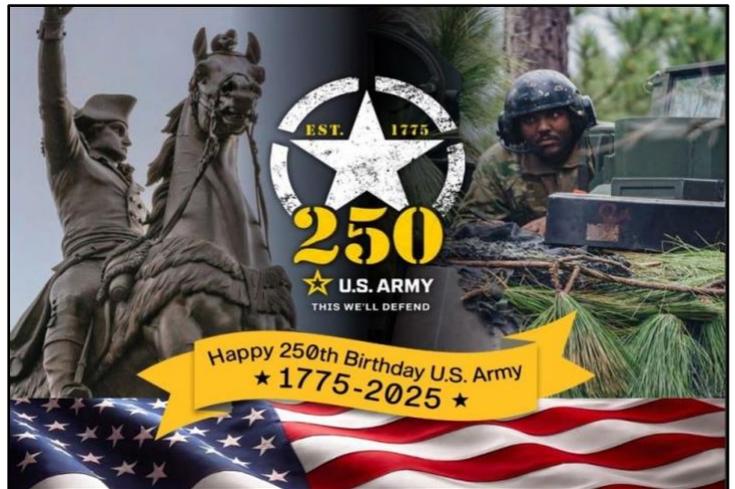


## Happening at the Museum...



On February 14, SGT Davion Whitbeck, the Borrowed Military Manpower (BMM), assigned to the Army Women's Museum was recognized as the Transportation School NCO of the Quarter. During the presentation, SGT Whitbeck was praised for handling many assignments at once, but special note was made of his contributions to the AWM during the months of January and February. SGT Whitbeck stepped into the role of trusted professional colleague as the staff navigated meeting executive and HQDA intent while receiving a great deal of scrutiny from the general public. He interacted with concerned, and sometimes angry, stakeholders with kindness and poise and his command commended him for embracing this task and representing the Army with such professionalism. SGT Whitbeck is headed to his next assignment in Korea, and we wish him all the best!

In February, the AWM Curator and FGA Educator participated in the 55th Annual Conference of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era in Auburn, AL. At this awesome conference, they were able to share information, expertise, and resources from Army museums with leading academics to collaborate on programming and celebrations for the upcoming Army 250th Birthday. We will have numerous events here at Fort Gregg-Adams the week of June 9-13<sup>th</sup>.



What a treat to have the Richmond, Virginia branch of the National Association of University Women visit the AWM this week! There were lots of new faces and a few familiar friends from right here at Fort Gregg-Adams. We have seen many women's groups come to the AWM for educational outings so far this year!

We were delighted to have the daughters of a WWII WASP and WAC visit the AWM. They were so thankful to see their mothers' histories shared at the museum.



On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Columbia Recruiting Battalion Educators came to tour the museum. The participants included school principals, teachers, and counselors. They were introduced to the history of women in the Army and left with an understanding of the opportunities open to all Soldiers in today's Army.

Also on March 4<sup>th</sup>, the AWM Curator gave a tour to the French Director of the Joint Center for Catering, and Leisure Support. BG Sylvie Pion's visit to the installation was focused on force support methods, organization, supply chain, and operational catering. BG Pion asked specifically for a tour of the AWM so she could write about it for International Women's Day!

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Army Women's Museum, Quartermaster Museum, and Ordnance TSF participated in the Defense Community Enclave strategic meeting at Fort Gregg-Adams that will kick-off this transformative project to leverage the Army museums and Training Support Facility to drive economic opportunity, enhance community partnerships, and improve quality of life for Soldiers and civilians in the region. The Enclave's focus is to make the museums more accessible by reworking installation boundaries for easier access.



## Happening in our Community...



The Army Women's Museum has been full of energy this quarter as visitors of all ages came to learn, explore, and be inspired. Fans of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion made special trips to view our "Courage to Deliver" exhibit and its original artifacts. We welcomed groups like the Fort Gregg-Adams Homeschoolers, who explored Civil War-era STEM through Morse Code, and students who studied topics ranging from the American Revolution to women's integration in the Army. Adult learners from Apostle Temple, Brandermill Ladies Group, Mt. Level Baptist Church, and Gateway Homes also gained insight into the vital role's women have played in military history.

Our reach extended nationwide through the Live Studio, engaging schools and organizations such as Frankenmuth Library, Somers Library, Vista Springs Estate, the Red Hat Ladies Club, GA Cyber Academy, Pine Crest School, Dinwiddie Elementary, Meadowbrook High School, Virginia State University, Solebury School, Falling Creek Elementary, Parson Elementary, Providence Middle, Welch Elementary, Sussex Tech High School, and the Subaru Corporation. Whether on-site or online, FAWMA proudly connects audiences with the inspiring legacy of Army women who served with courage and purpose. Thank you to our awesome education team (Tracy, Ali, and Valerie) on their outstanding efforts!



On March 6<sup>th</sup> the AWM Curator received a Red Cross Community Partner Award on behalf of the museum for support to Army Soldiers, families, and the community in the Fort Gregg-Adams area. At the lovely ceremony, Tracy ran into Janice Shearin-Smith, who was volunteering as a dinner hostess for the Red Cross!



We had a great visit from Ron Bingham, the former Collections Specialist at the AWM and his friends in the New Kent Veterans Association. It was wonderful to see Ron and Helena back at the museum.

**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.**

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

**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 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)