



HONORING SERVICE & SACRIFICE

# The Flagpole

Summer 2017

The Newsletter of the U.S. Army Women's Foundation

Volume LXVIII No. 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My friends, our recent Summit and Hall of Fame Reception were huge successes. We brought together Army women – and men – from multiple generations and levels of experience. We shared camaraderie and celebrated achievements. We learned the latest developments in gender integration and peeked into the future of women's health care. And we shared the stories of Army women with corporate supporters and the public.

This year's Summit theme was Equip – Empower – Engage. Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Patricia Horoho, the first woman Army surgeon general, challenged attendees to equip themselves with the true understanding of the vast scope of women's health, which goes beyond reproductive health. She encouraged us to empower one another to make our voices heard and engage the world to see the need for gender-specific research, prevention, treatment and care.

The 9th Annual Summit afforded women serving in the Army today the opportunity to get direct answers from top Army leadership, and for leadership to ask women Soldiers their views. For example, it provided a platform for an Army Reserve colonel, a West Point cadet and other Soldiers to directly engage with Maj. Gen. Hugh Van Roosen, the deputy G1, on gender integration. More details about the summit are in the Executive Summary, page three.

Our Hall of Fame reception shined the spotlight on the extraordinary things women have done and continue to do in service to each other and our country. We celebrated our Paralympic athletes who turn obstacles into opportunity. We honored women who blazed trails and shattered glass ceilings. You may have read about these amazing Soldiers on Army websites and magazines that wrote about our Hall of Fame event. These women Soldiers are role models for military and civilian women and men! We also recognized others who have championed women Soldiers: defense leaders



Presentation of Colors at the AWF Summit by the 3rd Infantry Division Old Guard, the singing of the National Anthem by Master Sergeant Leigh Ann Hinton.

who opened doors to Army women, and an author who revealed the story of women Soldiers on the Special Operations battlefield. We have more details about that, too, on page four.

Rest assured, Army women have a voice, and it is being heard.

As you know, our work to support and honor our women Soldiers and veterans continues year-round. In the coming months, we will expand outreach to you, and to others who may not be as familiar with the Foundation. Watch your email for brief, periodic updates that will keep you informed of Foundation activities and other news that touches your lives as Soldiers and Veterans. Please make sure we have your email address by emailing [newsletter@awfdn.org](mailto:newsletter@awfdn.org).

Our newsletter is also targeted for some changes. To save printing costs and to be more ecologically friendly, we will begin publishing our newsletter electronically, and will print the Flagpole just once a year. Our next printed issue will be in Spring. What you will get instead are more frequent updates and timely news.



BG Anne Macdonald, USA (Ret.), AWF President

We have also launched a Speakers Bureau to share more stories of Army women's contributions, abilities and achievements. Our first speaking engagement was on Veterans Day 2016 at Walmart's corporate headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas. The Veterans Day celebration was broadcast to Walmart employees and recorded so they can also access it later. This was a wonderful venue for the Army Women's Foundation to raise awareness of women Veterans. Another speaking engagement is scheduled for autumn with the Colonial Dames of America, in Boston.

We continue to nurture and strengthen existing relationships and build new ones. We are working more closely with the Soldier for Life Program and other defense offices. For example, Soldier for Life program director Colonel Adam Rocke joined us at the Summit to tell Soldiers the many ways the program helps them. The office also has shared news of our Hall of Fame and Legacy Scholarship programs through their social media channels. Department of Defense Education Activity, too, has publicized our Legacy Scholarship Program.

Our outreach and programs are designed to support and honor the service and sacrifice of our Army women. It is through your generous donations we are able to accomplish our shared passion for supporting Army women.

On behalf of the Army Women's Foundation, I thank you for your continued support to the mission.

Sincerely,

*Anne F. Macdonald*

BG Anne Macdonald, USA, Ret.  
President, Army Women's Foundation

PLEASE LET US KNOW  
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DIFFERENCE FOR YOU

Where can we improve?  
Email us at [info@awfdn.org](mailto:info@awfdn.org).



### INSIDE THIS EDITION

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporter:

Songwriter Bob Dylan has won a 2016 Nobel Prize; one of his most famous lines is “For the times they are a-changin.”

For the Army Women’s Foundation (AWF) change has been the norm. Just as the U.S. Army has had to adapt to enormous changes in the world to maintain its mission, the Army Women’s Foundation, too, has evolved since it was founded in 1969. AWF has adapted to stay relevant to the constantly changing roles and needs of Army women, and their world.

At its inception at Fort McClellan, Alabama, AWF supported a small Museum to honor the service and sacrifice of Army women. This was important as their roles and work were both limited and little known to the American public. Today 16% of the Army is composed of women soldiers and in 2016, women are serving in nearly every aspect of the Army, including combat in the elite Rangers.

While the “times are a-changin,” some things have not changed at AWF. Unquestionably, the mission and commitment remain the same: we honor the service and sacrifice of all our Army women.

Thank you all for your support for the AWF!!!!

Hooah!

Peggy Trossen  
Executive Director

## NOTICE: ★★☆☆☆☆

Starting in 2017, future Flagpoles will be sent electronically by email. Please be sure to update us by email with your name and email address to [subscribe@awfdn.org](mailto:subscribe@awfdn.org) so we can ensure you don’t miss an edition. The Spring Flagpole will continue to be printed and mailed and will also be available in the electronic version. If you do not have access to the internet, please let us know so we can keep you

## AWF RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Welcome to our inaugural Recommended Reading List where we will share with you books that support professional development. Our first list includes literature as well as non-fiction books about leadership, ethics and courage. Let us know what you think of these books. And let us know what books you recommend. Email us at [info@awfdn.org](mailto:info@awfdn.org). Follow us on Facebook. You can also find us on Twitter @USAWF.

*Once An Eagle*, by Anton Myrer

Fiction. Published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Through the contrast of two main characters, the war novel demonstrates how to lead with a strong moral compass and warns against blind ambition.

*Ashley’s War*, by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

Non-fiction. Published by HarperCollins

Lemmon reveals the roles and experiences of some of the first women to serve on the battlefield alongside Army Special Operations teams in Afghanistan. The all-women Cultural Support Teams allowed U.S. forces greater access to civilians because the female units could engage Afghan women and children in a cultural environment that would make it inappropriate for men to do so. Lemmon focuses on Cultural Support Team 2, and 1st Lieutenant Ashley White.

*A Higher Standard*, by Gen. Ann Dunwoody, USA, Ret.

Non-fiction. Published by Da Capo Press

Ann Dunwoody made history in 2008 when she became the first woman in the U.S. military to pin on her fourth star. She was widely credited with transforming the Army logistic organizations and was in charge of a \$60 billion global enterprise with 69,000 employees. In *A Higher Standard*, Dunwoody shares what she learned over her 38-year Army career, from her days as a second lieutenant to her final assignment as Commanding General of Army Materiel Command.

## ARMY WOMEN’S FOUNDATION NINTH ANNUAL SUMMIT SPONSORS

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## LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS — MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Legacy Scholarship program began in 2008 and since the initial launch of the program, the Army Women's Foundation has awarded a total of 190 scholarships across 41 states and territories. In 2017 alone, we were able to award 34 scholarships totaling over \$50,000. We are grateful to be able to assist Army women and their children in this pursuit of achieving their educational goals and dreams, but this is only possible through generous donations from our supporters.

The Foundation's Legacy Scholarship Program is available to all Army women — active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve and their lineal descendants. The Legacy Scholarship program offers financial support in four areas: Certificate programs, Community College coursework, Undergraduate Degrees, and Graduate Degrees. Scholarships are awarded only for coursework from accredited institutions and are based on merit, academic potential, community service, letters of recommendation, and need. Visit [www.AWFDN.org/Scholarships](http://www.AWFDN.org/Scholarships) for more information and the online application.

## 2017 LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### ARMY WOMEN



SPC Vanessa Anderson



Alessandra Carrillo



Bora Chang



SPC Royce Cook



Susan D'Addio



Cadet Christina Dittmer



E5 Judith DuBose



SGT Lisa Ellis



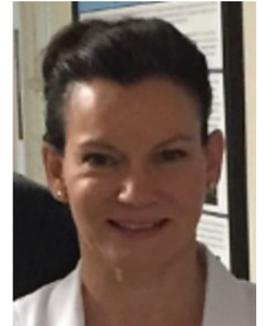
SPC Chelsea Emmerich



E4 Natasha Gibson



SGT Ashley Gorbulja



E5 Bernadette Greenwood



2LT Katrina James



E4 Christine Jensen



Adrienne Kambouris



2LT Dakota Olson



SPC Lisa Perez



Ashley Radke



E4 Lacey Sanchez



CPT Emma Schiller



Luisa Hall Valdez



E4 Idamae Wallace



CW5 Phyllis Wilson

### CHILDREN OF ARMY WOMEN



Brittany Bran



Dominique Charleston



Monya Coleman



Trayvon Foy



Roni Fraser



Andrew Johnson



Megan Kelley



Bobbie Miller



Mackenzie Morris



Lauren Smith



Tyler Todd

# ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION NINTH ANNUAL SUMMIT

## EVOLVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARMY WOMEN:

### EQUIP—EMPOWER—ENGAGE

Pride and passion were the hallmarks of the Army Women's Foundation's 9th Annual Summit and Hall of Fame Reception held on March 8, 2017 at the US Capitol. Presenters and participants in the Summit focused on the theme: "Evolving Opportunities for Army Women: Equip - Empower- Engage," while repeatedly emphasizing pride in the U.S. Army and passion about the emerging opportunities and roles for women soldiers.

Kicking off the program, Congressman Chris Stewart (R-Utah) enthusiastically introduced Major General Hugh Van Roosen, Deputy G-1, Department of the Army. General Van Roosen's outstanding presentation, "2020 Soldier Implementation - Right Soldier, Right Job," detailed the history, current status, and future steps in the Army's implementation of the 10 March 2016, Army plan directing full integration of women into all Army MOS's. He explained that creating a new culture and training leadership are critical to successful integration. As such, the Army set its timetable for achieving an appropriate climate within the Army, then initiating gender neutral training, and eventually assigning qualified women to operational units. Standards were not changed or lowered and



Congressman Chris Stewart (R-Utah) introduced General Van Roosen.



General Hugh Van Roosen, USA, Deputy G-1, gave the opening keynote speech.

there are no quotas. Following 88 women Infantry and Armor officers and noncommissioned officers, 342 women soldiers have been assessed and are being trained for assignment to Infantry and Armored units. Several longitudinal studies are under way to validate various aspects of the plan. A lively question and answer session followed. The Army's commitment to 'Right Soldier, Right Job' without regard to gender was evident in Major General Van Roosen's passion for his subject, noted AWF President Anne Macdonald, Brigadier General, USA, Ret. in her remarks thanking him for his comprehensive explanation of progress and plans.

Following a well-attended luncheon affording speakers and their audience to interact, former Army Surgeon General Patricia Horoho (Lieutenant General, USA, Retired), both enlightened Summit attendees with respect to gender-focused health issues and a passionate call for further action. Pointing out the myriad ways men and women differ in their health needs, she cited the fact that women are susceptible to different diseases, respond differently to treatments, and react differently to stress, than their male counterparts. LTG Horoho called for more research in support of gender appropriate prevention and treatments. With palpable feeling,



LTG Patricia Horoho, USA (Ret.) gave a keynote speech after lunch about the current health issues.

LTG Horoho called upon women to make their voices heard. She expressed pride in what had been accomplished by the Army to date, but made the case that more has to be done to ensure tailored, person-directed health (and not just healthcare) programs in the service.

The Summit then addressed the needs and opportunities of current and future women soldiers, with a continuing affirmation of the themes of pride in the Army "family", and passion about the accomplishments and opportunities for women.

First, under the enthusiastic guidance of CSM Donna Brock USA, Retired, the audience heard "The Army Experience of Extraordinary Women." Vice President and Corporate Counsel of Prudential Financial, Amy Woltman, a Harvard Law graduate,



Extraordinary Army Women Panel: Moderator: CSM Donna Brock, (Ret) USA, Treasurer AWF; Amy McNutt Woltman, VP and Corporate Counsel, Prudential; BG Diane Holland, 76th Commandant, U.S. Corps of Cadets U.S. Military Academy, West Point; SGT Elizabeth Marks, USA, Paralympian; CSM Billie Jo Boersma, USA, Garrison Commander, Ft. Belvoir, VA

explained how her service as an enlisted soldier impacted her career in the civilian world. BG Diane Holland, USA, Commandant of the US Corps of Cadets, West Point, emphasized the resilience that comes from regularly being assigned to new positions and the team work required in the Army. CSM Billie Jo Boersma, USA, Garrison Commandant, Fort Belvoir, VA (and the Army's first woman Drill Instructor of the Year) enthusiastically endorsed the Army's confluence of leadership and sense of family, enabling accomplishment of important goals, both individual and organizational. She thanked both male and female mentors for her opportunities to succeed. SGT Elizabeth Marks USA, a gold-medal Paralympian received standing applause for her expression of the importance to her recovery and accomplishments of the Army family support as she continued to fight against being found unfit for duty because of her disabilities. The support helped her push personal boundaries. This led her to ask attendees to empower others by believing in them. All participants in the panel agreed that Army culture was being changed by and for women soldiers.

A second panel focused on "Opportunities in the Private Sector and How to find them". Presenters from Prudential, Walmart, Sierra Nevada, and GE, with extensive experience in recruitment of veterans for their organizations discuss the extensive programs these, and other corporations, have for veterans. To find the positions, they emphasized starting early in one's military career to identify what they might want to do after leaving the Army, taking advantage, then, of Army training and credentialing opportunities. Several encouraged building networks within the Service including people who might precede you into the private sector when interviewing for a private position, there was a consensus that job-seekers should be proud of their Army experience and emphasize the wide-variety of skills learned and applied in whatever operational specialty. The audience was provided with a number of other specific, valuable tips.



Private Sector Panel: Moderator: James Beamesderfer, VP of Veterans Initiatives, Prudential; COL Adam Rocke, Soldier for Life; Jack Hulme, Market HR Manager MD Area, Walmart; Kris Urbauer, Program Manager, General Electric Company; LTC Jennifer Jensen, (Ret) USA, VP, Sierra Nevada Corporation

# ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION NINTH ANNUAL SUMMIT

## EVOLVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARMY WOMEN:

### EQUIP—EMPOWER—ENGAGE

Cont'd...

COL Adam Rocke, Special Assistant to Chief of Staff of the Army and Director of Soldier for Life Program, spoke with both pride and passion about his program, committed to ensuring the strength and support of the Army Family continues after active service. The program partners with the Department of Labor, the VA, DOD, the other services, and private sector corporations, to provide for outgoing soldiers and to support their subsequent endeavors. It boasts a 93% placement rate.

During the Summit, the US Army Women's Foundation proudly identified the recipients of 35 academic scholarships for 2017 – 2018, granted to Army women, active and retired, and to children of Army women. Additionally, they announced two newly-available full scholarships soon to be awarded to attend American Public University for online degrees.

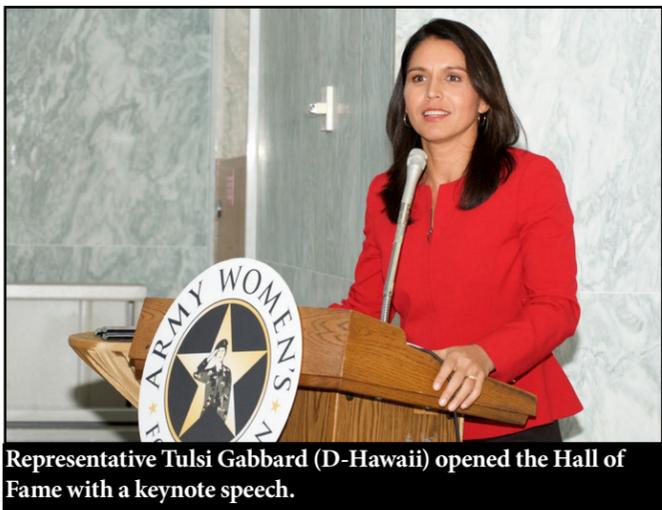
## ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION HALL OF FAME

The day concluded with a reception in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building, where Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), now an officer in the Hawaii Army National Guard, (after earlier serving as a specialist with her field medical unit in Iraq), keynoted the presentation of the 2017 US Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame inductees. Representative (and US Army Major) Gabbard called for continuing support for the important work of the Army Women's Foundation in highlighting and promoting the importance of Army women's service and sacrifice to the Army and the country.

The Class of 2017 Hall of Fame inductees included The Honorable Coral Wong Pietsch, a former brigadier general who now serves as a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; CW5 Phyllis Wilson, who in more than 35 years of active and reserve service has served at all echelons from tactical to strategic; along with the posthumous induction of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Betty Benson, who remained on active duty until her 30-year mandatory retirement on June 30, 1980.

The Pioneer Women of Cultural Support Teams 1 through 7 also were inducted. They are comprised of female Soldiers from the Army, Guard and Reserve, Air Force and Navy who served on the front lines supporting Rangers, SEALs, and other special operations combat forces during the Afghan war. Also inducted were seven Army Women Olympians and Paralympians who included Cyclists Shawn Cheshire, Shawn Morelli and Jennifer Schuble, sitting volleyball player Kari Miller, paratriathletes Melissa Stockwell and Retired Col. Patricia Collins, along with swimmer Sergeant Elizabeth Marks.

2017 Special Recognition Awards went to Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of the New York Times best seller, *Ashley's War*; The Honorable Leon Panetta and Retired General Martin Dempsey for their decision in lifting the military ban of women in combat MOSs; and Retired Admiral Eric Olson who authorized the establishment of the Cultural Support Team in 2009/2010 during Operations Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.



Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) opened the Hall of Fame with a keynote speech.



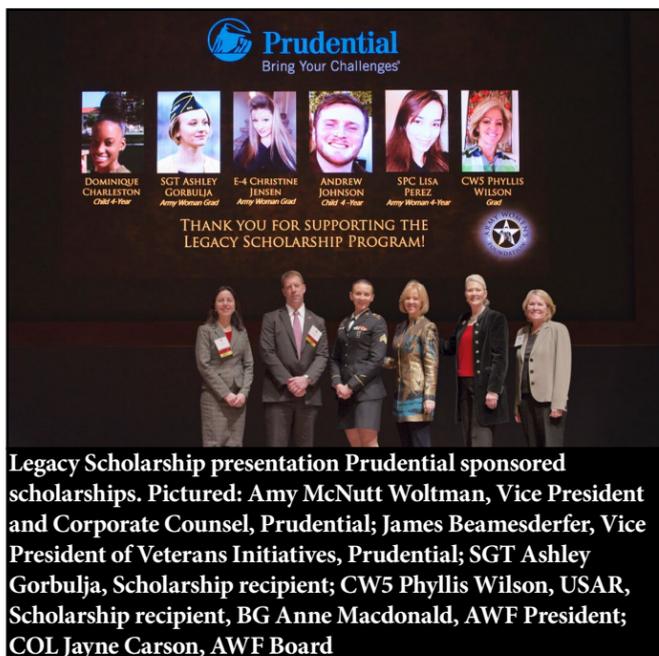
2017 Hall of Fame inductees : US Army Paralympians: COL Patty Collins, USA (Ret.), Shawn Cheshire, and SGT Elizabeth Marks, USA



2017 Hall of Fame inductees: The Honorable Coral Wong Pietsch and CW5 Phyllis Wilson, USAR



CSM Betty Benson, USA (Ret) was inducted to the AWF Hall of Fame posthumously. Her niece accepted the award on her behalf. Pictured: CSM Cindy Pritchett, AWF 1st VP; Barbara Palmer, Niece of CSM Betty Benson; BG Anne Macdonald, AWF President



Legacy Scholarship presentation Prudential sponsored scholarships. Pictured: Amy McNutt Woltman, Vice President and Corporate Counsel, Prudential; James Beamesderfer, Vice President of Veterans Initiatives, Prudential; SGT Ashley Gorbulja, Scholarship recipient; CW5 Phyllis Wilson, USAR, Scholarship recipient; BG Anne Macdonald, AWF President; COL Jayne Carson, AWF Board



The Army Women's Foundation awarded 34 scholarships to Army women and their children. Pictured: COL Alice Demarais, USA (Ret.) Scholarship Committee Chair; BG Anne Macdonald, USA (Ret.), AWF President; COL Jayne Carson, USA (Ret.), AWF Board



Army Women's Foundation  
P.O. Box 5030 Fort Lee, VA 23801-0030

Phone: 804-734-3078  
Fax: 804-734-3077

Email: [info@awfdn.org](mailto:info@awfdn.org)  
Web: [www.awfdn.org](http://www.awfdn.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 4,** Nationwide Independence Day

**July 17-22,** Cincinnati, OH  
36th National Veterans Wheelchair Games  
[www.wheelchairgames.org/](http://www.wheelchairgames.org/)

**July 22-26,** New Orleans, LA  
118th VFW National Convention - 2017  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

**July 29-Aug 1,** New Orleans, LA  
DAV 2017 National Convention  
[www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

**Aug 8-12,** New Orleans, LA  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
[www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

**Aug 16-20,** Pittsburg, PA  
71st Annual National WAC Convention  
"Bridging the Generations"  
[www.armywomen.org](http://www.armywomen.org)

**Aug 18-24,** Reno, NV  
The American Legion National Convention  
[www.legion.org/convention](http://www.legion.org/convention)

**Aug 29-31,** National Harbor, MD  
Paralyzed Veterans of America 7th Annual Summit + Expo  
[www.summitpva.org](http://www.summitpva.org)

**Sept 28-29,** Los Angeles, CA  
State of the American Veteran Conference  
<http://cir.usc.edu/savc2017>

**Oct 9-11,** Washington, DC  
AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition  
[www.ausea.org](http://www.ausea.org)  
Be sure to come visit our booth at AUSA!

### ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

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Honoring Service and Sacrifice  
P.O. Box 5030  
Fort Lee, VA 23801-0030  
Phone (804) 734-3078  
Fax (804) 734-3077  
[info@awfdn.org](mailto:info@awfdn.org)  
[www.AWFDN.org](http://www.AWFDN.org)

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## SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION!

An annual contribution of \$25 or more entitles you and/or your Friend to receive our semi-annual newsletter, notices of events and reunions, and program updates.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Museum Support.

*\*Bronze Plaque Memorial Fund offers the opportunity to permanently honor deceased members of the Armed Forces, their friends and family, and the fallen heroes of current conflicts by placing their name on a bronze plaque that is located at the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia. The plaques are cast bi-annually, and the required minimum contribution for memorialization is \$100. All proceeds in excess of costs from the Bronze Memorial Plaque program will be used to further the mission of the AWF and its programs. We are currently accepting names for Plaque XVIII through December 31, 2016.*

#### Person to be Acknowledged: Method of Payment:

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Managing Editor: Peggy Trossen; Editor: April Booth; Contributing Editors: Anne Macdonald, Jenelle Roberts, Debbie Funk, Beth Spitzley.  
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