When Janey Comes Marching Home

Contributed by Laura Browder

Photo courtesy of the University of North Carolina Press

By and large, the American public is unaware of just how many women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and the incredible range of roles they have taken on there. Photographer Sascha Pflaeging and I hoped to bring their stories and images to a broad public through our exhibit “When Janey Comes Marching Home: Portraits of Women Combat Veterans,” which premiered at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond in 2008. It has since then embarked on a national tour, which will conclude next fall at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

The women I met amazed me with their guts and determination. Army Captain Kelly Nocks had undergone eighteen surgeries on her leg after being hit with an IED. She was determined to deploy again, despite the fact that she was restricted from running, crawling, or bearing weight. Army Staff Sergeant Laweeda Blash, who has four children including an autistic daughter, deployed three times to Iraq between 2003 and 2006. She talked with me about what she did to keep her family together during and after those deployments—and how it was only when she came to Arlington National Cemetery and visited the graves of every soldier who had fallen during OIF and OEF that she was able to find peace after her wartime service.

Visitors to the exhibit have lingered, sometimes for hours, in front of the full-color photographic portraits and oral history text panels. This past summer, over 75,000 visitors were able to see the exhibit at the Women’s Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Army Women’s Foundation. Both gallery-goers and readers of the book When Janey Comes Marching Home—which includes 48 full-color, full-page photographs by Sascha Pflaeging as well as fuller versions of each woman’s story—have told me how moved they have been by the experiences of these servicewomen. I can only tell them in return what a great privilege it has been for me to be able to hear and share these stories.

I was honored to offer welcoming remarks at the Memorial Day event at the Women’s Memorial. With the Arlington Cemetery in clear site, and the Lincoln Memorial only a short distance away, I was reminded of how high a price so many have paid for freedom, and today, how many continue to serve and sacrifice for our country.

Our Foundation’s mission is to remember those who have served and to support today’s women soldiers as they serve, and beyond. The Foundation has joined with others to tell the story of Army women and to provide ongoing education to different stakeholders about the unique needs of women who serve. Here are some highlights:

- From Memorial Day through Labor Day, based on a book by Dr. Laura Browder and photographer, Sascha Pflaeging, an extraordinary exhibit, “When Janey Comes Marching Home: Portraits of Women Combat Veterans” was opened to the public. Through the generosity of a grant from TriWest HealthCare Alliance, and a partnership with the Women’s Memorial, the Foundation sponsored this exhibit which was comprised of 44 large-scale photographic portraits and an accompanying oral history of servicewomen, all veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. For more information, go to www.janeycomeshome.com.

- From October 25-27th, we will again be an exhibitor at the USA Annual meeting and Symposium. This is an opportunity for us to meet literally thousands of military, corporate and civilian attendees and highlight the contributions and unique needs of Army women.

We are planning for our next Symposium and Hall of Fame Luncheon scheduled to be held, once again, during Women’s History Month in March. Army Women in Transition will be held on Capitol Hill, allowing for key legislators and stakeholders to attend and participate. Workforce Development issues will be an important component of our third annual symposium. Stay tuned for event details.

I am delighted to announce that CSM (Ret) Cynthia Pritchett of Florida and COL (Ret) Alice L.O’K. Demarais of Arizona have joined our Board of Directors. Alice and Cindy have participated in our Symposium and are passionate about our mission. They are profiled in this issue of the Flagpole. We are also saddened by the recent death of one of our former Board members, Colonel (Ret) Lorraine Rossi. Her passing is a loss for all of us. We are grateful for her years of service and support of the Foundation and send our sincere condolences to her family.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your support of the foundation. We would not be able to do our work without your commitment to our mission.

Best regards,

Dee Ann McWilliams, President
Major General, USA (Retired)

Welcome To the Board!

We welcome two new additions to the AWF Board of Directors—Colonel (Ret) Alice Demarais USA, and CSM (Ret) Cynthia Pritchett USA.

COL Demarais served for over 30 years as a military nurse in the Navy Nurse Corps and the Army Nurse Corps. She currently is the Phoenix Hub Clinical Director for TriWest Healthcare Alliance, responsible for clinical services for military beneficiaries in a four state area.

Readers might recognize CSM Cynthia Pritchett as formerly a member of the Foundation’s Advisory Board—one of the first recipients of the AWF Hall of Fame Award. CSM Pritchett was on active duty with the United States Army for over 36 years and joined the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies in February 2010.

To read more about COL Demarais and CSM Pritchett, please visit our website at www.awfdn.org!
In Memoriam — Retired Army colonel Lorraine A. Rossi

Retired Army Colonel Lorraine A. Rossi, 81, died suddenly on August 6, 2010 at her Hingham, Mass. home. Col. Rossi was a long term member of the Army Women’s Foundation and predecessor boards of directors and since retiring had been a director emeritus.

Born in 1929 in Boston, she attended local schools and graduated from Bridgewater State College. In 1952 she received a direct commission in the Women’s Army Corps. Following training and a brief assignment at Fort Lee, Va., she was assigned to the group activating the Women’s Army Corps Center at Fort McClellan, Ala. Assignments in Phoenix, Ariz., Fort Ord, Calif., and Fort Richardson, Alaska followed. Overseas assignments included a tour in Japan and later in Vietnam where she was the senior WAC advisor to the Republic of Vietnam’s Women’s Armed Forces Corps. From 1971 to 1973 she served as the deputy commander of the WAC Center before replacing Col. Shirley Heinze as the last Center commander. Having worked to activate the WAC Center, she was charged with closing it, which she did on Dec. 31, 1976. Her last active duty assignment was as the director of the Army Equal Opportunity Program in the Pentagon. She retired June 30, 1980. Her awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and the Joint Service and Army Commendation Medals.

Col. Rossi remained active in retirement with veterans, community, and church affairs. She served on the Veterans Administration Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, was an active member of the WAC Veterans Association, and volunteered at the Veterans Administration Hospital near her home. She is survived by her older sister Jeanne Rossi of Kennebunkport, Maine, and many friends and relatives.

From The Executive Director

I am pleased to report that as we expand the scope of our Foundation activities, we are creating a growing list of other organizations working with us to serve Army women.

The Women’s Memorial (WIMSHA) hosted the “When Janey Comes Marching Home” exhibit, which we were proud to co-sponsor.

We are working with the Friends of the World War II Memorial on a special program for Veterans Day honoring women who served during WWII, and our President will lay a wreath during the ceremony.

We have a growing number of educational institutions who have learned about us and have worked with us. We are in the process of developing these collaborations: George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, the University of Richmond in Richmond, VA, Northern Virginia Community College and other academic institutions are in the works.

In the private sector, we have received assistance from The Rhodes Group, a public affairs company in Washington, D.C., and Hayes and Associates, a public relations firm.

The Association of the U.S. Army is once again providing us with a booth at their national convention in October in Washington, D.C. This convention is one of the largest in the world and we will be there representing Army women. Hooah!

We are partnering in the non-profit world: Academy Women, the Army Nurses Foundation, Business and Professional Women’s Foundation and the Quartermaster Foundation.

As Executive Director, I see a major part of my job to be building relationships with all of these organizations, not just to enhance fundraising, but to draw on their energy, share ideas and knowledge, and to create and promote programs for our supporters and Army women everywhere.

Peggy Trossen
Executive Director

Legacy Scholarships — Making a Difference

Recognizing the importance of education and helping recipients achieve their goals, the Foundation Legacy Scholarship announces the addition of scholarships for students attending community college. Whether it can be attributed to current economic times or better recruiting, community colleges are seeing an unprecedented surge in the number of applicants and the Army Women’s Foundation recognizes the importance of assisting with education funding at all academic levels.

The Legacy Scholarship program offers financial support towards community college coursework and undergraduate degrees to Army women and their lineal descendants. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service and need. Ten Community College Legacy Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of $1,000 each and two College/University Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of $2,500 each. For more information visit our website at www.awfdn.org. Please encourage qualified applicants to apply!

Corporate Corner

“Corporate Corner” is the first in a series of articles highlighting corporations and foundations that support the Army Women’s Foundation. We appreciate their support. We are able to do our work because of their input, ideas and belief in our mission.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance is privileged to serve military families and military retirees. Each day we do “Whatever it Takes” to deliver quality healthcare to the men and women who selflessly protect our freedom, and to their dependents who have sacrificed with them.

As the TRICARE managed care support contractor for the TRICARE West Region, TriWest manages the TRICARE program in 21 states in the western United States. Through a network of approximately 155,000 providers, we support the military health system by ensuring that military families receive the health care they need, as close to home as possible.

Our staff understands military culture, often because they have lived it. More than half of TriWest’s employees have a personal connection to the military. Many of our employees served in uniform, and many have a family member who has served, or currently is in the military.

Alice Demarais, Hub Clinical Operations Director in Phoenix, AZ, is one of those employees. Demarais’ son serves in the Army. Both she and her husband enjoyed military careers. Demarais retired at the rank of colonel from the Army Nurse Corps with a wealth of experience: she cared for patients at their bedside; taught medics how to care for wounded troops; developed personnel for leadership positions; planned medical facilities; and commanded a hospital as one of the first group of non-physicians to do so.

“It was a logical step to come to TriWest. We share many of the same values; taking care of service members and their families,” said Demarais.

“What more could you want to do in life?”

It’s our people and our mission that make us what we are, and we salute the Army Women’s Foundation for the people it represents, and its mission of educating female soldiers, developing Army leaders, and recording the contributions of women who serve in the military.

Foreground: Alice L. Demarais, Executive Director, at Fort Lee, Virginia, for the women's health care center. Background: Lt. Bretz (Cates), Lt. Rossi, Capt. K. Sutherland, Lt. Ann B. Smith, Lt. Thompson, and Vogue Nicks. Photo taken at Fort Lee, VA c. 1954

The Women’s Memorial (WIMSHA) hosted the “When Janey Comes Marching Home” exhibit, which we were proud to co-sponsor.

Fall 2010

The Flagpole
2009–2010 BRONZE MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The memorial plaque program provides the opportunity to remember deceased military or family members, friends or colleagues by placing their name on a permanent plaque in the Army Women’s Museum memorial garden. A donation of $100 is required before a person’s name is included on the plaque. All women soldiers killed in the Global War on Terror are included at the Foundation’s expense. Names are now being taken through December 31, 2010 for Plaque XV which covers 2009 and 2010. If you notice an error on this list or if you know a rank for one of the persons listed below, please contact the Foundation office. This is an opportunity to ensure the correct name will be cast on the plaque. Please also note the list of pending memorials as there is additional funds needed to complete these names.

MEMORIALS (continued)

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PENDING MEMORIALS

(additional funds are needed)

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**U.S. 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
Web: www.awfdn.org

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Nov 4**, Boston, MA
Women Are Veterans Too! Sixth Annual Celebration
www.mass.gov/?pageID=veteransterminal&fileid=Home&L1=Women+Veterans&csid=Eveterans
[www.mass.gov/?pageID=veteransterminal&L=2&L0=](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=veteransterminal&L=2&L0=)

**Nov 9**, Branson, MO
2010 Rose Petal Ceremony and Luncheon
http://www.bransonwomenveterans.com/page/page/24045629.htm

**Nov 10**, Washington D.C.
Salute to the Women of WWII Reception
Kick-off to the Veteran’s Day activities
6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Women’s Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery

Contact the Foundation office for more information.

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**ARMY WOMEN’S FOUNDATION**

Est. 1969
Honoring Service and Sacrifice
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Fort Lee, VA 23801-0030
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info@awfdn.org
[www.awfdn.org](http://www.awfdn.org)

While visiting our website, check out our online giftshop!

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Ronald Redman, Jr., 2nd Vice President
Lynne Lavalle, Treasurer
Elizabeth ‘Franki’ Whitbeck, Secretary

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Gail Howel
Diana Huron
Vicki Merryman
Cynthia Pritchett
Jennifer Siciliano
Helen Smith
Nanette White
Francoise Bonnell, Acting Director, Ex-Officio

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**FOUNDATION STAFF**

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Peggy Trossen (ptrossen@awfdn.org)

Chief Administrative Officer
April Booth (abooth@awfdn.org)

Administrative Associate
Brenda Armitage (barmitage@awfdn.org)

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**BECOME A ‘FRIEND’ OF 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.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Donation Amount: $ _____, directed as follows: (Check one, or if more than one, specify amounts for each.)

- Program Support & General Operations
- Bronze Plaque Memorial Fund* (Name of honoree: ____________________________)
- Museum Support

*Individually or organizations may establish a memorial fund for a specific person. The deceased individual’s name is placed on a bronzed memorial plaque once the minimum $100 donation is reached. The Memorial Plaque is dedicated every two years—the current plaque will run from Jan. 1, 2009–Dec. 31, 2010; you may add names of persons who died in an earlier period.

**Person to be Acknowledged:**

(Recipient of Friend’s gift or nest of kin for Memorial Fund)

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Relationship to honoree: ____________________________

**Method of Payment:**

- Check (payable to U.S. Army Women’s Foundation)
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover

- Credit Card #: ____________________________
- Exp. date: ____________________________

- Name on card: ____________________________
- Signature: ____________________________

- Verification Code: ________________ (on back of card)

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The U.S. Army Women’s Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and your contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

Mail or fax this form to: U. S. Army Women’s Foundation / P.O. Box 5030 / Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-0030 / FAX: (804) 734-3077

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