Recently I have had the opportunity to reflect on how far the Foundation has moved over the past three years in meeting its mission of recognizing the service and sacrifice of Army Women. I particularly felt this as I watched SGM Grace Mueller, a veteran of the World War II years, and representatives of the breakthrough West Point class of 1980 be recognized at our Hall of Fame Luncheon in front of the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Congressional staff, members of the media, retired women generals and sergeants major, veterans, and young women cadets from today’s West Point. I encourage you to read the Washington Post article on our honorees posted on our web site, which captures the spirit of these extraordinary women.

This year we were also able to award seven Legacy scholarships to Army women veterans and their daughters. We were able to expand this effort through a partnership with our Foundation’s steadfast friends and our new industry and non-profit partners. Reaching outside our traditional base of sponsors to industry leaders such as Walmart, Booz Allen Hamilton, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Microsoft, Oshkosh, has brought us expertise and support that has made our three symposiums a great opportunity for outreach to Congress and sharing the best practices in aiding our women soldiers as they transition to civilian life.

We have received great assistance from the Association of the US Army which helped us increase the visibility of Army women and partnered with us and Hayes Associates in recognizing our women World War II veterans. One of the scholarships we awarded this year was funded by the Disabled Veterans of America, another great non-profit partner.

I am thankful also for the increase in individual donors, recent bequests from our long time friends, and the work of those who volunteer support to the Foundation, for it signals to me that you are still touched by the Foundation’s mission. Together we can make a difference, increasing respect for the service of Army women to our Nation and assisting those who answered its call.

Best regards,

Dee Ann McWilliams
Major General, USA (Retired)
President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Women in the Army
- Legacy Scholarships Making a Difference
- 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Luncheon
- Faces of the Fallen
- Welcome to the Board!
- Bronze Memorial Plaque
- Foundation in the News
- Upcoming Events
- Giving

From ARMY Magazine, March 2011. Copyright 2011 by the Association of the U.S. Army. Limited reprint permission granted by USA.
SGT Major Grace L. Mueller, USA (Ret), a truly unique, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, is the daughter of a veteran Army officer. Seven deserving women, selected from an applicant pool from across the country, received the Army Women’s Foundation 2011 Legacy Scholarship. College tuition is on the rise and financial resources are declining, making scholarships even more critical to students today. The Legacy Scholarships are available for tuition assistance at the community college level or four year academic institutions:

Community College Legacy Scholarships

The Foundation’s Legacy Scholarship program recognizes the importance of education by providing financial support toward undergraduate degrees to Army women and their lineal descendants. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service and need and are evaluated by the AWF Scholarship Committee. For more information, visit www.awfdn.org.

Catherine Cornish became a Radiology Technologist during her enlistment. She later earned a professional license in Diagnostic Radiology & Mammography and is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Radiology Science. “Winning this scholarship, especially during Women’s History Month, really helps me to focus on my accomplishments as it relates to community service. It makes me feel honored to be awarded this scholarship from a long line of highly accomplished and decorated Legacy of Female Warriors.”

Linsey DeLuca enlisted in the Army to serve her country, get job training and an education, while gaining knowledge and experience. She now attends St. Petersburg Community College to get her degree in International Business. “This scholarship is a blessing and will allow me to finish up the last courses that I need to complete my degree. This will bring a huge sense of accomplishment to me and will show my son that hard work and dedication pays off.”

Four-Year College Level Scholarships

Elinor Carrick, a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm, is attending American Military University to gain a degree in Sports and Health Sciences with an emphasis on Exercise Science. “I am hoping to attend a Master’s program in Physical Therapy; I would like to focus on rehabilitation for combat injuries and work to give back to the Army that has provided me so many opportunities.”

Kristina Christensen’s service as a medic in the Army National Guard drove her to return to school so she could continue her career as an Army Nurse. She is currently a senior nursing student at Carroll College in Helena, MT, and upon graduation will commission as an officer in the Army Nurse Corps. “I am honored that I will have the opportunity to care for those individuals who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom. During this time, I hope to work towards my Master’s degree and eventually become a Nurse Practitioner.”

From the Executive Director

As our Foundation’s Third Annual Symposium and Hall of Fame Luncheon on March 17th was concluding, a veteran, unknown to me, approached and said, “I have never been so proud to have served in the Army.”

After spending a morning exploring in depth the issues of concern as Army women transition to civilian schooling and jobs, we then honored:

- SGT Major Grace L. Mueller, USA (Ret), a truly extraordinary example of the best of military service: one of the youngest women to enlist in the newly created Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), after demobilization she enlisted in the ranks and served for thirty years. She was recognized as a mentor of Army women and men and received a lengthy standing ovation.

The Women of West Point, Class of 1980, were the first women to graduate from USMA and as Congressman John Shimkus, himself a member of the class of ’80, so did they. Men did not make it easy for the women. Congressman Shimkus called them true pioneers in the best sense of the word.

Present to hear the women of West Point Class of ’80 were seven cadets from the Academy, who were encouraged by the pioneers to add their achievements to those of the women who went before. One of our witnesses was a student that “at least” one member of the present Academy women would become Commander in Chief of all U.S. forces.

Tania Payne, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, served as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic with the 514th Maintenance Company, 10th Mountain Division in New York. She is attending California State University at Fullerton where she studies strength and conditioning in kinesiology and plans to apply to graduate school there for strength and conditioning. Tania hopes to help with physical training programs for veterans, the military, law enforcement, or the fire department.

SGT Shannon Western, USA, a veteran of Operation Bright Star as a 34th Co Radio Operator (Signal Corps), is a current Reserve officer who voluntarily deployed with the 934th Financial Management Company to Kabul, Afghanistan. Shannon is enrolled in Strayer University for her Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in acquisition and contract management. “My objective would be able to obtain a challenging position with the United States Government that will maximize my skills and abilities accumulated over the years; further allowing me an opportunity to provide excellent professional care and management reflecting DOD’s Financial Goals—preventing fraud, waste, and abuse!”

Sara Yingling is the daughter of a veteran Army Service woman and she will soon graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a major in Gender and Women Studies, a Concentration in Medical History and Bioethics, and a Certificate in African Studies. She has also completed the Denals of North American Training and is working on her certification to become a doula. “My goal is to empower women through education to be advocates for their own reproductive health. As a means to achieve this, I will be traveling with my professor and a couple other students to Kenya this summer to train rural women on maternal and neo-natal health care.”
The 3rd Annual Women in Transition Symposium was held Thursday, March 17, 2011, in the Capitol Visitors Center in Washington, D.C. The symposium is held annually in March to correspond with Women’s History Month to explore issues impacting today’s Army women while honoring those of yesterday. This year’s symposium was entitled “From Battlefront to Homefront”. The symposium was structured in a two panel format, Education and Workforce Development, and was moderated by Anne Gearan, the national security editor and senior national security correspondent for The Associated Press (AP).

The room was filled with soldiers, past and present, and their civilian supporters. The President of the Army Women’s Foundation, MG (Ret) Dee Ann McWilliams, thanked everyone for attending and for fostering the continuing dialogue among legislators, academic institutions, corporate leaders and non-profit organizations whose mission is to support our service women. Ms. Gearan introduced the panel members: Dr. Laura Herrera, MD, MPH, Laura Herrera. As the director of Women’s Comprehensive Health for the state of Maryland, Dr. Herrera’s responsibilities include enhancing overall health care for that state’s women veterans. Not only is Dr. Herrera a noted physician with extensive experience in community health collaborations and delivery of public health for veteran women, but as a member of the Army Reserve, she saw first-hand the medical needs of women in combat when she was deployed to Camp Bucca in Iraq.

Prior to the panel discussions, MG McWilliams introduced a special guest speaker, Dr. Laura Herrera. As the director of Women’s Comprehensive Health for the state of Maryland, Dr. Herrera’s responsibilities include enhancing overall health care for that state’s women veterans. Not only is Dr. Herrera a noted physician with extensive experience in community health collaborations and delivery of public health for veteran women, but as a member of the Army Reserve, she saw first-hand the medical needs of women in combat when she was deployed to Camp Bucca in Iraq.

Additionally, MG McWilliams recognized and thanked the sponsors of the event, which included Walmart, Booz Allen Hamilton, Microsoft, Raytheon Company, TriWest Healthcare Alliance and the U.S. Army Women’s Foundation Board of Directors.

Ms. Gearan asked each panel member for an opening remark on their thoughts on women veterans in the post-secondary educational environment. Ms. Aldridge led the panel remarks, stating that the number of service women attending school increases every year. She noted that the female veteran is often an atypical student, older, married, a mother, talented and tenacious, and a pragmatic consumer that has special needs due to her special circumstances. Ms. Aldridge spoke of the need for their educational experience to be portable, and to have flexible opportunities with virtual support systems.

Michael Johnson noted the increasing alliance between academia and the military, to include the Joint Chiefs of Staff emphasis on education for transitioning military members.

Harris Miller, who represented the private sector colleges and universities, echoed Ms. Aldridge’s description of the female veteran student and stated that while public education and programs are being cut, private investors are still investing in postsecondary educational institutions.

Ms. Krause’s military service gave her a unique perspective for her remarks. Meg Krause served eight years as a medic in the Army. During her five years of active duty, she served two overseas tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She stated that when she went back to school, she found “campus far less familiar than the combat zone” and that veterans have distinct needs for integration into the educational environment, particularly women vets.

Women traditionally do not access veteran services due to isolation on campus. They are not identified by their haircuts, or may not have “USMC” tattooed on their arms. Ms. Krause encouraged female veterans to participate in women’s activities and Women’s History Month activities. Her advice was to find the right program and be a self-advocate.

Colonel Dodd said that corporate America knows the Army gets “the best of the best,” and that thirty percent of Booz Allen Hamilton’s staff are veterans. BAH recruits veterans because of their competencies, leadership and values. Colonel Jacobi advised to find mentors in your field to validate what you want. “Go big and go bold” because corporations are looking for confidence and courage. She echoed BG Profit and said “network, network, network.”

Dr. Laura Herrera spoke of the challenges of being a veteran and a mom. She emphasized the special medical needs of our female soldiers and veterans and noted that we are in a period of unprecedented opportunity for collaboration between the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense.

**Panel 1 – Educational Panel**

Ms. Gearan introduced the panel members: Dr. Susan Aldridge, President of the University of Maryland University College; Michael Johnson, Director of the office of Military Services at Northern Virginia Community College; Harris Miller, the President and CEO of the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities; and, Meg Krause, Associate Director for Military Programs at the American Council on Education.

Again, Ms. Gearan asked each panel member for an opening remark on their thoughts on women veterans in the workforce.

Mr. Elmore began the panel discussions discussing veterans in the Small Business Administration (SBA) arena. He emphasized that the SBA is a relatively small organization with only 2,100 employees; there are 140 locations that have VA programs, 40 of them with women and veterans specific services and programs. Mr. Elmore said that veterans self employ at a higher rate than any other population. He concluded by stating that the SBA had initiated a new program targeted specifically at Women Veteran Entrepreneurs.

Major Banks credited the military with letting her see more of the world than just her small hometown in Vermont. She said she knows the transition to civilian life can be tough. She advised veterans to “do research” and marry your military skills to corporate America... “know your story and be able to convey it.”

BG Profit emphasized networking... “soldiers help soldiers”. He compared Walmart’s values and work environment to the military’s... 1) culture of an institution 2) opportunity and expectation to add value 3) lifelong commitment to growth and development, and 4) civil obligations/higher purpose.

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### Panel 2 – Workforce Development

Participants included: William Elmore, Associate Administrator in the Office of Veterans Business Development for the U.S. Small Business Administration; Major Erica Banks, Director of Military Programs for USAA; Brigadier General Gary Profit, Senior Director of Military Programs, Walmart; Colonel Jay Dodd, vice president for Booz Allen Hamilton; and, Colonel Barbara Jacobi, Director of Business Operations for the Microsoft Corporation.

**Our Sponsors —**

Many thanks to our sponsors, without whom the event would not have been possible.

[Image of sponsors]
In conjunction with our Army Women in Transition Symposium, the Army Women’s Foundation hosts the 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Luncheon. We present the Hall of Fame awards to women who have contributed extraordinary service to the Army and to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to women in the Army.

We hosted this year’s luncheon in the majestic Kennedy Caucus Room of the historic Russell Senate Office Building. The Master of Ceremonies was Leon Harris, award winning journalist and one of the nation’s pre-eminent news anchors from ABC-7 News in Washington DC.

Mr. Harris thanked all for attending and then introduced the presentation of the colors and the singing of the national anthem by Sergeant 1st Class Leigh Ann Hinton of The United States Army Band. SFC Hinton’s rendition of the National Anthem was breathtaking and the color guard was spectacular. The tone was set for a very special day.

Mr. Harris then introduced our Foundation President, MG (Ret) Dee Ann McWilliams. MG McWilliams recognized some special guests in the audience...seven young cadets from West Point embarking on their military journey.

Mr. Harris then introduced Angie Messer, a former U.S. Army officer and West Point alum. Ms. Messer is currently serving as Senior Vice President for their Army Business division at Booz Allen Hamilton. She had the honor of introducing General (Ret) Richard Cody, the 31st Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and current Corporate Vice President for L-3 Communications.

GEN Cody congratulated the Army Women’s Foundation on their 3rd annual event. He openly admitted he did not support women entering West Point in the ’70s. However, he also admitted that the women raised the level of standards and maturity at the academy. He was thankful that someone had the foresight to integrate them into West Point and that women had led the Army through the toughest times to make it better. GEN Cody then introduced the keynote speaker for the Hall of Fame Luncheon, the current Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Peter W. Chiarelli.

GEN Chiarelli began his remarks by thanking GEN Cody and MG McWilliams for their continued service to the Army. He went on to recognize the countless contributions by women in Iraq and Afghanistan. He highlighted that there is no longer a “rear” on the modern battlefield. He said that the bravery routinely displayed by soldiers, sailors, Marines, airman and coastguardsmen is truly remarkable. GEN Chiarelli noted that there may not be any recognition for these acts because they are not new or surprising for female military members.

GEN Chiarelli then went on to personally address this year’s inductees to the AWF Hall of Fame, Sergeant Major (Ret) Grace Mueller and the Women of West Point Class of 1980. To SGM Mueller, he said that is a great patriot, an example not just for women, but for all that wear the uniform. To the Women of West Point Class of 1980, he noted 119 entered in 1976 and 62 graduated in 1980, that the Army would absolutely not have achieved all that it had without their contributions and their greatest achievements still lie ahead.

After GEN Chiarelli’s remarks, lunch was served. At the conclusion of the luncheon, MG McWilliams, along with Peggy Trossen, began the tribute to the Hall of Fame Inductees.

“The word pioneer is often overused. In this case it is perfect. A pioneer is a person who opens a new field, paving the way for others to follow. Retired Sergeant Major Grace Mueller is just that person. She was one of the young women who enlisted in the newly created Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in the summer of ’42. She’d heard a radio announcement about the formation of the new unit and enlisted only two weeks after the first WAACs began training...Sgt. Major Mueller has spent a long and productive life in service to her country and her community.”

With those remarks, MG McWilliams asked SGM Mueller to come to the stage and accept her award from Peggy Trossen. Once at the podium, SGM Mueller referred to the “Brown Shoe Army,” the personnel that brought World War II to the Cold War, a time the Army still wore khakis and brown shoes. She also revealed that she had been told she had to say something, so she said, “Thank you.”

MG McWilliams introduced another graduate of West Point Class of 1980 — Congressman John Shimkus, who currently represents the 19th district of Illinois. In one of the more emotional moments at the luncheon, Congressman Shimkus opened his comments by stating that he felt he was “not worthy to talk about his classmates.” That he was ashamed at how his male classmates had often treated the women. He told of a story where he was at a dedication of a women’s war memorial in Illinois. He had purchased a brick for the fundraiser and on the brick was engraved “USMA Class of 1980 — Love you all.”

Marené Allison accepted the award for the women of West Point. She acknowledged the women that had come before them and that they felt the responsibility to carry on. She passed the torch to the female cadets in the room and said they should produce congresswomen, Senators, and at least one President! The room erupted in cheers.

The Hall of Fame Luncheon concluded with the announcement of seven Legacy Scholarship Recipients. The U.S. Army Women’s Foundation created a legacy scholarship program to help Army women advance their studies, to help them obtain college degrees and further their careers while serving their country. Peggy Trossen and Lieutenant Colonel Mary Coleman Spring announced this year’s seven scholarship recipients: Elinor Carrick, Kristina Christensen, Catherine Cornish, Linsey DeLuca, Tania Payne, SGT Shannon Western, USAR, and Sara Yingling.

MG McWilliams thanked GENs Cody and Chiarelli for their time, SGM Mueller and the Women of West Point Class of 1980 for their contributions and she wished the Cadets good luck and hoped they learned something valuable about their legacy today.

As the attendees departed, the young mingled with the past, the past with the present...mission complete.

MG McWilliams went on to introduce the second inductee to the Hall of Fame. “This year the Foundation has chosen to honor not just one outstanding Army woman but instead is recognizing 62 women — the first women graduates from West Point — the class of 1980. These pioneers carved a path that held historic implications for those who followed. They took on rigorous academic challenges, comprehensive military training, compulsory athletic participation and a disciplined daily routine on the journey to graduate as Army officers. These women made it possible for other women’s dreams to become a reality.”
**FACES OF THE FALLEN**

**SGT. ZAINAH C. CREAMER**

Zainah is survived by her mother and stepfather, Carlyn and Ernie Brown, her brother, George Creamer III and her K-9 partner, Jofa.

**STAFF SGT ARACELY GONZALEZ O’MALLEY**

Aracely enlisted in the Army in 2002 and served as a Communications Staff Sergeant for eight years. She served in deployments to Iraq, Africa and Afghanistan. She volunteered for the latest tour so that she could deploy with her husband, Ryan P. O’Malley.

Aracely is survived by her husband, Ryan, three children, Sidney, Riley and Sean, parents, Armando and Juantia Gonzalez, two brothers, Santiago and Armando, and two sisters, Lizbeth and Paulette.

**PFC JAYSINE P. PETREE**

Jaysine joined the Army in June 2009 after graduation from Simon Sanchez High School in Yigo where she was part of the Sanchez Sharks wrestling team. She had hoped to go to college on an Army Scholarship. She is survived by her parents Jayne and Herbert Petree and two brothers.

**SGT LINDA L. PIERRE**

She is survived by her parents, Jean and Elvina Pierre and her sister, Cindy. Her family will remember her as a proud soldier with a constant smile on her face.

**PFC AMY RENEE BULLOCK SINKLER**

PFC Amy Renee Bullock Sinker, 23, of Chadbourn, NC, died January 20, 2011 in Baglan Province, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked the convoy she was protecting with a rocket propelled grenade. She was assigned to the 109th Transportation Co., 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Richardson, Alaska. She was a vehicle driver with a group at the post known as the “Rough Riders.”

Amy graduated from West Columbus high School in 2006. She had been quoted as saying she joined the military so that she could get out of the little town she grew up in and see the world.

She is survived by her husband, Douglas, who was her high school sweetheart, parents Randolph and Jackie and sisters Brittany and Sharon. She will always be remembered for her beautiful smile.

**SSG CYNTHIA R. TAYLOR**

Cynthia served as a vehicle mechanic with the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, KY. Cynthia had been serving in the Army since November 2003.

Her awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal; Combat Action Badge and Mechanic Badge.

Cynthia is survived by her daughter, Maggie Taylor of Clarksville, TN, and son, Joseph Goodwin of Oak Grove, KY. She is also survived by her mother, Judy Hart of Clarksville.

**BRONZE MEMORIAL PLAQUE**

The Bronze Memorial Plaque Program 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. Donations in any amount are welcome and will be held until the amount required for the individual minimum, $100.00, is reached. Currently we are accepting names for Plaque XVI which will be open from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Visitors can visit the memorial web site to view the memorial list of names that has been finalized from the 2009-2010 Plaque XV and to view past plaque information.

**FOUNDATIONS IN THE NEWS**

Visit our website, www.awfhn.org, for the most current news and updates! Here are a couple to check out!

- Washington Post article: West Point experience illustrates changing role of women in military by Petula Dvorak
- Interview with CSM Cynthia Pritchett, USA (RET) and Colonel Sylvia Moran, West Point class of 1988 by Tony Perkins of Fox 5 in Washington, D.C.

Also, become a fan on Facebook!
**Upcoming Events**

**May 10-12, Richmond, VA**  
AUSA's ILW Army Sustainment Symposium & Exposition  

**May 14, Fort Des Moines, IA**  
WAAC Day Dinner  
[http://www.fortdesmoines.org](http://www.fortdesmoines.org)

**May 20-22, Brookfield, MA**  
Project New Hope Retreat for Veterans  
[http://www.projectnewhopema.org](http://www.projectnewhopema.org)

**May 29, Washington, D.C.**  
National Memorial Day Concert 2011  

**June 3-4, Washington, DC**  
The Female Warrior Program: Sophocles' Ajax at The Women’s Memorial  
[http://www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org)

**June 27-30, San Antonio, TX**  
AUSA’s ILW Army Medical Symposium & Exposition  
[https://www.ausa.org/meetings/2011/symposium/medcom/Pages/AUSA%3dILWArmyMedicalSymposium%26Exposition.aspx](https://www.ausa.org/meetings/2011/symposium/medcom/Pages/AUSA%3dILWArmyMedicalSymposium%26Exposition.aspx)

**July 15-17, Washington, DC**  
2011 National Training Summit on Women Veterans  

**July 26-28, Kansas City, MO**  
AUSA’s ILW Army Combined Arms Maneuver Symposium and Exposition  

**Aug 6-9, New Orleans, LA**  
Disabled American Veterans National Convention  

**Aug 6-13, St. Louis, MO**  
AMVETS 67th National Convention  

**Upcoming Events**

**May 30, Washington, D.C.**  
Wreath Laying Ceremony at the WWII Memorial  

**June 4–9, Washington, DC**  
The Female Warrior Program: Sophocles’ Ajax at The Women’s Memorial  
[http://www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org)

**June 19–22, Washington, DC**  
AUSA’s ILW Army Medical Symposium & Exposition  
[https://www.ausa.org/meetings/2011/symposium/medcom/Pages/AUSA%3dILWArmyMedicalSymposium%26Exposition.aspx](https://www.ausa.org/meetings/2011/symposium/medcom/Pages/AUSA%3dILWArmyMedicalSymposium%26Exposition.aspx)

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