The Army Women’s Foundation last summer had the pleasure of celebrating the contributions made by US military women who served during World War II.

Army Women’s Foundation President MG Dee McWilliams, USA Ret., was the special invited speaker at the unveiling of a women’s military veteran memorial in Revere, Mass., near Boston.

Revere’s Women Veterans World War II memorial honors the city’s 150 women who served in the military during that war. Their names recently were preserved in the stone memorial that was put in place on August 17 on the American Legion lawn, located on Broadway. The unveiling ceremony of the memorial took place Saturday, Sept. 7.

MG McWilliams learned of plans for the memorial in a handwritten letter from Eileen Merullo. Mrs. Merullo, a Revere resident and World War II veteran who worked with amputees at the old Walter Reed hospital, spearheaded the effort for the memorial. It is the only monument in Revere dedicated to women who served in World War II.

“I was honored to attend the dedication of the monument recognizing the service of the women from Revere who served in World War II,” MG McWilliams said. “It has been a distinct pleasure to work with Mrs. Merullo to ensure the completion of her project. Because of her determination and hard work, those pioneer women will never be forgotten.”

Mrs. Merullo researched names to identify the veterans and then launched a fundraising campaign. The memorial cost $10,000. The Army Women’s Foundation donated $1,000, and Foundation supporters contributed an additional $8,500.

When Mrs. Merullo came up with the idea for the memorial, she had complete faith that the mission would be accomplished. Revere is a close-knit community, and many of the memorial supporters wanted to honor a relative who had served. Donations of various amounts came in from current and former residents across the generations.

“I happen to know a lot of people in the community. They are very, very generous,” Mrs. Merullo said. “From January to the beginning of August, we were able to raise more than $10,000, including the very, very generous donation from the general and her association.”

The unveiling ceremony was open to the public.
In Memoriam

LTC (R) Irene Michels Sorrough

A Tribute by LTC (R) Jenelle Roberts

My friend LTC (R) Irene Michels Sorrough died on May 22 at the age of 98. I met her after a Sisters in Service luncheon in 2002. By that time, she had been at the luncheon together and long after it was over, I noticed her sitting on a couch in the Army Navy Club Lobby all by herself. I went up and asked her if she needed any help and she responded in her broken English, “no” she was waiting for her ride. So I asked her if she minded if I waited with her and she said that would be very nice...and so the relationship began, we became fast friends. I realized during our initial conversation that Irene was partially blind (macular degeneration), had severe loss of hearing (wore two hearing aids), had COPD (carried an oxygen tank), lived alone, and took public transportation (her way of getting around). Despite her disabilities, she continued to have a very full life, continued to travel, and maintained an active interest in her work, her family, and the military. She loved to go out, eat at nice restaurants, visit places, and to be with people. She was an inspiration in my life. And I miss her.

In the Army Women’s Foundation.

I did. We saw each other often and I learned that she was the daughter of Belgian immigrants, she lost her father at age 12, and her mother worked as a seamstress in the Garment District in New York City. Despite her disabilities, she continued to have a very full life, continued to travel, and maintained an active interest in her work, her family, and the military. She loved to go out, eat at nice restaurants, visit places, and to be with people. She was an inspiration in my life. And I miss her.

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The Army Women’s Foundation Legacy Scholarship Program continues to evolve as we address the changing needs of today’s Army women in transition! To help our Army women accomplish their educational goals, we have expanded the Legacy Scholarship Program this year to include graduate work in addition to the Community College, Certificate Program, and Four-Year Institution scholarships already available.

The Foundation’s Legacy Scholarship Program is available to all Army women – active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve and their children. The Legacy Scholarship program offers financial support in four areas: Technical Certificate programs, Community College coursework, Undergraduate Degrees, and Graduate Degrees. Scholarships are awarded only to coursework from accredited institutions and are based on merit, academic potential, community service, letters of recommendation, and need.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

SGM Andrea Farmer, USA Retired was one of the very first recipients to receive the Legacy Scholarship back in 2008 when our scholarship program first began. She has served in a variety of roles throughout her Army career ranging from G-4 Sergeant Major to Brigade Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. SGM Farmer, a native of North Carolina, recently retired in May 2013 after thirty years of service. As we begin to follow-up with some of our scholarship winners, we will share some of their updates and insights with you through our Flagpole and website!

SGM Andrea Farmer, USA Retired
2008 Legacy Scholarship Winner

Stats: Graduated in 2009 from University of Oklahoma with a Masters in Human Relations and International Relations.

Current employment: Part-Time Adjunct Professor at Central Texas College and enjoying retirement!

How did your education benefit you? Your career? My formal education benefited me by sharpening my intellectual skills and introduced me to learning opportunities that I would not have experienced elsewhere. It also qualified me for the teaching position that I currently hold because the minimum requirement was to hold a Master’s Degree and 3 years’ experience. As far as my career, my education had a definite impact on my promotions from Sergeant to Sergeant Major.

On the importance of education: I feel as if education is very important-knowledge is power. Attaining the highest level of education helps prepare you for your future and sharpens your skills while serving in the Army.

Advice for Army women: I recommend that Army Women set goals to complete their education to the highest degree possible. When I was in high school, I was discouraged to attend college by my guidance counselor as she felt as though I was not “college material”. So I joined the Army and while I was in the Army I was encouraged to further my education by my leaders and family members. “Don’t let anyone tell you what you can’t do — You can obtain higher learning.”

It is with sincere gratitude that I once again thank The Walt Disney Company for the kindness and professionalism, and support shown to me.

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS — Making a Difference

The Legacy Scholarships are available for tuition assistance for technical certification, coursework at community college level or four year academic institutions and graduate schools.

- Community College and Technical Certificate Program Legacy Scholarships will be awarded up to $1,000.
- College, University, and Graduate Program Legacy Scholarships will be awarded up to $2,500.

Applications must be postmarked by January 15, 2014. Criteria, details, and scholarship forms are available online at www.AWFDN.org.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARTNERS!

The Army Women’s Foundation is proud and excited to create new partnerships with the following organizations:

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE**

The NVTC Veterans Employment Initiative is a new program to connect veterans to employment opportunities within Virginia’s technology community. Through this initiative, NVTC will provide tools and resources to match veterans with jobs, internships, mentorships and certifications, while also providing support to member companies in their efforts to hire, train and retain qualified veteran employees. In tandem, NVTC is collaborating with state and federal policymakers to expedite legislative and/or regulatory action that enhances companies’ ability to hire and train veterans on any federal contract.

For more information log onto www.nvtc.org/veterans.

**HELMETS TO HARDHATS**

Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty military service members with skilled training and career opportunities in the construction industry. The program is designed to help military service members successfully transition back into civilian life by offering them the means to secure a quality career in the construction industry.

For more information log onto www.helmetssthardhats.org or call 866-741-6210 for assistance.

**HEROES WORK HERE**

Employ Excellence. Hire Veterans.

The Walt Disney Company is proud to present our Veterans’ Initiative, “Heroes Work Here.” At Disney we recognize the hard work, dedication and loyalty it takes to serve your country honorably, no matter what point and time in your life it may be. Our veterans and their families have given so much to us, and we want to continue to give back.

For more information, visit http://disneycareers.com/en/working-here/heroes-work-here/.
Upcoming Events

October 21-23, Washington, DC
AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition
www.ausa.org

November 7, Boston, MA
Women Are Veterans Too! Event
www.mass.gov/veterans/women-veterans

November 9, Janesville, WI
2013 Women Veterans Expo
dva.state.wi.us/womenvets.asp

November 9-11, Washington, DC
Vietnam Women’s Memorial 20th Anniversary Celebration
www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org/upcoming.php

November 9-11, National Harbor, MD
2013 Veterans Day Celebration
www.womeninmilitaryinteractive.org

November 11, Washington, DC
“Women Veterans ROCK!” Rally & Veterans Day Celebration
www.womensvetsrock.org

November 14-17, Louisville, KY
Farmer Veteran Coalition Empowering Women Veterans Conference
www.farmerveto.org/our-programs/farmer-veterans-events

December 14, Nationwide
Wreaths Across America
www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

February 19-21, Huntsville, AL
2014 AUSA Winter Symposium and Exposition
www.ausa.org

February 23-26, Arlington, VA
DAV Mid-Winter Conference
dav.org

March 2014, Washington, DC
2014 Hall of Fame Induction Reception in conjunction with the 2014 Army Women’s Foundation Summit. Stay tuned for more details!
www.awfdn.org

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