Ranger Trailblazers

A ceremony was held at Fort Benning, GA on Aug. 21 to recognize the graduation of the 94 men and two women who successfully passed all phases of Ranger School. In in attendance were 34% of soldiers from 2010-2014 who graduated of the 4,057 soldiers who began the course.

The Ranger School is a 61-day course of intense and grueling training divided into three phases to test a wide range of skills, including leadership and combat skills. The Ranger Course was created during the Vietnam War in 1969 and since then only 77,000 soldiers have earned the Ranger tab. In 2014, 1,609 graduated of the 4,857 soldiers who began the course. An average of 34% of soldiers from 2010-2014 recycled on at least one phase of the course and try again and an average of 42% graduate the course.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is summer: a time to relax and reflect. This summer, with news of history’s first fly-by of Pluto, daily reports of violence in the world, and sharks attacking swimmers, there is much to reflect on. But that is not what I want to talk about. I would like to reflect on the role of women’s organizations, the issues they tackle, and the way they share thoughts and discuss ideas and meet the needs of their members and supporters.

The AWF’s primary ways of connecting with Army women are through Summits on Capitol Hill, our website and social media such as Facebook. We are especially proud of how our Facebook has grown and serves as a “Go To” place to share information, news, and thoughts and ideas. On specific issues and postings we reach over 20,000 viewers with numerous “likes,” comments and shares. Viewers learn about Army women and we learn from you. Thanks to everyone who reads our Facebook postings, writes comments and/or shares them with their friends and colleagues.

But I also need to share with you some of my concerns about the declining number of organizations specifically designed for women. Everyone knows that single sex colleges and institutions are rapidly diminishing. There are reports of other women’s organizations, some focused on professional areas and others that are related to military service, that are seeing a decline in membership, support, viability and sustainability. Why?

Is it because women no longer feel the necessity to be a part of a woman’s group? Do they not have the time? The interest? Does gender no longer matter? I can leave the answers to those questions to those organizations, or to academia, because for now, our Foundation is not one of those statistics.

We at the Army Women’s Foundation have been working hard to remain relevant to Army women, to servicewomen. We want to provide our supporters with specific information and tools designed to help them, as current or former Army women, I am pleased to report that our approach is succeeding.

We have grown in outreach and scope. Our supporters and our outreach are not declining. It takes a team to remain relevant and sustainable. We have a small, dedicated office staff that has accomplished much. Consider just how much our scholarship program has grown in a few years, how much our social media has increased. We are developing new and cost-effective programs and we are building a solid national reputation.

Here is where we need your help. Tell us what you think. “Like” us on Facebook and send our postings to friends and colleagues. Please visit our re-mastered website at www.awfdn.org. Take a look at our most recent short video and you will be proud of all the Army women who have served or are currently serving and I believe be motivated to assist us.

I cannot close without asking that you contribute to the Army Women’s Foundation. No donation is too small and it helps to spread the word about the history and service of Army women. Thank you to all our supporters. We will remain relevant and sustainable, thanks to you! Hooah!

Peggy Trossen
Executive Director

OSCAR JULIA STALKER

Distinguished Flying Cross Army Recipient Hall of Fame Induction March 17, 2015

Many of our Hall of Fame Reception attendees were so impressed with OSCAR JULIA STALKER’s speech given on March 17, 2015, given when she and the other Flying Cross recipients were being inducted into the Army Women’s Foundation Hall of Fame, that we have decided to share it with everyone here. We hope you enjoy reading this and celebrate these women with us!

When I joined the Army only seven short years ago I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be standing here today representing some of the most extraordinary women of our nation’s history. It is with great pride that I humbly represent these courageous and certainly tenacious women.

Although not a military woman, I cannot leave out the first female aviator to receive a Distinguished Flying Cross. Amelia Earhart was at the forefront of aviation, man or woman, of her time. When I was a little girl, maybe five or six, my mother took me to an airport near the border in Canada. That day of watching aircraft whiz back and forth sparked something in me that clearly has never gone away. When I wouldn’t stop yapping about that day, a family friend gave me a book about Amelia. I was in awe! My childhood dream was to be just like her and many of my days were spent sneaking off to the gym to practice flight.

The history of aviation is rich with great women and amazing accomplishments. When I was nine years old, I read a book about Amelia. I was in awe! My childhood dream was to be just like her and many of my days were spent sneaking off to the gym to practice flight. There has been a cultural shift in our girls and young women that must be fostered and encouraged. Woman lifting heavy weights in the gym has become commonplace. Muscle has become beautiful and competitive sports such as Crossfit games and triathlons is accessible to them. With the Army opening more and more doors to women to not only serve but to do it in combat MOSs, we as a nation must do our part to prepare them to meet the standards."

The daughters of our nation deserve to have their Amelia. It is our job to make these and future stories of our military women accessible to them. With the Army opening more and more doors for women to not only succeed but do it in a combat MOS, we as a nation must do our part to prepare them to meet the standards. There has been a cultural shift in our girls and young women that must be fostered and encouraged. Woman lifting heavy weights in the gym has become commonplace. Muscle has become beautiful and competitive sports such as Crossfit games and triathlons is accessible to them. With the Army opening more and more doors to women to not only serve but to do it in combat MOSs, we as a nation must do our part to prepare them to meet the standards.

One of those women is indeed amazing. I hope instead of disappearing into the obscure pages of our history books we continue to bring these courageous women to light. So why are we here today? Why am I here today? People that know me will tell you I would much rather dangle 100ft from a Blackhawk then speak in front of an audience full of folks, most of which are much smarter than I am. Well…

The daughters of our nation deserve to have their Amelia. It is our job to make these and future stories of our military women accessible to them. With the Army opening more and more doors for women to not only succeed but do it in a combat MOS, we as a nation must do our part to prepare them to meet the standards. There has been a cultural shift in our girls and young women that must be fostered and encouraged. Woman lifting heavy weights in the gym has become commonplace. Muscle has become beautiful and competitive sports such as Crossfit games and triathlons is accessible to them. With the Army opening more and more doors to women to not only serve but to do it in combat MOSs, we as a nation must do our part to prepare them to meet the standards.

Well…

We invite you to visit our recently redesigned and launched website. Included on the homepage is an “Army Women in History” timeline to reflect our continued mission to honor the history of Army women. While history is certainly the cornerstone of our Foundation, this site has also been crafted to highlight our other programs and serve as a resource for you. Our Legacy Scholarship program has an online application and newly created FAQs to assist applicants with the process. Additionally, the Foundation’s Annual Summit and Hall of Fame events are viewable by year with photos, videos, sponsors, and Hall of Fame awards listings. We include Summit executive summaries prepared for Members of Congress, giving you a synopsis of the key points shared by panelists and participants. On our Resources page, we provide links to healthcare benefits, jobs and education information.

We hope that you find the site and tools we have prepared useful, informative and easy to navigate. Your thoughts and feedback are welcome and we have provided a link on the website for you to share them directly with us.

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE – MARCH ON OVER!
IN MEMORIAM

LTC IRENE EVANKOVICH

We are saddened by the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Irene Evankovich, USA Retired, longtime AWF Director Emeriti and former Board Member. She passed away June 30, 2015 at the Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital, Florence, Ala. on June 30, 2015 following a brief illness. She was born in Criswell, Penn. on Oct. 9, 1941.

After graduating from high school in 1959, Irene enlisted in the Women's Army Corps on Mar. 30, 1960. She served at Ft. McClellan, Ala., on Okinawa and at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, reaching the rank of sergeant, before being accepted for OCS at Ft. McClellan in 1965. In June 1965, Irene was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Her first assignment was as executive officer and then commanding officer of the WAC Company at Ft. Ritchie, Md. In subsequent assignments Irene returned several times to Ft. McClellan. She served overseas in Fuerth and Nuremberg, Germany, at the US Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. and at Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Her military schools included several Quartermaster Corps courses at Ft. Lee, Va., the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., and the Inspector General course, Ft. Belvoir, Va. Irene found her most challenging assignment (1979-81) as special advisor on women’s issues to USMA Superintendent, Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster as the Academy was adjusting to the presence of women cadets. Irene’s final assignment was to the 3rd ROTC Regiment at Ft. Riley where she supervised the staff providing personnel and administrative support for military and civilian employees in eight states at over 100 colleges and universities.

Irene retired with 24 years of active service in 1984. Her military awards include: Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Overseas Service Ribbon. After living in Pennsylvania for seven years, Irene returned to the Anniston area, making her home in Weaver. She was active in many veterans and civic organizations and a generous philanthropist. Her memberships included Heritage Chapter 62 of the WAC Veterans Association, the American Legion, the WAC Museum, the Army Women's Foundation, Meals on Wheels, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and women's shelters.

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 121 scholarships across 35 states. In 2015 alone, we were able to award 38 scholarships totaling $75,000, and as we have seen the need for educational assistance grow, we are once again increasing our program budget to $100,000 for 2016! 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.

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

- Community College and 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 are completed online! Application must be submitted by January 15, 2016 and supporting required materials must be mailed and postmarked by January 15, 2016. Criteria, details, and scholarship forms are available online at www.awfdn.org/scholarships.shtml.
Upcoming Events

October 12-14, Washington, DC
AFSA Annual Meeting and Exposition
Come visit us in Booth 1527!
www.afsa.org

October 12-14, Washington, DC
Women to the Workforce @ 4054
www.americanfreedomfoundation.org

November 6, Boston, MA
Women Veteran Appreciation Day
www.mass.gov/veterans/women-veterans

November 11, National Harbor, MD
4th Annual Women/Veterans & Women in the Military Thank You Day Extravaganza
www.womenveteransinteractive.org

November 11, Nationwide
Veterans Day

November 11, New York, NY
2015’s America’s Parade
americanasparade.org

December 7, Washington, DC
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at the WWII Memorial
www.wwiiememorialfriends.org

December 12, Nationwide
Wreaths Across America Day
www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

January 15, Nationwide
Deadline for AWF Legacy Scholarships
www.awfdn.org/programs/legacyscholarships.shtml

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.

Name: __________________________ Address: __________________________
Rank (if any): __________________ City/State/Zip: __________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

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

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

☐ Program Support & General Operations
☐ Bronze Plaque Memorial Fund* (Rank and/or Name of honoree: __________________________)
☐ 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 Plaque Memorial Fund will be used to further the mission of the AWF and its programs.

Person to be Acknowledged: Method of Payment:

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

Name: __________________________ Address: __________________________
Rank (if any): __________________ Phone: __________________________
Credit Card #: __________________ Name on card: __________________
City/State/Zip: __________________ Signature: __________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________
Exp. date: ______________________ Verif. Code: ______________________

The U.S. Army Women’s Foundation is a 501c(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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