



HONORING SERVICE & SACRIFICE

# The Flagpole

Fall 2011

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

Volume LXII No. 2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ten years ago our country was attacked on the 11th of September, changing our lives forever. Members of the Army Women's Foundation are proud of the service and sacrifice of Army women in support of our nation's security. Their heroic actions have permanently changed the role of women in the Army.

This year the Board of Directors has been expanding activities to honor the history and service of Army women. After organizing and funding the construction of a new wing for the Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, we are continuing that support, but are looking beyond that traditional association to seek other ways to foster projects honoring Army women. We recently gave a grant to the Fort Des Moines Museum. Fort Des Moines hosted the first training center for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1942. Additionally, we co-sponsored the Janey Comes Marching Home exhibit at the Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. We will continue to broaden our contributions to honor Army women and preserve our history.

Recognizing that education is key to advancement in the Army and success in the civilian world after service, we are expanding our Legacy Scholarship program. These scholarships support the educational efforts — whether at a community college or in a university — of Army women and their children.

Building on positive responses we received for the Army Women in Transition Symposium on Capitol Hill in March, your Foundation has already received substantial corporate and individual financial sponsorship for the fourth Symposium to be held in March 2012. This event has become a powerful tool for informing the business world, law makers, and government administrators of issues of importance to Army Women. To extend this important informational event to our soldiers and veterans, the Symposium is being videotaped, thanks to a major grant by Booz Allen Hamilton. The Symposium proceedings now will be available to a world-wide audience.

To connect with today's soldiers and veterans, we are using social media to communicate. Join the Foundation by "friending" the Army Women's Foundation on Facebook. We will also have a booth at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Convention in Washington, D.C. in October. Please stop by our booth and become better acquainted.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Best regards,

Dee Ann McWilliams  
Major General, USA (Retired)  
President

## 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 required minimum of \$100 for the individual is reached. Plaque XV is being cast this year and includes all names submitted in 2009 and 2010. We are currently accepting names and contributions for Plaque XVI and will continue to through December 31, 2012. ★

## AUSA 2011 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

AWF will be at Booth 7447 at the AUSA 2011 Annual Meeting & Exposition that runs October 10-12 at the Washington Convention Center. Come and visit us and learn more about the foundation and our programs! ★

### Inside This Edition

President's Message	1
Bronze Memorial Plaque	1
AUSA 2011 Annual Meeting & Exposition	1
In Her Own Words — Megan Krause	2
From the Executive Director	2
Faces of the Fallen	3
In Memoriam	3
Follow Us on Facebook	3
Grants Awarded	3
Legacy Scholarships	3
Upcoming Events	4
Giving	4

## IN HER OWN WORDS — MEGAN KRAUSE



I joined the Army in 2001 shortly after 9/11. I can't say this was a patriotic choice; frankly, I'd been struggling in school and the recruiting commercials following the horrific events opened my eyes to a different path – one I never thought I would consider. After a few years, I ended up boots-on-ground in the middle of Iraq. I will say this: Iraq was a life-changing experience, which I expected, although I never imagined it would be as altering as it was. Yeah, I saw stuff. So did everyone else.

I came home late 2006, immediately jumped into college and absolutely loved it. I was confident in my ability to cope with what I had seen and done in Iraq. I was truly interested in the education that I was receiving and was thrilled to have the support of my family and my friends.

So it comes as no surprise, I suppose, that I was the last person to recognize the fact that I was actually struggling. After two years of going to school and serving in the Reserves (I joined once I had my feet under me in school and I missed the sense of service) it became evident to everybody around me that I needed help. I thought the flashbacks and nightmares were a “normal reaction to abnormal circumstances” and ignored my own body and mind's screams for help. Instead, I sought refuge in a bar, skipped classes and ignored assignments. I blew off friends and cursed out my family. I slept less and less, and then slept too much, in a never-ending spiral of self-demise. My attitude was rapidly disintegrating from the noncommissioned officer I wanted to be and the sister, daughter and friend that I had been known as for so many years. I was an absolute terror, ripping my own life apart without regard for those around me.

Everyone began to take notice and they all began to let me know, “Hey, Meg, you need to get your act together here.” A soldier sat me down one day on Reserve weekend and said, “Listen, Sergeant Krause, here are the signs and symptoms; you're exhibiting all of them; you're not really helping this unit out too much right now; I think you need to go get help.” Sirens blared.

And as much of a slap in the face as that was, it still wasn't enough; more bad decisions landed me in my first sergeant's office, and finally, one night, I landed face first in a pigpen, thinking insurgents were chasing me. I didn't have a weapon, I didn't have my team, I didn't have hope.

I couldn't have been more wrong. Accidentally, I had set up the most valuable foundation anyone could ever ask for. I probably give myself too much credit; they did the work without me, but I found a chain of command who understood; a circle of friends and family who both encouraged and challenged me, and advisors and professors who provided guidance and motivation.

I remember walking out of my first sergeant's office nervous yet awakened; the next day I was promoted despite my ridiculous behavior. I was given the confidence in myself that I needed to approach the VA and seek the help that I desperately required. I discovered that I was only going to be a stronger soldier, NCO, friend, student and, most importantly, family member by getting the care that I needed; admitting that I needed help, rather than failing to cope in the manner that I thought I was.

So I worked. Hard. I had an entire semester of school to catch up on, a job search that should have been finished before I began, and relationships to patch up. Courtesy of my therapist, I began addressing stuck points from my service and stuck points from the hole I had dug in my civilian life. Determination was sparked by the inspiration I had from all around and I suddenly found the drive to succeed.

It began with apologies, begging for forgiveness and demonstrating motivation to change. Tears, laughter, listening. My parents always answered the phone, despite the hour, and I began to ask for their advice. I used my experiences to help traditional students in my classes, whom I'd previously shunned for what I improperly perceived to be stupidity, understand new points of view. Thanks to the actions of a phenomenal staff and faculty at Penn State, I graduated with honors, receiving a bachelors of arts in public relations and a minor in political science. My first job offer came, despite a falling economy, directly after seeking help and beginning to lean on my vital support system. I began working to



develop support systems for other service members and veterans in mental health, education and employment. This triad has been the underpinning I find I need to continue to be successful in my own life and I can't imagine where I would be had that groundwork not been laid for me.

Today, I volunteer as a spokesperson for the DoD Real Warriors campaign, telling my story and encouraging others to seek help and set their own support system in place. I currently work at the American Council on Education as associate director for military programs, helping colleges and universities develop programs to better serve their student veteran population. I continue my service as a medic in a civil affairs unit and have recently been accepted to Johns Hopkins University to begin my graduate studies. I now know there is no barrier I cannot hurdle. When I hit one, I find creative ways to leverage my network so I can blow through it. I hope this leaves an opening for others to follow rather than having to hurdle it themselves.

To the women who came before me: Thank you. If it wasn't for your setting the standard of commitment, service and sacrifice, I may have never been inspired to keep trudging to success. You are my heroes; I only hope my story honors yours.

To the women who will follow: This is your story too. Cherish every moment, good and bad, for what I can teach you about yourself and how to succeed. I would not be where I am today had I not stumbled into the Army, deployed into an unimaginable hell, struggled to transition, or had the help of so many. This is not a story of struggle but of success and I hope you can see how to get there in your own way. Our generation is knocking down barriers so others can walk through them. When you hit your own, in the words of some guy I deployed with, “Blow in place!” Don't just leave them for the next generation to find. Set up a support network you can rely on for encouragement; they will be your fire team when you are most in need. Use them. ★

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Several weeks ago, standing outside of the emergency room after a mishap while on the sidewalks of DC, I saw two young girls. They might have been six or seven and each one was carrying an Army backpack. Not the type of backpack you buy at a toy store, but the real thing, child's version.

I leaned on my crutches and asked them about their backpacks. Both smiled and answered that their Mom was in the Army. They explained she had some time off right now before going back to Afghanistan. I mentioned that my work was for Army women.

They smiled, looked at my crutches, and very matter of factly asked if I was injured in Iraq and had some time off. I smiled, and struggled to hold back my emotions. For a moment I was pulled into the world of our Army women and their families. And this moment quickly and powerfully reminded me about the important work of our Foundation, not just for Army women, but for those who love and support them.

Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation!

Peggy Trossen  
Executive Director



## IN MEMORIAM

### SERGEANT MAJOR MARTHA J. MCBROOM



Sergeant Major Martha J. McBroom of Anniston, AL, died at the age of 74 on August 16, 2011 at the Veteran's Hospital in Birmingham, AL. During her 23 year military career she was promoted to

every enlisted grade from Private to Sergeant Major. Upon completion of basic training and graduation from Clerical Training School at Fort McClellan, she was transferred to Fort Belvoir, VA with a subsequent assignment to Heidelberg, Germany. In 1960 she was assigned to the U.S. Army Recruiting Service and served in Dallas, TX, Elizabeth, NJ, Fort Sam Houston, TX, and Fort McClellan, AL. Upon promotion to Sergeant Major, she was in charge of all recruiting and reenlistment for the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX. She retired at Fort Hood in November, 1978.

Sergeant Major McBroom's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal, 7th Award and the National Defense Service Medal. She served as the President of the local Heritage Chapter 62, Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association and from 1990 to 1992 was the President of the National Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association. She was also a Heritage Chapter 62 representative to the Veterans' Administration Volunteer Services in Birmingham. In addition to these services and accomplishments, SGM Martha McBroom also served on the Board of Directors for the Army Women's Foundation and at the time of her death served as a Director Emeritus. We honor her memory and her dedication to Army Women. ★

## LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS — MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Army Women's Foundation is pleased to announce the Legacy Scholarships for the 2012 Academic Year.

The U.S. Army Women's Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in Fort Lee, Virginia. The mission of the Foundation is to recognize and honor the service of women in the Army and to support the Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee. The Foundation's Legacy Scholarship program recognizes the importance of education and helping recipients to achieve their educational goals.

The Legacy Scholarship program offers financial support to all Army women who are serving, or have honorably served, and their children. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service and need.



The Legacy Scholarships are available for tuition assistance at the community college level or four year academic institutions.

Community College Legacy Scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000.

College/University Legacy Scholarships are in the amount of \$2,500.

Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2012.

For full details, application criteria, and to download an application for the Legacy Scholarship program, please visit our website. ★

## FACES OF THE FALLEN

### SGT DEVIN A. SNYDER



SGT Devin A. Snyder, 20, of Cohocton, NY, died on June 4, 2011 near Mehter Lam in Laghman province after her unit was attacked by insurgents with an IED. She was one of four killed in the attack. Devin was a military policewoman assigned to the 793rd Military Police

Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK.

Devin graduated from Wayland-Cohocton Central School where she excelled on both the track and soccer teams among other things. Being part of a family with a long line of service, Devin spoke of joining the military throughout high school. Her father, Ed Snyder, is a U.S. Navy veteran, and her sister Natasha Snyder, 23, is serving in the navy and her brother Damien Snyder, 19, is serving in the U.S. Army.

She enlisted in the Army in August 2008 and went to Ft Leonard Wood, MO for her training. From there she was assigned to Ft Richardson in February 2009 and left for her first deployment to Afghanistan in March. Devin wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. She was promoted from Specialist to Sergeant posthumously.

SGT Snyder is survived by her parents Ed and Dineen Snyder, brothers Damien and Derek and sister Natasha, and many other relatives and friends. ★

## AWF GRANT GIVING

The Army Women's Foundation recognizes the importance of preserving the history of Army women and telling their stories. To that end, the Foundation is expanding its grants program to museums that honor and preserve the history of Army women.

We continue our support to the Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, VA and at the Museum's request, we are supporting their efforts to update exhibits. We will keep you informed of our continued support to the Army Women's Museum as they determine their needs.

President Dee McWilliams visited the Fort Des Moines Museum last summer and had the opportunity to hear about their plans for expansion and an exciting opportunity available to them. In 2009, the Museum received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in support of the project "Collecting, Preserving, and Telling the Story of the Women's Army Corps at Fort Des Moines."

Fort Des Moines Museum is working to fulfill their vision of a vibrant, exciting monument to the African American officers and women who trained at the Fort, and who then helped to change the nation. The Museum has collected oral interviews and objects and wants to give the general public the opportunity to interact with and learn from that collection. The first step in this project is a traveling exhibit. It will focus on the story of Fort Des Moines, why women came to the Fort, the experiences of diverse women, the leadership skills women developed and how they used them later in life, and most importantly, the story of courage in the face of segregation.

The Army Women's Foundation is proud to support the Fort Des Moines Museum on this important project while continuing to support the Army Women's Museum. Check our Facebook page and our website for continued updates on these grants and for progress on the Museums efforts.

To learn more about both museums and their programs, please visit their websites!

Fort Des Moines Museum - [www.fortdesmoines.org](http://www.fortdesmoines.org)  
U.S. Army Women's Museum - [www.awm.lee.army.mil](http://www.awm.lee.army.mil)  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 7-8**, Ontario, CA  
*California Women Veteran's Conference*  
<http://www.calvet.ca.gov/WomenMinority/Conference.aspx>

**Oct 10-12**, Washington, D.C.  
*AUSA 2011 Annual Meeting & Exposition*  
<http://www.ausa.org/meetings/2011/annual/Pages/annual1010-12.aspx>

**Oct 21-23**, North Oxford, MA  
*Honoring the Path of the Women Warrior: Retreat for Women Veterans*  
<http://www.projectnewhopema.org>

**Oct 26**, Arlington, VA  
*Female Veteran Internship Fair*  
<http://www.finalsaluteinc.org/18.html>

**Oct 27-28**, Arlington, VA  
*WREI/AND Women in the Military Conference*  
<http://www.wrei.org/WIM2011.htm>

**Oct 28-30**, New Braunfels, TX  
*F7 Lone star Women's Retreat 2011*  
[http://www.f7group.com/?page\\_id=404](http://www.f7group.com/?page_id=404)

**Nov 3**, Boston, MA  
*Women Are Veterans Too! Event*  
[http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=veteransterminal&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Women+Veterans&L2=Honoring+Women+Veterans&sid=Eveterans&b=terminalcontent&f=womens\\_vettoo&csid=Eveterans](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=veteransterminal&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Women+Veterans&L2=Honoring+Women+Veterans&sid=Eveterans&b=terminalcontent&f=womens_vettoo&csid=Eveterans)

**Feb 22-24**, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
*AUSA's ILW Winter Symposium and Exposition*  
<http://www.ausa.org/meetings/2012/symposia/Winter/Pages/2012winter.aspx>

**Feb 26-29**, Arlington, VA  
*Disabled American Veterans Mid-Winter Conference*  
<http://www.dav.org/news/UpcomingEvents.aspx>

**Ongoing**, Nationally  
*Hiring Our Heroes*  
<http://www.uschamber.com/veterans/events>

### ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

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While visiting our website, check out our online giftshop!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
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

\*Individuals 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, 2011–Dec. 31, 2012; you may add names of persons who died in an earlier period.

#### Person to be Acknowledged:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of Payment:

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

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 23801-0300 / **FAX:** (804) 734-3077

*The Flagpole* is published by the U.S. Army Women's Foundation. Views and opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army or Department of Defense.  
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