

## Twenty-five Forgotten WACs - September 29, 2025

WAAC and WAC OCS Graduates (1942-1952) who meet the HOF Criteria

LTC Charity E. Adams **(Fort Des Moines - 29 Aug 1942 (WAAC OCS Class #1)).**

Commander of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion WW II.

BG Mildred Inez Bailey **(Fort Des Moines- 26 Sep 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #3).**

8th WAC Director - 1 Aug 1971 to 31 Jul 1975.

WAC Exhibit Traveling Team Leader - 1963 to 1968.

COL Judith C. Bennett **(Fort Des Moines- 12 Sep 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #2).**

WAC Staff Advisor US Army Pacific Mar 1970- Jul 1971.

Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Women Armed Forces 1969-1970.

COL Westray Battle Boyce **(Fort Des Moines- 12 Sep 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #2).**

2nd WAC Director - 12 Jul 1945 to 4 Mar 1947.

WAC Staff Director North African Theater - 1943-1944.

COL Elizabeth H. Branch **(Fort Des Moines- 3 Oct 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #4).**

Command Historian (MACV) 1971 to 1973.

WAC Center Commander Fort McClellan Jul 1966 - Aug 1968.

COL Lane Carlson **(Fort Des Moines- 18 Jun 1943) (WAAC OCS Class #32).**

Aide to General Douglas MacArthur in Japan and Editor of Soldiers Magazine during 1970s.

MG Mary E. Clarke **(Camp Lee- 29 Sep 1949) (WAC OCS Class #2 -1949).**

Commanding General Fort McClellan, Alabama - 1978-1980.

9th WAC Director - 1 Aug 1975 to 28 Apr 1978.

Commander US Army WAC Center - 15 Sep 1972 to 4 Sep 1974.

WAC Staff Advisor Sixth US Army - Mar 1971 to Aug 1972.

COL Irene O. Galloway **(Fort Des Moines- 12 Sep 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #2).**

4th WAC Director - 3 Jan 1953 to 2 Jan 1957.

WAC Staff Advisor to US Army Europe Jul 1948 to Sep 1952.

**COL Emily C. Gorman (Fort Des Moines- 10 Oct 1942) (WAAC Class #5).**

**6th WAC Director - 1 Aug 1962 to 31 Jul 1966.**

**WAC Advisor to the CONARC, Fort Monroe, Virginia- Jan 1957 to Jul 1960.**

**Deputy Director of the WAC 3 Jan 1953 to 2 Jan 1957.**

**COL Mary J. Guyette (Fort Des Moines- 14 Jul 1943) (WAC Class # 36).**

**Staff Advisor U.S. Army Europe - Apr 1971- Jul 1972.**

**WAC Senior Advisor to the Republic of Korea Army Aug 1963 to Sep 1965**

**COL Mary A. Hallaren (Fort Des Moines- 29 Aug 1942 (WAAC Class # 1).**

**3rd WAC Acting Director - 5 Mar 1947 to 6 May 1947.**

**3rd WAC Director - 7 May 1947 to 2 Jan 1953.**

**Commander First WAC Separate Battalion, North Africa in July 1943.**

**COL Georgia D. Hill (Camp Lee- 1 Apr 1949) (WAC OCS Class #1- 1949).**

**Assistant Commandant WAC School - 1 Jul 1970 to 29 Jan 1972.**

**Career Intelligence Officer - Foreign Area Specialist Program Russia.**

**COL Edith M. Hinton (Fort Lee- 8 Mar 1952) (WAC OCS Class #6-1952).**

**Deputy Director of WAC - 1 Sep 1975 to 28 Apr 1978.**

**Assistant Commandant WAC School - 13 Sep 1973 to 22 May 1974.**

**BG Elizabeth P. Hoisington (Fort Des Moines- 10 May 1943) (WAAC Class #27).**

**7th WAC Director - 1 Aug 1966 to 31 Jul 1971.**

**Commandant of WAC School at Fort McClellan - Nov 1964 to Jul 1966.**

**MG Jeanne Holm (Fort Des Moines- 9 Jan 1943). (WAAC OCS Class #11)**

**Sixth Director of the Women's Air Force (WAF) November 1965 to March 1973.**

**Promoted to Brigadier General July 16, 1971 (first woman appointed to this grade in the Air Force) Promoted to Major General effective June 1, 1973 (with date of rank July 1, 1970) (first woman in the Armed Forces to serve in that grade)**

**COL Marie Kehrer (Fort Des Moines- 3 Oct 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #4).**

**Deputy WAC Director 1 Aug 1967- 31 Jan 1971.**

**WAC Staff Advisor US Army Europe Oct 1962 - Jun 1964.**

**COL Alice A. Long (Fort Des Moines-21 Jul 1945) (WAC OCS Class #58).**

**WAC Staff Advisor US Army Pacific Jul 1971-Aug 1974.**

**Personnel Staff Officer - MACV J1 Saigon - June 1970 to Jun 1971.**

**WAC Staff Advisor to Republic of Korea Army Sep 1965 - Jul 1967.**

**COL Geraldine Pratt May (Fort Des Moines- 29 Aug 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #1).**

**First Director of the Women's Air Force (WAF) 1948 - 1951.**

**WAC Staff Director Army Air Forces Air Transport Command during World War II ("Air WAC" included 6,000 enlisted women and officers). The first Woman in the Air Force promoted to rank of Colonel.**

**COL Maxene M. Baker Michl (Fort Des Moines- 9 Mar 1943) (WAAC OCS Class # 18).**

**WAC Center Commander Fort McClellan 30 Aug 1968 - 14 Aug 1970.**

**WAC Staff Advisor Fourth US Army Mar 1968 - Aug 1968.**

**WAC Staff Advisor Fifth US Army Sep 1962 - Feb 1964.**

**COL Mary L. Milligan Rasmuson (Fort Des Moines- 29 Aug 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #1) 5th WAC Director - 3 Jan 1957 - 31 Jul 1962. Philanthropist post-military.**

**WAC Staff Advisor to Commanding General, US Army Europe - 1952-1956.**

**Deputy Director of the WAC - Aug 1947 to Aug 1952.**

**COL Elizabeth Ann Ray (Fort Des Moines- 3 Oct 1942) (WAAC OCS Class #4).**

**Fifth Director of the Women's Air Force (WAF) - 1961-1965.**

**Deputy Director of the WAF - 1953-1955.**

**COL Mary J.D. Roberts (Fort Des Moines- 29 Aug 1942) (WAAC OCS Class # 1).**

**Personal Secretary to President Lyndon B. Johnson 1953 to 1969.**

**Special Assistant on National Security Affairs JCS 1969 to 1972.**

**Executive Assistant at the LBJ Presidential Library.**

**COL Frances Weir (Camp Lee- 11 Apr 1950) (WAC OCS Class #3-1950).**

**Staff Advisor Sixth US Army Aug 1972-Dec 1974.**

**US Army Support Command Vietnam Jan 1969- Jan 1970.**

**Philanthropy post-military - \$6 million scholarship fund gift to James Madison University awarding \$240K annually.**

**COL Charlotte I. Woodworth (Fort Des Moines- 10 Apr 1943) (WAAC OCS Class # 22).**

**WAC Staff Advisor to Republic of Korea Army Feb 1958-Mar 1959.**

**WAC Training Battalion Commander Fort McClellan 1954-1955.**

**WAC Training Battalion Commander Fort Lee 1953-1954.**

**COL Frances M. Yoniack (Fort Des Moines- 16 Feb 1943) (WAAC OCS Class # 15).**

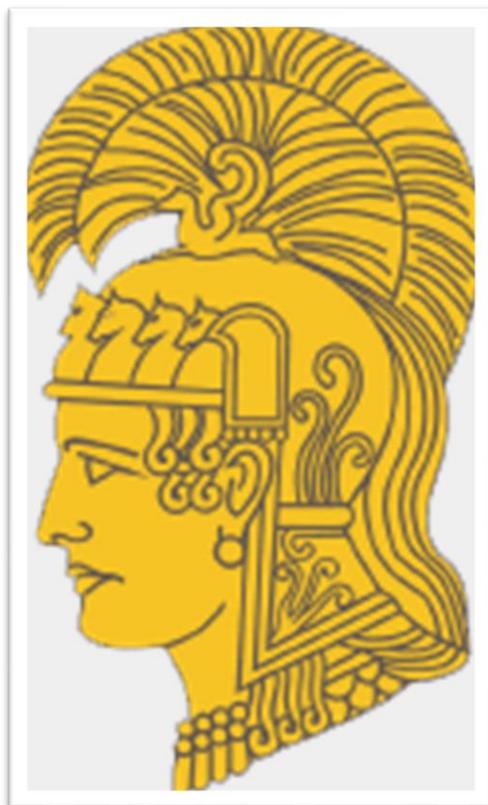
**Staff Advisor First U.S. Army Jul 1971-May 1973.**

**WAC Staff Advisor US Army Europe Jun 1969 - Apr 1971.**

**Staff Advisor First US Army Jun 1967-Jun 1969.**

**There may be more WAC OCS graduates who meet the Hall of Fame Criteria.**

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### **Lieutenant Colonel Charity E. Adams**

Lieutenant Colonel Charity Edna Adams enlisted in the U.S. Army's Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in July 1942. She was selected to attend the first WACC Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa graduating 29 August 1942 as the first African American woman to be an officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later WACs).

At the time, the U.S. Army was still segregated, so she was placed in a company with fellow female African-American women officers and was assigned to be the training supervisor at base headquarters. In 1944 she was reassigned as the Training Center control officer in charge of improving efficiency and job training as well as other responsibilities, such as surveying and summary court officer (handling women's minor offenses).

In December 1944, LTC Adams led the only company of predominantly Black WACs ever to serve overseas. They were initially stationed in Birmingham, England where she was put in charge of a postal directory service unit and also was tasked with raising the morale of women. Adams achieved this by creating beauty parlors for the women to relax and socialize.

In March 1945 LTC Adams was appointed the commanding officer of the first battalion of African-American women, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. They were stationed first in Birmingham, England then three months later moved to Rouen, France, and then to Paris. They were responsible for the delivery of mail to over seven million soldiers during World War II.

By the completion of the war, Lieutenant Colonel Adams was the highest ranking African American woman in the military.

After her service in the Army, she earned a master's degree in psychology from Ohio State University. Next she worked at the Veterans Administration in Cleveland, Ohio, but soon left to teach at the Miller Academy of Fine Arts. She moved to Nashville and was the director of student personnel at Tennessee A&I College. She then moved to Georgia and became the director of student personnel and assistant professor of education at Georgia State College. Later she served on the Board of Trustees at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. Dayton Public Schools also named one of their schools the "Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy" in her honor.

LTC Adams devoted much of her post-war life to community service. She served on the Board of Directors of Dayton Power and Light, the Dayton Metro Housing Authority, the Dayton Opera Company, the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross, and the Board of Trustees of Sinclair Community College. She volunteered for United Way, the United Negro College Fund, the Urban League, and the YWCA. She also co-directed the Black Leadership Development Program.

Her awards and decorations include the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2022, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the United States Congress. This prestigious award recognized the unit's outstanding service and the lasting impact it had on the military and society as a whole.





### **Brigadier General Mildred I. Bailey**

General Bailey enlisted in Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on August 5, 1942. She graduated from WAAC OCS Class 3 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa and was commissioned in the WAAC on September 26, 1942. She was commissioned in the Regular Army in April 1949.

She was first assigned as an instructor in an Army Air Corps program training French cadets in Alabama. Between 1942 and 1957, she served as a company officer at the Second WAAC Training Center, an intelligence officer, a WAC detachment commander, and in other positions. In 1957, she graduated from the Strategic Intelligence School. From 1958 to 1961, she was chief of WAC Recruiting for Third United States Army.

In 1961 she took command of the WAC company at Fort Myer, Virginia, the Corps' largest unit. While there, she built a woman's exhibit for a traveling set of exhibits that informed the country about the army. In 1963, she was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and for the next six years, she was in charge of the WAC Exhibit Team traveling with the tour and expanding the women's history presentation. In 1968 she was assigned as congressional liaison officer to the U.S. Senate. In August 1969, she was promoted to colonel, and in 1970, she was selected to be the 8th Director of the WAC.

On August 1, 1971 she became the third woman in United States Army to reach the rank of brigadier general. General Bailey's tour as WAC Director from 1971 to 1975 was highlighted by the successful WAC expansion (from 12,781 WACs in July 1971 to 39,171 in July 1975), introduction of innovative uniform items, and, as she wrote, "more changes in law, regulations, and policies concerning uniformed women than in the entire preceding twenty-eight years."

Many of the changes during her tenure listed below were of major importance:

- All MOSs were opened to women except those involving direct combat.
- Women entered the Army's ROTC programs.
- WACs were authorized to command men except in combat units.
- Servicewomen received dependency entitlements.
- Assignment constraints were removed on utilization of women.
- WAC units were combined with those for men.
- Housing was combined for men and women, but privacy was maintained.
- Mandatory discharge on pregnancy and parenthood was eliminated; voluntary discharge on marriage was eliminated.
- Women were permitted to enlist at age 18 without their parents' consent and at 17 with their parents' consent.
- WAC officers were permanently assigned to other branches.
- Mandatory weapons training was initiated for enlisted women and officers.
- Army aviation and airborne training were opened to women.
- An optional mint-green summer uniform, black beret, Army green pantsuit, fatigues, and black raincoat were added to women's uniform wardrobe. Bailey is remembered for designing the Army's female drill sergeant hat in 1972. Her design was taken from the Australian bush hat and was beige in color. In 1983, the color was changed to green with the style remaining unchanged.

General Bailey's public relations talent and hard work contributed to the success of the WAC expansion. Because of the need for women, the secretary of the Army had increased the director's travel funds in response to the DCSPER's desire that she devote a large part of her time and energy to promoting WAC recruiting and monitoring the impact of WAC expansion in the field. As a result, General Bailey visited all WAC units in CONUS and overseas twice during her four-year tour of duty; funds allotted to the former directors had allowed only one visit to each of the commands. General Bailey welcomed the opportunity to travel, to increase the public's knowledge of the WAC, to visit the women and explain the expanded WAC policies to them and to commanders in the field. She promoted recruitment, improved the morale of the enlisted women, educated male members of the Army on women's role, and evaluated the progress of the expansion. She later estimated that she spent approximately 80 percent of her time traveling and away from her desk at the Pentagon.

Her military awards include: the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, and National Defense Service Medal with/ Oak Leaf Cluster.



### **Colonel Judith C. Bennett**

Colonel Judith C. Bennett was Born April 16, 1920, in Corsicana, Texas.

Shortly after her husband, an Army Air Forces pilot was killed in a training accident Judith and her sister Grace Polk joined the WAAC in Dallas Texas. She was commissioned upon graduation from the WAAC Officer Candidate School Class #2 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on September 12, 1942. Her sister graduated from WAAC OCS Class # 3 on September 26, 1942.

She initially served as commander of WAC detachments at Fort Des Moines and in March 1943, she took command of a Detachment of WACs at the Army Women's Administration School at Eastern College, Kentucky. In late 1944, she was assigned as the detachment commander for the WACS at Finschhafen, New Guinea and moved with the detachment to the Philippines in mid-1945.

She was discharged in January 1947 and was studying at the University of Alabama on the GI Bill when recalled to active duty in October 1950. She was then assigned as the Commanding Officer of the WAC Detachment at Fitzsimmons General Hospital, Denver.

Colonel Bennett was a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin and earned a Master of Business administration degree from the University of Alabama. From July 1954 to March 1956, she served as Assistant executive officer, then executive officer and later secretary of the General Staff at Fort Huachuca Arizona.

From March 1956 to April 1958 she served as Manpower Control Officer Headquarters, Northern Area Command in Frankfurt, Germany.

Her next assignment was to the Supply and Maintenance Division of the Fourth Army G-4 Section at Sam Houston, Texas.

She attended the WAC School Officer Advanced Course in 1954 and the Command and General Staff College in 1961.

Her subsequent assignments included:

Director of Instruction at the WAC School Fort McClellan, Alabama.

The first WAC officer assigned to STRIKE Command at McDill Air Force Base.

Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Women Armed Forces.

Senior Staff Advisor, US Army Pacific from March 1970 to July 1971.

She retired from the Army in the Summer of 1971.

Her military awards include: the Legion of Merit, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asian-Pacific campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Colonel Bennett passed away on December 28, 2010 and was buried in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



### **Colonel Westray Battle Boyce**

Colonel Westray Battle Boyce was born on August 10, 1901 in North Carolina. She attended the Women's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (1918–19), where she was president of her class, and Pell's Law School in Raleigh (1921–22). She entered civilian service of the federal government in Washington, D.C., in March 1934 and was assistant chief of the insurance section of the Federal Works Agency in 1941 -1942.

In August 1942 Westray Battle Boyce entered military service as an officer candidate in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). She was commissioned as a third officer (equivalent to second lieutenant) upon graduation from Class #2 on 12 September 1942. She was appointed WAAC staff director at Headquarters Fourth Service Command, Atlanta, Georgia in October and promoted to the grade of first officer (captain) on 23 December 1942.

In August 1943 she was transferred to the North African theater of operations as WAAC staff director under General Dwight D. Eisenhower and promoted to the grade of major. In that capacity, she was responsible for the reenlistment of WAACs assigned to North Africa in the Women's Army Corps effective 1 September 1943 and for the health and welfare of all WACs in the North African theater and later the Mediterranean theater.

Over two thousand women, assigned to approximately twenty different locations throughout North Africa and Italy, were under her command. Promoted to the grade of lieutenant colonel on 8 Feb. 1944, she received the European-African ribbon with battle star and the Legion of Merit. This was the first Legion of Merit to be awarded to a woman.

Colonel Boyce was transferred to the War Department General Staff, Washington, D.C., and assigned as military personnel staff officer of Personnel Division, G 1 in August 1944. She represented her division on the team engaged in extensive study of psychoneurosis in the army. This study, which lasted approximately eight months, involved consideration of army standards for the induction, training, and assignment of all personnel, and for the treatment and possible discharge of those psychiatrically ill.

She was named deputy director of the Women's Army Corps in May 1945. The following July she was appointed to succeed Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby as director of the corps and promoted to the grade of colonel. As director, she was responsible for the health and welfare of all WACs as well as for recommendations to the chief of staff concerning the reduction of the strength of the corps.

In September 1945 Colonel Boyce made a flight around the world to arrange for the orderly return to the United States of WACs eligible for discharge and subsequently was awarded the Pacific theater ribbon. In November 1946, on an inspection tour, she visited installations in the European theater. Westray served as director of the Women's Army Corps until March 1947, when she was hospitalized; she was retired for physical disability effective 7 May 1947.

In January 1946 Colonel Boyce was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit for her work concerning the problems of psychoneurosis in the army and for her service as director of the WAC.

Her military awards include: The Legion of Merit W/ Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Colonel Boyce passed away on January 31, 1972. She is buried at Battle Cemetery Whitakers, North Carolina.



### **Colonel Elizabeth H. Branch**

Colonel Elizabeth H. Branch was born on July 16, 1917, in Stanford, Connecticut.

She enlisted in the Army on July 31, 1942 and attended the WAAC Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She was commissioned upon graduation as a member of OCS Class # 4 on October 3, 1942.

She served during World War II at Camp Blanding, Florida and later in England, France, and Belgium and immediately afterwards in Nanking, China on a mission headed by General George C. Marshall in 1946.

Colonel Branch served at Fort McClellan Alabama from 1955-1957 as an instructor and LOGEX (Logistic Exercise) Liaison Officer and was the head of WAC officer procurement for Fourth Army at Fort Sam Houston during 1958.

After earning a bachelor's degree from George Washington University, she became the first female officer to head a division of the Army Ordnance Guided Missile School at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

She was assigned to the Troop Operations Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Headquarters Department of the Army prior to her command assignment from June 1966 to August 1968, where she served as Commanding Officer and

Commandant of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) Center and School at Fort McClellon, Alabama.

When the restrictions on women's promotions were lifted in late 1967, she was on the first list of women promoted to full colonel. Of the twenty-seven eligible WAC officers, she was one of the six selected by the Board. Until that time there were only two WAC Colonels - the Director of the WAC and a member of the White House Staff.

In September 1968 she became one of the first women officers assigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Branch was assigned to the MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) as the command historian in 1971. She remained in that assignment for 18 months. Two annual histories of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, appeared between February 1971 and August 1972, when she led its Military History Branch.

Her military awards include: The Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, The Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European African Middle-Eastern Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Colonel Branch retired after with more than 30 years of service after returning from Vietnam in 1972.

She served on the Board of Directors of the Women's Army Corps Foundation and developed the foundation's oral history program.

She died on February 26, 2006 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



### **Colonel Lane Carlson**

Colonel Lane Carlson was born in Scotts Bluff, Nebraska on June 6, 1919. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1941 and was a radio script writer at Hannibal, Missouri and Dubuque, Iowa prior to enlisting.

She enlisted in the WAAC in February 1943 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa and graduated from the Officer Candidate School Class # 32 on June 18, 1943.

Her first duty assignment was as Assistant Public Information Officer at Camp Butner, North Carolina. She then served as Public Relations Officer at Stark General Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina before becoming Assistant Public Relations Officer at Headquarters of the Fourth Service Command in Atlanta, Georgia.

Colonel Carlson was Aide to General Douglas MacArthur and while assigned to his public information office in Tokyo she served as Helen Keller's guide during a 1946 tour of Japan. Major Carlson was integrated into the Regular Army in 1949 during her service in Japan.

Her subsequent assignments included duty with the Information Section of Headquarters Second Army, Fort George Meade, Maryland in 1951 and Information Officer of the US Army WAC Center, Fort McClellan, Alabama from 1955-57.

She was a Graduate of the Command and General Staff College and earned a Master of Arts degree in communications and journalism from Stanford University. Colonel Carlson was named technical advisor for the movie "Francis Joins the WACs" starring Donald

O'Connor, while serving as Executive Officer of the Sixth Army Information Section at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Colonel Carlson served in the Office of Public Affairs at Headquarters U.S. Army Europe Heidelberg, before being assigned to Fort McClellan in January 1967. She became editor of the official Army magazine in 1971. It was called the Army Information Digest from 1946 until May 31, 1971, when the name was changed to Soldiers. Carlson was the first woman editor in the 25 year history of the publication.

Her military awards include: the Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Japan) and National Defense Service Medal.



### **Major General Mary E. Clarke**

Major General Mary Elizabeth Clarke was born on December 3, 1924 in Rochester, New York. After graduating from Rochester West High School, she became a secretary and then a defense worker before enlisting in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in August 1945.

After completing basic training and later serving as a supply sergeant at Camp Stoneman, California in 1947, Clarke was sent to Germany, in 1948, serving with the Berlin Brigade during the Berlin Airlift crisis.

She was commissioned upon graduation from the Women's Army Corps (WAC) Officer Candidate School Class #2, Camp Lee, Virginia on 29 September 1949.

Clarke's next assignments were command of WAC detachments at the United States Army Chemical Center and Valley Forge General Hospital. Clarke then did recruitment duty in Baltimore for a year. She then traveled to Tokyo and became a commanding officer of a WAC unit. Upon returning to the U.S., she served from 1958 to 1971 in various staff positions in several states, as well as Washington, D.C., where she worked with the Office of Equal Opportunity and at the Pentagon.

In 1972, now a colonel, Clarke was assigned as the commander of the U.S. WAC Center and School in Fort McClellan, Alabama. She was then appointed as the department director of the WAC Advisory Office before being promoted to brigadier general and becoming the last Director of the WAC on August 1, 1975. The WAC was dissolved on April 28, 1978.

Clarke was promoted to major general in November 1978, becoming the first woman to attain this rank. She oversaw the movement of the U.S Army Chemical School to Fort McClellan, Alabama, where she was appointed as the commander of the U.S Army Military Police and Chemical Schools. This made her the first woman to ever command a major military installation. She retired in 1981 after 36 years of serving the country—the longest of any woman in U.S Army history at the time.

Her military awards include: the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal WW II, Medal for Humane Action and the National Defense Service Medal w/ Oak Leaf Cluster.



### **Colonel Irene O. Galloway**

Colonel Irene O. Galloway was born September 1, 1908, in Carroll County, Iowa. She attended Boyles Business College in Omaha, Nebraska and joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in July 1942. She was commissioned upon graduation from WAAC Officer Candidate School Class #2 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on September 12, 1942.

Her initial assignments during World War II were at the WAC Headquarters at the Pentagon, Headquarters for Army Services Forces, and with the G-1 Career Management Group. In 1948, she was assigned as WAC Staff Advisor to the European Command for four years with headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany.

In November 1952, she was selected to replace the commander of the WAC Training Center at Fort Lee. Colonel Galloway reported to Fort Lee on 24 November 1952 and within two weeks was notified she had been selected to be the new WAC Director. On 3 January 1953, in the office of Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, she was sworn in as the fourth Director of the WAC and promoted Colonel. At the time of her appointment as director, Colonel Galloway had served 10 years in the Women's Army Corps.

Her tenure as WAC Director from January 1953 to 2 January 1957 was a time of sound accomplishment and earned her the respect and affection of the Women of the Corps. Enlistment gains exceeded losses; three-year enlistments surpassed two-year enlistments; and the reenlistment rate was higher than in 1953. These improvements were, in part, a result of increased military pay and reenlistment bonuses, the Army's new management system for enlisted personnel, adding enlistment options and improving job satisfaction for the WACs, and the establishment of a new WAC training facility in Fort

McClellan, Alabama in December 1954. The WAC Center provided the receiving, processing, and training operations for all female officers and enlisted personnel entering the U.S. Army.

Colonel Galloway retired in November 1961 after a tour of duty in the Office of Special Assistance to the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs but was recalled to active duty a few months later to serve on the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Her military awards include: The Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

She died in 1963 and is buried in Carroll County, Iowa.



**Colonel Emily C. Gorman**

Emily C. Gorman was born in New York on April 9, 1909. She graduated from Cornell University in 1931 and worked as a teacher in New York until she enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942.

She was commissioned upon graduating from WAAC OCS Class # 5 at the WAAC Training Center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on 10 October 1942. Her first assignment was chief of the center's WAAC Administration School. In 1944, she was selected to be the WAC staff director for the Surgeon General of the Army, Washington, D.C., and, in August 1945, she was sent to Berlin as Executive Secretary of the Allied Control Authority.

After eighteen months, she returned home and was demobilized. Seven months later, February 1947, she returned to active duty, at the request of WAC Director Colonel Mary Hallaren, to prepare organization and training plans for a new WAC training center. When the WAC bill passed in 1948, she went to Camp Lee as S-3 (training officer).

Promoted to lieutenant colonel in November 1950, she served as commander of the basic training battalion before leaving in 1951 to assume duties as WAC staff adviser at Headquarters, Second Army, Fort Meade. She served as deputy director of the WAC from January 1953 until January 1957, then became the deputy chief of the Plans and Training Division, Headquarters, Continental Army Command, Fort Monroe (1957-1960).

She was serving as assistant chief of the Foreign Military Training Division, ODCSOPS, at the Pentagon, when selected by Secretary Stahr to serve as the new Director.

Shortly after the 5th WAC Director Colonel Mary L Milligan Rasmuson announced her approaching retirement, Secretary of the Army Elvis J. Stahr, Jr., appointed a board, including

Colonel Rasmuson, to recommend nominees for her replacement. In February 1962, he announced he had selected Colonel Gorman to be the sixth director of the Women's Army Corps.

In May 1962, President Kennedy received Colonel Gorman and the former WAC Directors at the White House to publicly celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Women's Army Corps. She was sworn in as director and promoted to colonel on 1 August 1962 by a new Secretary of the Army, Cyrus R. Vance.

Colonel Gorman had been in office only a few weeks when the Cuban Missile Crisis began to build and Congress authorized the president to recall 150,000 reservists for one year and to extend enlistments, overseas tours, and active duty commitments.

Gorman enrolled the Women's Army Corps in an exhibit program to increase public awareness of the WAC functions. The exhibit was unveiled at the Pentagon on May 14, 1963. Gorman had assigned Lieutenant Colonel Mildred I. C. Bailey as the head of the exhibit's planning team. The exhibit, "The Women's Army Corps—Serving with Pride and Dignity," toured the country for six and a half years. Colonel Bailey later became the 8th WAC Director.

On 28 July 1966, Colonel Gorman's retirement ceremonies were held at WAC Center. At her regimental retirement review, on the Marshall Parade Ground, she was presented with the rarely awarded Distinguished Service Medal by Lieutenant General James K. Woolnough, DCSPER of the Army, in recognition of her achievements as director of the WAC and her twenty-four years of service in the United States Army

Her military awards include: The Distinguished Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Medal for Humane Action and the National Defense Service Medal.



**Colonel Mary J. Guyette**

Colonel Mary J. Guyette was born in New Jersey on January 10, 2022. She is a graduate of New Jersey State Teachers College, Glassboro, New Jersey, with a Bachelor of Science degree in education.

She enlisted in the WAC on April 7, 1943 and graduated from the Women's Army Corps Officer Candidate School Class #36 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on July 14, 1943.

During 1948-1949 Colonel Guyette served as a recruiting officer for the Kansas-Missouri Recruiting District as part of a campaign for enlistment of ex-service women to the WAC.

Colonel Guyette served in Japan from 1950-1953 followed by variety of staff assignments during the next ten years. From August 1963 to September 1965, she was WAC Senior Advisor to the Republic of Korea Army, in Seoul, Korea. She then served as S-2 and S-3 of the U.S. Army Women's Army Corps Center at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

June 1968 she began a tour with the U.S. Army Element, Defense intelligence Agency, Washington D.C and from April 1971 to July 1972 she was the WAC Staff Advisor to U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany.

Colonel Guyette died on March 13, 1997 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Her military awards include: the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak-Leaf Clusters, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

## **Historical Note – WAC Promotions to Colonel (O-6) from 1942-1968**

In January 1968 - soon after enactment of Public Law 90-130, which reduced career restrictions on women officers, the WAC Director requested an increase in the WAC officer grade structure and action to select six WAC officers for promotion to colonel.

The Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel concurred and forwarded the request to the Army Secretary, who approved both the increase and appointment of a special board to select WAC officers for promotion to colonel.

He directed that the selectees meet the same criteria for promotion as had the male officers selected for colonel by the annual promotion board in the fall of 1967. Of twenty-seven eligible WAC officers, the board selected six: Elizabeth H. Branch, Lane Carlson, Mary J. Guyette, Marie Kehrer, Maxene B. Michl, and Charlotte I. Woodworth.

The women on this list received their promotions after the men on the annual list, but the Army later interspersed the WACs by date of rank on the lineal list of colonels. Subsequent boards selected both men and women. Prior to this action the WAC had only one Colonel (the WAC Director) from 1942 until 1965.

Lieutenant Colonel Mary J.D. Roberts a graduate of Class # 1 was a reserve officer for 23 years and President Johnson's Staff Secretary from 1953-1968. The President requested that she be promoted to Colonel and The Secretary of the Army approved the promotion on June 7, 1965. From that day until the six women selected by the 1968 board were promoted the WAC had two full Colonels.



**Colonel Mary A. Hallaren**

Colonel Mary Agnes Hallaren was born on May 4, 1907 in Lowell, Massachusetts. She graduated from Boston University and Lowell State Teachers College. She taught junior high school for 15 years in Lexington, Massachusetts, spending her summers traveling throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Europe.

She enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), later to become the Women's Army Corps, (WAC) in 1942. She was commissioned upon graduation from WAAC Officer Candidate School Class #1 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on August 29, 1942.

Hallaren was appointed executive officer and later commanding officer of the first WAC Separate Battalion — which in July 1943 arrived in Scotland under her command as the first WAC unit in the European Theater of Operations in World War II.

As a Lieutenant Colonel, she commanded the largest contingent of women serving overseas during the Second World War.

From June 20, 1946 to March 4, 1947, she was Deputy Director of the Women's Army Corps and after two months as Acting Director she became the third Director of the WAC on May 7, 1947. Less than five years after joining the Women's Army Corps Hallaren was promoted to colonel—at the time, the highest rank possible for a woman.

Many of her military colleagues favored the peacetime demobilization of women. Army Chief of Staff Dwight D. Eisenhower believed women were necessary to meet post-war personnel needs. Hallaren became the primary exponent and dynamic force advocating

permanent status for military women. In 1948, despite strong opposition, Hallaren was instrumental in seeing that the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was adopted, enabling women to serve as permanent regular members of all of the armed forces, not just in the military in times of war.

Colonel Hallaren served as Director until January 2, 1953, making her the longest serving Director in WAC history.

She then served four years in the Office of Personnel, U.S. European Command, Frankfurt, Germany, and as operations officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense from 1957 until her retirement on June 30, 1960.

After retirement she completed a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and took graduate courses at Boston University and Harvard. In 1965, Hallaren became Executive Director of Women in Community Service for the Department of Labor for 13 years, leaving in 1978 at the age of 71. Through its programs, at-risk women were able to secure job training and economic opportunity. Because of Hallaren's vision and inspiration, women who might have failed economically and socially, succeeded.

She was also instrumental in the creation of the "Women in Military Service Memorial," erected at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery in the nation's capital to honor the contributions and achievements of all military women.

In war and peace, Colonel Mary Hallaren proved herself a true leader of women and was described as "one of the giants among military women." She was on the cover of Newsweek Magazine on May 21, 1951, as the "Boss of the Ladies' Legion" for an article about the ninth birthday of the Women's Army Corps.

Hallaren was elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1996 and featured in Tom Brokaw's book "The Greatest Generation."

Colonel Hallaren's military awards include the Legion of Merit with two Oak-Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star with Oak-Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation with Oak-Leaf Cluster, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal WW II and the National Defense Service Medal.

She died on February 13, 2005 and was buried in St. Patrick Cemetery, Lowell, Massachusetts.



### **Colonel Georgia D. Hill**

Colonel Georgia D. Hill was born in Manistee, Michigan on November 18, 1924. She enlisted in the WAC on November 18, 1944 and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant before attending Officer Candidate School Class # 1 at Fort Lee, Virginia. She graduated from the course and was commissioned Second Lieutenant on April 1, 1949.

After early assignments at the company grade level Colonel Hill served as commanding officer at the Clerical Training Company in 1961 and attended the WAC Advanced Course at Fort McClellan in 1962.

She received a bachelor's degree in military science from the University of Maryland in 1958 and a master's degree in public law from Columbia University in 1959. She then served as a Strategic Intelligence Officer, U.S. Army Defense Intelligence Agency Washington D.C.

Colonel Hill was assigned as the WAC School Director of Instruction at Fort McClellan, Alabama on July 15, 1965. She was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1965 and presented the Joint Service Commendation Medal during the WAC School's 13th birthday celebration.

She continued her career as an Intelligence Officer and a member of the Foreign Area Specialist Program in Russian. She was a graduate of the Defense Language Institute in both German and Russian. She served as Chief; Military Capabilities Branch and Assistant Chief of the Production Division U.S. Army Intelligence Center Europe and Seventh Army from August 1967 to May 1970.

She was promoted to Colonel on July 1, 1970. On her third tour at Fort McClellan, she was named Assistant Commandant of the Women's Army Corps School. She served in that position from July 1, 1970 to January 29, 1972.

Colonel Hill's military awards include the Legion of Merit, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

She died on November 10, 2008.



### **Colonel Edith M. Hinton**

Colonel Edith M. Hinton was born in Beaumont, Mississippi on February 23, 1930 and graduated from high school there in 1946. She attended Jones County Junior College at Ellisville before enlisting.

She entered the Army from Hattiesburg, Mississippi on June 8, 1949 and served as platoon sergeant in a basic training company at the WAC Center in Fort Lee, Virginia and recruiting sergeant before entering Officer Candidate School in 1951. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from WAC Officer Candidate School class # 6 at Fort Lee, Virginia on March 8, 1952.

Her early tours of duty included assignments at recruiting stations in Ohio and Kentucky and troop assignments in the States and administrative officer duties in Japan.

Colonel Hinton was Commander of the WAC Company attached to the First Special Troops Battalion, Special Troop Command at Fort Benning, Georgia and then spent time recruiting in Arkansas during 1959 for the Women's Army Corps College Juniors program.

She was WAC Selection Officer at Little Rock, Arkansas prior to attending the University of Southern Mississippi under the Army's Degree Completion Program during 1961-1962.

In April 1962 Hinton became Chief of Plans and Operations of the WAC Training Battalion. She was promoted to Major in 1963 and took command of the WAC School Officer Training

Detachment at Fort McClellan until being transferred to a new assignment at Fort Ord, California in July 1964.

She graduated from the Command and General Staff College in May 1967, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1967 and assigned to the Readiness Division Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations in the Pentagon. She was the only WAC officer in that office.

Colonel Hinton became the First US Army (Fort Meade) WAC Staff Advisor in June 1969 and remained in that position until July 1971. She served as the WAC Training Battalion Commander from 1972-1973 and as the Assistant Commandant of the WAC School from September 13, 1973 to May 22, 1974.

She became the first Commander of Fort Jackson's 5th Basic Training WAC Brigade when it was activated in 1974. Her final duty assignment was as the last Deputy Director of the Women's Army Corps from September 1, 1975 to April 28, 1978.

Her military awards include: The Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.



## **Brigadier General Elizabeth P. Hoisington**

Brigadier General Elizabeth P. Hoisington was born in Newton, Kansas on November 3, 1918. In 1940 she graduated from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland with a degree in Chemistry.

In November 1942, Hoisington enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and completed basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She served in a WAAC aircraft early warning unit in Bangor, Maine and returned to Fort Des Moines to attend the WAAC Officer Candidate School.

She was commissioned as a Third Officer upon graduation from Class # 27 on May 10, 1943. A month later, when the auxiliary became the Women's Army Corps (WAC) its officers changed to standard Army ranks and Hoisington became a Second Lieutenant.

General Hoisington was sent to Europe in 1944 and was among the first U.S. women to set foot on French soil after the D-day invasion. At the Potsdam conference after the German surrender in May 1945, she helped organize the telephone system.

She was executive officer of a WAC battalion in Tokyo from 1948 to 1950 and served at the Pentagon and the Presidio of San Francisco until 1964. She was commandant of the Women's Army Corps School at Fort McClellan, Alabama from November 1964 to July 1966.

In 1966, during a period when the role of women was changing as much in the military as in society at large, she was named the seventh Director of the Women's Army Corps. She

served in that position from August 1, 1966 to July 31, 1971. As Director during the Vietnam War, she visited WACs serving in Saigon and Long Binh in September 1967.

At a Pentagon ceremony on June 11, 1970, Hoisington and Anna Mae Hays, Director of the Army Nurse Corps, both received promotion to Brigadier General, making them the Army's first two women generals. An older brother, Perry Hoisington, was a major general in the Air Force, making them the country's first brother and sister generals. Because they were promoted in alphabetical order, Hays was the first woman in the United States Armed Forces to wear the insignia of a Brigadier General.

Their promotions were a public relations coup for the Army. A photograph of Gen. William Westmoreland, the Army chief of staff, kissing Hoisington at the ceremony was featured in newspapers and in the World Book encyclopedia.

General Hoisington and Hays appeared on the Dick Cavett, David Frost and "Today" shows, and Hoisington was a guest on the popular game show "What's My Line?"

During her five years leading the WAC, the number of women in the service rose from fewer than 10,000 to almost 13,000. Their duties, once largely secretarial and supportive, expanded to include intelligence, electronics, personnel administration and air traffic control.

She was adamant that women should never play an active role in combat. "The women libbers," she said in 1990, "are still a little vocal as to why they can't go into combat. I don't think the people of the United States want that."

The Women's Army Corps remained a distinct branch within the Army until it was abolished in 1978 and women assumed duties alongside men.

Her military awards include: The Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory medal Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Croix de guerre 1939-1945 (France).

General Hoisington retired on August 1, 1971. She died in Springfield, Virginia, on August 21, 2007, at the age of 88. She is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



### **Major General Jeanne M. Holm**

Major General Jeanne M. Holm was born on June 23, 1921, in Portland, Oregon. Holm was an accomplished snow and water skier, student of ancient history, scuba diver and skipper of her own power cruiser. Prior to entering military service, she was a professional silversmith. She enlisted in the Army in July 1942, soon after Congress established the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). She attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and in January 1943, received a commission as a Third Officer, the WAAC equivalent of Second Lieutenant.

During World War II, Holm was assigned to the Women's Army Corps Training Center at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, where she first commanded a basic training company and then a training regiment. At the end of the war, she commanded the 106th WAC Hospital Company at Newton D. Baker General Hospital, West Virginia. After serving stateside during WWII, she left active duty in 1946 and attended Lewis and Clark College for two years, returning in 1956 for her Bachelor of Arts degree.

In October 1948, during the Berlin Blockade, Holm was recalled to active duty with the Army and went to Camp Lee in Virginia, as a company commander within the Women's Army Corps Training Center. The following year she transferred to the Air Force and was sent to Erding Air Depot, Germany. There she served as Assistant Director of Plans and Operations for the 7200th Air Force Depot Wing and later as a War Plans Officer for the 85th Air Depot Wing, during the Berlin airlift and the early phases of the Korean War.

Holm returned from overseas in 1952 and became the first woman to attend the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. She was then assigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force in Washington, DC, as a personnel plans and programs officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel.

Her next assignment was as Chief of Manpower in Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters, in Naples, Italy, where she served for four years. She returned to Headquarters U.S. Air Force in 1961 and was assigned as Congressional Staff Officer for the Director of Manpower and Organization.

In November 1965 Holm was appointed Director of Women in the Air Force (WAF), in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel. She was extended twice, making her the longest-serving WAF director. Holm played a significant role in eliminating restriction on women in service. She was responsible for overall staff cognizance of and advice on matters concerning military women in the Air Force. During her tenure, policies affecting women were updated, WAF strength more than doubled, job and assignment opportunities greatly expanded, uniforms modernized, opening ROTC and service academies to women, and changing the policies on the status of women in the armed forces. She was an active proponent for expanding the opportunities for women to serve in the Armed Forces and a catalyst for changing their roles and career opportunities within the Air Force during her service as Director from November 1965 to March 1973.

Holm was promoted to the grade of brigadier general July 16, 1971 the first woman to be appointed in this grade in the Air Force. She was promoted to the grade of Major General effective June 1, 1973 with date of rank July 1, 1970 and was the first woman in the Armed Forces to serve in that grade.

On March 1, 1973 Holm was appointed director of the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council. In this position, she was responsible for administration of the council and functioning of its boards and served as president of the Air Force Discharge Review Board, Personnel Board, Board of Review, Physical Disability Appeal Board, Decorations Board and the Disability Review Board.

Holm retired from the Air Force in 1975. After retiring, Holm consulted for the Defense Manpower Commission. In March, 1976 Holm was named Special Assistant to President Gerald Ford for the Office of Women's Programs. Holm was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Her military awards include: the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory

Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Berlin Airlift Device, Medal of Humane Action and the National Defense Service Medal.

Holm wrote two books about women in the military, beginning with *Women in the Military: An Unfinished Revolution* in 1982. Holm updated the book in 1992–1994, filling in American women's combat and military experiences in the invasions of Grenada, Panama and in the Gulf War. In 1998, Holm published a history of American women serving in World War II, entitled *In Defense of a Nation: Servicewomen in World War II*, summarizing the experiences of women serving all of the military arms.



### **Colonel Marie Kehrer**

Colonel Marie Kehrer was born on September 12, 1915 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and graduated from Minnesota State Teachers College in Mankato in 1939.

She joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps on July 30, 1942. She attended the WAAC Officer Candidate School Class # 4 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa and was commissioned upon graduation on October 3, 1942.

During World war II she served as an instructor at Fort Des Moines and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and served in the Pacific Theater before and during the Korean War as an Intelligence Officer.

Colonel Kahrer did post graduate work at the University of Minnesota, graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College in 1961 and later attended the Department of Defense Management Course. She served as a Military Congressional Liaison Officer with the Army Material Command, and as a staff officer on the Army General Staff in the Pentagon.

From October 1962 to June 1964, she was the WAC Staff Advisor for the U.S. Army in Heidelberg Germany. She then served as Assistant Commandant of the WAC School at Fort McClellan, Alabama from June 20, 1964 to June 23, 1966.

She was one of six WACs selected for promotion to Colonel after a 1967 amendment to the Women's Armed Service Integration Act (Public Law 90-30) removed the cap on rank and

total number of women allowed in uniform. Kahrer served as Deputy to the WAC Director from August 1, 1967 until her retirement on January 31, 1971.

Colonel Kehrer was active in raising funds, building and equipping the Women's Army Corps Museum. For thirty years she served as a member of the Board of Directors of the WAC and Army Women's Museum Foundations.

Her military awards include the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal WW II Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Korean Service Medal.

She died on September 15, 2006 and was buried in Bay Pines National Cemetery in Florida.



### **Colonel Alice A. Long**

Colonel Alice A. Long was born in Swampscott, Massachusetts on October 22, 1921.

A 1940 graduate of the Chandler School in Boston, she worked at the United Shoe Company before enlisting in the Women's Army Corps in Boston on June 21, 1943.

After attending Basic Training, she was assigned to Camp Detrick, Maryland, where she remained until her Officer Candidate School Training with Class #58 began at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in May 1945. She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduating from the course on July 21, 1945.

During her military career, she was the WAC advisor to the Republic of Korea Army from September 1965 to July 1967 and was the Army Community Services representative for the Department of the Army during 1968 and 1969. She served in Vietnam as a Personnel Staff Officer with MACV J1 in Saigon from June 1970 to June 1971, and was the WAC Staff Advisor, U.S. Army Pacific from July 1971 to August 1974.

Colonel Long's military awards include: the Bronze Star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, United Nations Korean Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

She retired in August 1974 and died on April 18, 1988.



### **Colonel Geraldine Pratt May**

Colonel Geraldine Pratt May was born on 21 April 1895 in Albany, New York. She attended high school in Tacoma, Washington and Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. A social worker and Camp Fire Girls executive, she married in 1928 in Sacramento, California and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

After her husband died, she joined the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in July 1942. She graduated with Class # 1 of the WAAC Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa and was commissioned on August 29, 1942.

Colonel May was among the first women officers assigned to the Army Air Forces in March 1943. A month short of her 48th birthday she became the WAC Staff Director of Air Transport Command, which included 6,000 enlisted women and officers. In this capacity, she visited air bases throughout the U.S. and overseas to inspect and advise commanders on policies and assignments of Army women.

At the end of World War II, she was assigned to the War Department General Staff and served as the Army Ground Forces WAC Staff Director. In January 1948, May was transferred to Army Headquarters to formulate plans in the post-war military.

With the enactment of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in June 1948, May received a Reserve commission in the newly created Air Force. She was appointed as the first Director of Women in the Air Force (WAF) and became the first woman Colonel in the Air Force. The newly created Air Force played a vital role in welcoming women into military service with many non-pilot women filling the higher ranks of leadership.

Colonel Mays, as the top Air Force woman, advised the Chief of Staff, Air Staff, and commanders on plans and policies for integrating women into the regular and reserve forces. Each service maintained a women's branch after the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act.

In her book, "*Women in the Military: An Unfinished Revolution*," retired Air Force Major General Jeanne Holm described May as a "tiny, soft-spoken woman," but "her low-key demeanor disguised a strong will and an iron determination" and as one "not given to compromise on matters of principle."

Although May left active duty in 1951 and went on to other government posts, Holm said the colonel "will forever be remembered by those with whom she served as a true pioneer of women in the military and an example of professionalism and grace as an Air Force officer."

In 1967 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 90-130, lifting grade restrictions and strength limitations on women in the military.

Colonel May's military awards include the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Colonel May died on November 2, 1997 at age 102. She is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



### **Colonel Maxene Monetta Baker Michl**

Colonel Michl worked as a food chemist before enlisting in Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) at Fort Des Moines Iowa on September 11, 1942. She was commissioned upon graduation from the WAAC Officer Candidate School Class # 18 at Fort Des Moines on March 9, 1943.

She was commissioned in the Regular Army on January 7, 1949 and attended the Quartermaster School Officer Advanced Course in 1951. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in military science from the University of Maryland in 1958 and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on April 19, 1960.

She served in Vietnam 1966-1967 as Secretary of the General Staff, Headquarters Area Command, Saigon, was WAC Staff adviser to the Fourth Army 1967-1968.

In January 1968 shortly after enactment of Public Law 90-130 which reduced career restrictions on women officers, Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor approved appointment of a special board to select WAC officers for promotion to temporary colonel. Of twenty-seven eligible WAC officers, Maxene Michl was one of six selected for promotion to Colonel.

She served as the WAC Center Commander at Fort McClellan, Alabama from August 30, 1968 to August 14, 1970.

Colonel Michl formed the WAC Foundation in July 1969 whose purpose was to provide funding for her pet project, the Edith Nourse Rogers Museum at Ft. McClellan in Anniston,

Ala. The museum contains WAC memorabilia, and chronicles women's military involvement throughout history. She was most proud of that accomplishment.

In September 1969 she obtained approval from the Department of the Army to publish the WAC Journal to disseminate news and information of career interest to WAC officers and enlisted women. Her final assignment before retiring in 1972 was a Department of Defense Food Program coordinator and deputy commander of the Army's Natick Laboratories in Natick, Massachusetts.

Her military awards include the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Colonel Michl was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, with a memorial service conducted by the Military Officers Association of America.



### **Colonel Mary L. Milligan Rasmuson**

Colonel Mary L. Milligan Rasmuson was born on April 11, 1911 in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from Women's College at Carnegie Mellon University and went on to obtain a master's degree in school administration from the University of Pittsburgh. She worked as a secretary, teacher, school administrator.

When the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) was organized, the Army received over 30,000 applications for officer training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. The women chosen were amongst the best of the best: college educated, unmarried, capable, strong and willing to serve their country. Mary Rasmuson enlisted in the WAAC in July 1942 and was one of the 440 applicants selected for the first class of the WAAC Officer Candidate School and was commissioned on August 29, 1942.

She was recognized as an outstanding graduate of her class and was sent to the Adjutant General's School, Fort Washington, Maryland. By October she was the WAC Training Center Director at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

From 1946-1947 she was a Staff Officer, General Staff, Department of Army in Washington, D.C. and from 1947 to 1952 she served as Deputy Director, Women's Army Corps. She worked on legislation to make the WAC, the Army Nurses Corps and the Women's Medical Specialist Corp part of the regular army.

Colonel Rasmuson served from 1952-1956 as WAC Staff Advisor to Commanding General, United States Army, Europe and a member of the Continental Army Command Staff. In 1957,

President Eisenhower appointed her as the fifth Director of the WAC, and she was reappointed in 1961 by President Kennedy.

As Director of the WAC, military historians credit her with major achievements including increasing the WAC's strength, insisting on effectiveness in command, working with Congress to amend laws that deprived women of service credit and benefits, and expanding the range of military opportunities open to women.

She retired from the military in July of 1962 and moved to Anchorage, Alaska, with her new husband, Elmer Rasmuson. In Alaska, she and her husband championed philanthropy and community wellness. She served as head of the Municipality of Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Commission and later as Chair of the Anchorage Museum Foundation. She gave 45 years of service on the board of the Rasmuson Foundation, to direct more than \$200 million in grants to Alaska nonprofit organizations. Rasmuson served as honorary chair and patron of the Veterans Memorial Project and was a member of the U.S. Army Alaska Citizen's Advisory Committee, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a lifetime member of the Association of the U.S. Army and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Colonel Rasmuson's military awards include: the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.



### **Colonel Elizabeth Ann Ray**

Colonel Elizabeth Ann Ray was born on May 31, 1913 in Winnsboro, Texas. She graduated from high school in Mangum, Oklahoma and attended Oklahoma College for Women for a year. In 1934 she earned a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma. After graduation, Ray worked for a newspaper in Anadarko, Oklahoma. The War Department later recruited her, where she served in the Public Relations Bureau.

In 1942, Ray joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and attended the WAAC Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She was commissioned on October 3, 1942 as a graduate of Class #4.

She had brief assignments at the training center at Daytona Beach and at the WAAC Headquarters in the Pentagon before being transferred overseas in June 1943. Ray was stationed at the headquarters of Dwight D. Eisenhower in Algeria and served as commanding officer of a Women's Army Corps platoon attached to the 15th Air Force in Italy and North Africa.

In January 1944, she was appointed commander of a WAC intelligence squadron at 15th Air Force Headquarters in Bari, Italy. She returned to the U.S. in late 1945 and was assigned to the inactive reserve.

On May 10, 1949, Ray was reactivated in the Women in the Air Force (WAF) and sent to Mitchel Field, New York, where she commanded female troops then worked in personnel and served as assistant public information officer for the Continental Air Command.

In 1950, she attended Armed Forces Informational School at Carlisle Barracks and served as Deputy Director of WAF (Women in the Air Force) from 1953 to 1955.

From 1955 to 1958, she was Executive Secretary of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) a Department of Defense federal advisory committee established in 1951 by then -Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall.

Colonel Ray was assigned to the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska in 1958, where she served as chief of the SAC promotion and records branch.

In September 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed her Director of WAF and she served in this capacity until her retirement in 1965.

After retiring from the WAF, she returned to her journalistic roots in her adopted home state of Oklahoma, becoming public relations director at Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts (now University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma) in Chickasha, Oklahoma. In 1966 she became grants coordinator with the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, and from 1968 until her retirement in 1975 she served as assistant dean for academic affairs at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas.

Colonel Ray's military awards include the Bronze Star, The Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory medal and National Defense Service Medal.

She died on December 7, 2011 and is Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



**Colonel Mary J. D. Roberts**

Colonel Mary J. D. Roberts was born in Port Arthur, Texas on April 7, 1913. She graduated from Texas Woman's University in 1933 and served as a home demonstration agent of the Texas agricultural extension services. When her husband was called to active duty with the Navy in World War II, she followed him into military service.

She enlisted on 12 July 1942 and was a member of the first WAAC OCS Class at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She was commissioned upon graduation on August 29, 1942. The intense training she experienced was a completely new world. It was hot and physically demanding and she recalled, "for a woman to see another woman faint and fall out with glassy eyes, march and step over her and not even stop to help, that was a complete change."

Colonel Roberts stayed at Fort Des Moines upon graduation and was assigned to the "cooks" and "Bakers" school as an understudy to the Director of Training. In December 1942, she was assigned to the cadre of the second WAC training center that opened in Daytona Beach, Florida. In February 1943 she attended the Adjutant General School at Fort Washington and upon graduation she was assigned to a newly opened administration training school at a teacher's college in Alpine, Texas. The school had thirty-five officers and she served in a variety of assignments - Director of Training, Battalion Commander, Fire Marshall and Intelligence Officer. She served as Personnel Director at the Army Redistribution Center, Miami, Florida and later was in charge of awards and decorations at the Pentagon.

She left the Army in 1946 and began full-time work on Johnsons staff in 1953. Her experience and knowledge as a home demonstration agent soon came in handy. She helped with his diet compilation after a heart attack in 1955 and kept him on a low-calorie diet.

Colonel Roberts worked for Lyndon B. Johnson from 1953 to 1969, serving as his chief personal secretary during his time as both Vice President and President of the United States. She went into the US Army Reserves in 1956 when the Congressional Command and Operations Group was formed in Washington. Her duties as secretary to Mr. Johnson while he was Vice President took her to foreign lands and to places of royalty and heads of state.

In December 1962, she made an active duty tour overseas as a Lieutenant Colonel and the senior senator on the tour wrote a letter to President Johnson praising her performance. Johnson, serving as Vice President at the time realized he was entitled to military help on his staff, so he asked to have her begin an extended active duty Tour in 1963.

When she was promoted to Colonel on June 7, 1965, it was the first time that the Army had two WAC colonels on active duty. She culminated her Army career as Special Assistant on National Security Affairs in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After retiring from government service, she was instrumental in organizing the Johnson Presidential Library at the University of Texas, where she also served on the board of directors.

She is sometimes more formally known as Colonel Mary Juanita Duggan Roberts.

She died on May 26, 1983.



### **Colonel Frances Weir**

Colonel Frances Weir was born on December 14, 1927 in Winchester, Virginia. After graduating from Madison College in 1949, she enlisted in the Women's Army Corps. She majored in business and worked to pay for her education, an experience that shaped her philanthropy for the rest of her life.

She enlisted in the Women's Army Corps on August 1, 1949 and after eight weeks of basic training, she attended the six month long WAC Officer Candidate School Class # 3 at Camp Lee, Virginia. She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from OCS on April 11, 1950.

As a new WAC officer, she received "The Package" - a short workshop on how to do makeup, style hair and wear the feminine WAC uniform properly.

After promotion to captain, and then major a few years later on February 21, 1962, Weir attended Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth. At the time, the course was open to only four WAC officers per year. In 1966, Weir was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Colonel Weir was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development in 1968 and recommended for an important assignment in a combat zone: the Republic of Vietnam. In January 1969, Weir arrived in Saigon to oversee personnel, transportation and logistics in the U.S. Army Support Command.

In 1970, Weir returned to the Pentagon as a program analyst for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The Chief of Staff selected Colonel Weir to be President of the Army's Conscientious Objector Board, which reviewed the cases of those who opposed the Vietnam draft on moral or religious grounds.

From August 1972 to December 1974, she was stationed at the Sixth Army Headquarters at the Presidio of San Francisco, California, as Staff Advisor to the WAC Director on all aspects of WAC personnel for one of the Army's largest theater commands.

Colonel Weir was the first WAC to head a major unit at Fort Jackson as commander of Headquarters Support Command, a mixed Battalion of 2,000 men and 200 women. So novel was the concept of women commanding men that mention of Weir's assignment in Fort Jackson made its way into the 1974 *TIME* magazine article, "The Sexes: Skirts and Stripes."

She assumed duty as Secretary of the U.S. Army Transportation School in 1976 and was soon appointed Deputy Assistant Commandant of the school. At the time, Weir was one of about a dozen female colonels in the Army at the time (not including nurses).

She retired in 1977, one year before the WAC was dissolved and women were integrated into the Army. Weir retired to San Antonio, Texas, in 1978.

Colonel Weir's military awards include: the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Vietnam Service Medal.

Weir made a series of wise investments in retirement and regularly supported charities.

She donated \$240,000 to JMU to establish her scholarship endowment. Upon her passing in September of 2023, she donated the university's largest cash gift and largest gift solely for scholarships. At more than \$6 million, the Frances Weir ('49) Endowed Scholarship enables the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to award approximately \$240K annually in scholarship funds in perpetuity. Her endowment supports students who demonstrate financial need and who maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher with scholarships that are renewable for three years.

Colonel Weir died on September 14, 2023.



### **Colonel Charlotte I. Woodworth**

Colonel Charlotte I. Woodworth was born on January 20, 1917 in Onondaga, New York. She graduated from Syracuse University in 1938 and taught at a school in Attica, New York. She joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on December 21, 1942. She was commissioned upon graduation from the WAAC Officer Candidate School, Fort Des Moines, Iowa on April 10, 1943.

She served in France during World War II and in Berlin with the Army of Occupation in the Reparations Division of the Office of Military Government. She also commanded a battalion of WACs during her service in Europe.

During 1953-1954 she was a WAC Training Battalion Commander at Fort Lee Virginia and then served as the WAC Training Battalion Commander at Fort McClellan, Alabama from 1954 to 1955.

Colonel Woodworth graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1957 and later served as an operations officer in the office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Washington, D.C. She served as the WAC Advisor to the Republic of Korea Army from February 1958 to March 1959 in Korea and Japan.

She spent three years as an instructor of speech writing for the Army Information School at Fort Slocum, New York. A pioneer among women in the military service, she was one of the first six women promoted to full colonel on the competitive selection basis in 1968.

She was serving as Secretary of the General Staff USA STRATCOM, Fort Huachuca, Arizona when she retired in May of 1970.

Colonel Woodworth's military awards include: the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal w/Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal WW II and National Defense Service Medal.

She died on July 6, 1991.



### **Colonel Frances M. Yoniack**

Colonel Frances M. Yoniack was born April 20, 1918 in Greenvale, Colorado. She enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on September 14, 1942 and received Basic Training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She was commissioned upon graduation from the WAAC Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines on February 16, 1943.

In September 1943 she was assigned duty as Supply Officer for the 21st WAC Regiment, Third Women's Army Corps (WAC) Training Center at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

She remained at Fort Oglethorpe until March 1945. She then returned to Fort Des Moines and was one of the last officers to leave when the WAC Center there closed.

She served as Chief of the Special Service Branch at Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado. She was then assigned as S-4 Women's Army Corps Training Center at Fort Lee, Virginia.

In 1948, Yoniack was selected as Acting aide-de-camp to Brigadier General R.C.L. Graham Commanding General of Fort Lee, in addition to her duties as S-4.

Colonel Yoniack commanded a WAC detachment at Fort Riley, Kansas in 1950 and later served as Deputy Commander of the WAC Center at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

She also served in Orleans, France as Executive Officer, at the Quartermaster Division Headquarters and was instrumental in activating the WAC detachment of the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1965 she served a tour in Washington as Special Assistant for Audits with the Supply and Maintenance Command and later Executive Officer of the Command Management Office of the Quartermaster General.

Colonel Yoniack served as First U.S. Army WAC Staff Advisor at Fort Meade, Maryland from June 1967 to June 1969. Her next assignment was WAC Staff Advisor at Headquarters U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany from June 1969 to April 1971. Her last assignment before retirement was a second tour as the WAC Staff Advisor, First U.S. Army from July 1971 to May 1973.

Her military awards include: the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and Nation Defense Service Medal.

She died on September 9, 1988 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.