

## First To Be Commissioned



Maj. Gen. Frederick E. Uhl, head of the Seventh Service Command, presents commission to Third Officer Charity E. Adams of Columbia, S.C., at WAAC graduation exercises held at Des Moines, Iowa, Saturday. She was first in line.

# ONE WOMAN'S ARMY

A BLACK OFFICER REMEMBERS THE WAC

Charity Adams Earley

## **Background on our attempt to have LTC Charity Adams inducted into the Army OCS Hall of Fame on March 27-28, 2025 at Fort Moore, Georgia.**

The story of the World War II 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion recently gained a lot of public attention with the release of "The Six Triple Eight" on Netflix. I have been concentrating on the leaders of that unit for the last ten years while researching the history of all the Army's Officer Candidate Schools (1941-date). All Women's Army Corps (WAC) officers commissioned during World War II were graduates of the WAC Officer Candidate School. (The very First WAC officer, Ovetta Hobby was given a direct commission to Colonel). The Woman's Army Nurse Corps were not part of the WAC.

Two prominent characters portrayed in the "The Six Triple Eight" movie (Major Charity Adams and Captain Abbie Campbell) graduated with the first female OCS class at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on August 29, 1942. Four others in the unit were also from that class.

Over the last few years LTC Charity Adams and the 6888th have slowly gained the recognition they deserve with one significant exception. The Officer Candidate School at Fort De Moines was where it all started for her. She was in the news from the day she arrived and was the first female OCS graduate in our Nation's history.

She was more than worthy of being inducted into the Army OCS HOF many years ago, but as **“they”** say, **"Nobody ever thought to nominate her."** You would expect the organization whose mission and purpose includes assisting in the election of members to the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame would have taken care of that years ago. It was a collective oversight of the entire OCS community and our futile effort to have her recognized came too late and has not received the support we needed. That is hard for me to understand.

More than 52 million people worldwide know about her and the 850 or more women under her command in World War II, thanks to Netflix. It's way past time that she be honored in the Army OCS Hall of Fame.

A monument commemorating the unit was erected at Fort Leavenworth in 2018.

The 6888th was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation in 2019.

The 6888th was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2022.

The Department of Defense named a major Army Installation in honor of LTC Charity Adams in 2023. Fort Gregg - Adams in Virginia.

LTC Charity Adams was nominated for Induction into the Army OCS Hall of Fame in 2024.

The Commander of the 199th Infantry Brigade and President Emeritus of the United States Army OCS Alumni Association (TUSAOCSAA) concurred the nomination to be valid for the 2026 Board to **consider**, so our request to have her inducted in 2025 was therefore denied.

**Our nomination package and request for an exception to the policy never made it to the Commandant, US Army Infantry School (responsible for OCS Hall of Fame Program oversight) or the Commanding General of Fort Moore (responsible for the OCS Hall of Fame Program). I must wonder, if they are aware of her OCS roots.**

There are still no women in the Hall of Fame who graduated from OCS from 1942 to 1964.

52,400,000 views of "The Six Triple Eight" on Netflix and I bet most of them would agree that she deserves the honor without delay.

Sincerely,

Randy C. Dunham

Artillery OCS Class 10-69

**The following is our email correspondence with both the Commandant, U.S. Army Officer Candidate School (the Executive Agent for the Hall of Fame Program) and President of the Army OCS Alumni Association (TUSAOCSAA). Our request for an Exception to Policy to have Lieutenant Colonel Adams inducted into the Army OCS Hall of Fame in 2025 was denied.**



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**From:** Randy Dunham

**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 1:07 PM

**To:** wilford.l.garvin

**Cc:** dana.r.schwartz

elliott.figueroa

frank.harman

**Subject:** Army OCS Hall of Fame Induction Package - LTC Charity Adams

LTC Garvin,

Attached is an OCS Hall of Fame Induction Package for LTC (Ret) Charity Adams, the first African American OCS graduate in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and the highest ranking African American Woman in the military at the end of WWII. Most notably she is the "Adams" in Fort Gregg-Adams, VA (formerly Fort Lee). LTG Arthur Gregg is the "Gregg" and also an OCS graduate already in the OCS Hall of Fame.

I realize the nomination window for 2025 is past but if an exception could be made for this submission, I believe it would be a significant and timely recognition for the OCS legacy, with a military installation named in honor of two OCS graduates who are both honored in the OCS Hall of Fame.

I am also actively searching for her son and daughter to let them know of this honor but will wait for your decision as to whether the package can be accepted for this cycle before I contact them.

Thank You

Randy C. Dunham

Lawton/Fort Sill Oklahoma

RE: Army OCS Hall of Fame Induction Package - LTC Charity Adams



Garvin, Wilford L LTC USARMY MCOE (USA)

To: You

Cc: Schwartz, Dana R MAJ USARMY MCOE (USA); Figueroa, Elliott MAJ USARMY MCOE (USA); frank.harman



Tue 11/19/2024 1:25 PM

⊗ This message has a digital signature, but it wasn't verified because the S/MIME control isn't currently supported for your browser or platform.

📌 You replied on Thu 12/19/2024 10:11 AM

Sir,

Apologies for the delay in response. Concur there is a compelling logic to see LTC Adams added to the hall of fame and think that we should have her at the top of the stack for the FY26 nominations. I can socialize the nomination with our Brigade Commander and ultimately the CG. MG Tuley hasn't done an OCS Hall of Fame cycle yet, so we don't have a read yet of how involved he will be in the final approval process or if he would want to accelerate LTC Adams on his own initiative.

Respectfully,

Wilford L. Garvin  
LTC, AR

Commander, 3<sup>d</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment  
Commandant, U.S. Army Federal Officer Candidate School / Branch Immaterial Direct Commission Course

Office:

Cell:

E-mail:

**Re: Army OCS Hall of Fame Induction Package - LTC Charity Adams**

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 11:11

**To:** Garvin, Wilford L LTC USARMY MCOE (USA)

**Subject:** Re: Army OCS Hall of Fame Induction Package - LTC Charity Adams

Good Morning,

I must say, this is disappointing. Not to drag things out but can you tell me if you were able to bring the nomination to the attention of any the individuals mentioned?  
Brigade Commander?  
Commanding General or anyone in between?

Did TUSAOCSAA president have any comment?

Is there any indication that this might warrant consideration before 2026?

I want to make sure that anything I say about this later today is accurate.  
Your reply is greatly appreciated.

Thank You,

Randy Dunham

Re: Army OCS Hall of Fame Induction Package - LTC Charity Adams



Garvin, Wilford L LTC USARMY MCOE (USA)

To: You



Thu 12/19/2024 12:32 PM

You replied on Thu 12/19/2024 3:20 PM

Sir,

Three packets were received late. The BDE Commander and COL (R) Harman reviewed them and concurred they are all valid for next year's board. There is no direction to convene another board for those three packets outside standard practice.

Respectfully,

Wilford L. Garvin  
LTC, AR

Commander, 3<sup>d</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment  
Commandant, U.S. Army Federal Officer Candidate School / Branch Immaterial Direct Commission Course

Office:

Cell:

E-mai

Re: Army OCS Hall of Fame Induction Package - LTC Charity Adams



Randy Dunham

To: Garvin, Wilford L LTC USARMY MCOE (USA)

← Reply   ← Reply all   → Forward   🗄️   ⋮

Thu 12/19/2024 3:20 PM

Thank You,

I appreciate your response.

LTC Adams and the 6888th Postal Directory Battalion Six were honored with a memorial at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 2018.

I brought the significance of Charity Adams to the attention of TUSAOCSAA and the rest of the OCS community shortly after that.

I was frustrated when the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the 6888th in January 2022 and nobody came forward with a HOF nomination for LTC Adams. She was the first woman OCS graduate, had led the unit and achieved the highest WAC rank possible until 1967.

On April 27, 2023, Fort Lee was redesignated Fort Gregg-Adams. That was an incredibly significant event and both Gregg and Adams are OCS graduates. Nobody with the required stature within the OCS community came forward with a HOF nomination for 2024.

I had hoped that one of the 34 female OCS Hall of Fame members would jump at the chance of nominating the first woman commissioned through OCS and a widely acclaimed and highly honored soldier. By the end of September 2024, it was once again obvious that nobody cared enough to follow through with a nomination for 2025.

I thought I would give it a try because nobody else seemed to care. It meant something to me, because one of her classmates was from my hometown and retired as a LTC. Unfortunately, my packet was received late and reviewed by the Brigade Commander and COL (R) Harman. I understand they considered it valid for 2026 but would not make an exception considering the circumstances to let it be part of the 2025 Hall of Fame as it was outside standard practice.

We have ignored this woman for a long time, while she continues to become more relevant to the rich history of OCS. We could enhance her place in history by inducting her into the HOF in 2025.

We are now on the eve of a Netflix movie to be released on December 20, based on the story of Charity Adams and the unit she commanded in World War II. She is certainly worthy of the HOF in 2025. There is only one Army Installation named in honor of OCS graduates. They both deserve to be in the OCS Hall of Fame.

**Today from the US Army (army.mil):**

FORT GREGG-ADAMS, Va. — Tears were shed and cheers erupted from Advanced Individual Training students in attendance during the screening of the film “Six Triple Eight” Dec. 10 at the Beatty Theater. The film, directed by Tyler Perry and distributed by Netflix, tells the story of a World War II unit, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, led and commanded by Lt. Col. Charity Adams. U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command Chief of Staff Col. Vernon Jones introduced the movie to the crowd and CASCOM G3/5/7 Operations Sgt. Maj. Paul Ellis spoke about Adams’ military career and life.

Thank You,  
Randy Dunham

## Army OCS Hall of Fame ( HOF ) Induction Package-LTC Charity Adams



phil kearns

[← Reply](#) [↶ Reply all](#) [→ Forward](#)  [⋮](#)

To: -

Mon 12/23/2024 3:39 PM

Cc: You; Garvin, Wilford L LTC USARMY MCOE (USA); Frank Harman; edeasonjr

Dear Colonel ( Ret) Carmelia Scott-Skillern

Respectively request a re-examination of Randy's Dunham's HOF Induction Package for LTC Charity Adams. The nomination package was submitted late, missing the required date, and thus a decision to hold until the 2025 Selection Board resulted.

I'm writing as an Association Member, HOF Inductee and former career Army Officer with years of Personnel experience. My experience in Personnel stems from Assignment and Management from MACOM level through policy development at HQ USAREUR and HQ DA.

I have been fortunate to serve with Non Commissioned Officers through General Officers who understood, for every personnel decision, there may be a situation or condition that may require an exception to a policy or regulation.

LTC Charity Adams is a National Treasure. As you know she has Fort Gregg-Adams named in her honor. She was the first women OCS BN graduate to lead the famed 6888 Central Postal Directory Bn ( a Gold Star Medal Unit ) in WWII and has a recent NETFLIX film produced in her honor.

LTC Adam's nomination is unique and not a "normal" recommendation. To the OCS program, the US Army and to this Nation she represents an unbelievable calling. She a leadership paradigm and a symbol of Achievement and Greatness

Accordingly please review Randy's request to the Commander, OCS 3rd BN 11th Regt to determine if an exception may be made so she may be inducted or appointed as an Honorary Member to the HOF.

Thank you for your consideration.

Phil Kearns  
COL ( RET) OCS 6-65  
HOF 1986.



Re: Army OCS Hall of Fame ( HOF ) Induction Package-LTC Charity Adams



Frank Harman

To: phil kearns

Cc: You;

Garvin, Wilford L LTC USARMY MCOE (USA); edeasonjr

Reply Reply all Forward

Mon 12/23/2024 5:10 PM

You forwarded this message on Mon 1/6/2025 2:14 PM

Carmella, The board met. LTC Adams along with two other late nominations were tabled until next year. I am sure she will be selected next year. October the 1st is the Deadline for reasons based on review and processing time for all nominations. It was decided between the BN Cdr and me that we should treat all late nominations the same. Standards no compromise. On a side note in order to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame you must be a member of the HOF or Senior Military Officer Colonel or above. There is no appeal process the results of the board is final.

Sent from my iPad

## LTC Charity Adams and OCS Women's Army Corps ( WAC ) Legacy



phil kearns

[← Reply](#) [↶ Reply all](#) [→ Forward](#)  [⋮](#)

To:

Fri 1/3/2025 5:04 AM

Cc: You; Robert McCall; edeasonjr; Garvin, Wilford L LTC USARMY MCOE (USA)

Good Morning Camelia, I trust conditions have stabilized from your recent Texas experience.

The purpose of this note is to amplify our recent emails concerning LTC Adams and to share our methodology concerning the WAC action. We appreciate your earlier comment on "getting back to us" and add we really need your assistance.

First, please separate the LTC Adams action. That is clearly an exception to policy based on Randy Dunham's late submission for a HOF induction.

- We have petitioned LTC Garvin, to no avail..

- It is generally known, for every rule, policy, and procedure there is usually a case for exceptions.

- Not to belabor LTC Adams, the entire Nation knows she is Special and a National

Treasure. Her achievements have been well recognized and respectively honored to include the recent Post designation.

- The only related agency which has failed to Honor is her source: OCS with a HOF.

- In 2020, the Smithsonian Magazine carried an article that there were no Posts named after WAC Soldiers. The article also cited there were five WAC Officers who may be eligible, including Charity Adams. The rest is history !

Secondly, our work on the OCS WAC Package. This is an ongoing, work in progress. Its intent is to identify those qualified WAC who may be eligible for HOF Induction. This project is analogous to the great work Emory Deason and Randy Dunham have accomplished on the 120 overlooked, DSC recipients for HOF Induction. As you know this effort has been ongoing and has a timeline.

- There are currently approximately 34 Women OCS graduates in the HOF.( Congratulations). Randy has identified approximately 25 additional and we have bios and pictures. This is a listing of distinguished 07-06 officers.

- Why are we doing this ? It appears through the years, no Person/Agency, AA BOD, Army OCS HOF proponent, HOF Members, OCS graduates, has undertaken this action.

- We would like to honor this group of OCS graduates who may have been missed for whatever reason. Our TFC Ad Hoc Group is dedicated to maintaining and sustaining the Association through review of programs and issues. Not to overstate, this is simply a feedback mechanism to the Association, which all organizations should have.

- It is our honor to Champion this action.

We are in the process of preparing this package for HOF Induction. We would like to hand it off to the BOD when we have a completed project. Considering procedure and proprietary the Association is possibly the correct proponent.

Best,

Phil Kearns

SPO, TFC Study Group

OCS 6-65

Re: LTC Charity Adams and OCS Women's Army Corps ( WAC ) Legacy

> On Jan 3, 2025, at 7:35 AM, Carmelia Scott-Skillern wrote:

>

> Good morning,

>

> I appreciate the follow up on this action. I will meet with the current executive BOD on Sunday and discuss this action. Thanks for the great work you and the team are doing.

>

> Best Regards,

> Carmelia Scott-Skillern

> President, TUSAOCSAA

>

**Re: LTC Charity Adams and OCS Women's Army Corps ( WAC ) Legacy**

On Sun, Jan 5, 2025 at 7:59 AM Carmelia Scott-Skillern wrote:

Good morning,

I have presented the proposal to the Board of Directors, and we all acknowledge that LTC Charity Adams is indeed a national treasure. However, I must clarify that the current Hall of Fame results have been finalized. As a nonprofit association, we do not have the authority to request her induction this year, especially since the current board members have evaluated all applications based on the established criteria. I understand your frustration, and I assure you that if her application is submitted according to the appropriate guidelines next year, we will actively support her candidacy for induction into the Hall of Fame.

Regarding the OCS WAC packages, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts that have been put forth. If the applicants meet the necessary credits and the packages are submitted correctly, they will be considered by the next Hall of Fame board for induction. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that these individuals receive the recognition they deserve.

Carmelia Scott-Skillern  
President, TUSAOCSAA

Re: LTC Charity Adams and OCS Women's Army Corps ( WAC ) Legacy



phil kearns

To: Carmelia Scott-Skillern

Cc: Joshua Buchanan; Karla Langland; Abigail Cottrell

 Reply  Reply all  Forward  

Sun 1/5/2025 9:08 AM

 **Flagged**

Thank you for your response. You are a person of your Word, as you pledged a response in Jan. We appreciate that and equally your support of the WAC packages.

Phil Kearns  
SPO, TFC  
OCS 6-65, HOF 1986.