

Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families (SMVF)

Newsletter: March 2026

Happy Women's History Month! The theme for this year's Women's History Month is, "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future." Join SMVF services in celebrating women, and those who served by participating in the events listed in this month's newsletter! In this month's edition, you'll find events catering to employment, assistance with benefits, and a mini retreat for military families. Additionally in this newsletter you'll find military observances, and SMVF trainings with **FREE CEUs!** If you are working with a service member, veteran, and or family of someone who has served, let's connect!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bridges to Success: Career Pathways for Military-Connected Families

Wednesday, March 11, 10 - 2:30 p.m.

[More Info](#)

Jobs for Veterans Career Fair & Networking

Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

[More Info](#)

Building Wealth with VA Loan Benefits

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

[More Info](#)

Boots to Business (Entrepreneurship) Class

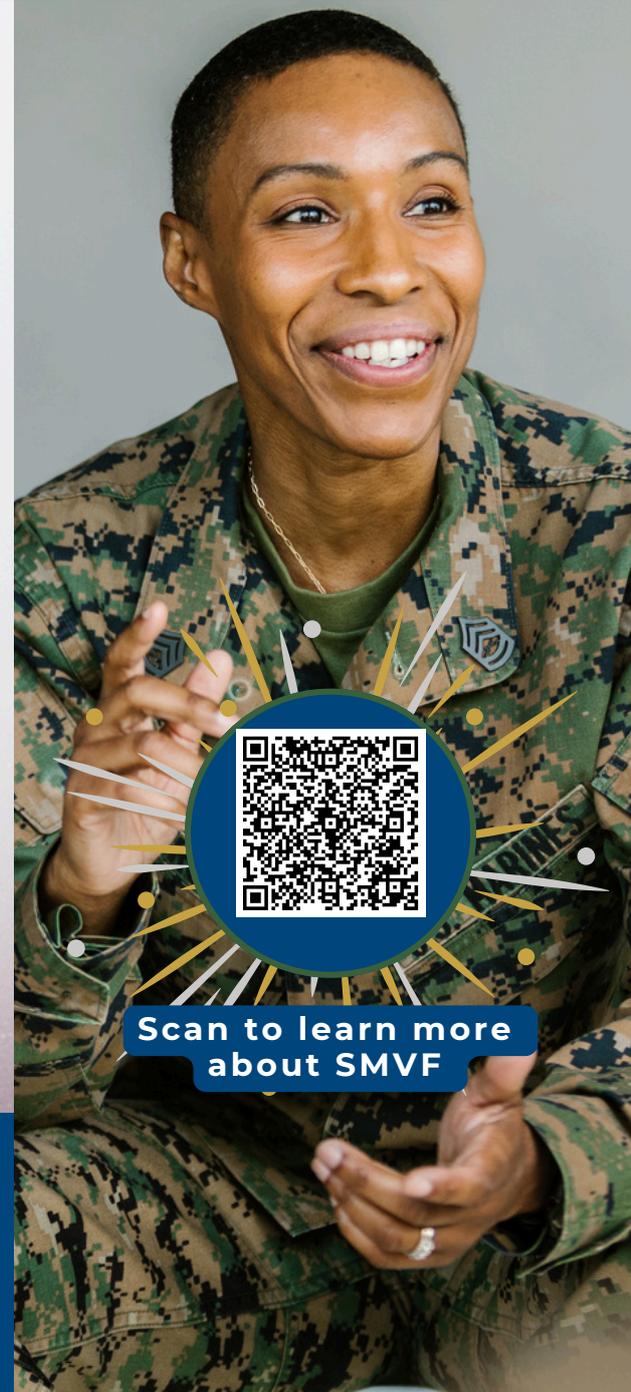
Thursday, March 19, 8 - 4:30 p.m.

[More Info](#)

Virtual Mini-Retreat for Military Families

Saturday, March 28, 10 - 1 p.m.

[More Info](#)



DEPARTMENT OF
**COMMUNITY &
HUMAN SERVICES**

alexandriava.gov/go/4966

Military Observances

Navy Reserve Birthday- March 3

K-9 Veterans Day- March 13

Medal of Honor Day- March 25

Vietnam Veterans Day- March 29

Free SMVF Trainings with CEU Credit

Carry On: Preventing Veteran Suicide and Substance Misuse

Provided by: Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network, **1.25 CEUs**

Registration deadline: March 9

Training: Wednesday, March 11, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

Women Veterans Series

PsychArmor Training, **.5 CMEs**

This online course is designed to introduce learners to the unique experiences and contributions of women service members and Veterans.

[Take Training](#)

Connecting with the VA

PsychArmor Training, **.5 CEUs**

This module is designed for healthcare professionals who treat military service members and military and Veteran-connected patients, wishing to work more effectively to promote patient understanding and culturally-informed care.

[Take Training](#)

The Basics of Veteran Suicide Prevention

PsychArmor Training, **. 1.5 CEUs**

The Basics of Veteran Suicide Prevention is focused on providing support and resources for military service members, Veterans, and their families.

[Take Training](#)

To login to PsychArmor, follow this **[link](#)**. Create a username and password, and enjoy free trainings catered to professionals working within the SMVF community.

History and The Military

Celebrating Women's History Month

by: Sam Jalloh

General Ann E. Dunwoody is a pivotal figure in transforming leadership within the U.S. military. In 2008, she made history as the first woman to achieve the rank of four-star general, significantly changing the landscape of military leadership.

Dunwoody began her military career in 1974, serving as a second lieutenant in the Women's Army Corps and later as a supply platoon leader at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Over her distinguished career, she commanded at various levels, eventually leading the Army Materiel Command (AMC) with more than 69,000 personnel.



She became the first female battalion commander in the 82nd Airborne Division in 1992 and the first female general at Fort Bragg in 2000, retiring in 2012. During her retirement ceremony, she reflected on the evolving role of women in the military, stating, "What was once a band of brothers has truly become a band of brothers and sisters."

An Exemplary Career in Operational Leadership



Throughout her 38-year career, General Dunwoody held a variety of leadership positions spanning the full spectrum of command hierarchies. Her career trajectory not only exemplified resilience and professionalism but also highlighted her capability in operational strategy and logistics management. As the commander of AMC, she underscored the pivotal role of logistics in ensuring military readiness and operational effectiveness.

History and The Military

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Her strategic oversight facilitated optimal resource allocation, ensuring that deployed forces received the critical equipment and logistical support needed to accomplish the mission.

Challenging Institutional Barriers and Setting New Standards

Dunwoody's tenure was marked by a relentless pursuit of dismantling barriers for women within the military. Her landmark position in 1992 as the first female commander of a battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division was not merely an individual milestone; it represented a significant cultural shift within military operations, broadening leadership opportunities for women. Her effective leadership contributed to the growing understanding that competence, commitment, and the ability to navigate complex operational landscapes are the true measures of leadership success, transcending gender-based perceptions. The respect she garnered among peers and subordinates alike indicates a profound mastery across logistical, operational, and strategic dimensions.



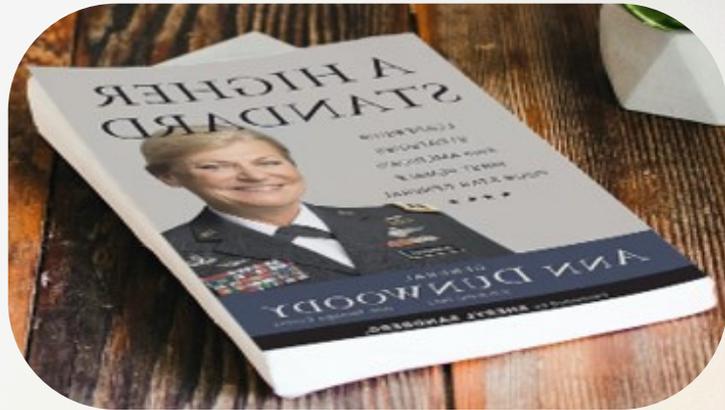
Extending Influence Beyond Military Scope

Since her retirement in 2012, General Dunwoody has continued to shape leadership discourse beyond the military. She authored the influential book, "A Higher Standard: Leadership Strategies from America's First Female Four-Star General," which distills her military experiences into pragmatic frameworks focusing on ethics, trust, accountability, and resilience.

History and The Military

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Through her writings and public speaking, Dunwoody argues that leaders must embody a “higher standard,” thereby cultivating environments rooted in trust, integrity, and collective success. Her insights resonate broadly, bridging military, governmental, corporate, and public service leadership paradigms.



A Lasting Legacy of Inspiration and Progress

General Ann E. Dunwoody’s legacy extends far beyond her historic promotion and numerous accolades. She personifies the principles of possibility and perseverance, exemplifying how institutional barriers can be dismantled through courage, competence, and dedication. Her pioneering spirit serves as an enduring inspiration for emerging leaders, regardless of gender, encouraging them to transcend challenges and pursue strategic leadership.

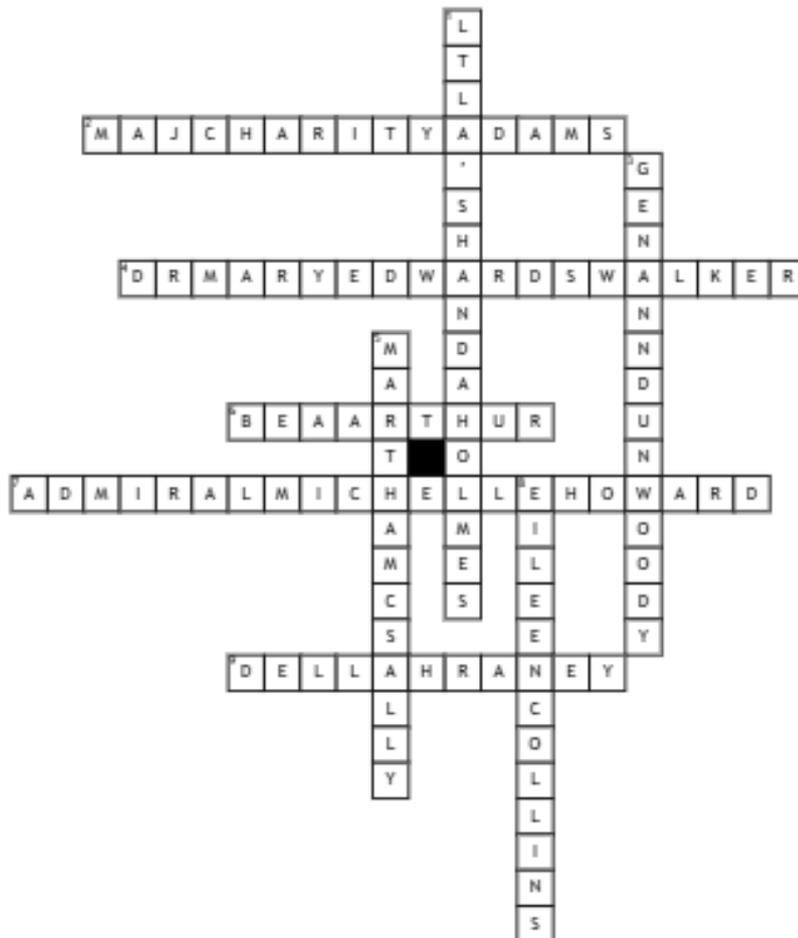


By establishing new benchmarks for leadership within the U.S. military, General Dunwoody has inscribed her narrative into a critical chapter of the ongoing discourse surrounding equality, excellence, and innovation in national service. Her life's work embodies the essence of true leadership: empowering others, upholding the highest performance standards, and enhancing the collective experience of service.

Sources: ArmyTimes.com Foundation forWomenWarriors.org/Ann Dunwoody General Ann E. Dunwoody: Analyzing Revolutionary Leadership Dynamics in the U.S. Military, featuring combat action imagery. Veteran of foreign war. www.vfw.org/

Let's Test Your Knowledge

Who Run's the World... Girls



Across

2. Who is the commander of the first and only all-female, all black army unit?
4. Who was a Civil War surgeon and the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor?
6. Golden Girl who was also was once a truck driver in the Marine Corps
7. Who is first female four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy?
9. Who is the first African American chief nurse commissioned as a lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps?

Word Bank

Lt La'Shanda Holmes
Maj Charity Adams
Eileen Collins

Martha McSally
Admiral Michelle Howard
Della H. Raney

Gen Ann Dunwoody
Bea Arthur
Dr. Mary Edwards Walker

Down

1. Who is the first female African American helicopter pilot?
3. Who is the first woman to achieve the rank of four-star general, significantly changing the landscape of the military leadership?
5. Who was the first female combat Pilot?
8. Who is the first woman to pilot a space shuttle and in 1999 she was the first woman shuttle commander?