



NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

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NGEF to Host Open Forum On Women in the National Guard

WASHINGTON (March 23, 2010) — A diverse group of women will share their individual National Guard experiences Thursday during a special forum presented by the National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) here.

"A Half Century of National Guard Women" will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the National Guard Memorial, which doubles as NGAUS headquarters just off Capitol Hill.

The event will feature women of different ages, ranks and backgrounds telling their National Guard story in their own words.

"It will be open microphone," said Jonathan Bernstein, NGEF director. "We have one featured speaker, but this forum will mostly be about the audience sharing their candid experiences, good and bad. I suspect that we will all come away with a richer understanding of women's contributions to the National Guard."

The featured speaker will be retired Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville, who became the first female adjutant general in 1997 when she took charge of the Vermont National Guard. She will speak at lunch.

Among those attending will be Spc. Monica Beltran of the Virginia National Guard. She was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart for actions in Iraq in 2005 while serving with the 1173rd Transportation Company.

Women who currently serve or who have served may still register to attend by sending an e-mail to jonathan.bernstein@ngaus.org.

The event is sponsored by Strategic Resources Inc., SAIC, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, miller-holzwarth inc. and The Issa Family Foundation

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About NGEF: The foundation is a nonprofit organization chartered to tell all 374 years of the National Guard Story. It operates the National Guard Memorial Museum, the only national museum dedicated to the Guard. The NGEF also maintains exhibits, artifacts and a Medal of Honor gallery and a large research library in the National Guard Memorial, the National Guard World War II Monument on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, and outreach programs. More information is available at www.ngef.org.

About NGAUS: The association includes nearly 45,000 current or former Guard officers. It was created in 1878 to provide unified National Guard representation in Washington. In their first productive meeting after Reconstruction, militia officers from the North and South formed the association with the goal of obtaining better equipment and training by petitioning Congress for more resources. Today, 132 years later, NGAUS has the same mission.

Internet Availability: This document and other Guard and NGAUS news and information are available at www.ngaus.org.