



# WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT®

501 (c)(3) Nonprofit

The Bugle: Vol 5, Issue 5, May 2023

[www.WarriorVillageProject.com](http://www.WarriorVillageProject.com)

## PROGRESS REPORT

The [AGC Apprenticeship Training Program](#) hosts student visitors at their amazing Training Center in Lakeside. Students from [San Marcos High School](#) (SMHS), [Montecito High School](#), [Poway High School](#) and many others have visited the Training Center to tour the facility and to experience hands-on exercises in the building trades. On May 2, Chris Geldert brought this year's cohort of SMHS construction students to the Lakeside facility. The students practiced their skills in wood framing and steel framing. They had fun participating in nailing skills contests and learning how to paint with rollers. But, the students really enjoyed learning to operate heavy equipment on the Center's state-of-the-art construction equipment training simulators. See photos of our students at the Training Center on page 4.



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### FUTURE EVENTS

**May is National Military  
Appreciation Month**

[WarriorVillageProject.com](http://WarriorVillageProject.com)


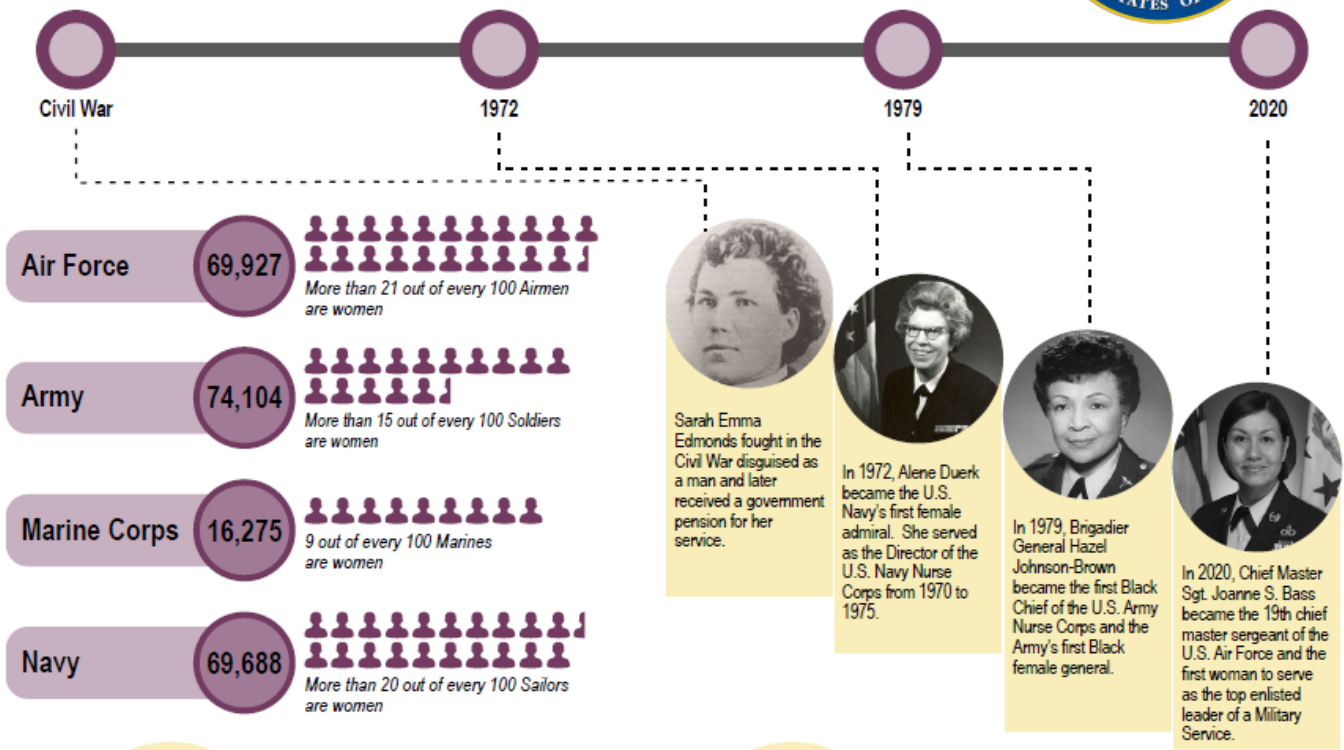
# VIP PROFILE

## Our Women in the Military

"The over 3 million women who have served in or with the armed forces since the American Revolution have contributed immensely to the strength and resilience of our armed forces," said Patricia Montes Barron, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. Since 1973, when the United States military ended conscription and established an all-volunteer force, the number of women serving on active duty has risen dramatically.

The percentage of women serving on active duty and in the Reserves continues to grow in both the enlisted and commissioned ranks, according to the 2021 Demographics Profile of the Military Community released by the U.S. Department of Defense. Today, over 231,000 women, comprising 17.3% of our nation's active-duty force, serve in every branch of the U.S. military. Women also make up 21.4% of the National Guard and reserves, totaling 171,000 members. More than 300,000 women served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11, more than 9,000 have earned Combat Action Badges.

# 2021 Portrait of Active Duty Women

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## VIP PROFILE

### Our Women in the Military (continued)

There are 1.66 million women veterans in the U.S, compared to 14.84 million male veterans. Women veterans of the post-9/11 era are less likely than men to have served in combat. In other ways, however, military women are not significantly different from military men: they are just as likely to be officers; they joined the armed services for similar reasons; and post-9/11 veterans of both sexes have experienced a similar mix of struggles and rewards upon returning to civilian life - fully half say they experienced strains in family relations and 42% feel they have suffered from post-traumatic stress (PTS).

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, women transitioning from the military can face many challenges when returning to civilian life that put them at risk for homelessness: single parenting, domestic abuse, psychological aftereffects related to military sexual trauma (MST), combat and substance abuse. VA research found that women Veterans are more than twice as likely to become homeless as women who did not serve in the military; 1 - 2% of all women Veterans will experience homelessness over the course of a year. Homelessness among women veterans is expected to rise as increasing numbers of women in the military reintegrate into their communities as veterans.

Women veterans face unique challenges that increase their susceptibility to homelessness. Women who experience military sexual trauma are nine times more at risk for post-traumatic stress. One in five women in the military report that they have experienced MST, with women representing 95% of reported sex crime victims in the military. Fear of reprisal and being ostracized from co-workers prevents many women from reporting the abuse; it is widely believed that MST is a very under-reported crime. Because those who experience personal violence, including rape, are 6.5 times more likely to experience homelessness, women veterans who have experienced MST are at a greater risk for experiencing homelessness, especially when compounded by PTS.

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[Wounded Warrior Homes](#) (WWH) has opened its first house for female veterans in North County as a pilot program. WWH has been serving male veterans with transitional housing for 11 years in San Diego County; now they have begun a pilot program to also serve women veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). One female veteran has already moved in. WWH wants to house an additional two to three women veterans as soon as needed repairs are completed.

The nonprofit is seeking the community's support to help them fully open the house by making needed repairs. Specific requests include a need for fence repair, irrigation repair, landscaping, and interior painting.

Check out WWH's website to see the many [Ways to Get Involved](#) with Wounded Warrior Homes to help our men and women veterans by shopping at [Target](#), [Volunteering](#), [Interning](#) or making [Donations](#).

If you would like to have a lot of fun while doing good, join Wounded Warrior Homes for its annual [Fairways 4 Veterans](#) fund raising event. It is a spectacular day on the greens at the beautiful Shadowridge Golf Club in Vista, CA on September 18.

**INTERESTED IN PLAYING OR  
SPONSORING?**

**QUESTIONS?**

**CALL LORI AT (760) 205-5050**



*Fairways 4 Veterans*

**WOUNDED WARRIOR HOMES**  
Honor our military heroes by raising funds to house wounded veterans in need

September 18, 2023  
Check-In: 0900  
Shotgun Start: 1100  
19th Hole Celebration Reception: 1530

Early Bird pricing available now:  
\$200 per golfer  
\$800 per foursome

Shadowridge Golf Club  
1980 Gateway Drive  
Vista, CA 92081





# SCHOOLS

## San Marcos High School

San Marcos High School students had a great day at the [AGC Apprenticeship Training Center](#) on May 2. Our students are familiar with framing with wood, but this was a great opportunity for them to work with steel framing material, which is used primarily in commercial construction. They also had fun participating in a nailing skills contest.



(continued on page 5)



## SCHOOLS

### San Marcos High School (continued)

AGC Apprenticeship Instructors, Jon Hill and Alan Jurgensen, work with our students every week at San Marcos High School. But, they enjoyed having the students in their house for a change.



Our students really enjoyed learning to operate heavy equipment on the Center's state-of-the-art construction equipment training simulators. It turns out that playing computer games teaches skills that can be translated to the working world!



If you would like to take a virtual tour of AGC's amazing [Training Center](#), type 'Ctrl' and 'Click' on this Training Center link.

If you would like to arrange a real life tour and hands-on building trades experiences for your students at AGC's Lakeside Training Center, please call Marty Anderson at (858) 558-8700.





# SCHOOLS

## Poway High School

I attended the [Poway Unified School District](#) (PUSD) Career Technical Education (CTE) Expo at the Mickey Cafagna Community Center on May 18. The Expo is a trade show style event which showcases products students have created and problems they have solved during the school year. I was very happy to see the huge crowd of parents, families and community members who attended the event. At the Expo, Lynn McConville, PUSD's Assistant Principal - Career, Technical and Adult Education, confirmed that attendance at the event was indicative of the growing support for CTE in the community. Music to my ears!

Building and Construction Trades is one of 12 CTE Industry Sectors offered to PUSD students. The trades are taught at [Poway High School](#) by Teacher Gene Tallon with tremendous support from PUSD's Career Education Specialist Jeremy Martin. Gene's program is open to all high school students in the District. I was pleased to see that Gene's program was well represented at the Expo. In our [March 2023 Newsletter](#) I reported on the generous donation of decking materials to our schools by [Weyerhaeuser](#). Adirondack chairs, an end table and a garden box built by Gene's students were on display at the Expo.





## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### San Marcos High School

The first week of June is finals week, and the last day of school is June 7. Our students worked diligently to complete the siding on our second cottage before laying down their tools for the summer. They didn't quite finish the siding, but it will be waiting for them upon their return to school in September. AGC donated new scaffolding platforms to replace those badly damaged by our torrential rains so that our students can work safely when they return to the job site in the fall. Thanks AGC!



***School's Out for the Summer!***



## PARTNERS

### Operation WEBS

#### Women Empowered Build Strong

[Operation WEBS](#) (OpWEBS) builds tiny homes on wheels (THOWs, also known as Moveable Tiny Houses in local municipal codes) as a sustainable, rapid re-housing solution for displaced and homeless women veterans struggling to transition back to civilian life after their military service. The mission of OpWEBS is to create, develop, and manage a THOW Eco-Farming Community for the growing population of underserved women veterans who are financially, emotionally, mentally, or physically incapable of securing suitable housing on their own due to their hardships and struggles of unimaginable difficulties following military service.

Veteran Sandy Blair is the founder and CEO of Operation WEBS, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation based in Orcutt, CA. Sandy served 12 years on active duty in the United States Air Force and 4 years as a Peace Officer, and has now created another avenue to further serve her community. Her personal journey planted the seed for her passion to provide housing for women veterans. Her vision is to provide a self-sustaining, eco-friendly, tiny home community which offers the empowerment, enrichment, independence, purpose, and security that our veteran sisters desperately need to aid in their successful transition back to civilian normalcy after military service.

Sandy is now working as a realtor. She uses a portion of her commissions from real estate sales to pursue her supersized dream to help women veterans regain stability after military service by building a community of tiny homes for them on her 17-acre "Restoration Ranch" in the Santa Maria Valley. According to Sandy, she and her colleagues are *"going to create a village kind of community where our sisters can come and they can farm, and they can do all these holistic healing processes, kind of away from the hustle and bustle, away from the city and all the distractions."*

"Ctrl Click" on Sandy's photo below to hear her story.



**WELCOME HOME WOMEN VETERANS**

While working toward her vision of building a village, Sandy wanted to also address the immediate, urgent need of homeless women veterans in her community. She donated her 4-bedroom family home in Orcutt to the cause. In June 2019, OpWEBS celebrated the opening of its women veterans stability home with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the first phase in a multiyear plan to develop an organization that will support women veterans to rebuild their lives after leaving the military. After meeting with Supportive Services for Veteran Families program coordinator Victor Virgen, Blair was connected with a veteran who had been at the Good Samaritan Shelter for two years and another who had been living in her car. The two women became the first veterans living at the stability home.

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# PARTNERS

## Operation WEBS

### Women Empowered Build Strong (continued)



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for OpWEBS' women veterans stability home in Orcutt. June 2019.

I was introduced to Sandy by the TinyFest organizers, who recognized our aligned goals. Sandy and I arranged to talk on the phone and agreed to meet in person at TinyFest. Sandy brought her prototype tiny house to TinyFest. Much of the construction of OpWEBS' first tiny house was built at the California Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles in July 2022 with the help of the [Southwest Mountain States Carpenter's Union](#), [IBEW Local 639](#), [UA Local 114](#) and other trades professionals and local businesses.



After Sandy and I talked on the phone and at TinyFest, I understood why her community in Santa Maria has embraced her and her vision for helping homeless vets. Sandy is determined, switched on, squared away, and all of the other positive things you would expect of an Air Force Staff Sergeant. Her prototype tiny house is ship shape as well. It is an 8-1/2' wide house on a 20' chassis. She is working with an architect to custom design a larger tiny house on a 24' chassis. I can't wait to see it!



OpWEBS tiny house at TinyFest California. March 2023.

**PARTNERS**  
**Wound Warrior Homes**

Memorial Day on May 29 was a day of remembrance to honor those who lost their lives in service of their country.

**REMEMBERING THE DEFENDERS OF OUR FREEDOM**



**WHO DID NOT COME HOME**

May is

**NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH**



**WOUNDED WARRIOR HOMES®**

**THANKYOU**

*for serving our country and protecting our freedoms.*



# SPONSORS

The Warrior Village Project is a community effort. We have received tremendous support from many businesses and individuals. We appreciate all of our Sponsors for their continued support in service to our veterans and students. Thank You!



## DONATE TO THE WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

We can provide truly affordable, permanent housing. But, we can't do it for free. To succeed, we need financial support. The materials required to build our cottages cost about \$60,000 per cottage (June 2022 estimate). It will cost about \$10,000 to transport a cottage to its installation site. The cost of installing a cottage as an Accessory Dwelling Unit will depend on the site. But, it should cost about \$30,000 per cottage. Hence, we can provide permanent housing for a veteran for about \$100,000 per unit (\$250/sq ft). This is a bargain compared to the cost of government supported 'affordable' housing projects. According to the [Turner Center for Housing Innovation](#) at UC Berkeley, in 2019 it cost an average of \$480,000 (\$700/sq ft) to build one unit of affordable housing in California under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.

**Donors who wish to donate for the construction of our cottages at San Marcos High School can make a contribution through our fiscal sponsor, [The San Marcos Promise](https://thesanmarcospromise.org/donate/#ways-to-donate) (<https://thesanmarcospromise.org/donate/#ways-to-donate>), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.**

- **Online Donations:** When you donate online, please '*Leave A Comment*' indicating that your donation is for the [Warrior Village Project](#).
- **Donations by Check:** Mail your check, made payable to [The San Marcos Promise](#), to:

**The San Marcos Promise  
255 Pico Avenue, Suite 103  
San Marcos, CA 92069**

**Please write on the Check's Memo Line that your donation is for the [Warrior Village Project](#).**

*Please help us to provide affordable, permanent housing for homeless veterans while training the next generation of homebuilders.*

## PROJECT CONTACTS

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The San Marcos Promise ..	Lisa Stout.....	760-290-2373 ..	<a href="mailto:Lisa@TheSanMarcosPromise.org">Lisa@TheSanMarcosPromise.org</a>

## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

If you would like more information about the Warrior Village Project visit our [WarriorVillageProject.com](http://WarriorVillageProject.com) website, or email [Mark@WarriorVillageProject.com](mailto:Mark@WarriorVillageProject.com). You can also subscribe to our monthly [Newsletter](#).