



MEDIA ADVISORY

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For more information, contact:

Cyndy Cerbin

Director of Communications

706/653-9234

ccerbin@nationalinfantryfoundation.org

“Ashley’s War” Author to Speak at National Infantry Museum

New York Times bestseller tells story of women in special operations

Columbus, Georgia – March 9, 2016: Gayle Tzemach Lemmon – author, journalist, and senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations – is the featured speaker at the next presentation of the Leadership Lecture Series at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center on **Thursday, April 14, 2016.**

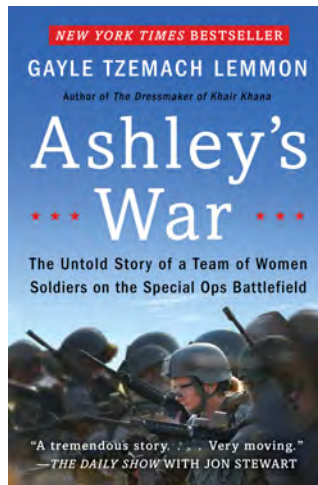
Lemmon’s most recent book, “Ashley’s War,” tells the little-known story of a team of elite female Soldiers who were specially trained to serve alongside special operations forces on the battlefields of Afghanistan. The Cultural Support Team’s job was to communicate with and gather intelligence from Afghan women, a critical component of the effort that could not easily be done by male Soldiers because of strict gender conventions in the Afghan culture. First Lt. Ashley White, a member of the North Carolina National Guard, was among those handpicked to serve on the CST. A few months later, in October 2011, she was killed in Afghanistan’s Kandahar Province while on a raid with the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Two years later, on Veterans Day 2013, Rangers and CST members dedicated a living memorial to 1LT White on the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center’s Memorial Walk of Honor. Her name also appears on the Army Special Operations Memorial Wall of Honor at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“Ashley’s War,” published last year by HarperCollins, has been widely acclaimed and earned a spot on the New York Times bestseller list. Readers voted it one of the Best Books of 2015 in the History and Biography category of the popular website Goodreads. Actress and producer Reese Witherspoon and Fox 2000 won the rights to make a movie based on the book.

Gayle Lemmon began her career as a journalist in Washington, covering presidential politics and public policy issues for ABC News. She served as an editorial producer for This Week with George Stephanopoulos. In 2004, she left to pursue her interest in international development and began MBA study at Harvard. It was during this time that she began reporting from conflict regions. Since 2005 she has reported on Afghanistan’s politics, economy, and the evolving roles of Afghan women for publications including The New York Times, The Financial Times, Fast Company, The Christian Science Monitor and Newsweek Daily Beast.

Lemmon, who also wrote the bestseller “The Dressmaker of Khair Khana,” will autograph books and meet guests beginning at 5 p.m. April 14 in the lobby of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center. The lecture, including an introduction by Ranger Training Brigade Commander COL David Fivecoat, will start at 6 p.m. in the newly renovated theater, and will be followed by a cash bar reception. The event is open to the public; seating is limited and will be offered on a first-come first-served basis.



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*The National Infantry Museum Foundation Leadership Lecture Series is an extension of the **Hughston Leadership Lecture Series**, which was formed in 2005 in honor of Jack C. Hughston, MD. It features contemporary speakers focusing on the subjects of leadership, courage, duty and honor. Gayle Lemmon’s lecture is the 15th presentation of the series.*

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, on a 155-acre tract linking Columbus, Georgia, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning is the first world-class site to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and those who fight alongside him. The museum showcases the contributions of the Infantry Soldier in every war fought by the U.S. by offering immersive participation and engaging visitors in the unique experiences of the Infantry Soldier. The complex also includes a parade field, memorial walk of honor, Vietnam Memorial Plaza, authentic World War II Company Street and Giant Screen Theater. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.