



Cathleen Pearl is the Chief Impact Officer at the Military Women's Memorial. Prior to this role, she held several key leadership positions, including President and CEO of the National Defense University (NDU) Foundation. During her tenure, she championed Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiatives serving as Contributing Editor for Women, Peace, and Inclusive Security (PRISM, NDU Press, 2016), chairing the NDU WPS Writing Award Committee, and leading multiple WPS-focused programs.

Her previous roles include Deputy Director of the National Guard Educational Foundation and Director of the National Guard Memorial Museum on Capitol Hill.

Cathleen is an active member of the American Alliance of Museums, the International Council of Museums, and the International Association of Women's Museums. She has presented at national and international conferences, highlighting the role of museums in the maintenance of democracy and their function as public spaces that foster inquiry, critical thinking, and lifelong learning.

Her passion for museums as powerful platforms for storytelling was shaped through her work at the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the 9/11 Tribute Center in Lower Manhattan. A long-time advocate for elevating women's individual and collective stories, Cathleen is committed to illustrating the essential role of women in national and global security. Trained in ethnographic interviewing, she applies that skill into the museum sector by specializing in oral history as both a method of broadening the historical record and as a dynamic tool for public education and exhibition development.

Cathleen served five years in the U.S. Navy and five years in the Air National Guard, where she supported the National Guard's State Partnership Program and participated in security cooperation efforts in the Indo-Pacific region. Her

military and museum experience informs her unique work at the intersection of national security, culture, and public history.

She holds a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Missouri–St. Louis. She has also completed specialized coursework in oral history at the Brooklyn Historical Society and studied Women, Peace, and Security at Harvard Extension School.



Shelly O'Neill Stoneman is a seasoned global leader, trusted with managing complex business and policy issues at the highest levels of government and industry. She is the founder and principal of StonePoint Strategies, drawing upon her 25 years of experience working across all three branches of the U.S. Government and in the C-suite of Fortune 500 companies.

Stoneman most recently served as senior vice president of Government Affairs for Lockheed Martin, one of the world's largest aerospace and defense companies, with over 120,000 employees and sales over \$71 billion in 2024. As one of the company's corporate officers, she managed Lockheed's activities with Congress and the Executive Branch, and directed all federal, state and local government customer relationships – efforts that ranged from saving the corporation billions of dollars in tax incentives to working closely with governors on workforce improvements. In this role, she regularly engaged with the corporation's Board of Directors, advising on strategy and risk.

Prior to joining Lockheed Martin in 2023, Stoneman led Government Relations at BAE Systems, Inc., where she oversaw engagement with the White House, Pentagon, State Department, and Intelligence Community for the global aerospace and defense company's U.S. subsidiary. In its own right, the U.S.

division is one of the top 10 defense contractors in the United States, with a 2024 sales revenue of \$17 billion. Over her 10 years with BAE Systems, Stoneman enabled billions of dollars in the company's foreign military sales and direct commercial sales through engagement with the U.S. government and foreign embassies and managed the company's engagement with a wide range of trade and advocacy organizations to secure favorable legislative outcomes in support of the business and its employees.

Before joining the private sector, Stoneman had a distinguished nearly 15-year career in public and nonprofit service, including at the Pentagon, the White House, and on Capitol Hill. From 2009-2011, she served as Special Assistant to President Obama, responsible for the defense and national security portfolio in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. Stoneman worked closely with the White House, National Security Council, Department of Defense, and Congress to execute a variety of the president's priorities. She then served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and White House Liaison for three successive Secretaries of Defense.

Earlier in her career, she served on Capitol Hill as the deputy chief of staff for a member of the House Appropriations Committee and as a committee staff member for a Senate authorization committee.

Stoneman earned her bachelor's degree from Vassar College and two Masters of Arts degrees: National Security Studies from the U.S. Naval War College and International Relations from the University of Oklahoma's program in Europe.

In her community, Stoneman recently served as the chair of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), personally appointed by the Secretary of Defense to oversee the historic panel that provides advice and policy recommendations regarding women's service in the armed forces. She is a current board member of the Leadership Council for Women in National Security (LCWINS), a member of the Military Women's Memorial Capital Committee, and previously served on the boards of Food for Others and the United Service Organizations (USO). Named by the

Washingtonian Magazine in 2023 as one of the Most Powerful Women in Washington and repeatedly selected by The Hill as a Top Lobbyist, she was an inaugural JOURNEY to Lead Fellow and is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese is a Senior Fellow with Women in International Security (WIIS) and served as a University Professor and Chair of the National Security Affairs Department at the Naval War College (NWC) between 2002-2022.

As a political scientist, she has published multiple articles on aspects of Women, Peace & Security, particularly focusing on raising awareness regarding the framework generally and within security communities specifically, believing that you can't implement what you don't know about. She often provides webinar presentations introducing audiences to the women, peace, and security framework and is the author of *Women, Peace & Security: An Introduction* (2018) and *Women v Women: The Case for Cooperation* (2022). Over the arc of her academic career, her research also focused on space security, authoring seven books in that field and over 100 published articles, many with a particular focus on the Chinese space program.

She has testified before Congress on multiple occasions about space issues and served on the National Academy of Sciences Space Studies Board. Dr. Johnson-Freese has also published multiple articles and written a book, *Educating America's Military*, on Professional Military Education (PME). She testified before a Congressional House Armed Service subcommittee on PME reform in May 2022, including discussion of the need for inclusion of Women, Peace & Security in PME curricula.

Publications

- [“Reconciling Two Key Frameworks: Feminist Foreign Policy and Women, Peace & Security,”](#) with Susan Markham, May 2022
- [“Women, Peace and Security: Moving Implementation Forward,”](#) War on the Rocks, July 23, 2021
- [“How Women, Peace & Security Gives the US and Australia an Edge in the Indo-Pacific,”](#) with Jacqui True, PacNet #23, 2021
- [“Getting Serious about Women, Peace & Security,”](#) with Lt. Col. Nalani Tyrell, Strategy Bridge, 2021
- [“Women, Peace and Security at Twenty,”](#) with Andrea Goldstein, The Strategy Bridge, April 28, 2020
- [“Women, Peace & Security in the Military: The Need for Leadership,”](#) Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, March 23, 2020
- [“Gender Equality as a Security Issue,”](#) Yale Global, September 19, 2019.
- [“The Rise & Fall of Theresa May,”](#) with Chuck Houston, YaleGlobal, June 2019
- [“How the Pentagon Can Build on NATO’s Success with Women, Peace & Security,”](#) with Andrea Goldstein, Strategy Bridge, May 13, 2019
- [“Expanding Space Security Options Through Gender Perspectives,”](#) with Sahana Dharmapuri, Space News, December 5, 2018
- [“Sexism and Sexual Assault: Connecting the Dots,”](#) USNI Blog, June 6, 2015
- [“Patriarchal Sexism is Alive and Well in the Military,”](#) with Ellen Haring, Best Defense, December 18, 2014
- [“The Counterproductive ‘Sea of Sameness’ in Military Education,”](#) with Ellen Haring and Mary Beth Ulrich, Joint Forces Quarterly, July 1, 2014.

- [“Dancing for Democracy,”](#) with Marilyn Moss Rockefeller, Orbis, February 2013
- [“Some Thoughts on the Need for More Diversity in Military Education,”](#) Best Defense, December 3, 2013



Kathryn Pilgrim (known professionally as Kitty Pilgrim) is an award-winning broadcast journalist and thought leader on how media shapes global affairs in an increasingly interconnected world. A pioneer in cable news, she played a key role in helping build CNN into a global news powerhouse through her work as a domestic and international correspondent, as well as prime time news anchor.

During her twenty-five-year tenure with the network, Kitty provided in-depth geopolitical and economic analysis, and became known as one of the top voices in television, covering foreign affairs and economic change. Her broadcasts were viewed in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. In her work as a journalist, she has traveled the world and reported on economics, politics, global climate issues, pandemics, social movements, military affairs, international conflict, genocide, revolution, international terrorism, and war. She anchored her own CNN morning show *Early Edition* based in Atlanta and was promoted to prime-time anchor for CNN's 7PM broadcast, a position which she held for more than a decade. Kitty has chronicled many of the major stories of the past three decades for CNN, including the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. She was one of the first western journalists to be allowed back into Cuba in the mid 1990's. She was one of the first network correspondents to cover domestic terrorism in America. And she was part of the CNN team that broadcast continuously during the September 11 attacks in New York.

She has interviewed countless world leaders and public figures. Along with her team at CNN, she has won multiple industry awards including an Emmy, a New York Society of Black Journalists Award, and several Overseas Press Club awards and citations. Kitty is actively involved in foreign policy, Women Peace and Security, and Arctic and Polar International Security, participating in various study groups and fellowships on those topics. She was elected to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York in 2000, and frequently moderates panels on various topics for that organization. She was a Hong Kong Journalism fellow at the East-West Center, as well as a fellow in the Korean Studies program. She has participated in many conferences and events at the institution. Pilgrim was a fellow at the Salzburg Global Seminar in Austria, in a program on Asian-Pacific security. She served on the U.S Board of Directors of the Paris-based organization Reporters Without Borders.

Kitty is a frequent speaker on how media and broadcast news shapes public opinion and also the issue of press freedom. She has served as a featured speaker in The New York Times TEDx talk series and at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. She holds a BA from Manhattanville University and has served on the board of that college. She gave the commencement address in 2012 and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. She holds a master's in international and public affairs from Columbia University in NYC. In 2024 she completed a Graduate Certificate in International Security from Harvard Extension School. She currently teaches Women Peace and Security, and Leadership Communications at Manhattanville University. In her free time, Kitty writes mystery novels. She has authored three thriller novels and was first published in 2011 by Scribner, a division of Simon and Schuster in New York. She frequently speaks at book events around the country. She is a full member of The Explorers Club of New York, an organization dedicated to the advancement of scientific field research, and she concentrates on polar issues, particularly in the Arctic and Antarctic.

When she is not traveling, she resides in New York City and in Rhinecliff, New York. Throughout her entire career she was a single mother raising two sons, William, a producer for CBS 60 Minutes, and Beau, is a rock musician in Brooklyn NY.



Cailin Crockett

Cailin Crockett is a policy expert with over a decade of experience advancing the security, health and well-being of women, children, and families in the U.S. and globally. She has held executive roles at the White House and the Department of Defense, where she led national and global initiatives that unite governments, private sector leaders, multilateral organizations, legislators and civil society groups to mobilize resources and promote systemic change.

During the Biden-Harris Administration, Cailin was dual-hatted as a Senior Advisor to the White House Gender Policy Council and a Director for Defense Policy on the National Security Council, serving as a key advisor on technology safety and accountability as well as AI governance, and overseeing bipartisan reforms to combat sexual violence in the military and counter sexual violence in conflict.

She holds a Masters of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she was a Bloomberg American Health Fellow focused on violence prevention. A California native, Cailin went to UCLA and has spent time living in the U.K., where she earned a Master's degree in Politics from the University of Oxford.



Joe Caravalho, M.D., Major General, USA (Ret)

Dr. Caravalho leads HJF as President and CEO, joining in 2017. In this role, Dr. Caravalho guides the strategic vision for HJF, its subsidiaries, and its global workforce in pursuit of its vital mission to advance military medicine.

Prior to joining HJF, Dr. Caravalho served as the Joint Staff Surgeon at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He was the Chief Medical Adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, providing

recommendations to the Chairman, the Joint Staff and Combatant Commanders on a wide range of medical and readiness issues.

Before becoming Joint Staff Surgeon, he was Army Deputy Surgeon General and Deputy Commanding General (Support) of the U.S. Army Medical Command. Clinically, Dr. Caravalho held positions as a staff internist, nuclear medicine physician and cardiologist.

Dr. Caravalho graduated with a M.D. from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine in 1983. He also has a B.A. in math from Gonzaga University, and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College. In 2019 he received an honorary doctor of laws from Gonzaga University.

For 38 years, he served the U.S. Army in various leadership positions, including Commanding General of the Southern Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center, the Northern Regional Medical Command, and the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick in Maryland.



Sally Roberts

Sally Roberts is a leader, State Department sports diplomat, entrepreneur, and former elite athlete dedicated to advancing women's wrestling and strengthening opportunities for the next generation. As the CEO of Wrestle Like A Girl (WLAG), she has played a pivotal role in securing NCAA Championship status for women's wrestling, ensuring that female athletes have the same avenues for success at the highest levels.

A former world-class competitor and U.S. Army veteran, Sally exemplifies discipline, perseverance, and strategic vision. She spent eight years as a resident athlete at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center, where she became a three-time National Champion, World Cup Champion, two-time World Bronze Medalist, and an Olympic Alternate. She later served in the U.S. Army, including a combat deployment to Afghanistan, and competed in the Army's World Class Athlete Program, representing the United States as a soldier and a high-performance competitor.

As a CEO and industry leader, Sally has positioned WLAG as a key force in the growth of women's wrestling. She has worked alongside the NCAA, USA Wrestling, and policymakers to ensure institutional recognition and advancement for female athletes. Her efforts have helped shape the sport's future, establishing clear pathways for success at grassroots, collegiate, and Olympic levels.

Sally's expertise and executive influence have earned her numerous accolades, including the 2016 Women in Sport Award from United World Wrestling and USA Wrestling's Woman of the Year for 2018. She was also selected as one of 25 elite women leaders across seven nations to participate in the EY Women Athletes Business Network, a program designed to propel high-potential women into executive roles.

A sought-after speaker, Sally has addressed audiences at the United States Olympic Museum, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the National War College, and top industry forums, sharing insights on resilience, strategic growth, and

advancing leadership roles for women in sports and beyond.

Sally holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and a Master of Arts in Sport and Performance Psychology from the University of the Rockies.

Dr. Sharon Bannister, DDS, MS, FACD, FICD, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)



Dr. Sharon Bannister is a former U.S. Air Force Major General with 15+ years of C-level experience leading complex healthcare teams. She received a direct commission as an Air Force Dentist in July 1992. Throughout her 31-year career, she served in multiple roles including patient care, post-doctoral educator, military command positions both stateside and deployed, and C-level executive leadership positions both within the Department of the Air Force and the Defense Health Agency. She also served as the 20th Chief of the Air Force Dental Corps, directing dental policy and operational guidance for a global dental enterprise.

Her career culminated serving as the Director of Medical Operations for the Department of the Air Force, responsible for guiding the U.S. Air Force and Space Force medical operations strategic and operational goals. As a trusted and proven professional, she drove policy and strategic direction for the \$52B Department of Defense healthcare system comprised of more than 144K medical personnel. Having served in multiple critical governance roles during the historic, Congressionally-mandated Military Health System reform, she was recognized for producing multibillion-dollar results through the development of inclusive teams with a shared passion for crafting, marketing and executing strategy designed for global impact. Additionally, as a four-time military commander, she exercised decision authority for all policies, healthcare operations, resource management, budget execution, human resource management, risk management and community relations for clinics and hospitals. Within the Department of Defense, Congress, and nationally,

Dr. Bannister is known for her healthcare expertise, relationship building, and advocacy.

Dr. Bannister received her Doctor of Dental Surgery from Case Western Reserve School of Dentistry as well as Master of Science degrees in Periodontics from the University of Texas Health Science Center and National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Her Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry was received from Miami University where she was recently awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. Sharon is also a nationally renowned speaker who connects with audiences through her diverse background as a servant leader, dedicated healthcare executive, board-certified periodontist, educator, wife, mom, veteran's advocate, and Gold Star daughter.