

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



2019

Honoring
MILITARY WOMEN

*"Women Who Serve Our Country
and Serve Our Communities"*

*Friday, 29 March 2019
1800 - 2000 hrs.*

*Chicago FOP Lodge 7
1412 W. Washington Blvd.
Chicago, IL*



**CHICAGO ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN
IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, INC.**

MILITARY WOMEN

*"Women Who Serve Our Country
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Our Association is devoted to providing a positive platform for sworn and retired women in criminal justice to network, invoke conversations about progress, goals, achievements, as well as provide mentorship and educational services, while preserving the history of women in law enforcement.

CHICAGO ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, INC.

Executive Board

Sgt. Janice Wilson

Dr. Beata Staszewski

Sgt. Dawn Hubbard

Dr. Yolanda Brewer *(Retired PO)*

P.O. Tara Bell

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P.O. Bridget Donato

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Chief Barbara West

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Appetizers and Networking**
- **Honor Guard/National Anthem:** *Police Officer Kenyatta Gaines*
- **Opening Prayer:** *Lieutenant Jean Flynn*
- **Celebration Opening/Overview:** *Program Emcee*
- **Welcome**
- **Special Guest/Dignitaries**
- **Words of Encouragement**
- **Vision & Mission of CAWLE:** *CAWLE Board Members*
- **Music Selections:** Performed by *AGodess*
- **Keynote Speaker:** *Chicago Police Officer and
Command Sergeant Major Felicia Pace*
- **Presentation Of Awards:**
 - Tori Harris** - United States Illinois National Guard, First Lieutenant & Chicago Police Officer
 - Angela Perez** - United States Air Force National Guard, Captain & Chicago Police Officer
 - Felicia Pace** - United States Armed Forces, Command Sergeant Major & Chicago Police Officer
 - Tara Poremba** - United States Marine Corps, Sergeant & Chicago Police Canine Trainer
- **Congratulations**
- **Raffle/Prizes**
- **Program Conclusion**
- **Closing Prayer:** *Lieutenant Jean Flynn*
- **Networking/Music**

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Honorees

Tori Harris - Chicago Police Officer &
Captain for the Illinois Army National Guard



Tori Harris enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in July of 2012. Since then she was inducted into the Army Ordinance Corps as a 94F, Computer Systems Detection Repairer, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and served as a Platoon Leader with B Company 405th in the 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. With over 6 years of military experience

Harris currently serves as a First Lieutenant.

Tori is now one of Chicago's Finest answering the call to become a Police Officer in October of 2017. She was the Commander of her class 17-11 and is now assigned to the 006th District Police Station. Tori Harris is "*On Fire To Serve!*"



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Angela Perez - *Chicago Police Field Training Officer &
Captain of the Air Force National Guard*



Angela Perez joined the Air Force when she was 17 years old. She was stationed at Lackland Air Force base when she began her training in 1994. She was then station in the Biloxi Air Force Base where she attended technical school.

She was later transferred to an airbase in Frankfort Germany where she was deployed twice to conflict in both Bosnia and Somalia. She left the Air Force in 1998 and joined the Air Force National Guard where she served the 217 Engineering Installation Squadron, The 264 combat communications squadron, and to the 128th Air refueling wing. She completed her enlistment as a Technical Sergeant in the Wisconsin Air National Guard in 2006.

Angela currently volunteers for Kill 22 which is a suicide prevention non-profit organization that mainly focuses on preventing United States military veterans from committing suicide. Angela is dedicated to her work with this organization as statistics show that over 22 military veterans a day commit suicide. Angela volunteers on the phone where she takes calls from veterans in crisis and assists them in finding permanent therapy programs.

Angela who is a wife of a Chicago Police Detective and mother of two pre-teen boys. Officer Perez has been a Chicago Police Officer for 17 years and currently serves as an Field Training Officer in the 16th District. Angela Perez is *"Honored To Serve"*

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Felicia Pace - *Chicago Police Officer and Command Sergeant Major for the United States Armed Forces*



Felicia Pace began her career as a Chicago Police Officer in January 2000. She has worked in various units in patrol and is currently assigned to the Chicago Police Education and Training Division as an instructor. Officer Pace is responsible for teaching incoming police recruits subjects in law, human diversity, interpersonal communications, report writing and various hands-on applications. She has also been instrumental in implementing Community

Policing strategies.

Pace has been enlisted in the military since 1991 and has over 28 years of military experience. In 2017 Pace was promoted to Command Sergeant Major in the United States Armed Forces serving the 863rd Engineer Battalion, obtaining the highest ranking Sergeant position in any armed service.

Her educational experience includes a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters Degree in Public Administration both from Governors State University. Pace also earned her Masters of Jurisprudence Degree from DePaul University in 2018. She has completed a plethora of training from several military schools throughout her career to further improve her professionalism in the military and beyond.

She has served both in Iraq and Afghanistan. Locally she has impacted so many young women while serving as a mentor for The Chicago Police and Fire Fighter Training Academy program (CPFTA). The list goes on, Felicia Pace is *"The Real Deal!"*

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Tara Poremba - *Chicago Police Senior Canine Trainer and Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps*



Born and raised on Chicago's South Side Beverly Neighborhood. She enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1991. In 1993 she was chosen to compete in the Eastern Division Marine Corps matches and attend a Marksmanship instructor course. Serving in the Marine Corps for 6 years working numerous jobs, eventually she obtained the rank of Sergeant (E-5).

While in the Reserves in 1995, Poremba was hired by the Chicago Police Department and became the first female officer in the history of the Chicago Police Department to win the Firearms Proficiency Award. Poremba has worked in the 005th District, then 012th District where she met her husband, Jim. They have been married for 20 years.

In 2000 she was assigned to the Firearms Training Unit. It was there her passion for teaching flourished and since has earned several instructor certificates. Poremba also won the firearms proficiency award in FBI Firearms Instructors School, competing against 25 officers from approximately 20 different law enforcement agencies.

Throughout her career, Poremba has received numerous awards, Woman's State Championship Awards, the President's Hundred award (*awarded to the top 100 shooters in the Country*), distinguished pistol award badge. She also became the Woman's National .45 Cal Champion.

With the financial assistance of the Illinois Veterans Grant and the Chicago Police Department Tuition Reimbursement Program, she earned her Bachelors degree in 2005. In 2008, she was assigned to the Canine Unit; her dream job finally become a reality! In 2010 she was the only female selected to participate on the first Season of the History Channel's TOP SHOT television show, an experience of a lifetime.

In 2011 Poremba became a mother to a beautiful, strong little girl - the most rewarding job of my life. She extended her family in 2013 giving birth to her second daughter. All while being selected to attend Canine Trainers School that same year.

In 2018, the last moments of her first Canine partners' funeral was beautifully captured by the amazing vision of Chicago Police Officer Allison Sweeney from the Office of Communications. This viral video earned them, along with the Chicago Police Department, their first ever Emmy Award for the Human Interest Category. Poremba was also selected to create a commercial for a new all-female television network called Start TV, featuring strong, independent women working in challenging careers, which aired in the fall of 2018. *"It was quite an honor to represent an admirable campaign which allows me to empower, motivate and inspire other women."*

Tara Poremba currently serves as a Chicago Police Senior Canine Trainer, creating amazing Canine Teams. All of her life experiences have prepared her for this amazing position. The military especially molded her and set the foundation to transition from a determined young woman to a successful mother, spouse and Police Officer. Tara Poremba is *"Blazing The Trails"*

A special thank you to our sponsors, coordinators, guest and attendees for supporting the Chicago Association of Women in Law Enforcement's 4th Annual Women's History Month Celebration honoring military service.

Thank you to the Chicago Police Department and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 for their continued support of this annual event.

The menu was provided by Pearl's Place.



Pearl's Place
"Down Home Southern Cooking"



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