

Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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A Trailblazer in Philanthropy and Leadership: Jennifer Pritzker H'07



In the realm of philanthropy and leadership, few names resonate at Norwich University as profoundly as Colonel (IL) **Jennifer N. Pritzker**, IL ARNG (Retired).

Colonel Pritzker is a distinguished entrepreneur and philanthropist. She is the CEO of TAWANI Enterprises, a visionary umbrella organization with an entrepreneurial outlook. TAWANI's portfolio of iconic brands includes the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, the TAWANI Foundation, and the Pritzker Military Foundation, Masterwings Publishing, Mission94 Firearms Education Center, and more.

A champion for the LGBTQ+ community, Colonel Pritzker is transgender and has blazed a trail for equality, inclusion, and acceptance of all people and inspired others to strive for positive change.

Her connection to Norwich University runs deep. The Pritzker Military Foundation and TAWANI Foundation have supported numerous initiatives, including the Sullivan Museum and History Center; the Center for Civic Engagement's service-learning trips to Tanzania; Mountain Cold Weather; and the Colby Award, a prize awarded annually as part of Norwich's Military Writers' Symposium. The Pritzker Military Museum & Library in Chicago promotes education, historic preservation, and military heritage and has hosted several Norwich events over the years. Colonel Pritzker was a Trustee of the University from 1997 to 2007 and holds an honorary doctorate in military history. She continues to serve as a Trustee Emerita.

"Colonel Pritzker embodies the best of what a civic leader can do to have a positive impact on students. She is a person of enormous heart and great integrity. We are deeply grateful for her extraordinary efforts and ongoing partnership with the University," said Norwich University President Emeritus Richard Schneider.

When Norwich embarked on the Bicentennial Campaign, the largest fundraising effort in the University's history, the focus was on creating a state-of-the-art learning environment, strengthening academic programming, and growing scholarship endowments. Fittingly, the largest campaign in Norwich's history began with the University's largest-ever gift. In April 2013, Colonel Pritzker committed to a \$25 million challenge match. The challenge was met,

and the campaign went on to exceed its \$100 million goal, raising a total of \$121,000,000.

In recognition of her unwavering philanthropic support, Colonel Pritzker was selected to be one of the 78 leaders, distinguished alumni, and others from military and civilian careers honored on the Bicentennial Stairs for making significant contributions to the development and legacy of the University in its second century.

President Emeritus Schneider said, "Her name memorialized on our staircase is a tribute and daily reminder of those who personify Capt. Partridge's ideals and exemplify Norwich's mission 'to make moral, patriotic, effective and useful citizens'."

"It is even more inspiring to be honored alongside others who have significantly contributed to the success and positive collegiate experience of Norwich University students," said Colonel Pritzker.

Records documenting the history of women at Norwich are available through the University Archives: <u>https://archives.norwich.edu</u>

Attend a Women Kicking Glass Event.

• Sunday, June 23, 2024 - <u>Washington DC Women Kicking Glass Reception</u>, Military Women's Memorial, Arlington, VA

• Friday, September 20, 2024 - <u>Women Kicking Glass Gala</u>, Plumley Armory, Norwich

Sullivan Museum Seeking Women's Uniforms and Other Objects for Women Kicking Glass Exhibit

The Sullivan Museum and History Center is planning an exhibit highlighting the history of Norwich women. In preparation for that exhibition, and to expand the museum's collection, they are seeking women's uniforms, athletic gear, mementos of student life and other items reflecting the experiences of Norwich women over the past 50 years. To learn more or to donate/loan items for this exhibit, contact Amber Wingerson at awingers@norwich.edu or 802-485-3288.