

MDW4's Warriors@Amazon Affinity Group Honors Women in the Military in the Wear Blue: Piestewa Challenge

By Ericka Glorious Moore

On March 23 – 30th MDW4's Military Affinity Group, Warriors participated in the Wear Blue: Piestewa Challenge, in celebration of Women's History Month and to honor the 174 women that have fallen in combat since 2011, the service and sacrifice of our nation's 399,458 currently serving female service members and the generations who walked before them.

The Piestewa Challenge is named after Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, the first Native American service member to be killed in combat on foreign soil and the first military woman to be killed in Iraq. March 23, 2021 the day the challenge launched, is the 18th anniversary of her passing in Nasiriyah.

Warriors is chaired by Dwayne Dawkins and co-chaired by Ericka Glorious Moore, created 2 events during the week of the Challenge to celebrate women in the military.

1st Challenge

Between March 23rd-30, participants would collectively move 17.4 miles to honor the 174 women killed in combat operations since 9/11. Each participant committed to run/walk 2.2 miles on their own during the week of the run.

2nd Challenge

Encouraged all military staff and those that support the military to wear something blue between March 23rd – 30 to remember our fallen female service members and honor those still serving today.

Dwayne Dawkins stated, "It is important to support and draw awareness around women in the military and the sacrifices they have given to Americans."

The Challenge was a huge success! Forty virtual run participants completed 149.13 miles. Site leadership and beyond joined the challenge including James Walker, General Manager and Dan Miller, Regional Director of Operations.

Over 100 participants wore blue, which was showcased through a PowerPoint on the green mile, in addition, printed photos and a custom a poster was placed on a white board at the end of the green mile. It included signatures of participants, and miles completed.

Many were excited to be a part. One associate in particular, Juanaquee Koen, who served as a Lieutenant in the National Guard said, "I participated in the Wear Blue Virtual Run Challenge, because I wanted to support, honor and educate others about the 174 women killed in combat. Furthermore, I wanted to serve as a role model to young women seeking a military career."

MDW4's Warriors@ Affinity Group began in August 2020. Warriors@Amazon include current and former active military personnel, their families, and the **Amazon** employees who support them. This **group** provides members with a professional network, organizes community outreach programs, and assists veterans during their transition into civilian life within **Amazon**.

For more information about Warriors, contact Dwayne Dawkins at yikes@amazon.com or Ericka Glorious Moore at moricka@amazon.com.