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THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2017

It's slippery out there: be careful!

Old man winter is here, so let's review some essential safety tips to help prevent slips, trips and falls.

Tips for personal safety:

- Wear boots or overshoes with non-slip soles. Avoid shoes that have smooth soles, which increase the risk of slipping.
- Walk consciously. Be alert that you could quickly encounter an unseen patch of ice and slip.
- Avoid the temptation to run to beat traffic when crossing a street.
- Your arms help keep you balanced, so keep your hands out of your pockets and avoid carrying heavy loads that may cause you to lose your balance.
- Look ahead to see where you step. When you step on icy areas, take short, shuffling steps, curl your toes under and walk as flat-footed as possible.
- Avoid horseplay or other distractions.
- When entering or exiting your vehicles, hold onto the door or side of the vehicle for extra support. ■

PINNACOL
ASSURANCE

Pinnacol Assurance provides a monthly newsletter, with useful safety tips. This information was excerpted from Volume 17, Issue 11, Nov. 2016. For more information, contact Mindy.Carrothers@pinnacol.com.

THE
CHAMBER
AURORA • COLORADO

facebook

Proudly supporting the USS Colorado

The USS Colorado will have a permanent display of the citizens of Colorado's support for the mission of the crew and vessel.

A framed bronze of the ship's crest, signed by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, will hang in the ship's Ward Room. At a signing ceremony on December 1, 2016, Governor Hickenlooper was accompanied by Colorado Thirty Group representatives Christian Anschutz, of the Anschutz Foundation, and Kevin Hougen, President and CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

The art piece, donated by the Anschutz Foundation, was presented to the crew of the USS Colorado at the ship's christening ceremony in Groton, CT on December 3, 2016. Following the christening, the USS Colorado is scheduled to undergo sea trials and is expected to be commissioned in the summer of 2017. The \$2.6 billion attack submarine is 377 feet long and has a maximum operating depth of 800 feet. The need for refueling is expected to be about 33 years.

The crest was designed by Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Michael Nielson, a native of Arvada, CO. The framed bronze of the crest that will adorn the Ward Room was created by Doug Hyde, a Native American Vietnam War Veteran living in Colorado Springs. ■



(From left) Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, and Christian Anschutz, hold the framed Ship's Crest for the USS Colorado.

The Colorado Thirty Group was founded in 1978 and is a state-wide military support organization providing educational events to its participants, and provides Colorado military installation commanders with connections to communities in the state and acts in support of military missions.

Aurora Veterans Salute Honors Vietnam War Veterans

By Susan Ruby, Colorado Air National Guard, Buckley AFB, and Leadership Aurora Class of 2016-2017

We have all heard about — and maybe even experienced the hatred of a nation that Vietnam Veterans faced when returning home from war. And if you haven't heard or experienced that, you may have seen some of the blockbuster movies like *Full Metal Jacket*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Platoon*, and *Forrest Gump*. These movies show the range of the struggle of the war itself to the world of hell a Veteran faced when he returned home (whether from physical or mental injuries).

While I sat in the Hanger of the Wings over the Rockies Air and Space Museum for the Aurora Veterans Salute, the MC announced for all Vietnam Veterans to come to the front to get a token of gratitude. I watched all the "old-timers" walk to the front with their decorated War Ball Caps and Vests and I noticed something



The Aerospace Data Facility Colorado Joint Color Guard presenting the colors during the National Anthem at the Aurora Veterans Salute. (Photo Courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

that I had never noticed before; women.

A small gathering of women met to the left of the stage, and they greeted one another with big bear hugs. As I watched one woman who was decorated

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Kevin Hougen
President & CEO

President's Letter

2016 has been an incredibly productive year at The Chamber, and 2017 is expected to be another banner year for our business community!

As President of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, I want to personally welcome our new members and thank our current membership investors to our beautiful and growing "corner" of Colorado in the eastern metro area of Aurora/Centennial/Denver.

I encourage you to explore our list of membership investors in the new 2017 Business Directory that you received with this January/February 2017 IMPACT NEWSLETTER. What you'll find here is a close-knit business community full of local pride and friendly people! These are wonderful and reputable businesses, owned and operated by some of our communities finest. We have a strong focus on local business growth and expansion of education throughout the communities we serve.

The hard work put in by our Chamber Board of Directors, committees, and staff is paying off in a big way, thanks to the support of our loyal and enthusiastic community. Our support this past November 8 of ballot questions 3A&B for Cherry Creek Schools and 3C for Aurora Public Schools, along with the overwhelming victory for the SCFD (Scientific and

Cultural Facilities District), is a national model of public funding for education and public funding for the arts, and is the envy of cities across the country.

Our little "corner" of the state may be small geographically, but our selling points are big - and the "Heart" of our community is even bigger! Your presence is just another step in the bright future of our blossoming "corner."

Thank you for your continued confidence in the work of your Chamber. If you ever have a question about how we can help support your business or organization, please contact us. We always welcome the opportunity to serve the needs of our members and the community.

We wish you a Happy New Year and a Prosperous 2017!

Sincerely yours,

Kevin L. Hougen
President/CEO

ChamberBoard

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.....
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THE CHAMBER'S MISSION

The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to give a voice to the business community and serve as an advocate for its members, creating a positive business environment that encourages their growth and long-term economic vitality.

DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"

Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, www.aurorachamber.org, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

An Inside Look at Chamber Committees

The following articles provide a sampling of the activities of each of The Chamber committees. All Chamber member representatives are welcome to attend any of the monthly meetings.

Business for the Arts

Economic Impact of SCFD (11/1/16) – “Arts and Culture generate \$1.8 billion in total economic activity in the Metro Area,” said



Meredith Badler, with the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts. Badler presented the results of the CBCA's Economic Activity Study to the Business for the Arts group on Nov. 1.

“The impact of the arts in our community is actually much larger than most people realize,” said Badler. The numbers run big and add up, including 13.9 million attending art and cultural events, \$53.2 million SCFD distribution to more than 270 organizations, outreach to 3.9 million children, sustaining nearly 11,000 jobs with a payroll of \$19.8 million. Giving to the arts also generates \$176.4 million. “It's big business, and it's great business!” said Badler.

Holiday Cheer (12/6/16) – Early morning performances of the Rangeview Rhapsody and



Aurora Singers and Rangeview Rhapsody entertain at the Holiday Gathering of Business for the Arts.

The Aurora Singers at the Business for the Arts Holiday Gathering on Dec. 6 was a musical delight! James Laguana, musical director for both groups, led the singers in their repertoire of holiday songs – from *Silent Night* to *Mr. Grinch*. The annual holiday gathering was held at the Aurora History Museum, to coincide with the also annual Festival of Wreaths.

The meeting also served as a “changing of the guard,” as Ed Duggan owner of Music Go Round Aurora, stepped down after serving as chair since 2010. Brian Molitoris, of Brian Molitoris Photographer, who has served as vice chair, will be the new chair of the committee, and Reneé Leon, co-owner of AutoPros, will serve as vice-chair.

Transportation

Go Centennial and Transportation Funding for the Future (11/2/16) – A public-private

partnership of the City of Centennial, Xerox, Lyft, Denver South Transportation Management Association, and Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants, is using technology and available resources for a “last mile ridesharing” pilot program. Riders can use an app or contact the concierge service to hail a Lyft to get them to and from the Dry Creek Light Rail Station, instead of driving to the station and parking. Melanie Morgan, Data Analyst with the Centennial Innovation Team says that results of the pilot should include cost effectiveness, economies of scale, and a decrease in vehicle miles traveled.



Transportation funding was also on the

agenda, and Move Colorado President Jeff Kullman provided statistical information pointing towards a huge need for increased funding for transportation and infrastructure.

“Colorado last increased a gas tax for transportation in 1991,” said Kullman. “Along with being 32nd in the nation in road conditions, Colorado is also growing real fast. From 1991 to 2015 the population has increased from 3.3 million to 5.4 million, and it's still growing.”

On the Move in Aurora (12/7/16) – “I can't remember, in my 32 years with the City of Aurora, ever having this much infrastructure going on!” said Dave Chambers, Director of Public Works for the City of Aurora.

Chambers and Mac Callison, Planning Supervisor with the City, presented a detailed update of facility and transportation projects to The Chamber's Transportation committee on Dec. 7, 2016.

“There are \$17 million in projects currently underway,” said Chambers. “There's just a lot going on to make the City of Aurora better and better.”



Diversity and Inclusion Council

Aurora, Safer by the Day (11/4/16) – Aurora Police Department's Chief Nick Metz was the guest speaker at the Nov. 4 Diversity and Inclusion Council. Metz spoke about leadership, and how the APD is reaching out to the community in order to strengthen trust and bring the community together. As an example of that outreach, he shared Empowering, a book

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A conversation about homelessness

by Terry Spencer,
Colin Spencer Productions, and Leadership Aurora Class of 2016-2017



As we participated in the “mock” City Council session in November, I thought that the issue we were addressing - of Homelessness - needed a bit more light shed on it.

So, I called Shelley McKittrick, Homeless Program Director for the City of Aurora, and asked if she had time for a taped interview about homelessness.

Of course, she was more than happy to share her thoughts.

We met in her office in the MLK Library on Colfax, and McKittrick talked with us for nearly an hour about the challenges of



Shelley McKittrick

homelessness and opportunities for Leadership Aurora to help. It was extremely difficult to edit down the interview, as everything McKittrick said is vital to helping people overcome homelessness. You can see the video at <http://www.aurorachamber.org/homelessness-does-not-discriminate/>.

I hope it empowers you to do even the simplest acts of kindness — as McKittrick noted, “There's a lot of things people can do, and any one thing is a good thing, and they all add up.” ■

Rosenberg recognized



Paul Rosenberg

Aurora Chamber Vice President of Membership Development Paul Rosenberg was honored at the City of Aurora's annual Business Recognition Award Ceremony on Dec. 8 for his 20 years of service on the Business Advisory Board. ■

Ribbon cuttings mean business: 140 new jobs



Parkside Village Retirement Resort

14501 E. Crestline Dr., Aurora, CO 80015 – coming soon
Julie Loder (right, front), with Resort Lifestyle Communities is joined by hard hat-attired Chamber staff and Ambassador Team members to celebrate the groundbreaking for **Parkside Village Retirement Resort**. When completed, the all-inclusive senior living community will offer all the comforts and conveniences of modern-day living, in a luxurious and secure setting - without the hassle of upkeep. (11.15.16) www.rlcommunities.com (720) 214-8899.



Quebec Place at Fairmount – 430 S. Quebec St., Denver, CO 80247

Fairmount President and CEO Kelly Briggs is accompanied by staff and Chamber members at the ribbon cutting for **Quebec Place at Fairmount**. Serving as an event venue, the modern architecture of **Quebec Place** gives guests an “at home” feel, and the flexible space allows for hosting large and small events. (11.17.16) www.quebecplaceatfairmount.com (303) 399-0692.



Jet's Pizza — 13724 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora, CO 80015. Owners of **Jet's Pizza**, Anthony and Chris Falzone were joined by Mayor of Sterling Heights, Michigan Michael Taylor and **Aurora** Mayor Steve Hogan to celebrate their grand opening in Aurora, Colorado. **Jet's Pizza's** menu includes a variety of specialty pizzas, sidekicks, salads, and subs. (11.10.16) www.jetspizza.com. (720) 990-6000.



SCL Health Senior Vice President of Mission Integration David Pringle began the ribbon cutting ceremony for **SCL Health's Emergency Center** in Aurora with a prayer: “As we consider those who will enter these doors let us consider healing from the perspective of both the patient and the providers.” The prayer exemplifies the organization’s mission, vision, values and faith, and concluded with “Most of all, give us the strength to deliver whatever we can to the work of unmasking disease so that we together might find healing.” ■



SCL Health Emergency Center – opening soon

23770 E. Smoky Hill Rd., Aurora, CO 80016. From left to right: **SCL Health** President and CEO Michael Slubowski; Ward VI **Aurora City Councilwoman** Francoise Bergan; **SCL** Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer William “Bill” Anderson; **SCL** President Dr. John Buck; Emerus Hospital Administrator Stephanie Harrison; **Aurora Chamber** President and CEO Kevin Houghton; Emerus Medical Director Dr. Kelli Lewis; Pringle; and Emerus Regional CEO Sean Stricker.

Suzanne Acheson of Aurora Public Schools honored

The Colorado Association of School Executives and a committee of peers from the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals awarded Suzanne Acheson from **Aurora Public Schools' Hinkley High School** the 2017 Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year for Secondary School Awards. Acheson has been a role model for embracing diversity, working to establish the International Baccalaureate and **APS** Pathway Program, raising ACT scores, and increasing the overall graduation rate. She will be honored at the 2017 National Principals Conference in Philadelphia.



Suzanne Acheson

Car Care Clinic for Women

AutoPros Co-owner and Chief Mechanic, Edgar Leon highlighted the top five things

everyone should know about their vehicles at the Car Care Clinic for Women held in November. Participants were offered a 'judgement-free zone' to ask questions — some of which were quite technical.

Anonymous evaluations showed that attendees felt informed and better prepared to handle car repairs and maintenance in the future. **AutoPros** will use evaluation information and feedback from the November Car Care Clinic for Women to plan additional community events. For information, contact Renee at AuroraAutoPros@comcast.net.

Centennial joins Smart Cities

The **City of Centennial** has been selected to join Transportation for America's (T4A) new smart cities collaborative, to explore how technology can improve urban mobility. During 2017, **Centennial**



will work with the other fifteen cities in the collaborative to tackle challenges related to implementing smart city policies and projects—sharing best practices, and technical assistance and piloting new programs. **Centennial** was selected from the nearly 60 cities that applied to be a part of the collaborative.

DAVA students chosen to make National Christmas Tree ornaments

Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA) youth artists were chosen to design ornaments showcasing iconic Colorado lifestyles and scenes for the 94th annual National Christmas Tree Lighting Display in Washington, D.C., Dec. 1, 2016 through Jan. 1, 2017. The event is presented by the National Park Foundation and National



showcasing iconic Colorado lifestyles and scenes for the 94th annual National Christmas

Tree Lighting Display in Washington, D.C., Dec. 1, 2016 through Jan. 1, 2017. The event is presented by the National Park Foundation and National

Park Service.

"We are so honored to represent Colorado as the creators of ornaments for our national tree this year. Urban youth, ages 7-17, were incredibly inventive—they really drew from the beauty in our state, from butterflies to bees, to aspen trees and the mountains. Seeing the world through their eyes always reminds how fortunate we are to live in such an amazing state," said **DAVA** Executive Director Susan Jenson.

Jenson and **DAVA** Studio Assistant Cruz Javier Torres attended the tree lighting in Washington D.C. on Dec. 6, 2016. To learn about some of the 2016 artists and ornaments, go to www.thenationaltree.org/america-celebrates/#



Robinson earns CLF

Multiple Line General Agent Doug Robinson with **American National Insurance** has earned the Chartered Leadership Fellow designation (CLF) from the American College of Financial Services. The CLF designation program provides managers with knowledge and tools to achieve key organizational goals, such as recruitment and retention, setting performance standards, and developing business plans.



Doug Robinson

Sup of the Year: Dr. Harry Bull

The Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) has named **Cherry Creek School District** Dr. Harry Bull as the state's top superintendent for 2017. CASE officials applauded Bull's commitment to excellence for all students, his tireless advocacy work and his leadership in the fight for adequate school funding across the state.

Bull offered heartfelt thanks for the honor, and gave plenty of credit to the administrators, teachers, staff and students that make up the **Cherry Creek School District** community. "What this means for me is that there's a recognition statewide about the work that goes on inside of the district every single day. I'm the person who gets the name on the plaque, but this is really about the work that our teachers do in the classroom, our staff that works with kids every day, the building leadership team and the leadership at central office," said Bull.



Dr. Harry Bull

Merrick & Company announces new president

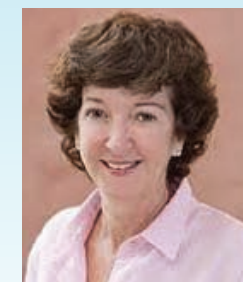
Merrick & Company's Board of Directors has elected Christopher Sherry, PE, as president,

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Local Businesswomen Recognized Nationally

Every year, 100 women are selected for leadership and executive roles on a national level, including bankers, lawyers, educators, entrepreneurs, scientists, and marketers.

This year's *Bizwomen's Women to Watch*, includes two local and extremely influential women, Christine Benero, **Mile High United**



Christine Benero

Way, and Diane Simard, Aero Electric Aircraft Corp.

Christine Benero, President and CEO of **Mile High United Way**, came to the organization in 2008, recognizing the importance of staying relevant when handling constant changes in community

needs. Benero led the development of a new headquarters in downtown Denver, which opened in 2014. **MHW** serves the community through more than 1,500 nonprofit, corporate,

and government meetings and events.

Diane Simard, co-founder of Aero Electric Aircraft Corp., is helping to develop a two-seat, solar-electric training aircraft called Sun Flyer. The cost-effective and energy efficient plane is designed to meet the needs of flight training schools.

Simard, who recently fought breast cancer, is also working to help address the psychological aspect of cancer treatment, by founding the Center for Oncology Psychology Excellence (COPE) at the **University of Denver**. The training program is the first of its kind.



Diane Simard

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Excerpted from *Bizwomen The Business Journal*.

that provides resources, procedures, and laws, to help youth better understand APD's mission "to make Aurora safer by the day." The book was inspired and written by youth, for youth in the community.



Aurora Police Chief Nick Metz

A Welcoming Community (12/9/16) - At the December Diversity and Inclusion Council meeting, Director of Colorado Providers for Integration Network (CPIN) Meg Allen, gave a motivational presentation on becoming a welcoming community.



Allen began the meeting by asking everyone to turn to their neighbor and

discuss a time where they felt very welcomed, and then a time they felt unwelcomed. This exercise provided a stark difference between being comfortable and uncomfortable talking about experiences.

Committee members learned that it is not actually possible to be totally culturally competent; so to think of it as "a journey, not a destination."

"It's important to ask general questions, so that we can get the information needed to understand and help," said Allen, who described the differences between Communal Society and Individualistic Society, and talked about general cultural issues and welcoming practices.

Young Professionals

Everyone needs a (Business) Wingman (11/5/16) - In November, the Young Professionals enjoyed a presentation by "Business Wingman" Ron Duren Jr. with Focal Point International about how to stand out when the pressure is on - and how to enhance your brand.

Holiday Cheer (12/2/16) - In December, the Young Professionals Board planned for their Bailey's and cocoa station next to the Gingerbread decorating table at the Dec. 8 Chamber Holiday Party. The Chamber "elves" made the Bailey's and Kalua shooter leis for the Young Professionals to enjoy.



Work Well 2.0 Health Series

Healthy and Delicious (11/10/16) - Healthy cooking and healthy eating definitely go hand in hand, and we all know that there's a lot of food available that tastes really good, but might not be in our health's best interest.

At the Nov. 10 Work Well 2.0 Health Series, Jessica Hildebrandt, Clinical Dietitian with

Children's Hospital Colorado, reviewed current nutrition recommendations, shared ways to improve the nutrition of preparing food, and demonstrated an easy to make and very healthy fall vegetable salad. She also offered links to healthy recipes online.



Children's Hospital Colorado

After attendees were well fed and well informed, Kathleen McBride, Director of the Association of Volunteers, gave a tour of Children's, offering a closer look at some of the functions of this prized-gem in Aurora.

Catching up (12/8/16) - With the hectic holiday season, the Work Well 2.0 Health Series December meeting was converted to a conference call for coalition members to review the effectiveness survey and funding opportunities.

Defense Council

Mission Briefing (11/17/16) - The November Defense Council was hosted by the 460th Space Wing, Buckley AFB. Colonel David Miller, 460 SW Commander and Buckley AFB Installation Commander, provided welcoming remarks and congratulated Colonel Ellen Moore, HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center Commander, on her recent promotion selection to Brigadier General. Colonel Scott Romberger, 460th Vice Wing Commander, provided the Wing's mission briefing, highlighting the Wing's primary mission to "Provide Missile Warning for America."



Mission Briefing on Nov. 17, 2016 for the Defense Council.

Colonel Romberger mentioned the 93 tenant units that the Wing supports, and told the audience how very proud he is of the relationship the base has with the community and the Chamber's Defense Council. He also thanked the community for their support in securing over \$25M to protect land around Buckley from encroachment.

Spouses Share Experiences (12/8/16) - The December Defense Council featured a panel of military spouses, who shared the experiences and challenges they faced while their spouses were deployed. They also talked about the support they received from the Aurora



Panel members, left to right: Naomi Colwell (Marine Corps & Navy spouse); Charlene Shields (Retired Army & former Army spouse); and Senior Master Sergeant Amy Reedy (Air Force Active Duty & Air Force spouse).

community and how other military families can benefit from our military friendly city.

In addition, Colorado Representative Su Ryden was presented with a Defense Council coin for her tireless support of the Defense Council and military, veterans and their families.



Chamber Executive VP Rene Simard and Rep. Su Ryden

Women in Business

In November and December of 2016, the Women in Business committee members enjoyed ultimate networking. With no programs or speakers, members took a break from formal agendas and spent time getting to know each other.

Just in time for the holidays, on December 13, a creative craft project had the group decorating ornaments for The Chamber's tree - while enjoying appetizers and drinks at the Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast.

The Women in Business committee will be welcoming Terry Spencer of Colin Spencer Productions as the incoming Chair in January 2017. At the February Unsung Hero luncheon, there will be a formal presentation to honor Debbie Gilliard with Metropolitan State University, who has served as chair of the committee for six years.



Debbie Gilliard



Terry Spencer

Government Affairs

Colorado's 2016 Decisions (11/10/16) - Following the election on Nov. 8, 2016, the November 10 meeting of Government Affairs

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Merrick and Company's Chairman of the Board David G. Huelskamp (left), and newly elected President Christopher Sherry.

effective April 1, 2017. Sherry has served as the firm's senior vice president and chief operating officer for the past three years and will continue the responsibilities of COO as he assumes his new role.

David G. Huelskamp has served as president and chief executive officer for the past four

years at Merrick, and was most recently elected chairman of the board. He will continue in the role of CEO and chairman, focusing on board governance, government/industry affairs, strategic growth, and mergers & acquisitions.

Merrick & Company is an engineering, architecture, design-build, surveying, planning, and geospatial solutions firm, serving domestic and international clients in the energy & chemicals, national security, life sciences, and sustainable infrastructure markets. The employee-owned company maintains offices in the US, Canada, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

PRC meets needs in the community

Providers' Resource Clearinghouse (PRC) works to support Colorado's community-based organizations and the people that they serve with home and office furniture and accessories at a cost below market value. Additionally, **PRC** provides furniture vouchers for Veterans and families in need.

Over the past year **PRC** has furnished



Meeting the community's needs, one person at a time!

approximately 1,800 households with an estimated value of \$300,000 in bedding,

furniture and other home goods; 56 percent of these households were families with children and 24 percent were households of honorably discharged Veterans.

PRC also provides vocational services including on the job training for individuals with disabilities who are preparing for competitive employment. The Career Development Program provides vocational support for **Aurora Mental Health Center** clients to obtain and maintain community based employment.

Nonprofit organizations can contact the **PRC** Membership Liaison to learn about membership benefits. For additional questions regarding the **PRC** Home and Office Furniture Showroom and other programs or to arrange a tour of the facility, contact (303) 962-2270 or prc@aumhc.org. ■

VETERANS (con't)

to the max with her vest and cap, wipe a tear from her face, the tears I was holding back began rolling down my face. To attempt at stopping more tears, I decided to read the program and saw a blurb on "Women of the War."

Though women have always been a part of wars as nurses, none were allowed in combat zones. While around 11,000 women served on Active Duty during the Vietnam War - with 7,500 serving in Vietnam (6,000 of those as nurses, the rest serving as air traffic controllers, intelligence officers, and clerks) - there



(Photo Courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

were 20 of those women standing in front of me. The article went on to state that the returning Women Vietnam Veterans were treated even worse than the male Veterans to the point that women's needs weren't acknowledged. They were ignored by the Veterans Administration, denied membership, and those women who served with the civilian organizations (Red Cross, USO, Peace Corps) were legally ineligible for government compensation or benefits. As most know, we used to have a mandatory "draft" in the U.S., and if you were 18 or older and male, you signed up. Women have never been a part of the mandatory draft. Any women in the U.S. military volunteered. The draft ended the year the U.S. pulled out of Vietnam, which was the same year the prohibition on women entering the armed forces was lifted.



Major General Mike Edwards thanks a female Vietnam Era Veteran for her service to our nation. (Photo Courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

COMMITTEES (con't)

was a lively post-election discussion about the Colorado issues on the ballot.

New Legislators and APS

(12/1/16) - On November 30, The Aurora Chamber and Axiom Strategies held a well-attended holiday party for newly elected officials at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver.

The very next day, on December 1, the Government Affairs, Education, and Energy



committee met to talk about the newly elected legislators, and their assigned districts and priorities. Superintendent of Aurora Public Schools, Rico Munn, discussed the \$300 million dollar bond that was approved in the recent election, and what the money will be used for. Michael Steppat with Axiom Strategies talked about some of the priorities that will rise to the

top when the Colorado Legislature starts session on January 11, 2017. ■

As I looked back up at the Veterans in front of the room, the amount of pride and respect I felt for each of these men and women brought the tears back. What they endured for us as a nation, in an "unpopular" war, then coming back to a hostile environment. The women who volunteered carved the path for women who followed in their footsteps. The men and women in front of me had ensured a smooth path for me as a woman in the military, and for all my military brothers and sisters in arms to be further known as 'heroes.' I will be eternally grateful to all of the Vietnam War Veterans. And with that thought, the tears fell, again. ■

MemberRenewals

ACA Insurance LTD - Peter Lee
 Act IV
 Adams 14 Education Foundation
 Albertsons Safeway
 All American Windows & Siding
 AllStaff HomeCare, LLC/ Allstaff Medical
 aloft Denver International Airport
 Alpine Carstar Auto Body
 Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter
 American Portfolios
 American Sentinel University
 Asian Pacific Development Center
 Aurora Family Y.M.C.A.
 Aurora Firefighters Protective Association
 Aurora Office of Emergency Management
 Aurora Public Schools Foundation
 Autawash of Colorado - Havana
 Bellco Credit Union - Aurora City Place
 Best Western Plus Gateway Inn & Suites
 Bickford Law LLC
 Big Liquor Warehouse (TBLW) - Aurora City
 Children's Hospital Colorado
 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage - Laura Noe
 CollegeAmerica
 Columbia College - Denver
 CommonGround Golf Course
 Community College of Aurora - Bookstore
 Component Specialties, Inc.
 ConAm-Arterra Place
 Country Inn & Suites By Carlson
 Craig Wagner Trial Law
 Del Arte Lofts and Flats
 Don's Mailing Service
 DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Aurora
 DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Stapleton North
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