

Mission

Protect Our Defenders is a human rights organization.

We honor, support and give voice to the brave women and men in uniform who have been raped or sexually assaulted by fellow service members. We seek to fix the military training, investigation and adjudication systems related to sexual violence and harassment — systems that often re-victimize assault survivors by blaming them while failing to prosecute perpetrators.

Our Work

Our effort is directly informed by our work with victims, survivors, their families and retired military.

We research and expose dysfunction in the military training, investigation, adjudication and veterans service systems related to rape, sexual assault and harassment.

We educate the public and policy makers on the problems related to these issues along with potential solutions. Sexual violence in the military is often not adequately investigated or prosecuted and victims are often blamed, pushed out of the service and denied benefits.

We amplify survivors' voices, enabling them to share their stories with the American people, elected representatives and military leadership.

We collaborate with Burke PLLC to advance lawsuits filed against the DoD and service academies for repeatedly ignoring rape, sexual assault and harassment, failing to prosecute perpetrators and retaliating against the victim.

We help survivors find appropriate services and support initiatives to improve victim and survivor care through our survivor support network, forums and e-library.

We provide opportunities for these individuals, their families and advocates to organize and support each other through community building projects and events. We mentor and provide small grants to enhance these efforts.

And finally – we support policy initiatives to fundamentally reform how the Department of Defense deals with sexual harassment, rape and sexual assault.



Survivors of Military Sexual Assault Raise their voices at Washington D.C. Press Conference at National Press Club with Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Protect Our Defenders,

Advisory Board

Alan Alda has earned international recognition as an actor, writer and director in a distinguished career over 4 decades. His honors include Oscar and Tony nominations, 6 Emmys, 33 Emmy nominations, the Science Board's Public Service Award, and induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He hosted the award winning series, "Scientific American Frontiers" on BPS for eleven years, interviewing leading scientist from around the world. He has won the Director's Guild Award three times, received six Golden Globes from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, and seven Peabody Awards. Mr. Alda played Hawkeye Pierce on the classic television series M*A*S*H, and also wrote and directed many episodes. His wife, Arlene, is the author of fifteen children's books and is an award winning professional photographer. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Kwame Anthony Appiah, a 2012 National Humanities Medal recipient, is a distinguished author who is published widely in numerous languages. His studies include the fields of Societal Ethics and African and African-American literature and culture. Appiah joined the Princeton faculty in 2002 as Rockefeller Professor of Philosophy and the University Center for Human Values. He won the 2007 Arthur Ross Award of the Council on Foreign Relations and was Chair of the Board from the American Council of Learned Societies. He serves as general editor of the *Amnesty International Global Ethics Series*, and was President of the PEN American Center for three years. Associations, honors and awards bestowed are numerous. They include induction into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, United Nations Democracy Fund Advisory Board, degree of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy, Dickinson University and honorary degrees from Colgate University, Bard College and Swarthmore College.

Meredith Auld Brokaw is a highly accomplished businesswoman, humanitarian, author and businesswoman. Mrs. Brokaw founded Penny Whistle Toys, was president of the company for twenty years, and is the author of eight Penny Whistle books for parenting and children's activities. Mrs. Brokaw served as vice-chair of Conservation International, whose mission is to protect the earth's living heritage and its global biodiversity. She is also on the board of Maloto, Inc., which works to transform the lives of children and women living in extreme poverty in Malawi by supporting programs that feed, educate and empower. Brokaw established the tomato canning project initiative, a micro-finance business, which is partnered with the Kwithu Women's Group. Brokaw served on the board of WNET, was chair of their Education Committee for over ten years and was a director of the Gannett Company for over 17 years. In 2011, Meredith and her husband, Tom, hosted the International Rescue Committee's Annual Freedom Award Benefit.

Paula Caplan Ph.D., is a clinical and research psychologist, author of eleven nonfiction books. She is Associate at Harvard University's DuBois Institute, where she has been Project Director of Voices of Diversity. She was a Fellow in the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard Kennedy School (HKS). Caplan's book *When Johnny and Jane Come Marching Home: How All of Us Can Help Veterans* has won three national awards, including top psychology book of 2011 in the Association of American Publishers' PROSE competition, Silver Medal in psychology/mental health from the Independent Publishers, and IPPY Groundbreaking Book of the Month. Among her plays are three that deal with veterans, including SHADES, which won Best New Play in the Pen & Brush (NYC) contest and the same award from LDI Productions (LA). She heads The Welcome Johnny and Jane Home Project, which is aimed to transform our war-illiterate nation to one filled with civilians who have listened with respect and without judgment to the stories of veterans from all wars.

General Wesley Clark, retired. US Army four-star general and director for strategic plans and policy of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As Supreme Allied Commander Europe and NATO, he led Operation Allied Force in the Kosovo War, which saved 1.5 million Albanians from ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. General Clark is highly decorated and a recipient of many awards and honors including the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. In 2000, General Clark was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. He is a Rhodes scholar, West Point graduate and class valedictorian. A major influence in his view of the military was Douglas MacArthur's speech, "Duty, honor, country." His most recent book, "Winning Modern Wars," was published in October 2004.

Paula Coughlin, retired Lieutenant, U.S. Navy. Founder, Owner of Ocean Yoga Center in Atlantic Beach FL. Paula Coughlin-Puopolo comes from a lineage of military and community leaders. Before settling in Florida, she served in the US Navy as a helicopter pilot, serving aboard Naval vessels as one of the earliest women in aviation to become flight deck qualified and maintenance officer/post maintenance check qualified. While serving as Aide de camp at the Naval Air Test Center, in 1991, her role as a whistle-blower in the infamous Tailhook Convention ended her aviation career, and Coughlin pushed forward working to rectify inequities in the military's policies for the role of women in aviation and in combat. Coughlin is unwavering in her efforts to make positive changes; she has testified before

SASC sub-committee, met with former President GH Bush, Sec. of Defense and more recently through an online petition, forced the HASC to hold open hearings on the sexual abuse scandal at Lackland AFB. In recognition of her leadership in modernizing the roles of women in the military, in 1992, she was honored as "Woman of the Year" by Vanity Fair. Coughlin was featured in a fulllength feature film, "She Stood Alone," as well as the academy award nominated documentary "Invisible War" and most recently in the historical series "Retro Report" with the New York Times.

Congressman George "Buddy" Darden, retired. As a member of Congress he served 11 years on the House Armed Services Committee from 1983 – 1995. Prior to being elected to Congress he served as District Attorney of Cobb County, Georgia and in the Georgia House of Representatives. Throughout his years in Congress Darden advocated maintaining a strong national defense. From 1999 – 2003 Darden served as chairman of the Judicial Nominating Commission for then Governor Roy Barnes. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from LaGrange College and is currently a partner in the law firm of McKenna, Long & Aldridge.

Henry Louis Gates Jr. is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard, chair of Afro-American Studies and the director W.E.B. Du Bois Institute. Professor Gates has authored several works of literary criticism, and many volumes of African American and Africana studies. Professor Gates has taught at Yale, Cornell and Duke Universities. He is the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius award," George Polk Award for Social Commentary, Time Magazine's "25 Most Influential Americans" list, a National Humanities Medal and election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Ambassador Gordon Giffin is the Chair of the Public Policy and international department of McKenna Long & Aldridge. Ambassador Giffin has been engaged in the practice of law or government service for over thirty years. From August 1997 to April 2001, Ambassador Giffin served as the nineteenth U.S. Ambassador to Canada. From 1975-1979, he was Legislative Director and Chief Counsel to U.S. Senator Sam Nunn in Washington D.C.

Ervin "Magic" Johnson, Hall of Fame basketball player, successful businessman, author and AIDS activist. During his 13-year career Johnson was one of the most accomplished basketball players of all time. He won the Most Valuable Player Award and the Finals MVP Award three times each, and was a 12-time All-Star. He is an accomplished businessman, which includes real estate holdings, movie theaters and Starbuck Franchises. Upon learning he had the AIDS virus, Johnson established the Magic Johnson Foundation to support HIV/AIDS research efforts and awareness programs. In 1992, he wrote the educational guide *What You Can Do to Avoid AIDS*.

Lt. General Claudia Kennedy, retired US Army, is the only woman ever to receive this flag rank. She served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence at Headquarters, Wash. DC. During her career, General Kennedy received numerous awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, The Defense Meritorious Service Medal, The Army Commendation Medal, and the Living Legacy Patriot Award presented by the Women's International Center.

Pete McCloskey retired Marine Colonel, Congressman and decorated war hero. McCloskey voluntarily served in the US Navy at the end of World War II and in the US Marines during the Korea War. He was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star for heroism in combat and two awards of the Purple Heart. He retired in 1974 having attained the rank of Colonel. McCloskey served as a member of Congress from 1967 – 1983. An avid environmentalist, he was co-founder of the first Earth Day and co-author of the Endangered Species Act.

Terri J. Odom, US Army and Navy veteran and survivor of military sexual assault, serves on Protect Our Defender's Peer to Peer Support Network, Advocacy Committee, and Advisory Board. Currently Terri is a full time volunteer veteran adviser with the VA St. Louis Health Care System. She conducts veteran outreach, trains VA staff to serve veterans more holistically, and speaks to troops before and after deployments. Terri currently serves as a Missouri women veteran's liaison to Governor Jay Nixon. In 2013 Terri was selected as one of 12 women to receive the St. Louis Hellenic Spirit Foundation Award for her accomplishments and enthusiasm for community spirit. She is an active volunteer with The St. Vincent Veteran Homeless Program, the Missouri Director of Veterans Homes, The Fisher House and the Happy House, which all provide housing to veterans and their families. Terri is a peer support leader for veteran crisis-modes through The Red Cross. From 2009-2011 she served on Congressman Russ Carnahan's Veteran's Advisory Committee.

Jane Pauley, television journalist, and community and mental health advocate. Pauley served a distinguished career in television journalism, including 13 years as co-host of NBC's *Today Show*, co-host of *Dateline NBC* and *The Jane Pauley Show*. She led an important PBS discussion on depression titled *Depression: Out of the Shadows*, which aired in 2008. Since 2009, Pauley has led a Community Health Center in Indiana. The center serves the local community regardless of insurance or ability to pay. It focuses on integrating medical, dental and behavioral health. Also, in 2009 Pauley joined the Board of Directors of The Mind Trust and is also AARP's Ambassador of "Your Life Calling." She is affiliated with the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, and has spoken publicly about her experience with bipolar disorder.

Stacy Schiff, Pulitzer Prize winning author and New York Times guest columnist. Schiff has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She was a Director's Fellow at the New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers. In 2000, Schiff won the Pulitzer for biography for *Vera*, and in 1995 she was a Pulitzer finalist. She received the Ambassador Award in American Studies for *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France and the Birth of America*, which also won the George Washington Book Prize. Her most recent biography, *Cleopatra: A Life* was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for six months. In 2006, she received the Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 2009 received an EMMA award for journalistic excellence.

Patricia Lee Stotter is an Emmy award winning composer and writer. She and Marcia Rock produced, *SERVICE: When Women Come Marching Home*, a multi-platform documentary addressing the unique challenges facing women

who serve. Patty came to this project after working through theatre and art with the widows of Viet Nam Veterans and student veterans at City University of New York. From Sesame Street to HBO/PBS documentaries to *SERVICE*, Stotter is all about the right voice at the right moment.

Rose Styron, poet, journalist, human rights activist. Rose Styron has been at the forefront of international human rights activism since 1970 when she joined the Board of Amnesty International USA and subsequently became the chair of Amnesty's National Advisory Council. She has also chaired PEN's Freedom to Write Committee and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Human Rights Awards. She currently serves on the board of PEN and Human Rights Watch. She also served on The Reebok Human Rights Awards and the Association to Benefit Children. Ms. Styron has published four books as well as essays on international human rights. She serves on the advisory board of Families for Depression Awareness as well as a number of other boards. In addition, she is a highly regarded and well-published poet.

Garry Trudeau is an American cartoonist, best known for the award winning Doonsbury comic strip. In 1975, his work on topical political and social commentary garnered him a Pulitzer Prize. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Trudeau continues the legacy of his father, Dr. Francis Trudeau by working with the Trudeau Institute, a research organization founded by his father in 1964, which specializes in biological research dealing with the body's immune system including AIDS research. In October, 2007 Trudeau created "The Sandbox: Dispatches from Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan." And, in 2012, he co-authored an op-ed for the Washington Post titled, "Breaking the cycle of Sexual Assault in the military."

Sigourney Weaver is an accomplished actress, environmentalist and humanitarian. Weaver is an American actress with an extraordinary career spanning four decades. She is especially known for her role in the Alien Films series and Ghostbusters. In 1988, she received critical acclaim for her performances as Dian Fossey in *Gorillas in the Mist*. During her career Weaver was nominated for three Academy Awards, three FAFTA Awards, two Emmys, seven Golden Globe Awards and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. Her career in acting is distinguished by challenging the gender role in cinema. Weaver is an environmentalist. In 2006, she spoke before the United Nations General Assembly policy deliberations outlining the threat to ocean habitats. She has been honored by the Explorers Club for her work with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and in 2011 received the Rachel Carson Award for environmental activism. Weaver received the Trevor Life Award in 2008, for being an inspiration to LGBT youth for her involvement in *Prayers for Bobby*. And has supported the mission of the Trickle Up Program, a non-profit focusing on mostly women and the disabled in extreme poverty.

Congressman Vin Weber retired. Weber served as a member of Congress from 1980-1992. He is founding member of the *Project for the New American Century* and Chair of *National Endowment for Democracy*. Weber currently serves as a senior policy advisor to Mitt Romney for President and formerly served as Co-Chair of McCain for President campaign. He is a member of the board of the Humphrey Institute, the Aspen Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations.

