



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

December 2021



### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [Gunnery sergeants who never went to boot camp? It may be coming in the Marine Corps](#)**  
*(1 Dec) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey*  
“Exceptionally talented Americans” could join the Marine Corps as lieutenant colonels or gunnery sergeants.
- [Marine recruiter arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting two women in Ohio](#)**  
*(2 Dec) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol*  
A U.S. Marine recruiter has been arrested after allegedly inappropriately touching and grabbing two women recently in Bellefontaine, Ohio, according to police and Marine Corps officials.
- [North Carolina A&T State University launches partnership with US Space Force focusing on research, scholarships](#)**  
*(2 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By Jessie Pounds*  
A new partnership between the U.S. Space Force and N.C. A&T is expected to lead to research cooperation as well as scholarships and internships for students.
- [‘Recruit the recruiter’: Marine Corps still in need of recruiting duty volunteers](#)**  
*(6 Dec) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey*  
The Corps has found success with recent bonuses, but still needs more recruiters.
- [Space Force focuses on culture in ‘intimate’ new orientation course](#)**  
*(6 Dec) Air Force Magazine, By Amanda Miller*  
The Space Force’s orientation course for people transferring into the new service—civilian and military alike—draws from the “welcoming and intimate” formats the Air Force’s major commands offer in their chiefs’ orientation courses for chief master sergeants.
- [Sweeping military justice reforms, plan to add women to draft dropped from compromise authorization bill](#)**  
*(7 Dec) Military Times, By Leo Shane III and Joe Gould*  
But whether those changes will be enough to advance the bill for the 61st consecutive year remains unclear.
- [The Army is in hot water over TikTok recruiting activity](#)**  
*(14 Dec) The Verge, By Makena Kelly*  
The US Army is facing pressure from Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) after recruiters were caught using TikTok to find leads on young Americans to enlist, despite orders banning the app’s use on government devices.
- [Everyone should be jealous of this Air Force pilot skateboarding down the flight line](#)**  
*(15 Dec) Task & Purpose, By David Roza*  
Perhaps the best Air Force recruiting commercial in history was posted to social media on Monday, but the Air Force recruiting service had nothing to do with its creation.
- [Marine Recruiting achieves historic success in diversity representation](#)**  
*(21 Dec) Marines, By Marine Corps Recruiting Command*  
The Fiscal Year 2021 was another successful year for the command as MCRC achieved all accession missions for the year and reached historic successes in diversity representation. Greater than 35 percent of all officer candidates were diverse including 15.4 percent of female officer accessions, the highest number of female officer accessions for the Marine Corps in any given fiscal year.



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10. [Women on the forefront of the US Space Force](#)  
(21 Dec) *WSYX*, By *Stacia Naquin*  
As Air Force ROTC students, they will graduate from Ohio State as commissioned officers in the Air Force and Space Force.
11. [Ukraine requires women to register for military conscription as Russia threat looms](#)  
(23 Dec) *Coffee or Die*, By *Nolan Peterson*  
Ukraine's Ministry of Defense has significantly expanded the pool of Ukrainian women who are required to register for possible military conscription in the event of a major war.
12. [Navy to lengthen Basic Military Training; expand its community college](#)  
(23 Dec) *Navy Times*, By *Diana Stancy Correll*  
The additional two weeks of training will be spent completing a "Sailor for Life" module that targets the conversion from civilian to sailor.
13. [Fewer future permanent change of stations moves for Marines](#)  
(23 Dec) *Marine Corps Times*, By *Philip Athey*  
The commandant noted that Marines likely will not be allowed to spend their entire career in Hawaii.
14. [Siblings born on Christmas Eve follow their father into Marine Corps](#)  
(24 Dec) *Stars & Stripes*, By *Chad Garland*  
Three of the quadruplets born 23 years ago on Christmas Eve have followed their father's footsteps into the Marine Corps, but the four siblings almost didn't see their first Christmas morning.
15. [Elementary students speak to Space Force guardian](#)  
(26 Dec) *News and Sentinel*, By *Evan Bevins*  
Lt. Col. Christopher Evey, a guardian in the U.S. Space Force, spoke virtually with third-, fourth- and fifth-graders at the school, explaining how the math and science they're learning translates into careers like his and others.
16. [Citadel cadet becomes first student on campus to accept commission into the Space Force](#)  
(28 Dec) *The Post and Courier*, By *Thomas Novelty*  
A cadet graduating from The Citadel in May will be the first student at the historic military college to commission as an officer in the newly created U.S. Space Force.

## EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

17. [Air Force opens door for select few from the enlisted ranks to become officers](#)  
(2 Dec) *Task & Purpose*, By *David Roza*  
The airmen involved in the Air Force's enlisted drone pilot program have a great shot at becoming officers and remaining pilots if they want to, the top officer and enlisted airman in the service said in a memo on Monday.
18. [Army replaces decades-old fitness exam with more rigorous test](#)  
(3 Dec) *NBC News*, By *Jean Lee*  
The pushups and situps of the 1980s will be replaced by deadlifts, a medicine-ball throw and other drills better suited to prepare soldiers for modern warfare.



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December 2021



19. [\*\*Navy unveils new enlisted career policy designed to encourage sailors to remain at sea\*\*](#)  
*(9 Dec) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*  
The Navy has unveiled an enlisted career management policy that aims to cut gaps at sea by “eliminating the maximum sea duty tour length constraint and redistributing sailors.”
20. [\*\*Gender Relations Surveys Now Allow All Troops To Give Input\*\*](#)  
*(15 Dec) DoD News, By Katie Lange*  
Every year, the Defense Department asks a good portion of its military members to take a survey regarding workplace and gender relations. The results give the DOD its official estimates on the prevalence of sexual assault, sexual harassment and gender discrimination in the military.
21. [\*\*In-flight urination devices expected to improve quality of life for Air Force pilots\*\*](#)  
*(15 Dec) Standard Examiner, By Deborah Wilber*  
Pilots in the U.S. Air Force are receiving new and improved bladder-relieving devices after aircrew were routinely found to be dehydrating themselves in an effort to delay the need for in-flight urination, causing reduced endurance and G-force tolerance as well as negative health issues.
22. [\*\*US Air Force memo authorizes use of gender pronouns in signature blocks\*\*](#)  
*(18 Dec) Fox News, By Andrew Mark Miller*  
The United States Air Force has authorized the use of gender pronouns in electronic signature boxes for communications within the department.
23. [\*\*Claiming 'anti-male gender bias', former Coast Guard cadet sues admiral, other officers\*\*](#)  
*(19 Dec) KETV, By Michelle Bandur*  
A Lincoln family is taking on the Admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard and other high-ranking leaders in a federal lawsuit.
24. [\*\*Female ex-pilot in Afghan military surfaces in US, defying rumors that she had been killed\*\*](#)  
*(20 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By J.P. Lawrence*  
An Afghan woman who was one of the few female pilots in her country's air force quashed an online assertion that she had been stoned to death by the Taliban, saying she is alive and well on the West Coast.
25. [\*\*Federal jury awards woman \\$130,000 in discrimination lawsuit against Arkansas National Guard\*\*](#)  
*(23 Dec) Arkansas Democratic Gazette, By Dale Ellis*  
The Arkansas National Guard has been ordered to pay more than \$130,000 to a woman after an eight-person jury found, following a five-day civil trial in federal court earlier this month, that she had suffered discrimination by being passed over for promotion.
26. [\*\*Will the Army Combat Fitness Test go live in April as planned?\*\*](#)  
*(27 Dec) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
The Army aims to formally implement the Army Combat Fitness Test — its biggest overhaul to fitness testing since 1980 — by April 2022, the service’s top NCO says.
27. [\*\*US names two women to senior diplomatic posts for Afghanistan\*\*](#)  
*(29 Dec) Al Jazeera, By Staff*  
The US has named two female diplomats to senior roles representing Washington in Afghanistan, as women’s rights in the country continue to deteriorate under the new Taliban government.



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December 2021



### WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

28. [Study of Fort Bragg soldiers aims to reduce sexual harassment, assault](#)  
*(1 Dec) Fayetteville Observer, By Ariana-Jasmine Castrellon*  
Three research projects at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, are aimed at reducing sexual assault and harassment in the military.
29. [Marine judge advocate: Her willingness to speak truth in spite of fear left a lasting impression](#)  
*(1 Dec) The War Horse, By Dillon Fishman*  
"I learned sexual assault cases can be complicated," he said.
30. [Adjutant general: 'No culture of sexual harassment in Wyoming Guard'](#)  
*(1 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By Jasmine Hall*  
Wyoming National Guard Adjutant Gen. Gregory C. Porter reported there isn't a culture within the Guard that enables sexual harassment or sexual assault.
31. [Maine female soldiers form support group for sexual trauma survivors](#)  
*(1 Dec) Bangor Daily News, By Callie Ferguson*  
Two members of the Maine Army National Guard are starting a support group for female veterans who have endured sexual assault and harassment.
32. [Military justice reform must ensure Special Victim prosecutors are under civilian control](#)  
*(3 Dec) Yahoo News, By Jackie Speier and Lynn Rosenthal*  
The way in which this reform is achieved could make or break its success and those who currently oversee these cases are trying once again to derail progress.
33. [Broad overhaul of military justice system being sidelined in favor of narrower focus on sexual assault](#)  
*(5 Dec) Washington Post, By Karoun Demirjian*  
The proposal to establish an independent authority to determine when charges should be filed for numerous crimes was spearheaded by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.
34. [Troops would get 12 weeks of paid parental leave as part of defense bill deal](#)  
*(7 Dec) Military.com, By Patricia Kime*  
By the end of next year, new military parents will be eligible for 12 weeks of family leave following the birth or adoption of a child, under the defense policy bill agreed to Tuesday by the House and Senate.
35. [White House hosts first-ever Maternal Health Day of Action to address maternal mortality crisis](#)  
*(8 Dec) CBS News, By Li Cohen*  
The White House led its first Maternal Health Day of Action, announcing a number of new commitments intended to improve pregnancy outcomes and reduce the risk of complications and death in the year following birth. The U.S., according to the administration, has the "highest maternal mortality rate of any wealthy nation in the world."
36. [Want to avoid pregnancy on active duty? There's an app for that](#)  
*(8 Dec) Military Times, By Sarah Sicard*  
In March 2021, the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USU), Defense Health Agency, and the University of California San Francisco developed a mobile application called "Decide + Be Ready," which is meant to offer family planning options to servicewomen, to include everything from education to birth control.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

December 2021



37. [\*\*Defense Department Extends Deadline to Request Adoption Reimbursement\*\*](#)  
*(13 Dec) DoD News, By Staff*  
The DoD provides a variety of support for service members seeking to adopt children. Reimbursement for qualified expenses is part of that support. Service members can apply for reimbursement of qualified expenses of up to \$2,000 per adoptive child and up to \$5,000 per calendar year.
38. [\*\*Former 2nd Infantry Division Artillery CSM convicted of abusive sexual contact\*\*](#)  
*(13 Dec) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
The former top NCO for the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery will be reduced in rank and reprimanded after a jury of officers found him guilty of abusive sexual contact against a female junior enlisted soldier and attempted fraternization, according to a command spokesperson.
39. [\*\*Military justice needs sexual assault reform, survivor says\*\*](#)  
*(13 Dec) Military Times, By Erin Scanlon*  
Sexual assault is a crime that does not pertain to military service, and thus should not be left in the hands of commanders.
40. [\*\*Military justice reform compromise strikes fair balance between competing interests\*\*](#)  
*(13 Dec) Military Times, By Brian L. Cox*  
The military does not have trial-level standing courts, but the actual trial proceeding progresses independently and autonomously once a commander does convene a court-martial.
41. [\*\*Navy unveils maternity uniform pilot program for 2022\*\*](#)  
*(17 Dec) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*  
The voluntary program will provide expecting sailors maternity uniforms at no cost.
42. [\*\*Senators look to stop sex assault in US Merchant Marine\*\*](#)  
*(27 Dec) The Associated Press, By Staff*  
A bipartisan group of senators from Maine, Mississippi and New York wants to strengthen prevention of sexual assault and harassment in the United States Merchant Marine.
43. [\*\*Services required to review missing persons policy, coordination with local officials\*\*](#)  
*(29 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer*  
Each military service branch must conduct a review of how it handles missing persons reports as part of the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. The call for the review stems from missing soldier cases and deaths that occurred at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2020 and exposed faults in existing policy.
44. [\*\*Air Force exchanges will carry more maternity uniforms at a dozen bases\*\*](#)  
*(29 Dec) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen*  
Pregnant airmen at several Air Force bases will have an easier time finding maternity uniforms that fit thanks to changes spearheaded by Air Combat Command's women's policy group earlier this year.
45. [\*\*CID, SHARP, military justice reforms all underway\*\*](#)  
*(30 Dec) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
How the Army prevents, investigates and prosecutes crimes — especially sexual assaults — will begin to change dramatically in 2022.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

December 2021



### SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

46. [Ohio National Guard soldier missing for a month found alive](#)  
*(1 Dec) Fox News, By Schalisha Petit-De*  
A missing member of the Ohio Army National Guard was found. Lance Nelson told 2 NEWS his 26-year-old daughter, Michaela Nelson, was found alive in Columbus. Michaela Nelson joined the Ohio Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program in September 2020. But according to a spokesperson with the Ohio National Guard's Office of Public Affairs, she failed to check in with her unit after training in South Carolina and did not report for drills in October.
47. [Fort Knox soldier wins state beauty title](#)  
*(1 Dec) The News-Enterprise, By Gina Clear*  
A Fort Knox soldier has been issued nonregulation headgear, at least when she is not on duty. Diana Layne, a master sergeant with the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, recently was crowned United States of America Ms. Kentucky 2022.
48. [U.S. Navy Sailor Was Killed by Husband with History of Unreported Domestic Violence in Thanksgiving Weekend Murder-Suicide](#)  
*(2 Dec) Law and Crime, By Colin Kalmbacher*  
Aniece Marie Gonzalez, age 20, a sailor in the U.S. Navy was killed by her husband over the Thanksgiving weekend. She was the victim of a long and unreported history of domestic violence, her mother said.
49. [General Officer Announcement](#)  
*(2 Dec) DoD News Release*  
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the President made the following nomination: Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Roberta L. Shea for appointment to the rank of major general. Shea is currently serving as legislative assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.
50. [West Virginia Army National Guard promotes first female general officer](#)  
*(2 Dec) Metro News of West Virginia, By Jake Flatley*  
History was made when Michaelle M. Munger was promoted to the rank of brigadier general Thursday at the West Virginia National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters drill hall in Charleston.
51. [Military pilots among NASA's 10 new astronaut candidates](#)  
*(6 Dec) The Associated Press, By Marcia Dunn*  
More than 12,000 applied for the coveted spots, which include four women:
  - U.S. Air Force Maj. Nichole Ayers
  - U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Wittner
  - U.S. Navy Christina Birch
  - U.S. Navy Lt. Deniz Burnham
52. [Colorado woman selected amid thousands as new NASA astronaut candidate](#)  
*(6 Dec) Denver ABC 7, By Stephanie Butzer and Deb Stanley*  
Among the 10 selected members is Nichole "Vapor" Ayers, 32. She grew up in Colorado Springs and was always in awe when the Thunderbirds flew over her hometown. She said that inspired her to become a pilot. "I knew, as a serious little kid, I was going to go to the Air Force Academy and wanted to try to get into pilot training and take that path to being an astronaut," she said.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

December 2021



53. [\*\*Okinawa-Based Marine Receives National Service Award for Helping Suicidal Colleague\*\*](#)  
*(6 Dec) Stars and Stripes, By Matthew M. Burke*  
A Marine law enforcement officer was awarded for bravery after she stopped her roommate from an apparent suicide attempt in their Okinawa barracks last year. Lance Cpl. Noelle Gallegos, 21, received the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation's Jim Kallstrom Award for her actions on Aug. 31, 2020.
54. [\*\*West Point graduate leads elite rapid response EOD platoon\*\*](#)  
*(7 Dec) Army news Service, By Walter Ham*  
As the 1st Platoon leader for the 722nd Ordnance Company (EOD), 1st Lt. Delanie A. Weliver leads ten Army EOD technicians who deploy with the storied airborne division as part of the Immediate Response Force.
55. [\*\*Miss America hopeful, a Chesapeake native, forges voice on social issues\*\*](#)  
*(8 Dec) Virginian-Pilot, By Alison Johnson*  
Andolyn Medina, a Navy officer and fourth-year doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at George Washington University, will compete this month in the Miss America competition.
56. [\*\*Fort Bragg soldier deported after faking marriage to get green card, feds say\*\*](#)  
*(8 Dec) Charlotte Observer, By Hayley Fowler*  
A 35-year-old soldier stationed in North Carolina will be deported after she pleaded guilty to visa fraud involving a sham marriage to a U.S. citizen, federal prosecutors said.
57. [\*\*Air Force fires commander who separated an airman recovering from a suicide attempt\*\*](#)  
*(8 Dec) Task & Purpose, By David Roza*  
Maj. April Widman's removal from command comes as the Air Force struggles to confront a mental health crisis within its ranks, especially in the maintenance and security forces (the Air Force equivalent of military police) career fields.
58. [\*\*'We wish you luck:' Fort Carson soldier leaves Colorado to compete in Miss America\*\*](#)  
*(8 Dec) KKTU, By Tony Keith*  
Maura Spence Carroll, an active-duty soldier from the Mountain Post, will represent the Centennial State on the national stage. She's set to compete in the Miss America Pageant from Dec. 12 to the 16.
59. [\*\*Tulsi Gabbard posts video in uniform accusing 'self-serving politicians' of wanting to start World War III\*\*](#)  
*(9 Dec) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol*  
Former Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, an Army Reserve lieutenant colonel, may have once again broken military rules on political activities by making a video in which she wore her U.S. military uniform while accusing "self-serving politicians" and others of wanting to start World War III.
60. [\*\*General Officer Announcement\*\*](#)  
*(12 Dec) DoD News*  
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Marine Corps Reserve Col. Valerie A. Jackson for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Jackson is currently serving as vice chief of staff, Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans, Louisiana.
61. [\*\*I'm a Miss America competitor and active duty soldier. Your idea of 'body positivity' is all wrong\*\*](#)  
*(13 Dec) Independent, By Maura Spence-Carroll*  
The army changed my perspective on how I should view my body.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

December 2021



62. [\*\*Air Force captains bond over religion, even though they're different\*\*](#)  
*(14 Dec) CBS News, By Caitlin O'Kane*  
Captain Maysaa Ouza, who is Muslim, made history when she had the Air Force policy changed. Captain Joe Hochheiser, who is Jewish, could relate to her.
63. [\*\*Three Maryland sisters serving at Hurlburt Field at same time\*\*](#)  
*(15 Dec) 1st Special Operations Wing Public Affairs, By 2nd Lt. Shaniah Trego*  
Less than 1% of all Americans volunteer to serve in the military, a statistic which makes the story of the Elliott sisters, all three of whom now are stationed at Hurlburt Field, all the more remarkable.
64. [\*\*Meet the 2021 USO Service Members of the Year\*\*](#)  
*(17 Dec) DoD News, By Katie Lange*  
Every year since 2003, one junior enlisted service member from each branch -- E-5 or below -- is nominated by command leadership to be honored for an act of valor. A recipient of the 2021 USO Service Member of the Year Awards includes: Army Sgt. Breanna J. Jessop, of Myton, Utah, played a key role in the evacuation operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Afghanistan this past August.
65. [\*\*She Serves: Spotighting female Black Hawk helicopter aviators in the Ohio National Guard\*\*](#)  
*(17 Dec) ABC 6, By Stacia Naquin*  
The Ohio Army National Guard is home to two dozen UH-60 Black Hawks. But the real story amid the Black Hawks is the growing number of female aviators, who are making their mark and soaring to new heights.
66. [\*\*18-year-old first woman from Lowell to become Army infantry soldier\*\*](#)  
*(19 Dec) Lowell Sun, By Aaron Curtis*  
When Ariana Santiago graduated from Greater Lowell Technical High School in June, she reached a crossroads in her young life: Pursue her interests in the world of cosmetology — where she excels at hair styling and makeup — or join the Army.
67. [\*\*A Model of Selfless Service\*\*](#)  
*(22 Dec) DoD News, By Maria Pinel*  
Air Force Senior Airman Britney Donnelly, a weather forecaster with the 612th Air Base Squadron, Joint Task Force Bravo, is a shining star of selfless service for her unit at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.
68. [\*\*Forget Santa, this enlisted airman just gifted 1,300 pairs of shoes to Honduran kids in need\*\*](#)  
*(22 Dec) Task & Purpose, By David Roza*  
“Excellence in all we do,” is one of the three core values taught to airmen at basic military training. But one airman seems to have added her own twist to it: “excellence in all we shoes.”
69. [\*\*Year in Review: Female pioneers, SHARP changes highlight Army’s people focus in 2021\*\*](#)  
*(22 Dec) Army News Service, By Joe Lacdan*  
Women in the Army continued to make history in 2021. The first woman graduated from the Army Sniper School, the service confirmed its first female Army secretary and promoted its first female to be inspector general of the Army. Additionally, the service announced that a woman led Army Rangers in combat for the first time.
70. [\*\*Glumness of COVID-19 serves as catalyst for upbeat kids’ book by Air Force reservist\*\*](#)  
*(29 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By Alexander Riedel*  
Col. Colleen Kelley, the 910th Medical Squadron commander, is the author of “COVID SCHMOVID: A Primer for Survival.”



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

December 2021



71. [Miss Colorado is an active duty soldier who wants to end veteran suicide](#)

*(30 Dec) Military Times, By Sarah Sicard*

Miss Colorado, along with the contestants from all the other states, vied to be the next Miss America. But unlike most other competitors, she is also an active duty soldier in the U.S. Army.

### WOMEN VETERANS

72. [The Hurdles Female Vets Face When Transitioning To The Civilian Workforce And How We Can Help](#)

*(2 Dec) Forbes, By Shelley Zalis*

The women who have served our country in the military are strong and heroic but their contributions have gone largely unrecognized. Many do not even identify as veterans and are missing out on benefits and programs that can assist in their post-military careers.

73. [Inspired by WWII nurses, Tampa Army veteran featured in 'Pin-Ups for Vets' calendar](#)

*(14 Dec) WFLA, By Daisy Ruth*

An Army veteran and current Mrs. Tampa America is featured in a nonprofit's "pin-up" inspired calendar to raise funds for veterans and veterans' hospitals across the United States.

74. [Betty White, former member of the American Women's Voluntary Services and legendary comedian, dies at 99](#)

*(31 Dec) Military Times, By Sarah Sicard*

Actress Betty White, who lit up the silver screen for nine decades, died Friday. She was 99.