

Lieutenant Colonel Pamela S. Barton, USAR (Retired)
Biographical Summary
Order of the Palmetto Nomination

Lieutenant Pamela ('Pam') S. Barton, USAR (Retired) is a Florence native, graduate of The University of South Carolina, and since her retirement from active Army service after 28 years in 1999, a resident of Folly Beach and integral member of The Citadel Staff. Pam will retire from The Citadel in the summer of 2021 after a lifetime of devotion to our Nation and South Carolina.

Pam carries on a legacy of outstanding service. Her mother, Barbara Thornton Sylvester, championed a plethora of worthy causes in her community, South Carolina and on the National stage in areas of civil rights and public health. She was honored with the Order of the Palmetto in 2002.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1974, Pam commissioned as an Army Officer in a time the military was reeling after Vietnam, and female officers were few and far between. Women were excluded from many branches of the service, and opportunities were few. This did not deter the determined Second Lieutenant Barton.

Simply put, Pam was a trailblazer in the Army, and represented our State and our Nation in a superb manner.

As a Signal Corps Officer, she was one of the first Airborne-qualified female soldiers, amassing over 500 military and sport jumps, and appeared with the 82nd Airborne Division Sport Parachute Demonstration Team. Pam's Army career was characterized by roles of increasing responsibility in Communications, Logistics and Training throughout the United States and Europe. However, two assignments stand out.

The Federal Service Academies began coeducational instruction in 1976, a highly publicized and contentious move for the era. In 1977, then-Captain Barton was assigned to The United States Military Academy at West Point as a Cadet Company Tactical Officer, responsible for direct oversight of 120 young men and women. But as one of the few female officers at West Point, her impact was far more significant. She not only was a key player in the smooth integration of women to West Point's ranks, but was also a shining example of what women officers could achieve to all cadets, when there were simply few women officers at all.

LTC Barton later served as a junior aide to General Alexander Haig, then Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. Recall, this was a time of crisis in Europe over multiple issues ranging from calls to remove nuclear weapons to the future of mass American troop deployments to the continent, all under burgeoning tension between the Western democracies and Soviet Union. Quite simply, Pam needed to perform head and shoulders above her peers to receive and keep such an assignment. General Haig perhaps best summed up Pam's Army career in an inscribed photograph she keeps in her office reading "To Pam, the Army's 'First Everything.'" All this from a young lady from Florence.

Pam retired from the Army in 1999, and returned home to South Carolina. One of its iconic institutions, The Citadel, was in a time of transition as well. In 1996, the school admitted its first female cadets, and still struggled with this integration when Pam arrived as a TAC (Teach-Advise-Coach) Officer. In many ways, this task reprised her time at West Point, and in many ways was far more challenging.

The importance of The Citadel to South Carolina, and this critical transition, cannot be overstated. The Citadel has produced leaders for our State since 1842. Her graduates loom large in the history and prosperity of South Carolina, in fields from politics, business, medicine, and of course our armed forces. Ensuring The Citadel maintained its high standards while continually evolving with the times was, and remains, a challenging task. Integration of women cadets into the overwhelmingly male environment of The Citadel has come a long way. Pam Barton has been a lynchpin in these efforts, and in the operation of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets (SCCC).

There were again few female role models on campus, and none in the Commandant's Department. Then-Commandant Colonel Greg Stone noted "both formally and informally, women members of the SCCC as well as prospective members of the Corps were able to observe in Pam a committed, passionate, and dedicated leader who was absolutely focused on sustaining the mission of excellence within the SCCC and the institution."

This service was recognized in 2005 when she was named The Citadel's Employee of the Year. In 2006, Pam was promoted to Assistant Commandant for Operations and Training, her current role. Very little occurs on campus without Pam's fingerprint. She supervises all cadet training while acting as the Commandant's liaison to all campus services including the laundry, bookstore, and mess hall. Under her direction as an agent of change, these activities evolved, becoming more systematic and organized each year. The support services she coordinates show a marked increase in quality and reliability for the cadets, making The Citadel a more effective producer of quality graduates.

But perhaps most critically, Pam has remained a bastion of continuity for four college Presidents and four Commandants. Her expertise and deep involvement took on new importance in the summer of 2020. With the coming of COVID-19, institutions across South Carolina closed, and were forced to radically alter operations before reopening, even if in reduced capacities. The nature of life at The Citadel meant drastic changes in how the Corps operates were necessary to allow the safe return of cadets, while maintaining the unique qualities of its military heritage. As one of the few colleges in South Carolina successfully returning all on-campus students in August 2020, Pam's role was critical to The Citadel's success.

Her impact is recognized off-campus as well, making Pam an example to young women across the State. A 2017 news article commemorating twenty years of women at The Citadel described Pam as "a constant reminder to women today that anything is possible." Pam also was recently selected as a "Remarkable Woman of the Lowcountry" during a Charleston television affiliate news series.

The Citadel has become one of the top schools in the nation, and according to *US News and World Report*, The Number One Public School in the South for over a decade. It produces graduates who on average earn more, create more value, and serve in more capacities than any other institution in South Carolina. Pam Barton's twenty-two years of service to this iconic state institution account for a big part of this success. Graduates across the state benefitted from her leadership, example, and service.

The world is certainly a different than in 1974 when Pam left The University of South Carolina and joined the Army. The admission of women to Federal Service academies had not occurred, and at The Citadel was decades in the future. In 2018, one of the countless female cadets Pam mentored became The Citadel's first woman Regimental Commander. She would agree with Isaac Newton who said "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants."



THE CITADEL

1 March 2021

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Governor McMaster:

Greetings. Please accept my nomination of Lieutenant Colonel Pam Barton, USAR (Retired) for inclusion to The Order of the Palmetto. Her laudable fifty years' service to our country and South Carolina are notable not only in her role as a vanguard women Army officer and member of The Citadel Commandant's senior team, but also for her performance and commendable service in every task she undertook.


In my 39 years as a Marine officer, I observed the evolution of women servicemembers, witnessing their integration and growing numbers in every military professional specialty. Our Armed Forces did not always execute this integration in the best way, and things changed too slowly for many. It took determined, capable women, particularly in the officer ranks, to break these barriers. Pam Barton led this charge. She entered the Army in a difficult time, performed superbly, and was a great example for those she served with and everyone who followed.

Her legacy at The Citadel is indelible. The energy and drive she brings each day to the Corps of Cadets is legendary. For 22 years, her singular focus remained on ensuring our cadets possess the tools and support required to complete the arduous military and academic program, making our school a treasure to South Carolina and the nation.

Most critically, Pam shows everyone 'what right looks like.' This is a powerful message in an environment historically dominated by male cadets and staff. The impression on two-plus decades of cadets and alumni cannot be overstated. Her retirement this summer is a loss, but well-deserved. We built better leaders and citizens for South Carolina as a result of Pam's efforts.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. I hope to see you soon back on the campus of The Citadel, and speak for the entire Citadel family when I say we are proud to be an essential part of South Carolina.

Sincerely,


Glenn M. Walters '79
General, USMC (Retired)
President

GMW/wl

Office of the President

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House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor of the State of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

I write today in support of Lieutenant Colonel Pam Barton, USAR (Retired), for inclusion to the Order of the Palmetto.

LTC Barton is a native daughter of South Carolina, who carries on a long family tradition of service to our great State and America. Her accomplishments and innumerable 'firsts' through her career both in the Army and at The Citadel are too many to mention here.

After Army retirement, LTC Barton became the first female officer to serve in the Commandant's Department at The Citadel, where she has been a role model to both male and female cadets, and a stalwart in overseeing Corps operations. As a cadet during her tenure, I witnessed first-hand her impact during a difficult time as The Citadel worked to integrate women. Generations of cadets and Citadel alumni across South Carolina benefitted from her leadership and example.

Her 22 years of service to our State, coupled with 28 years serving America as an Army Officer say it all. She represents the best of South Carolina.

LTC Pam Barton USAR (Retired) has my highest recommendation for the Order of the Palmetto.

Sincerely,

Bobby J. Cox
Representative, District 21

BJC/dkh/2021march1-2



THE CITADEL

THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

BOARD OF VISITORS
COLONEL ALLISON DEAN LOVE

4 March 2021

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Governor McMaster:

Citadel President General Glenn M. Walters recently nominated LTC Pam Barton, USAR (Retired) for our state's highest accolade, The Order of the Palmetto. I fully support this nomination, and hope you quickly approve this worthy candidate.

LTC Barton has dedicated over fifty years of her life to serving our country and this state. Her accomplishments are many, but as the only woman elected by the SC General Assembly to serve on The Citadel's Board of Visitors, I was struck by the groundbreaking nature of her career. Pam was 'the first' in so many things, both in Army service and at The Citadel. I speak from direct experience when I say this is no mean feat.

Being 'first' is not, however, her whole story. She made a difference wherever she went. The influence of her actions, and example she set was a guiding light to generations of soldiers and Citadel cadets. South Carolina should rightfully be proud counting her as a native daughter. She truly loves and cares about each and every cadet and The Citadel's mission and vision.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. I look forward to seeing LTC Pam Barton included in the august Order of the Palmetto.

Sincerely,

Allison Dean Love
The Citadel Board of Visitors

ADL/wl



THE CITADEL

THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND DEAN OF THE COLLEGE

1 March 2021

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Governor McMaster:

Please accept my strongest recommendation for Lieutenant Colonel Pam Barton for inclusion to The Order of the Palmetto. Pam leaves The Citadel this summer after twenty-two years' dedicated service, and this award will be a fitting capstone on a lifetime of achievement.

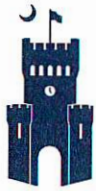
As one of very few women senior leaders on The Citadel campus, I appreciate the importance of strong, dedicated female role models in supervisory roles for not only our women cadets, but everyone associated with the college. Pam's decades of work in our Commandant's Department often saw her as the solitary figure fulfilling such a position of influence. Not only did she set the example, her performance in increasingly critical roles was second to none.

Pam Barton set the stage for progress, first in her incredible Army career and then here at The Citadel. I am honored to have, albeit briefly, shared the same workplace as her. Her influence on generations of cadets, alumni, and fellow staff helped The Citadel evolve, and continue its position of pride for South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Sally Selden Ph. D SPHR
Brigadier General SCM
Provost and Dean of the College

SS/wl



THE CITADEL

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor
South Carolina State House
1100 Gervais St.
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Honorable Henry McMaster,

I am writing this letter of recommendation with my strongest possible support for LTC Pamela S. Barton, USAR (Ret) for the Order of The Palmetto award. I have known Pam and her family for the past 7 years and have gotten to know them extremely well being Pam's immediate supervisor. There is not a more dedicated individual who has unselfishly given so much to our nation and state.

Pam is the cornerstone to The Citadel campus operations. She is the sole person on this campus that plans, coordinates, develops and manages the 24 hour schedule for the college. Her vast background in planning and operations, as well as her innate ability to be a teacher, advisor and a coach to not only the cadets, but to faculty and staff as well is truly remarkable. From the mess hall operations, military training schedules, parades, physical training, inspections, as well as coordinating and integrating all of this with the academic schedules, Pam does it all.

Being a native South Carolinian, Pam is extremely proud of where she is from, and has done a remarkable job dedicating her life to the service of our great nation in the United States Army for 28 years, as well as to the great state of South Carolina while serving at The Citadel for the past 21 years. Her entire adult life has been one of unselfish service, proud dedication and extreme generosity with her time, talent and treasure. Her impact in the Army, as well as on all the cadets, faculty and staff here at The Citadel is almost impossible to measure.

After serving as a US Navy SEAL Officer for over 25 years, and now as the Commandant of Cadets at The Citadel, I have had the opportunity to serve with some of the nation's best women and men. I can honestly say that I have not worked with a harder working and more dedicated individual than Pam. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside her, but more importantly I am humbled by what I have learned from her, professionally and personally. She is most deserving of this award and recognition for her numerous accomplishments in her service to our nation and the great state of South Carolina.

E. F. PALUSO
CAPT USN (RET)
COMMANDANT OF CADETS

Office of the Commandant

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25 February 2021

The Honorable Henry McMaster Governor
South Carolina State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster,

I am submitting a letter of recommendation in support of a nomination for LTC Pamela Barton, USA (Retired) to be recognized with The Order of the Palmetto. LTC Barton's lifetime of extraordinary achievement, service and contributions on both a national or statewide scale personify the highest ideals of this prestigious award.

I had the privilege of serving as the Commandant of Cadets and closely working with LTC Barton in her position as the Assistant Commandant of Cadets for Operations and Training at The Citadel from 2009 through 2014. She leveraged her professional acumen and 28 years of leadership and experience in the U.S. Army into over two decades of exemplary service to The Citadel and South Carolina. LTC Barton's contributions as a key member of the leadership team throughout the past two decades has enabled The Citadel to overcome challenges, leverage opportunities, and achieve national ranking as an academic institution for South Carolina.

Throughout her service to The Citadel, LTC Barton balanced her roles as Assistant Commandant, daughter, sister, spouse, mother, and most recently, grandmother without missing a beat. She has been a role model to the South Carolina Corps of Cadets personifying the highest ideals of The Citadel's core values and principled leadership. LTC Barton's positive influence and lasting legacy are inextricably linked to several thousand former cadets who are leaders and contributing members of their communities throughout the state of South Carolina.

I forged many friendships with South Carolinians during four years as a cadet in Charleston, two years in Beaufort while in the Marine Corps, five years at The Citadel in Charleston, and frequent visits to my children in the Upstate. I can think of very few South Carolinians who have made such lasting and far-reaching *contributions and friendship to the State of South Carolina and her people* as LTC Pamela Barton. I highly recommend and respectfully request your favorable consideration to award The Order of Palmetto to Pam Barton.

Sincerely,



Leo A. Mercado
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)
Citadel Class of 1979