

DOCTOR MAE C. JEMISON TO RECEIVE 2021 WEST POINT ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES SYLVANUS THAYER AWARD

West Point, NY: The West Point Association of Graduates is pleased to announce that Doctor Mae C. Jemison will receive the 2021 Sylvanus Thayer Award. The award will be presented on October 7, 2021 during ceremonies hosted by Lieutenant General Darryl A. Williams, Class of 1983, 60th Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

An audacious and pioneering polymath, Dr. Mae Jemison is at the forefront of integrating the physical and social sciences with art and culture to solve problems and foster innovation.

Jemison leads 100 Year Starship, an independent, non-profit global initiative seed funded through a competitive grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to ensure the capabilities for human travel to another star within the next 100 years and to enhance life on Earth.

Jemison served six years as a NASA astronaut and is trained as an engineer, social scientist and dancer. Jemison, a medical doctor, was the Area Peace Corps Medical Officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia.

An educator, futurist, and leading voice for science literacy, social responsibility, and sustainability, Jemison is a member of the National Academies of Medicine, the External Council for the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts Program and sits on Fortune 500 company boards, as well as the National Women's Hall of Fame board. She is a mini Lego® figure and was first real astronaut to appear on "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

As a professor at Dartmouth College, Jemison focused on technology designs for sustainability for both industrialized and developing nations. She founded two technology companies and the non-profit Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence, which designs and implements STEM education experiences impacting thousands of students and hundreds of teachers worldwide.

In September 2017 Jemison spearheaded Look Up™ to connect people to space, Earth and each other.

West Point Association of Graduates Board Chairman Lieutenant General (USA, Retired) Joseph E. DeFrancisco, Class of 1965, said, "The West Point Association of Graduates is honored to present the Thayer Award to Doctor Jemison. Her visionary service as an astronaut, engineer, entrepreneur, physician, and educator is reflective of West Point's motto—Duty, Honor, Country—and makes her eminently worthy of our highest award."

About the Sylvanus Thayer Award

The Thayer Award, presented annually since 1958, is the highest honor currently bestowed upon a non-graduate by the West Point Association of Graduates. The selected recipient must be an outstanding citizen of the United States whose service and accomplishments in the national interest exemplify personal devotion to the ideals expressed in the legendary West Point motto: "Duty, Honor, Country." The Award is named for Sylvanus Thayer (Class of 1808), Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point from 1817-1833. Thayer is venerated as the "Father of the Military Academy" for improving West Point's academic standards, instilling military discipline and emphasizing honorable conduct, and his statue stands today in a place of honor on the historic Plain at West Point. Past recipients of the Thayer Award include General Ann Dunwoody, Leon Panetta, Robert Mueller, Gary Sinise, Bob Hope, Condoleezza Rice, General Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, Madeleine Albright, Tom Brokaw, Neil Armstrong, Walter Cronkite, Justice Sandra Day

O'Connor, and Presidents Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush. For a full list of previous Thayer Award recipients, visit WestPointAOG.org/ThayerAwardRecipients.

About the West Point Association of Graduates

The West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG), is among America's oldest educational alumni associations. Founded in 1869, the Association was established "to cherish the memories of [its] Alma Mater, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates." WPAOG has evolved into a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to furthering the ideals and promoting the welfare of West Point, and to serving and supporting the more than 54,000 living West Point graduates. Its philanthropic pursuits maintain a Margin of Excellence for cadets attending the U.S. Military Academy. For more information see www.WestPointAOG.org.

About West Point

The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering and continues today as the world's premier leader-development institution, consistently ranked among top colleges in the country. Its mission remains constant—to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U. S. Army. For more information, go to www.WestPoint.edu.

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Media Contact: kim.mcdermott@wpaog.org

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