*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

96-Year-Old WWII Civil Air Patrol Female Veteran to Be Honored with Congressional Gold Medal at Fresno State-Boise State Game After Chance Meeting With WWII Author

Elaine Lynn heard WWII author Sara Vladic discussing the forgotten wartime service of Civil Air Patrol on the radio. Months later, their chance meeting will come full circle as Lynn receives Congressional Gold Medal recognition before thousands of college football fans and at a museum housing the same model aircraft she flew when she began her wartime service at just 16-years-old.

Fresno, CA. *(*October 5, 2026) — A radio interview about a little-known chapter of World War II history is about to lead to a very public and long-overdue recognition for one of the women who lived it.

This Saturday, October 10, 96-year-old World War II Civil Air Patrol veteran Elaine Lynn will be honored at Castle Air Museum in Atwater and later recognized at the Fresno State–Boise State football game at Valley Children's Stadium.

The chain of events began months earlier, when *New York Times* bestselling author Sara Vladic appeared on KMJ radio while promoting her new World War II book, *The Dangerous Shore*. During the interview, Vladic discussed the largely forgotten civilians, including Civil Air Patrol members, who helped defend the American home front.

Listening that day was Elaine Lynn.

Lynn had joined Civil Air Patrol in Pennsylvania as a teenager during World War II and was flying by age 16. After hearing the broadcast, she found a ride to Vladic's subsequent veterans event in Clovis, where the two were introduced. Lynn arrived carrying photographs, her uniform and records documenting a story she had lived more than 80 years earlier.

Vladic began looking into Lynn's service and contacted historian Frank Blazich, a leading authority on Civil Air Patrol's World War II history. That research helped set in motion an effort to formally recognize Lynn's wartime service.

Lynn will first be honored at Castle Air Museum, where Vladic will speak about Lynn and the generation of civilian volunteers featured in The Dangerous Shore. The planned event will also include Civil Air Patrol Group 6 Commander Maj. Ryan Yhles and a CAP color guard. Later that evening, Lynn will be recognized at Valley Children's Stadium as Fresno State hosts Boise State.

Congress awarded a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the World War II members of Civil Air Patrol in 2014. During the war, CAP volunteers performed coastal patrol, submarine spotting, search and rescue, courier flights and other home-front duties.

For Vladic, the recognition is an unexpected continuation of the story she set out to tell in *The Dangerous Shore*, about Americans whose contributions to the defense of the United States have often faded from public memory. “At the heart of what I do is the desire to capture these firsthand accounts and histories before they’re gone forever. I never imagined that talking about those stories would lead one of those very people to find me,” Sara explains. “Elaine showed up with her photographs, and her records — and suddenly history wasn’t something in an archive. She was standing right in front of me.”

The Oct. 10 events will connect CAP’s wartime generation, today’s organization and thousands of football fans who may be hearing Lynn’s story for the first time.

###

ABOUT SARA VLADIC

Sara Vladic is a *New York Times* bestselling author, historian and award-winning filmmaker specializing in World War II history. Her latest book, *The Dangerous Shore*, published by William Morrow/HarperCollins, reveals the gripping, untold history of the United States under attack during World War II and the improbable patriots who stepped up to defend their country in her hour of need. Read about her credits on the Harper Collins website.
https://www.harpercollins.com/products/the-dangerous-shore-sara-vladic

MEDIA CONTACTS

For event access, interviews, or photography arrangements, please contact:

Melissa Pérez
melissaperezmedia@gmail.com
310-266-2872

Brad Nolan
Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary
MAC@capnhq.gov