

Chief Wood; honored as Image of Influence



60 MINUTES OF FAME — CMSgt. Kathy Wood has guest speaker Lesley Stahl sign a copy of her book *Reporting Live* at the "Images of Influence" Banquet held March 30 at the Chez Josef in Agawam, Mass.

— photo submitted

by SSGT. Charlie Cangemi

CMSgt. Kathleen M. Wood of Belcher-town was one of 15 women in Western Massachusetts to be chosen for a portrait exhibition titled "Images of Influence," which honored extraordinary women who represent various categories of achievement.

"When I met the other 14 women, I immediately felt that I wasn't in their league... and oddly enough, they all said the same," said Wood. "I guess we've all done significant things in our own fields and that's why we were chosen."

The photo exhibit was initiated by family-owned Robert Charles Photography in East Longmeadow, and was inspired by the late Beverly Zemba, wife of Robert Charles Zemba.

"Her death and obituary made people realize what an amazing life she had. The family realized that others shouldn't wait so long to pay tribute to people in their lives, so they — along with the Western Massachusetts Women's Fund — put this together," Wood said.

The chief, who was first assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing in 1975, was chosen as a

result of her achievements in the "Armed Services" category of the exhibit. She began her career in aircraft maintenance and now serves as wing performance planner, where she assists the wing with annual and strategic planning.

She and Lt. Col. Armand Tourangeau also instruct classes in leadership and mentoring, as well as the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People."

They are now part of base readiness council and assess how units are evaluated, and provide feedback for the next planning session, Wood added.

Off base, Wood was among volunteers who kept a vigil reading names at the Vietnam Memorial on its 10th anniversary. And as a charter member of Women in Military Service for America, she attended the opening of the Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va. in 1997.

Wood's achievements and dedication to the armed forces on and off base led business leaders, who made up the exhibit selection committee, to deem her appropriate for "Images of Influence." Wood was chosen from 200 nominations submitted.

On March 30, the photographs were

debuted at a banquet at Chez Josef. The exhibition is now on tour in Western Massachusetts.

"We 15 women were chosen to represent all the women of Western Mass. and their accomplishments, not just our own. I think that is significant," she said.

Chief Wood is married to retired CMSgt. Vincent Viglione, and is the mother of Erin Wood, 19.

The chief explained that at the banquet Edward Zemba, from Robert Charles Photography, challenged attendees to write out a card to women in their lives who were inspirational. The cards were provided at each place setting.

Said Wood, "The most significant thing that happened the evening of the banquet was my daughter, Erin, wrote me note of thanks for being her mom — it will be with me forever."

CCAF April 2000 graduates

(Additions to the April issue graduate list)

TSgt. Kevin Pietrowski	439 OSS
SSgt. Natasha Marsteller	439 MSS

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

MSgt. Brian M. Quirk	439 CS
MSgt. Francis T. Simone	439 MSS
TSgt. Francis X. Kelly	439 MSS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Edward J. Miller**	439 OSS
CMSgt. Teresa M. Wenthe****	439 CS
MSgt. Jacqueline M. Davis**	439 CS
TSgt. Paul A. Barsalou	439 CS
TSgt. Barbara A. Jackson	439 AW
TSgt. George J. Nalesnik**	439 CS
TSgt. Abram L. Winters**	439 CS
SSgt. Janet M. Creager****	439MSS
SSgt. Vanessa U. Simmons	439 MSS

Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt. Byron T. Chaples, Jr.***	439 CS
TSgt. Belitza Morales	439 CS
SSgt. Bonnie C. Bell ***	439 CS
SSgt. Euclid B. Ritchens	439 CS

**second award
****fourth award