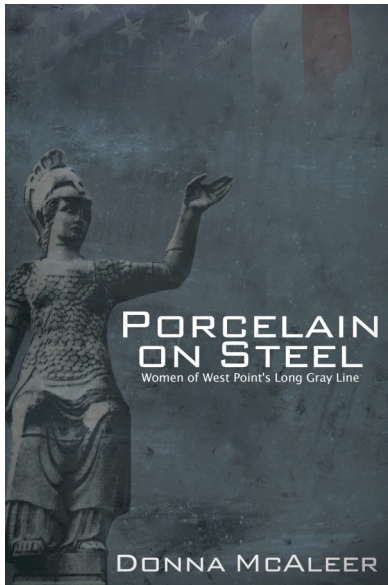


# PORCELAIN ON STEEL: Women of West Point's Long Gray Line

## By Donna McAleer



*"The women of West Point have proven that they have the right stuff in terms of character to handle both change and challenge with courage, resilience, and grace."*

—Coach Mike Krzyzewski, Duke University Men's Basketball

*"PORCELAIN ON STEEL is a powerful and inspirational portrait of the women who serve—not just our country, but their families, their communities, and their own commitment to a purposeful and meaningful life . . . and serve as role models for women everywhere."*

—Andrea Jung, Chairman and CEO, Avon Products

In an era where the American public is saturated with images and accounts of women selling sexuality and self-centered materialism, **PORCELAIN ON STEEL: Women of West Point's Long Gray Line** by award-winning author Donna McAleer spotlights 14 women, all West Point graduates, who chose to make a positive contribution to society. Their stories are inspirational. Some had to overcome extraordinary life experience and career obstacles in order to forge successful careers. Their qualities and strength of character would lead to success in any era,

but their stories are especially relevant today. Rich, poor, athletic, geeky, black, white, Hispanic, immigrant, native born, straight, and lesbian, the 14 women spotlighted in **PORCELAIN ON STEEL** are a cross-section of American society. Their stories include:

Performing a soldier's marriage ceremony and then his funeral—how do you comfort someone who went from wife to widow, from bliss to bereavement in only a year? How do you help cadets, soldiers, and military families that struggle to manage competing demands of serving both God and country and with the moral dilemma of faith and fighting? How do you deal with a mother institutionalized for mental illness and growing up in foster homes and juvenile detention centers? What kind of life does that set you up for? **Cynthia Lindenmeyer** can tell you how she does these things and how she turned an arrest for shoplifting as a child into the determination to change her life. A 1990 graduate of West Point, she ultimately became an Army Chaplain and earned a Master's Degree of Divinity from Duke University.

After a successful career of 16 years of active duty, **Lissa Young**, a 1986 graduate, Army helicopter pilot and former West Point instructor was outed and forced to resign her commission because of the nation's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Instead of fighting back, Lissa chose to embrace her dismissal as an opportunity to explore new ventures.

During a parachute jump while in the Army, **Nancy Hogan** plummeted with both main and reserve parachutes tangled around her neck. Terribly injured by the impact, doctors felt she would never walk again on her own. Then, she was diagnosed with kidney cancer. She overcame both devastating challenges to live and walk again. A 1995 graduate of West Point, Nancy, though still physically challenged, is now a dedicated advocate for veterans having served as a director at Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and now as a legal counsel for the US Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

**About the Author: Donna McAleer**, a 1987 West Point graduate, attended St. Cecilia Academy, a girls college preparatory school in Nashville, TN. An award-winning author, she has been an Army officer, business leader, non-profit executive director, high school coach, and National bobsled team member. She earned an MBA at the Darden Graduate School of the University of Virginia. Donna lives in Park City, Utah, with her husband, daughter, and faithful dog, where she writes and teaches skiing.

**Contact information:** Donna McAleer, cell: 435.513.0829 and [donna@porcelainonsteel.com](mailto:donna@porcelainonsteel.com). Fortis Publishing, 2010.  
[www.porcelainonsteel.com](http://www.porcelainonsteel.com)