

Army teen celebrates Woman of character, courage, commitment - Ginger Allen Cucolo

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‘Woman of character, courage, commitment: Ginger Allen Cucolo’

An 8th grader at Lamberton Middle School, Carlisle, Reese Lindner is an Army ‘brat’ – a citizen of the world, with many homes, continents, friends and acquaintances to his name already. So, when faced with a school assignment, he had much to draw on when he chose to write about Ginger Allen Cucolo – mom, Army wife, author, speaker, ‘professional volunteer’, friend and one-of-a-kind role model to hundreds whose lives have intersected luckily, happily with hers.

In Reese
Lindner's
words --

“Every
woman
makes a
notable
contribution
to our
country and
its history,
whether
they are
considered



famous or
not. For
women's
history is so
much more
than just
the women

who have attained immense fame, acted heroically, or accomplished great feats. Women's history is also the story of ordinary women who have lived silently outside the spotlight of our most important historical events. It is the story of women who have passed on the traditions and values that are important to our heritage and who have played important roles in their local communities and families by participating and volunteering in organizations that help those immediately around them. One woman who displays such character, courage, and commitment is Ginger Allen Cucolo, wife of MG Anthony Cucolo, Commandant of the U.S. Army War College.

"Ginger Allen Cucolo was born in Temple, Texas on September 9, 1960, into a family with a long military background. 'She is the daughter of a Navy veteran, the daughter-in-law and sister of an Army veteran, the niece of a Marine, and an Army wife.'(as described by the publisher of the book **Dog Tags**, by Ginger Cucolo) Being from a strong military family, she was required to volunteer and serve those in her community. Learning this sense of volunteerism would pay off again later in her life after she became a military spouse. Her years as the spouse of an Army Officer have involved her in the lives of Soldiers and their families, who have needed information and support. Whether it is one or twenty-five thousand Soldiers and family members, Mrs. Cucolo felt, 'It was her role to be an advocate for them,' she said. As the Division commander's spouse, she was referred to as "Mama Bear" because she felt that it was her obligation to protect and take care of the Soldiers and their families. In the words of one of the spouses she mentored, 'Ginger has been an excellent military spouse and role model for us because she cared enough to get involved!' said Anita Kazmierczak.

"According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, courage is defined as 'mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.' Dealing with deployments can be a major struggle, and doing it four times does not make it any easier. It is one thing to take care of and maintain the appearance of normalcy with your own three children while your husband is deployed; it is another thing to take care of twenty-five thousand families going through the same experience. 'Mrs. Cucolo constantly fought for programs and benefits for the Soldiers and their families, and she made it happen for them,' said Jackie Coffman. By all descriptions, she handled those deployments, her roles, and responsibilities with a sense of humor, care, and humbleness for herself and those around her. 'While her life has been supporting military families, she (Mrs. Cucolo) enjoys doing research, writing and the escapism that it brings.' (Amazon comment) Despite having difficulty during her first semester of college, Mrs. Cucolo has gone on to get a Bachelor of Arts degree in African American history from the University of Texas, a Master of Science in Community Health Administration and Wellness Promotion from California College for Health Sciences, and is currently working on a doctoral degree in Military History. She has written various articles and three books based on her research. Her courage through all of these circumstances has been unsurpassed and inspiring.

"The level of commitment that is given by Soldiers and their families is unrivaled anywhere else. Spouses and families have to deal with loved ones being gone for long periods of time, and they are constantly packing up and moving to brand new locations. One thing that does not change no matter what military installation they are at is the families care and help for one another. Mrs. Cucolo is a great example of such commitment; she has endured through four deployments and twenty-four moves all around the world in her thirty-three years as an Army wife. She has devoted herself not only to the army lifestyle but to serving the other spouses and families of the army community. Her level of commitment to her family, community, and the Army is unwavering and evident. 'I feel like I have been given many things so I should help and give back,' said Ginger Cucolo.

"I chose Mrs. Cucolo because she is an inspiration to me and has personally had an impact on my life and that of my family. Her selfless attitude, her volunteering, and her willingness to help others has improved the lives of many Soldiers and their families. She is an exceptional army wife, mother, author, adviser, and friend. As one of the spouses she mentored described her, 'Ginger is a great example of an American woman in today's society for me. She has done it all. She went to college, got married, had children, stayed home and raised those children, selflessly and without reservation supported her soldier and the Army lifestyle all while also mentoring, leading, supporting and volunteering with other Army spouses. Then later in life she redefined herself and her goals, went back to school and wrote a few books! A great example of how women can have it all, just maybe not all at the same time!' said Kristy Cormier."

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