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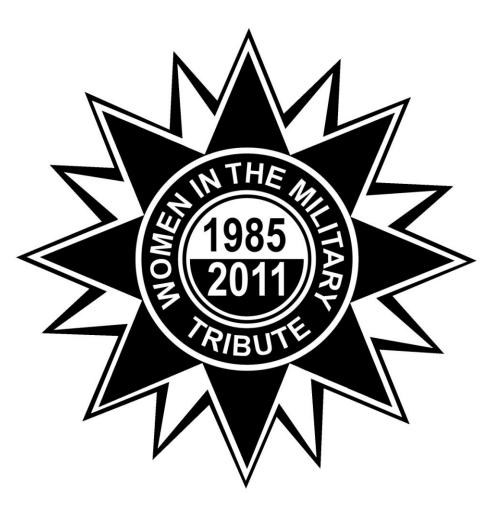
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## Visit our website for event photos and information: www.TributeToWomenInTheMilitarv.org

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## **MILITARY WOMEN IN ACTION**



4 MARCH 2011 MOUNTAIN VIEW CLUB KIRTLAND AFB, NM

## SHOSHANA N. JOHNSON Former POW, Operation Iraqi Freedom



Former United States Army Specialist Shoshana N. Johnson is the first female Prisoner of War (POW) of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the first black female POW in United States war history.

Ms. Johnson graduated in 1991 from Andress High School in El Paso, TX where she was a JROTC cadet. She attended the University of Texas at El Paso, and later

joined the US Army in September 1998. She completed the US Army Basic Training Course at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and the Advance Individual Training, at Ft. Lee, Virginia.

A second-generation Army Veteran, Shoshana's first military assignment was at Ft. Carson, Colorado. In February, 2003, at her second military assignment at Ft. Bliss, Texas, Specialist Johnson received orders to deploy to Iraq and to carry through her duties as a Food Service Specialist, (92G) with the 507th Maintenance Company, 552 Battalion 11th Brigade.

On March 23, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, she was in a convoy that was ambushed in the city of an-Nasiriyah. Specialist Johnson received a bullet wound to her ankle, causing injuries to both legs. She and five other members of the 507th Maintenance Company were captured and taken Prisoners of War. The ambush and its aftermath made world news headlines.

House raids conducted by US Marines in the city of Samarra, Iraq, resulted in the successful rescue of seven POWs on the morning of April 13. Six days later, Specialist Johnson, together with six former POWs, came back to a heroes welcome in the US with a cheering crowd of over 3,000 people.

Since her return to the United States, Specialist Johnson has received numerous awards, and recognition for her courage, valor, and service to the United States.

Specialist Johnson retired from the Army on a Temporary Disability Honorable Discharge on December 12, 2003. Her awards and decorations include the US Army Service Ribbon, Army Commendation Ribbon, National Defense Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and the Prisoner of War Medal.

She was born in the Republic of Panama to Panamanian parents Claude and Eunice Johnson. Ms. Johnson has one daughter, and currently resides in El Paso, Texas.

## **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

Morning Events: Welcome Remarks Presentation of Colors National Anthem Flag Song Invocation Introduction of Distinguished Guests Native American Flute Pueblo of Acoma Dance/Blessing Seminars

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Afternoon Events:Introduction of Distinguished GuestsPOW/MIA PresentationInvocationGuest SpeakerLunchMusical EntertainmentPoemScholarship PresentationSilent Purse Auction AnnouncementsClosing Remarks