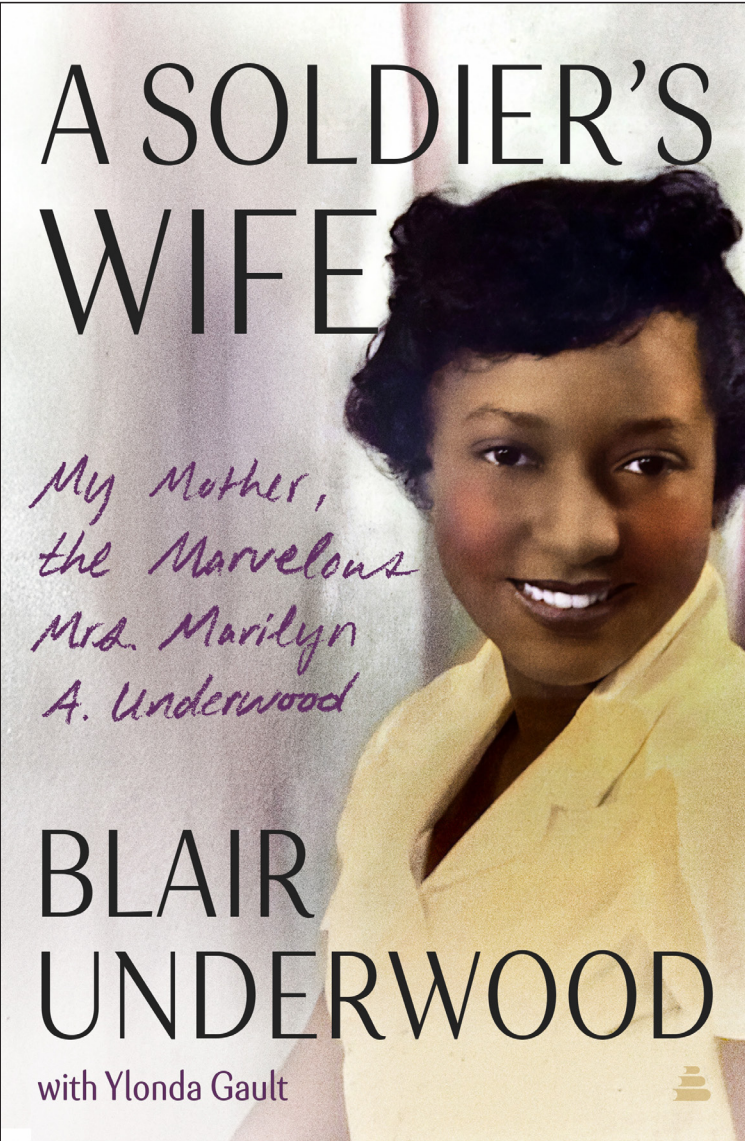


BOOK REVIEW:
A Soldier's Wife



Book cover of *A Soldier's Wife*. Courtesy of Amistad.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Author: Blair Underwood with Ylonda Gault, Copyright: c.2026, Publisher: Amistad, SRP: \$28.00, Page Count: 208 pages

I'm telling Mom!

When you were small, those words were often enough to send a chill down your spine. One quick tattle to the woman who bore you, and you were in trouble. That simple phrase always kept you in line, at least until you were grown. By then, as in the new book, "A Soldier's Wife" by Blair Underwood with Ylonda Gault, Mom had something to tell you.

Marilyn Underwood had kept every scrap of paper that ever passed through her fingers.

That, says her son, author and actor Blair Underwood, is how it seemed. After her death from multiple sclerosis nearly

six years ago, Mrs. Underwood's children found piles and piles of notes, notebooks, lists, random thoughts, and memories she'd written down. Paper was everywhere.

She'd said many times that she was "putting together a memoir of sorts," and after looking over what she'd left, Underwood thought the collection would make a good children's book. He was later convinced that his mother's story was bigger than that.

Marilyn Ann Scales Underwood was an only child and was raised to be independent. Born and reared in Buffalo, New York, she attended an all-girls school with a big dream to work in the fashion industry. She indicated that her mother was brave to let her go, but Underwood knew that her career was really in New York

City. She was right; she thrived there.

Laser-focused on her work, Underwood was in no hurry to do as most late-1950s women did: get married; though friends urged her to date, it was not a priority until she met the love of her life, Frank. She loved him instantly. They were engaged three weeks after meeting and married three months later.

"One thing about me," she wrote. "When I set my mind on something, you can believe it's as good as done."

There are really two ways to look at "A Soldier's Wife."

On one side, it feels almost random. Marilyn Underwood was a strong, independent woman, an inspiration to those who knew her – but most of us didn't. While the writings author Blair Underwood compiles here are wise and funny, they're not earth-shattering and there may be times when they won't hold your interest.

But they're exactly what you need, exactly when you need them.

Reading this book is like getting a letter from your grandma. The essays here are warm with reminders to pray to a purposeful Higher Power, that life's a struggle but it's worth living, and that suffering happens. There's love in this book – lots of it! - gratitude, gentleness, and old-fashioned values. It's sweetly quaint, but firm. And yes, it's random, but consider it as a hug from somebody's mom when you're down, because that's rather what it is.

Just remember that no book has to be read cover-to-cover. You can skip around, and you'll be fine with this one, whenever you need its comfort. "A Soldier's Wife" could be meaningful or meaningless to you at various times. Only you can tell.

NOTICE AND DIGEST

AN ORDINANCE: (1) REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 12960 C.M.S. AND REPLACING IT WITH THE ADDITION OF OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE (O.M.C.) CHAPTER 15.80 AND REFERENCED FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; (2) AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR TO ADMINISTER AND DEVELOP REGULATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE CHAPTER; AND (3) ADOPTING APPROPRIATE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS

The purpose of this newly adopted Chapter and the flood-load and flood-resistant construction requirements of the City's locally implemented building codes are to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific flood hazard areas through the establishment of a comprehensive set of regulations for the proper management of flood hazard areas. This Chapter is designed to set forth regulations that: (1) Minimize unnecessary disruption of commerce, access, and public services during times of flooding; (2) Require the use of appropriate building and entitlement planning practices in order to prevent or minimize future flood damage; (3) Manage the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and shorelines to minimize the impact of development on the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain; (4) Manage filling, grading, dredging, mining, paving, excavation, drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, and other development which may increase flood damage or erosion potential; (5) Prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers which will divert floodwater or increase flood hazards; (6) Contribute to improved construction techniques in the floodplain; (7) Minimize damage to public and private facilities and utilities; (8) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood hazard areas; (9) Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding; (10) Ensure that property owners, occupants, and potential owners are aware of property located in flood hazard areas; (11) Minimize the need for future expenditure of public funds for flood control projects and response to and recovery from flood events; (12) Meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program for community participation as set forth in Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 59.22. Adoption of this Ordinance as an emergency ordinance pursuant to City Charter section 213 is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety because failure to adopt FEMA-compliant floodplain management regulations by May 25, 2026 may result in suspension of the City of Oakland from the National Flood Insurance Program ("NFIP"), thereby jeopardizing the availability of federally-backed flood insurance for Oakland property owners and eligibility for certain forms of federal disaster assistance in the event of a natural disaster or other flood-related event. Immediate adoption is further necessary to ensure continued implementation of updated floodplain management standards that protect life, property, and public infrastructure from flood hazards.

Notice of Publication

This Emergency Ordinance was introduced and adopted at the City Council meeting, Tuesday evening, **May 19, 2026**, and passed to print **7 Ayes; 1 Excused: Five**. Final adoption occurred at the City Council meeting Tuesday evening, May 19, 2026, at One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Council Chamber, 3rd floor, Oakland, California and via Teleconference.

Three full copies are available for use and examination by the public in the Office of the City Clerk at One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 1st floor, Oakland, California

ASHA REED, City Clerk

Publication Date: **Friday, May 22, 2026** (One Time)

WILLIAMS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
EST. 1939

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15AM-10:25AM
SUNDAY SERVICE: 11:15AM- 1:15PM
BIBLE STUDY: EVERY WEDNESDAY 6:30PM

REV. KENNETH ANDERSON
PHD, SENIOR PASTOR

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(Re-Airs) EVERY MONDAY NIGHT 6PM-7:30PM

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Sunday 11:00 am.....Morning Worship
Wednesday 6:30pm.....Intercessory Prayer
Wednesday 7:00 pm.....Wednesday Worship Experience
Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Choir Rehearsal

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church
684 Juliga Woods Street (formerly Erlandson)
Richmond, California 94804-4156
Phone: (510) 232-0193 ~ Fax: (510) 232-0091
E-Mail: BethlehemMBC@aol.com
Web Site: www.BethlehemMissionaryBaptistChurch.org

ALVIN C. BERNSTINE PASTOR

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Morning Manna Worship Service.....7:45 AM
Christian Empowerment Hour (formerly Church School).....8:45 AM
Intercessory Prayer.....10:30 AM
Morning Worship.....10:45 AM

Lords Supper/Baptism (1st Sunday)

Witness on Wednesday (W.O.W.)
An Hour of Spiritual Power

Noon and 7:00 PM
Youth W.O.W. - 7:00 PM

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BibleWay Missionary Baptist Church

1077 13th St., Richmond, CA 94801
Nathan P. Whittom Sr., Pastor

Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service.....11:00 AM
Monday Bible Study.....5:30PM
Wednesday Bible Study.....11:30AM

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NEEDS TO BE REPLACED

- First Black Alan DA in 170+ years
- First non-appointed elected DA in 75
- Courageous and unbossed
- Lead Plaintiff in v. Yale - helping Title IX protections for women and girls

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MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES.....10:45

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

NOON DAY PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY.....12:00 - 1:00
P.M. BIBLE STUDY.....6:30

Church Motto: "There Is Jov In Servina The Lord"