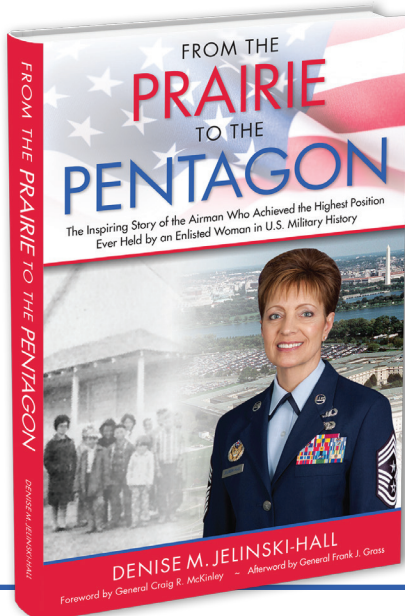


# FROM THE PRAIRIE TO THE PENTAGON

The Inspiring Story of the Airman Who Achieved the Highest Position Ever Held by an Enlisted Woman in U.S. Military History

DENISE M. JELINSKI-HALL



Raised in Central Minnesota, Denise Jelinski-Hall attended a one-room country school through the fifth grade and never dreamed of opportunities beyond her rural community.

A chance observation by a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard changed her life forever; “I see so much more potential in you Denise.

Why don’t you join the Air Force and get out of this town”?

Through hard work and perseverance, Denise rose through the ranks, ultimately serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As such, she remains the only enlisted woman to serve as Senior Enlisted Advisor to a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Her memoir is a timeless American story of success, determination, love of country, and faith. A must for read for all leaders.

## ***Praise for *From the Prairie to the Pentagon****

“From the Prairie to the Pentagon is a true American story of grit and perseverance. Relying on an unstoppable work ethic and a “never give up, never quit” attitude, Denise Jelinski-Hall achieved what no other woman in the history of the United States Armed Forces has ever accomplished”!

—General Craig R. McKinley, U.S. Air Force (Ret), 26th Chief of the National Guard Bureau

“Her humbly described success should be a guide for thousands of young women and men, especially women, showing that they too can achieve their dreams, or the highest levels of military leadership, by following her reflections and guidance in this incredible memoir of a great U.S. Airman and military leader.”

—General Frank Grass, a Citizen Soldier and 27th Chief of the National Guard Bureau

“A poignant story of faith, family and country that reveals the courage that it takes to try, succeed and live to tell about life’s often improbable journey. —Linda Lingle, Governor of Hawaii (2002-2010)

[www.denisejelinskihall.com](http://www.denisejelinskihall.com)

# DENISE M. JELINSKI-HALL

Keynote Leadership Speaker and Author

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"As a woman military leader Chief Denise Jelinski-Hall redefines standards and shatters glass ceilings. From the Prairie to the Pentagon awakes the spirit of America - that the impossible is possible. Laugh, cry and beam with pride as she takes you on a unique yet relatable journey".

—Suzanne Vares-Lum, Brigadier General, Army National Guard

"Denise is one of the greatest examples of military professionalism and leadership I have seen in over a decade of working closely with the military. The fact that she was the first woman to hold her position speaks to her exceptional qualities. Chief Jelinski-Hall defined and expected the highest level of standards from herself and those she was responsible for, always showcasing the best of the National Guard. Men and women at all levels of leadership, whether civilian or military, will gain a great deal of insight by reading Denise's story".

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Taking Strategic Risks  
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Maintaining the Highest Standards



DENISE M. JELINSKI-HALL,  
Chief Master Sergeant, USAF (Ret.),  
Senior Enlisted Advisor, National Guard  
Bureau, continues to find ways to give back.  
She speaks on leadership, mentorship, and  
the importance of personal growth and  
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