

GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS

www.GFWC.org



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For Immediate Release

GFWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPENDS DAY IN WASHINGTON

White House Briefing, Women In Military Service for America Memorial Highlight Day's Events

August 28, 2015 (Washington, D.C.) – The General Federation of Women's Clubs Board of Directors received a high-level issues briefing from White House officials today. Administration officials provided updates on critically important topics including elder justice, financial exploitation, services and needs of military families – highlighted by the Joining Forces Initiative. Officials presented an overview of resources at the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice for victims of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault. GFWC board members were delighted to hear from senior officials on the Administration's *Let Girls Learn* campaign in education.

GFWC International President Babs J. Condon offered to work closely with the Administration on GFWC's signature project - domestic violence prevention. She will strive to collaboratively determine how clubwomen can continue to be helpful to survivors and families who have suffered from such acts. "Our GFWC leadership gained valuable knowledge of the many resources available and initiatives underway which can benefit our communities. We make a difference in people's lives every day and learning of these valuable resources will greatly enhance our message and allow us to redouble our efforts in our communities."

GFWC leaders were inspired by Brigadier General (Ret) Wilma Vaught, USAF, and the exhibits and tributes showcased at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. GFWC clubwomen continue to play a significant role as donors to the Memorial, so that women in the military can be honored appropriately. To emphasize the role of women in today's military, the Board of Directors heard from Navy Commander Tamera Lawrence, Director for Public Affairs and Congressional Information, and Sandra Latta, Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs for the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs. Their personal stories and the impact of GFWC initiatives on their lives was inspirational. Women are now serving in more leadership roles in the military and our military and reserve families continue to need our support.

"Today, GFWC honored women in the military and learned first-hand how we can be even more supportive of active duty, reservists, and our veterans. Through education, family support services and working to offer solutions to homelessness, especially among our women veterans – GFWC can and will make a difference," said GFWC President Babs J. Condon.

The Day in DC culminated with a private tour of Arlington National Cemetery and a visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. For more than 125 years, the members and leaders of GFWC have made a difference because they choose to become informed and to advocate for that in which they believe.

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About the General Federation of Women's Clubs

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is a unifying force, bringing together local women's clubs, with members dedicated to strengthening their communities and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With 100,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by supporting the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging civic involvement, and working toward world peace and understanding.