



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

November 30, 2023

## GFWC Holiday Open House is Around the Corner



We hope to see you as we celebrate this sparkling holiday season at GFWC's historic headquarters on **Wednesday, December 6**. Enjoy touring the GFWC holiday villages, donated by State presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs. Festive treats will be served.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Cares & Concerns

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of Joan Y. Powell, GFWC Nevada State President (2016-2018). Her full obituary is available [here](#).



# **GFWC Maryland Director of Junior Clubs Project:**

## **Support to Growing Military/Veteran Families & Children's Literacy**

By: Mimi French, GFWC Maryland Director of Junior Clubs

The GFWC Maryland Federation teamed with the Women's Veteran United Committee, Inc. to collect baby items for expectant veterans, service members, and military family members. The project began on September 19 at the Maryland Board of Directors meeting and concluded in October at a baby shower in Bowie, MD. More than 15 veterans and military organizations came together at the baby shower to collect the 200 baby baskets that will be distributed over the next year to veteran and military families across Maryland. GFWC sisters donated \$865 in gift cards and money, 400+ baby items (clothes, baby care products, and blankets), and 15 cases of diapers that were used to fill the baby baskets. As a veteran, I am humbled by the outpouring of support for this project and look forward to doing it again next year.

In addition to the baby shower, our GFWC Maryland Junior clubs collected children's books to promote literacy and clothing for local schools. Our clubs donated to Union Rescue Mission of Cumberland, Pocomoke Elementary and Middle Schools, and Carroll County's Boys and Girls Club.

Our clubwomen are honored to serve the communities across Maryland and support our veterans and military families.



## **Legislative Corner**

*To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs that are germane to the GFWC Resolutions. It also highlights important actions of Congress and the White House, and provides follow-up information about GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.*

GFWC Legislative Alerts: This fall, the GFWC Legislative Action Center has been activated on several important bipartisan measures. The requests for Shot@Life and the Violence Against Women programs

were appropriations so those measures will not be finalized until January. To date 649 members sent 1,944 messages to support childhood global vaccination efforts, and 906 members sent 2,732 messages supporting the funding for the Violence Against Women programs.

We urged improvements to food insecurity programs authorized in the Farm Bill; current programs have now been extended until September 2024. We had 715 members send 2,193 messages on this alert.

There is still a push to finalize Kids Online Safety measures before the end of the year, and to date, 820 members have sent 1,686 messages to support these measures.

Thank you for taking action on these four alerts and you can continue to advocate for these important measures by taking action via the website each month until the funding is appropriated and the bills become laws.

Rape Kit Backlog: On November 13, the House of Representatives passed the Debbie Smith Act reauthorization bill which provides funding to law enforcement to analyze untested rape kits. DNA analysis is one of the most important methods to investigate crimes and improve the capacity of state and local prosecutors to bring these cases to court. The GFWC Legislative Action Center was activated in early 2023 in support of this legislation. Many thanks to Congresswoman Ann Wagner from Missouri for leading this effort. Rep. Wagner was our speaker at the 2018 GFWC Convention in St. Louis.

Women's Health Research: Despite making up more than half of the population, women have been understudied and underrepresented in health research for far too long. In mid-November, the White House announced a new Initiative on Women's Health Research championed by First Lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council. Within 45 days, recommendations will be made to improve how research on women's health is conducted and the best way to maximize investments. The goal is to provide women and their health care providers the tools and information they need to prevent, diagnose, and treat conditions from rheumatoid arthritis to menopause to Alzheimer's disease to cardiovascular disease more effectively. Scientific, private sector, and philanthropic communities will be engaged in this effort.

Federal Appropriations: To avoid a shutdown, Congress enacted a short-term funding bill known as a Continuing Resolution. About one-third of the federal programs will be funded until January 19, 2024, and the remaining federal programs will be funded until February 2, 2024. This strategy was first proposed by the new Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson from Louisiana, to avoid the push for a large omnibus spending bill to be negotiated prior to the holidays.

It is unclear if Congress and President Biden will finalize an emergency supplemental appropriations package before the end of the year. Negotiations continue to focus on efforts to aid Israel and Ukraine, provide humanitarian assistance to GAZA and support for the Palestinian refugees, secure the US-Mexico border, change immigration policy, and combat fentanyl trafficking. Nearly half of the requested security resources are aimed at replenishing U.S. military stockpiles which would create jobs and boost our economy.

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## Club Anniversaries

25  
GFWC Classics, Lawrence (Kansas)

100  
GFWC Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach Delaware Inc  
(Delaware)

## Gold Pins

Celebrating 50 years of membership

Mary Jayne Moffat  
GFWC Aronos Research Club (California)

Jan Becker  
GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville (Texas)

Linda Wood  
GFWC Baldwin Woman's Club (Iowa)

Carol Schweinfurth  
GFWC Woman's Club of Kenosha (Wisconsin)

Llew Ellen Luttrell  
GFWC Ossoli Circle (Tennessee)

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## PRESIDENT'S GEM



While sharing is on-going throughout the year, Thanksgiving is a special time to share with our families and express our gratitude.

Many do this over a nice Thanksgiving dinner, however, there are many others for whom this exceeds their budget. With the assistance of the staff at Silver Run School, Mary Miskelly, Chairperson of the Millville Woman's Club (MWC) Civic Engagement and Outreach committee, coordinated the annual Thanksgiving Basket project.

MWC members donated turkeys, stuffing, sweet potatoes,

cranberries, desserts, and much more. The Thanksgiving dinner baskets were taken to Silver Run School for distribution to these families. Additional items were collected and distributed to the Hope Center for Thanksgiving dinner. In this way, MWC expresses its thanks and gratitude to the community.

Submit photos and a short story about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to [PR@gfwc.org](mailto:PR@gfwc.org).



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