



## Invest in America's 'Sheroes'

### **Women Joining Forces – Closing Ranks, Opening Doors®**

An Initiative of Business and Professional Women's Foundation

Millions of America's bravest and most exceptional women serve our country in the Armed Forces. Upon fulfillment of their patriotic duty, these women face the challenge of successfully transitioning into civilian life and the workforce. To support them during this critical transition, Business and Professional Women's Foundation created *Women Joining Forces – Closing Ranks, Opening Doors®*.

#### **What is Women Joining Forces® (WJF)?**

*Women Joining Forces®* (WJF) provides programming and resources to assist women veterans in their transition from military service into their civilian lives. WJF facilitates successful career transitions by providing support, partnering with employers and informing workplace practice and policy. BPW Foundation is uniquely positioned to assist women veterans offering research, education, policy and knowledge.

#### **What type of research has been done to support women veterans?**

As part of *Women Joining Forces®*, BPW Foundation has an ongoing research project- *Women Veterans in Transition*- to examine the transition of women veterans into the civilian workplace and to develop support mechanisms that help employers build a strong, inclusive workforce. This primary research is conducted with the financial support of sponsors and partners.

An initial research report was released in 2007. Since that time, issue briefs, collateral materials, a web site and social networks were created. There was also a letter-writing campaign from veterans to soon-to-be veterans offering professional/personal advice and guidance.

#### **Why should women veterans join BPW Foundation?**

BPW Foundation partners to create successful and equitable workplaces for women, their families and employers. Through partnerships, BPW Foundation offers resources and services to transitioning veterans.

Benefits offered include:

- Focus group and round table participation
- Participation in grassroots activities
- Leadership and media opportunities
- Discounted registration to events
- Workplace resources (i.e. BPW Career Center, Connect-a-Vet)
- Professional development and education
- Access to unique, veteran and young careerist research
- Opportunities to participate in activities that support women veterans
- Inclusion in veteran-related research and focus groups
- Career support and advice through e-publications and web site
- Networking through events and online social spaces
- Legislative advocacy on issues of workplace equity and work-life balance
- Guidance from the WJF Advisory Council members

#### **What are they saying?**

*"Thanks for the recognition of military women. It is well deserved. Often we are the forgotten segment of our Armed Forces."*

Lura D. Kulhavy  
Member since 2004

*"BPW keeps the focus on women and how we fit in economic, legislative and greater causes of women's development. BPW isn't just an organization, but a way of life."*

Phyllis Rogers  
Member since 1994

*"Transitioning from the Military to the Civilian world is pretty intimidating. When I transitioned I was not aware of BPW. I joined BPW the day I was introduced to it because the organization presented unique opportunities for me to network and meet people who are interested in what I am interested in. I have let all of my friends know who are transitioning from the military about BPW. It's a great link for professional women."*

Cathy Wiblemo  
Member since 2005

Visit [www.womenjoiningforces.org](http://www.womenjoiningforces.org) or email to [wjf@bpwfoundation.org](mailto:wjf@bpwfoundation.org)