



Business and
Professional
Women's
Foundation

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**Women Veterans Reach Out to Deployed Military Women
BPW Foundation to Distribute Dear Jane Letters for Veterans Day**

Washington, DC --- We all know how it feels to receive a letter. Imagine our soldiers who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan away from their families with the holiday season right around the corner. To commemorate Veterans' Day, a group of women veterans are sharing their experience with women servicemembers currently deployed overseas.

With support from Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust, Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation created *Dear Jane*, a letter-writing campaign to connect women veterans with deployed women soldiers. BPW Foundation will begin distributing the letters this week.

BPW Foundation collected letters written from many generations of women veterans, offering words of advice to deployed women servicemembers. These letters showcase the unique, shared experience of women soldiers and provide the opportunity for women veterans to give practical advice on how to successfully make the difficult transition from the military into civilian life.

The letters reveal lessons learned, what was successful and what they would have done differently when re-entering civilian life. The women veterans are given the opportunity to act as mentors for those now on active duty.

"Dear Jane offers advice that nobody else could give to these soldiers," said Deborah Frett, CEO for BPW Foundation. "This project provides an intimate type of support that we need to champion."

BPW Foundation's research has shown that many women veterans struggle with networking and finding rewarding employment. They are unsure about how to apply for veteran benefits or what is available and they often don't self identify as veterans. There is little transition time or assistance before separation and many don't understand how skills gained in the military can be applied civilian careers.

"Getting a meaningful job when leaving the military is essential for the self esteem and financial security of women veterans and their families," continued Frett. "In a *strong* economy, unemployment rates are consistently higher for veterans and women veterans are 3.6 times more likely than women non-veterans to be come homeless. This is an unacceptable circumstance for our nation's heroes," said Frett.

Women comprise almost 20 percent of our military and there are currently over 1.8 million women veterans. BPW Foundation has conducted research, centralized resources and developed programs to help women veterans, their families and military spouses as they transition into civilian life. Free resources are available at www.WomenJoiningForces.org.

About Business and Professional Women's Foundation

Business and Professional Women's Foundation is creating successful workplaces by focusing on issues that impact women, families and employers. Successful Workplaces are those that embrace and practice diversity, equity and work life balance.

BPW Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) research and education organization, supporting workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, communities and businesses.