



Business and  
Professional  
Women's  
Foundation

**For Immediate Release  
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**Contact: Ayoka Blandford  
202-293-1100, Ext. 8933**

**Dear Jane Letter-writing Campaign Helps Women Exiting the Military**  
Women Veterans Reach Out to Deployed Military Women

Washington, DC --- Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation is seeking women veterans to write letters to deployed women soldiers as part of the *Dear Jane* letter-writing campaign. By sharing experiences and giving practical advice, women veterans will serve as mentors to help female soldiers with their transition into civilian life.

Women veterans willing to participate should write a letter of 300 to 1000 words sharing their lessons learned, what was successful and what they would have done differently as they re-entered civilian life. Please include name, rank and dates of service in the letter. The deadline for submitting letters is October 31, 2009; email to [foundation@bpwfoundation.org](mailto:foundation@bpwfoundation.org).

*Dear Jane*, which is part of BPW Foundation's *Women Joining Forces – Closing Ranks, Opening Doors®* (WJF) program, will connect women exiting the military, who are thinking about how to make the difficult transition, with women veterans who have already taken that step. The *Dear Jane* letter campaign is made possible in part by the Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust.

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. There is little transition time or assistance before separating and often a lack of understanding on how skills gained in the military can be applied civilian jobs.

Women comprise almost 20 percent of our military and there are currently 1.8 million women veterans. BPW Foundation has conducted research, centralized resources and developed programs to help our 'sheroes' and their families as they transition into civilian professional life. Free resources are available at [www.womenjoiningforces.org](http://www.womenjoiningforces.org).

Working with partners and existing networks, BPW Foundation will send the letters on Veteran's Day, November 11, 009, to deployed women who are preparing to exit military service.

While anonymous letters will be accepted, connecting real people is much more powerful. For more information or to ask questions about the campaign, e-mail [foundation@bpwfoundation.org](mailto:foundation@bpwfoundation.org) or visit [www.BPWFoundation.org/dearjane](http://www.BPWFoundation.org/dearjane) .

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