

For Immediate Release Monday, October 16, 2012 Contact: Sherry Saunders 202-777-8949

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## Vietnam Veterans of America Join BPW Foundation to Support Careers of Women Veterans and Military/Veteran Spouses

Washington, DC -- Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation announced today that Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the only national Vietnam veterans' organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families will lend its support to Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouses Mentoring Plus™ as a Resource and Community Partner.

BPW Foundation's Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouses Mentoring Plus® connects committed women mentors with women veterans and military/veteran spouses as they search for new employment, hone their career goals, and package their military skills and experience to gain access to meaningful civilian jobs. The program is free and mentors are trained. BPW Foundation's mentoring initiative is part of the White House's national Joining Forces effort.

"We are proud that such a respected and effective veterans' organization is partnering with us as we connect women veterans of all eras with volunteer working women mentors across the U.S. whose personal and professional training has prepared them to provide insights, advice, and encouragement to help women veterans," Deborah Frett, BPW Foundation CEO said. "Vietnam Veterans of America's large active membership will help us extend our reach to both potential mentees as well as mentors. I also commend VVA for their long commitment to all veterans including women. Since their founding, VVA has been at the forefront in supporting female veterans, including treating them as equals within their membership."

"Vietnam Veterans of America is pleased to support Joining Forces Mentoring Plus™, an initiative that is ideally timed and a valuable resource for our women veterans. In the current tenuous job market, this national mentoring program will support and guide women veterans and military/veteran spouses through an organized and coordinated process to help them meet their employment and career goals," said Marsha Four, VVA National Board member, chair of the VVA National Women Veterans Committee and Executive Director, Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service and Education Center.

Joining Forces Mentoring Plus™ Resource and Community Partners help promote the program so that the maximum number of women veterans and military/veteran spouses know that this resource is 1718 M Street, NW, #148

available and also encourage working women to become mentors. Many mentors are also veterans who have already made that successful transition and want to help others do the same.

Other Resource and Community Partners include: American Corporate Partners, Army Women's Foundation, Blue Star Families, Business Pink, Coast Guard Family Organization, Collen IP, Feminist Majority Foundation, Final Salute, Global Summit of Women, John 14:2 Inc., Women Veterans Interactive, KidzArt, Military Leaders In Transition, Military Officers Association of America, Military Spouse Employment Partnership, Military Spouse Mentoring, National Association of American Veterans, National Association of Social Workers, National Congress of Black Women, National Council of Women's Organizations, National Military Family Association, Older Women's League, Operation Renewed Hope Foundation, Society for Women's Health Research, Univentures, VA for Vets, WIFLE, WIPP, WISER, Women Construction Owners & Executives, Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Women In Public Policy, Disabled Veterans Committee on Housing, California Association for Micro Opportunity and The Women's Research and Education Institute.

BPW Foundation supports workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, their families, communities and businesses. BPW Foundation is a 501 © (3) research and education organization. To learn more, visit <a href="http://www.bpwfoundation.org">http://www.bpwfoundation.org</a>. To join the mentoring program as either a mentor, subject matter expert or mentee sign up on the <a href="Joining Forces">Joining Forces</a> Mentoring Plus webpage.

Founded in 1978, <u>Vietnam Veterans of America</u> is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

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