



Business and  
Professional  
Women's  
Foundation

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### Note to the media:

#### ***Joining Forces for Women Veterans: An Inaugural Summit Webcast Now Online*** **Government, Non-Profit and Business Leaders Address Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Women Veterans**

Today, there are approximately 1.8 million women veterans who have served our nation in times of war, conflict, natural disaster and peace. Women veterans leave the service with skills and experiences of great benefit to businesses and communities. Yet often their transition back into civilian jobs, community activities and family life are difficult. The veteran support system was built by and for men. The current transition programs and services often do not address the unique challenges and opportunities that women veterans face when they re-enter civilian life.

This fall in Washington, DC, Business and Professional Women's Foundation supported by the McCormick Foundation and Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust (DAV) sponsored *Joining Forces for Women Veterans: An Inaugural Summit*. This groundbreaking Summit assembled government, business and community leaders as well as women veterans to discuss specific transition challenges women veterans face as well as opportunities that they present to the workplace following military service.

An impressive and knowledgeable group of speakers and panelists provided valuable information about women veteran's issues. The full program is now available via [Webcast](#), so that everyone can have access to this valuable resource. Visit the [BPW Foundation website](#) to watch the [Webcast](#).

Speakers included **Valerie B. Jarrett**, Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement and Chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls; **Tammy Duckworth**, Assistant Secretary for Public & Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; **Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz**, Commissioner of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and President, National Association of State Directors of Veteran Affairs; **Sara Manzano-Diaz**, Director, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor; **Marie Collins Johns**, Deputy Director, Small Business Administration, **Michele S. Jones**; Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense; White House Liaison, U.S. Department of Defense. **Ray Jefferson**, Assistant Secretary for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), Department of Labor; **Susan Schieren**, Manager, Military Programs for General Electric and **Marsha Four**, Executive Director, Philadelphia Veterans Multi Service and Education Center. Nine women veterans also presented their stories during panels addressing Reintegration, Homelessness and Employment and Careers.

To learn more about women veterans issues read the issue briefs on [Reintegration](#), [Homelessness](#) and [Employment and Careers](#) and visit the BPW Foundation website dedicated to women veterans, [Women Joining Forces](#).

*Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation is a 501(c) (3) research and education organization that is transforming the workplace for women and employers. Through groundbreaking research and as a convener of employers and employees, BPW Foundation leads the way in developing and advocating for policies and programs that "work" for both women and businesses.*  
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