



## Invest in America's Heroes

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

A Program of Business and Professional Women/USA

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/USA (BPW/USA) created the *Women Joining Forces – Closing Ranks, Opening Doors* program.

#### ***What is the Women Joining Forces (WJF) program?***

*Women Joining Forces* (WJF) provides resources to assist women veterans in their transition from military service into the civilian workforce. WJF facilitates successful career transitions through training, networking and professional and personal support. BPW/USA uniquely positioned to assist women veterans with a national network that can offer leadership training, professional skill development and mentoring.

#### ***How does the program support female veterans?***

With corporate support, BPW/USA will offer an introductory 1-year membership to transitioning veterans. Additionally, BPW/USA offers discounted introductory dues to any woman veteran. As members, these women have full access to benefits that BPW offers through its national, state and local networks including:

- *Women Joining Forces* Individual Development (ID) Program
- Leadership Opportunities
- Peer Mentoring
- Networking Events
- Professional Development Training
- Continuing Education Scholarships

#### ***Why should women veterans join BPW/USA?***

BPW/USA fosters the success of workingwomen by providing career advancement resources, work-life strategies and personal and professional connections. Through *WJF*, women veterans have access to benefits and services including:

- Mentoring, leadership opportunities and networking through state and local organizations
- Access to the BPW/USA Career Center, custom-designed for women and veterans
- Career support and advice in *BusinessWoman* Magazine, *Headquarters News*, *Legislative Hotline* and [www.bpwusa.org](http://www.bpwusa.org)
- Professional development, including the Individual Development Program, the Young Careerist Program and leadership workshops
- Legislative advocacy on issues of workplace equity and work-life effectiveness
- Guidance from the WJF Advisory Council members
- Access to BPW/USA Signature Events and Conferences

#### ***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

*"I'm a 27-year veteran of the US PHS. I retired and immediately joined my local BPW. They are an amazing support group."*

Anita Wacht Batman, M.D.  
Member since 2003

*"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

For more information, please visit [www.womenjoiningforces.org](http://www.womenjoiningforces.org) or email to [wjf@bpwusa.org](mailto:wjf@bpwusa.org)