



Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program Spring 2021 Newsletter

Ladies of GFWC, Since reading your reports, I feel that I know you, your clubs and state federations so much better. It is such an honor that I am able to share all of the projects that you have reported. Your projects are amazing and moving. EVERY state federation successfully completed projects respecting and assisting veterans and currently deployed service members and their families. You have Reached Out to Tens of Thousands of people who needed a hand to shake, a hand to help them out and a hand to help them up. You nourished and honored them physically and emotionally. The Pandemic DID NOT slow you down.

THANK YOU for YOUR TIME, EFFORT, DONATIONS and COMPASSION!

May is noted for warmer days, sunnier skies, colorful yards, **Military Appreciation Month** and **Memorial Day**. In honor of our service members, I have written about three nonprofit organizations that greatly assist our currently deployed and our veterans ~ and added some wonderful projects of our own GFWC clubs.

The GFWC Sorosis Club (OK) partnered with the city of Cheyenne to place flags at the cemetery twice a year for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The city provided 200 flags. The club members replaced each old, tattered American flag with a new one on the graves of 249 deceased veterans, honoring each veteran's military service. The old flags were bagged and deposited with the Boy Scouts who held a ceremony to properly dispose of them.

United Service Organizations: “The **USO** provides programs and services to improve the quality of life of military service members and their families. There are more than 250 USO centers across the U.S. and around the world, all set to meet the needs of their specific military community.” The most well known may be the Free Phone Calls Home and Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program, in which service members record themselves reading a book for their children. The family receives the recording and a copy of the book – What a remarkable gift!

Some of the unique programs you may not have heard about before:

*Special Delivery Showers: (<https://www.uso/programs/uso-what-to-expect-and-target-present-special-delivery>) Baby showers created for active-duty moms-to-be and military spouses

*Comfort Crew for Military Kids: (<https://www.comfortcrew.org>) Support for military kids and their classmates delivered through developmentally appropriate presentations offered at schools.

*Operation That's My Dress: (<https://www.uso.org/programs/operation-that-s-my-dress>) Events for military teens, female service members and spouses to choose fashionable new prom or cocktail dresses for formal events.

The GFWC Wilmington Woman's Club (NC) adopted Fox Company, which included the daughter of a WWC member. Fox Company deployed to an undisclosed desert area and arrived without their personal belongings. Clubwomen made a quick donation to the **USO-NC** to cover immediate needs. Club members then initiated an ongoing letter and card writing program to those serving in Fox Company and wrote 159 notes for holidays. The highlight for Fox Company was the arrival in March, **in the middle of the desert**, of 50 boxes of Girl Scout cookies!

GFWC Village Improvement Association of Rehoboth Beach (DE) has assisted the **USO** for the past 16 years. The intent is to provide holiday stockings for active-duty military who are stationed overseas. 61 of the 236 members donated 248 hours to cut and sew over 260 stockings, donated 320 Beanie Babies, 200 holiday cards, 200 packets of Snowman Soup, 86 knitted wool caps, toiletries, snacks and candy. The items filled 7 carloads which were taken to the main organizing facility in Delaware. After shipment to Chicago, they were sent to active-duty military world-wide.

The **GFWC/IFC Regional Readers ESO Club (IN)** held a cookie walk to raise money to donate to the USO. 23 varieties of cookies and 5 nut rolls were sold. Family members and friends were offered a pre-sale on FB. The sale was held in a member's garage and people were asked to enter and purchase cookies one at a time. The profit of \$600.00 was given to the **USO**.

DAV (Disabled American Veterans): "DAV is a strong and influential advocate for veterans, fighting on their behalf to ensure they receive the full range of services and protections they deserve, including Women Veterans." This is all done with donations. The Transportation Program provides free rides to VA Medical Centers for clinic visits; services such as grocery shopping, yard work and companionship are also provided. They are a fierce advocate for mental health care, run a National Disabled Winter Sports Clinic and can provide Disaster Relief funds.

"On Capitol Hill, DAV helps promote policies/legislation which ensure veterans and their families can live with respect and dignity." Researching the DAV site, I saw – and signed up for- virtual notifications concerning new bills that have been introduced to the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives that effect veterans. These are sent by Steven Whitehead, DAVA National Commander. The message states the bill, who introduced it, and the rationale. At the bottom of the page there is a button to click that reads, "Take Action" that will send your message regarding this bill to your U.S. Senator or Representative. **It is a very easy way to advocate for our veterans' rights. Share with your club. Do your research. Check your state resolutions.** Then take action! www.dav.org/donate www.dav.org/news www.dav.org

FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION: The goal of Fisher House is to help Military Families. Fisher House facilities are owned and operated by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs and are associated with an attached hospital. It is a temporary residence that provides a comfortable place to stay for the families of wounded, injured or ill service members who are undergoing treatment.

Fisher House Foundation provides these additional services:

- Hotels for Heroes: Donations may be made to provide free hotel rooms to the families of service members undergoing treatment at authorized medical centers when a Fisher House is not available. (</programs/hotels-for-heroes/>)
- You can make a donation to Fisher House Program by making a donation in the name of a loved one. Call 888 294-8560 or email donations@fisherhouse.org
- Hero Miles: You can help provide airline tickets to wounded, injured or ill service members, veterans and their families in support of their continued recovery process. (</programs/hero-miles/>)
- Scholarships for Military Children: The Scholarships for Military Children Program was created to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community. Validated military dependents must fill apply/fill out an application. <https://fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarships/sfmc/>

I hope to see you at Convention.

Nancy

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