



A Flight of Honor



GFWC FLORIDA PRESIDENT'S PROJECT: A FLIGHT OF HONOR - MARCH 11TH, 2026

GFWC Florida President, Sara Dessureau, is proud to have chosen to honor our GFWC Florida women veterans with her state project - A FLIGHT OF HONOR!

Goal: To raise \$150,000 to fully fund one flight for GFWC Florida Women Veterans including all associated costs (hotel before and after flight, meals, guardians' fees and more) Cost for one veteran to attend is approximately \$900.00.

- 1) Any monies raised above the cost(s) of the flight will be used toward helping women veterans in the State of Florida.
- 2) A total of 172 GFWC Florida women veterans will be able to experience this wonderful adventure. Veteran members must complete an application and then will be entered into a lottery to be chosen for the trip. Veterans must be a current member of a GFWC Florida club and have served in any branch of the service, for any amount of time.
- 3) The Flight of Honor program is funded exclusively from donations. The chartered flight leaves from the Lakeland Linder Int'l Airport in Lakeland Florida.
- 4) The veterans will embark on a one-day trip to Washington, D.C. which includes a visit to The WWII Memorial, The Korean War Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial and The Vietnam Wall Memorial as well as a trip to Arlington National Cemetery to see the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Veterans are welcomed home with a celebration that can be attended by everyone.
- 5) The Woman's Club of Lakeland will be hosting a dinner the night before the flight for all veterans, guardians as well as any GFWC Florida member that would like to attend the sendoff. Details will be available closer to the date of the flight.

For More Information, contact:

GFWC Florida State President's Project Chair: Ronda Carney
presidentsproject@gfwcflorida.org (727) 215-4909

Or contact your District Chairman



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Sponsorship Opportunities for Mission GFWC Florida - March 11th, 2026

- _____ Bronze Level Sponsors - \$500.00 _____ Gold Level Sponsors - \$2,500
_____ Silver Level Sponsors - \$1,000 _____ Platinum Level Sponsors - \$5,000

Flight to Honor Item Sponsorship Opportunities*

- _____ (4) buses in DC - \$2500 each _____ (2) Shirt Sleeves - \$3,000 each
_____ (2) Jacket Sleeves - \$3,000 each _____ (1) Backpacks - \$3,500
_____ (1) Hats - \$3,000 _____ (4) Snacks - \$250.00 each
_____ (1) Lunch in DC - \$2,500 _____ (1) Photos - \$1,500
_____ (1) Mail Call - \$1,000 _____ (1) Challenge Coins - \$2,000
_____ (1) Band - \$1,250 _____ (1) Welcome Home - \$4,000
_____ (1) Flags at airport - \$2,500 _____ (1) Arlington Tour - \$2,500
_____ (1) Name tag sponsors - \$1,000 _____ (1) Photo Backdrop - \$3,000

*If you choose to donate for any of the specific parts of the flight listed above, please contact the project chair below to ensure that item is still available for sponsorship. Specific items for sponsorship cannot be guaranteed.

Thank you for your help in honoring our GFWC Florida women veterans.

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My name is Sara Dessureau, and I am the 2024-2026 GFWC Florida State President. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international organization that has been addressing the needs of communities and countries through individual club volunteer services since 1868. By Living the Volunteer Spirit, GFWC club women transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations, but with hands-on tangible projects that provide immediate impact.

During each GFWC Florida administration, the President has the wonderful opportunity to choose a President's Project. For my term as President, I have chosen to honor our GFWC Florida women veterans through a **Flight of Honor** as my state project. Veterans are such an important part of not only our history, but in the continuing sacrifices they make for our country. While we honor all our veterans, I feel that women veterans do not receive the recognition they deserve and so my project will pay tribute to the veterans in the GFWC Florida organization. GFWC Florida is sponsoring an all-inclusive flight to Washington, D.C. for 174 GFWC Florida women veterans on March 11th, 2026. This will be the first ALL female veterans Flight to Honor in Florida and I could not be more excited to get this project started.

My goal is to raise \$150,000 to cover the costs of not only the flight itself, but all the hotel and food expenses for both the veteran and their guardian. So, what can you do to help honor our GFWC Florida women veterans? I have attached a list of sponsorship opportunities for our mission for your consideration but please know that ANY donation amount is greatly appreciated.

The all-inclusive cost for one veteran to participate in the Flight of Honor is \$900. I know that with the help of our communities this goal is within reach! Give a little back to a veteran who has sacrificed so much for you. Your donation will help us provide a once in a lifetime experience that they will never forget.

Thank you for considering my request to help in honoring our GFWC Florida women veterans.

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Below is a letter written to Flight to Honor by a veteran who was on the April 30th, 2024 flight. He wrote the letter when he returned home and it shows the impact we have and the difference we make in the lives of these veterans.

Yesterday, I was transported back in time. First, to the date of April 26, 1970, when as a young 19 year old boy, I left for my new duty assignment in Thailand, only to be told upon arrival that my orders had been changed and I was going to Vietnam. In War you endure one day at a time, you survive, how you do that is you look forward to that one day in the future when you would be going home. For me, that was April 26, 1971. Yesterday I was transported back in time to that day. I remembered how I walked across the flightline to my freedom bird which would take me home. I remembered how at the top of the steps before entering the plane, I looked back to see hundreds of flag draped coffins stacked one on top of another. Those boys were going home also. I remembered how, after a year of waiting, I was kicked off my flight home in Japan for an emergency leave. My replacement plane was then diverted to Alaska. Finally, after one year, I arrived in San Francisco back on American soil. It was 3 a.m. and I remember walking through the airport totally alone. I remember boarding my flight from there to my home in Indianapolis where I was greeted solely by my mother.

I can't adequately describe what happened yesterday. After a pleasant, but long day in Washington D.C., again I boarded a plane to go home. On the flight home we had mail call, the most looked to thing in Vietnam, and I had mail. I had cards and letters from many of you thanking me for my service and welcoming me back home. I had letters from people I may never know, wishing me the same. When we arrived in Lakeland, I expected a nice welcome home from perhaps a hundred or so people. I was mistaken. When I stepped to the door of the plane to disembark, I couldn't believe my eyes. There was a police line rendering a salute to me, there were perhaps a thousand or more people shouting welcome home, extending their hands hoping to shake mine. There was a band playing patriotic songs. Signs were displayed everywhere welcoming me home. And no Dear John letters for me! My sweetie was there with open arms and a kiss to welcome me back home.

Yesterday, my life was changed. A hole in my heart I had long forgotten existed was filled. I look forward to my arrival in Heaven someday soon. Yesterday wasn't Heaven, but it was pretty darn close. To anyone who played a role in making that happen, I can only say, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! God bless each and every one of you.