



## For Immediate Release

November 3, 2011

## Contact:

Gabrielle H. Turner  
YWCA USA - Communications  
202.467.0801/ [www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org)

## YWCA USA SALUTES WOMEN VETS & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

**Washington DC, November 3, 2011** – During the month of November, joining our nation’s commemoration of Veteran’s Day, the YWCA will recognize and salute the importance of supporting Women Veterans and Women in the Military by showcasing the work of local associations.

The YWCA has been engaged with military families for more than a century – co-founding the USO; establishing Hostess House for service men and women; promoting Liberty Bonds during WWI; training women to fill the industry jobs of enlisted men and aiding interned families of Japanese descent during WWII; and supporting military and veteran women and their families for generations. Along with our history, we plan to showcase how the YWCA today helps women in the armed forces to overcome serious and unique challenges.

“As we salute women veterans and women in the military we must also keep in mind some of the challenges that our military women face daily like the psychological consequences of combat, exposure to trauma, domestic violence, and financial issues. Over the last century, the YWCA has supported military women and their families as they deal with these issues,” stated Gloria Lau, CEO of the YWCA USA. “It’s our commitment to empower our military women and their families by ensuring that they have the support they need and have earned,” Lau added.

The following are a few examples of exemplary YWCA programs dedicated to **Women Veterans** and **Military Women** around the country:

The **YWCA Middle Rio Grande** in Albuquerque, opened "Henderson House," a supportive transitional living facility solely for homeless women veterans and their dependent children. The project is the first of its kind in the nation and in addition to being recognized as a model for the country by First Lady Michelle Obama, it was named a signature program by New Mexico’s Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The **YWCA of North Orange County**, California, in partnership with the City of Mission Viejo, provides new or gently worn formal dresses to Marine wives to attend the Annual Marine Birthday Ball at Camp Pendleton. The goal is to provide a formal dress to wives of Marines that cannot afford one. This year, 180 dresses were provided.

The **YWCA Greater Harrisburg**, Pennsylvania, provides employment readiness programs to homeless veterans. YW case managers, who are veterans, conduct outreach and prepare veterans for the job market by providing training in making career choices, business technology, job search strategies, resume preparation, and interviewing skills.

The YWCA will press to keep military family programs a priority, and reinforce to community leaders the importance of continuing to support women veterans, military women and their families nationwide.

###

**About the YWCA USA**

The YWCA USA is one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the nation with the mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. In the U.S., the YWCA serves over 2 million women, girls and their families. Globally, the YWCA USA is a member of the World YWCA, which has affiliates in 122 countries that serve 25 million women and girls worldwide.