

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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Women's Memorial Foundation Announces Leadership Transition

Long-time Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation president, retired Air Force Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught announced today her retirement effective January 1, 2016. Brig. Gen. Vaught has served as the Foundation president since 1987 and is largely responsible for raising the funds, building and now operating the 33,000 sq. ft. Women In Military Service For America Memorial and Education Center, located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery. Dedicated in 1997, the Memorial is America's only major memorial to tell the story of women's service to the nation, beginning with the American Revolution. Some 259,225 women's records of service are registered with the Women's Memorial and nearly 3 million visitors from around the world have visited the Memorial.

In making her announcement, Brig. Gen. Vaught noted that her tenure as Foundation president had been "one of the most gratifying times" of her life but noted that she knew the time had come for the Foundation to transition to new leadership so that it could "capitalize on new technologies and strategies for business and communication and the enthusiasm and commitment of a younger generation of leaders." Brig. Gen. Vaught will serve as president emeritus, assisting in the transition, working on projects and continuing to speak locally and around the country about the Memorial and the service of military women.

Joining the Foundation as president is retired Army Major General Dee Ann McWilliams. MG McWilliams is very familiar with the Foundation, serving as a member of the board of directors since 2007 and as the vice chair since 2014. In taking the helm, MG Williams spoke of Brig. Gen. Vaught's "remarkable legacy of service to the nation and to military women. Brig. Gen. Vaught is a national treasure. While I never expect to replace her, I have come in to carry on her extraordinary work on behalf of America's military women, past and present. I look forward to the challenge and to working with Foundation members and supporters across the country to uphold the standard of excellence Brig. Gen. Vaught has established in telling this amazing story of women's service."

To read Brig. Gen Vaught's biography, visit <http://www.womensmemorial.org/PDFs/BGVBio.pdf>. To read MG McWilliams' biography, visit <http://www.womensmemorial.org/PDFs/MGMBio2016.pdf>. Brig. Gen. Vaught's letter to Foundation members and supporters announcing the transition can be found at <http://www.womensmemorial.org/News/ChgOfCommand.html>.

For more information call 800-222-2294 or 703-533-1155. The Women In Military Service For America Memorial, located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, is the nation's only major memorial honoring all servicewomen, past, and present. Featuring an exhibit gallery, theatre, Register of women who have served and a gift shop, the Memorial is open to the public, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily.