



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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January 18, 1999

Marion Crawford (ISGT)
General Delivery
Key West, FL 33040

RE: Vietnam Women Veterans Planning Meeting,
February 24-25, 1999.

Dear Marion:

This letter is to ask you to join Joanne Murphy, Claire Starnes, Carole Gittman, Donna Loring and me for a pre-planning meeting of the Vietnam Women Veterans (VWV) Reunion/Workshops to be held November 10-13, 1999 in Olympic, Washington.

The pre-planning meeting will be held February 24-25, 1999 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd. N.W., Washington, DC 20008.

While there, the committee plans to schedule meetings with VA personnel, Veteran Affairs personnel, Senators and Representatives, so that we might address the needs of women veterans with regards to health care and VA entitlements; the result of VA study conducted in 1996-97 regarding women who served in Vietnam; VA eligibility, and most especially how we can contact the more than 800 women we have not been able to find, because we do not have access to the Social Security numbers or madian names, etc.

Your knowledge, participation and assistance with the pre-planning meeting, along with Joanne's would help those who have worked so hard to make the reunion a reality, and to make the proposed workshops and events viable and productive for all those attending. Who better than you, to help us with the history and material to be used to make a video of our services in Vietnam, and to recognize the women who served. We need your input and assistance!

Because of the many contacts made, the recall of memories, letters sent out by Claire, Joanne and you, the responses have been wonderful.

One of the issues we have noted in talking with the women is that some of the women are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, (PTSD as classified by the VA), from their service in Vietnam, and many have emotional or physical problems, that may need professional help from the Veterans Administration. The workshops we are planning should address every issue that a female veteran may have a concern about.

All of us pooling our knowledge, resources, contacts, and talents we may have at our disposal would assist us in making the reunion the best reunion possible. The reunion is not just about us all arriving at the hotel to talk and visit, its about reuniting and discussing issues of importance to the women who served in Vietnam. Many of those women are deceased and many of them died from cancer. What we want to know - was it related to Agent Orange? Would they be alive today if they had not served in Vietnam? More importantly, can we make certain the women who served in future wars or conflicts are not exposed to an unknown enemy such as an Agent Organge.

We need corporate or individual sponsorship funds, also we'd like support from all the female Senators and Representative, and we need to visit their offices in Washington DC and ask for their assistance in being able to contact the rest of the 800 names. We only have 400 names as of this date.

We hope to schedule a meeting with General Wilma Vaught, President, Women in Military Service Memorial Foundation, to discuss the list of names she may have available. We could spend a week in Washington DC talking to a good many people, but we will do what we can, February 24-25, 1999.

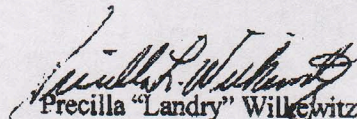
Capt. Joanne Murphy and the others have agreed to attend the February 24-25, 1999 meeting. We look forward to you joining our small group of planners.

This reunion will be our chance to help one another, and for some this might be the help they really need.

I will be attending a Veterans of Foreign Wars Conference, February 25 to March 3, 1999 at the Marriott, and I can get another room or two for all of us.

Please call me at 1-800-217-8753, so that we can discuss the pre-planning meeting. Capt. Ready would be an asset to our group, if only she would participate.

Sincerely,


Precilla "Landry" Wilkowitz
State Adjutant

PLW:mmm
2 Enclosures
cc: Committee Members
File