



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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December 19, 2024

**GFWC: Learn New Skills**

## Happy Holidays from GFWC Headquarters



Enjoy this end-of-year message from GFWC International President Suellen Brazil. We hope you relish this festive glimpse of our beautifully decorated GFWC Headquarters in the heart of our nation's capital – Washington, DC.

From the GFWC Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and staff, we wish you a happy holiday season.

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GFWC Headquarters will be closed from **December 21-January 1** for staff to celebrate the holidays with their loved ones. We look forward to working with you in the new year!

Happy Holidays from  
Melanie, Stacy, Cheri, Suellen,  
Nishu, Olivia, Joanna, and  
Candice

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## Join us for the Winter 2025 GFWC Learning Gateway Series

Start 2025 off right with 2024-2026 GFWC Honorary Chairmen webinars. Register Today for their featured webinars!

**January 27, 2025, at 7 p.m. ET - ESO Beyond the Page, Mystery with a Mission**

Join Amazon best-selling and award-winning author, **Amy Peele**, GFWC Education and Libraries/Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman as she dives into her book "CUT" and how she brought a 35 -year career in the

transplantation field to the pages. Her Transplant Medical Murder Mystery series is referred to as “mystery with a mission and a side of humor” and enjoys five-star reviews on Goodreads and Amazon.

<https://bit.ly/3AkgYoc>

### **February 5, 2025, at 7 p.m. ET - Heart Health Awareness Month**

During Heart Health Awareness Month, **Jude Mabone**, Miss District of Columbia 2023 and GFWC Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman recounts how her own heart health scare has brought her to work with the American Heart Association. She will share her life's journey and the importance of CPR/AED training.

<https://bit.ly/48Epc7g>

### **February 11, 2025, at 7 p.m. ET - The Role Storytelling Plays in Advancing a Brand and Building Membership**

**Leslie Capps**, Founder Wild Woman Marketing and GFWC Communications Honorary Chairman Personal Connections are the key to building membership. We will delve into how using your GFWC volunteer story as a marketing strategy will gain local recognition and increase membership numbers!

<https://bit.ly/3UI3Srs>

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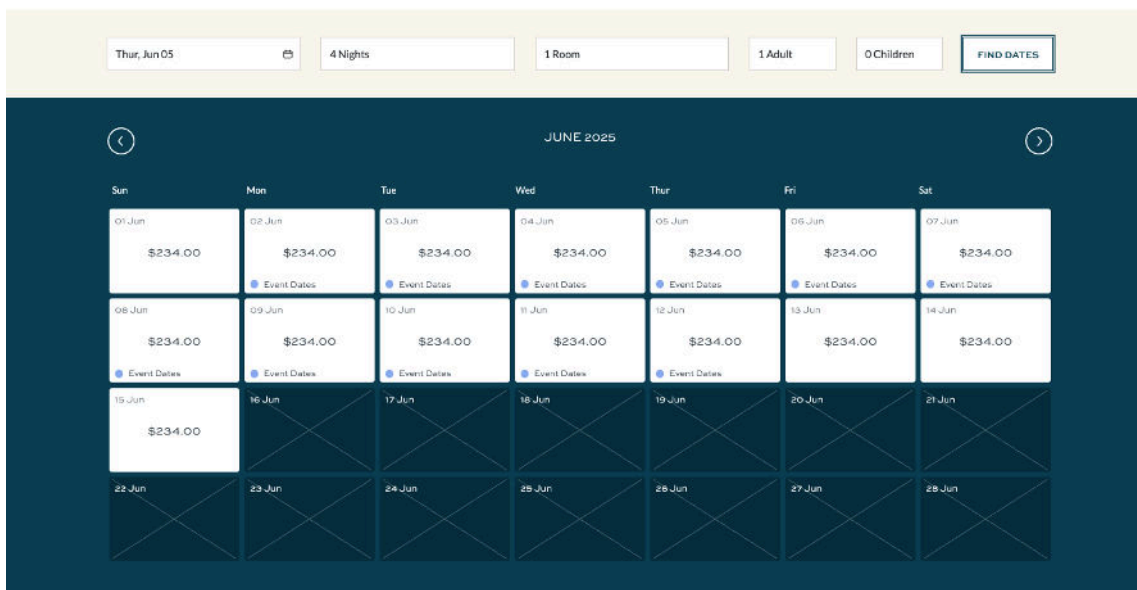
## **Cares & Concerns**

GFWC sends our deepest condolences to Director of Junior Clubs Shannon Bailey for the loss of her father, Jim Armstrong. Sympathy cards for Shannon and her family may be sent to 1096 Gasparilla Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

We are saddened to share the passing of Marilyn Perry, GFWC Massachusetts Director of Junior Clubs from 1976 to 1978. View her obituary and arrangements [here](#).

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## **Book Your Room for the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia!**



Reserve your room for June 7-9, 2025, and don't miss out on the excitement of next year's Convention!

To book your room:

- Follow the button below to the GFWC room booking page
- Scroll down and select the first night you would like to book
- Then select how many nights you will be staying and click "Find Dates"
- Click on your dates on the calendar
- Select "Book This Event" at the bottom of your screen!

[Book NOW](#)



# Legislative Corner

*To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs that are germane to the GFWC Resolutions. It also highlights important actions of Congress and the White House, and provides follow-up information about GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.*

Congress is wrapping up the 118th Congress and hopes to adjourn by December 20. Legislation which fails to pass before the end of the year must be reintroduced in the 119th Congress (2025-2026). A more complete summary of 2024 GFWC legislative priorities will be available after Congress adjourns. A new list of 2025 legislative priorities, based upon GFWC resolutions, will be considered by the GFWC Executive Committee in January.

**GFWC Legislative Action Center:** – [Sign up for the GFWC Legislative Action Center \(LAC\)](#)! 2025 is going to be a busy year. Our united voices matter!

**Alzheimer's Association Priorities Enacted:** Thank you GFWC members who participated in the GFWC Legislative Action Center calls to action to support these three bills and CONGRATULATIONS – your united voices made a difference!

Congress enacted three priorities of our affiliate, the Alzheimer's Association, and were supported by GFWC through the LAC. The Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act prioritizes research funding at the National Institutes of Health. The National Alzheimer's Project Act reauthorization supports federal coordination to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The legislation also focuses on health aging, risk reduction, and addresses health disparities among underrepresented populations. The third bill, the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act provides state, local, and tribal public health officials with essential funding and resources to advance brain health education, enhance early detection and diagnosis, and support caregivers.

**Veterans:** Congress enacted the Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. This comprehensive bill includes the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act supported by GFWC through the LAC.

**Kids Online Safety:** GFWC has joined the National Center on Sexual Exploitation which is leading an extensive campaign to bring the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) to a vote in the House of Representatives. A similar measure passed the Senate 91-3. Advocates are also supporting the TAKE IT DOWN Act, the DEFIANCE Act, the SHIELD Act, and the PROTECT Our Children Act reauthorization bill. These bills have passed the Senate and are pending in the House of Representatives.

**Anti-Trafficking:** GFWC supports passage of the International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act which provides vacatur, the setting aside a judgment, of federal charges against survivors related to human trafficking. These bills are moving through the legislative process.

**Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):** On December 17, the Archivist of the United States released a statement that she cannot certify and publish the ERA because the ratification deadline of 1979 established in the preamble of the legislation and extended to 1982 by Congress is valid and enforceable. Therefore, it will take new action by Congress or the Courts to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

**Women's Suffrage National Monument:** GFWC supports passage of H.R. 1318 to locate the monument on the National Mall. The bill passed the House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

**Support for Military Families:** Congress enacted the annual Defense Authorization Act for FY 2025 which included provisions to increase pay for the troops and provide supplemental funding to address food insecurity experienced by military families.

In May 2024, the Department of Defense announced a substantial decline in military sexual assault and harassment, an estimated 19% decrease in unwanted sexual contact for active-duty women, and an estimated 13% decrease for active-duty men compared to 2021. The FY 2023 defense bill included provisions to remove judicial functions and prosecutorial decisions from the chain of command for certain serious crimes, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse, and put them in the hands of trained professional military prosecutors.

**FY 2025 Federal Appropriations:** GFWC has advocated for funding for programs and services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and international vaccine programs. The current Continuing Resolution expires December 20, and it is still unclear if Congress can pass another Continuing Resolution into March 2025 or face a government shutdown.

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## Gold Pins

Evelyn Alexander  
GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville (Texas)

Mary Ann Riensche  
GFWC Rural Woman's Study Club (Iowa)

Linda Butler  
GFWC Capitol Woman's Club (Virginia)

Bobbie Ryan  
GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville (Texas)

Cheryl Douthat  
GFWC Capitol Woman's Club (Virginia)

Lynn Stallworth  
GFWC Capitol Woman's Club (Virginia)

Janie Evans  
GFWC Capitol Woman's Club (Virginia)

Debbie Unterbrink  
GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville (Texas)

Kaye Reil  
GFWC Rural Woman's Study Club (Iowa)

## Club Anniversaries

95  
GFWC Bluebonnet Drama Club of Kingsville (Texas)

135  
GFWC IL Morgan Park Woman's Club (Illinois)



## Save on Movie Tickets for the Family!

Need to venture out of the house with your family over the holidays? Head out to the movies! Wicked, Gladiator II, and Moana 2 are in theaters now. Get discounted movie tickets through Tickets at Work for the whole family.

Save on your movie tickets or discounted ticket, popcorn, and drink combos [HERE](#).



## **GFWC Embroidered Button Ups**

**\$40.00, plus shipping**

Start the new year in style! GFWC Button Up shirts are embroidered with gold thread and are available in red and blue. Shop new merchandise on the GFWC Marketplace today!

[Browse Marketplace](#)

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## **Volunteers in Action: GFWC Saint Andrews Woman's Club (SC)**



Winter doesn't stop the work! Eight GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club members participated in a project organized by the club's environment subcommittee by removing litter from their adopted roadway. These women hauled away nine large bags of trash, four political signs, and even a car bumper!

**Want your club project to be featured in an upcoming issue of  
News & Notes?**

Simply send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words describing your club's favorite project to [PR@GFWC.org](mailto:PR@GFWC.org).  
Make sure to add a great action shot or two that brings your project to life!



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News & Notes will resume on Thursday, January 9, 2025. Thank you for subscribing to GFWC's weekly publication.

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1734 N ST NW | Washington, DC 20036  
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