

**Celia Szelwach, President**  
**P.O. Box 14459**  
**Bradenton, FL 34280-4459**  
Phone: 941-795-0928/Cell: 941-545-6383  
Fax: 941-795-0928  
Email: [cszelwach@creative-collaborations.com](mailto:cszelwach@creative-collaborations.com)  
Web: [www.creative-collaborations.com](http://www.creative-collaborations.com)  
Certified Veteran, Minority, Woman-Owned Business



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Women Veterans “Memorial Day Thank You”**

(Bradenton, FL) Celia Szelwach, President of Creative Collaborations Consulting recently delivered a presentation entitled “Women Veterans: Our Sisters in Service” for the Girls Rule Giving Circle on April 20<sup>th</sup>. During her presentation, Szelwach discussed the rapidly growing population of women veterans which currently numbers over 1.75 million or 7 percent of the total veteran population. By 2010, women veterans will comprise 10 percent of the total veteran population. Florida trails only California and Texas with a female veteran population of over 132,000. Approximately 5,000 women veterans currently reside in Manatee and Sarasota counties.

In order to support women veterans, particularly those from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF), Szelwach recommends more active outreach to include: an online women veteran’s network and community website, a “Find Our Women Vets Campaign”, hiring women veterans, inviting them to speak in schools and service club events, and honoring them during Women’s History Month, Memorial Day, and Veteran’s Day week celebrations.

On Friday, May 18th from 500-700pm at the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) of Manatee County, Szelwach and the Girls Rule Giving Circle will host a “Memorial Day Thank You for Women Veterans” including a light dinner, networking, and brief presentation to share an information packet for female vets. Women veterans and women serving on Active Duty, Reserves, or in the National Guard should contact Jane Parker, WRC Program Manager at 941-747-6797 or [wrcjp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wrcjp@tampabay.rr.com) to RSVP for the event.

Szelwach, a 1990 West Point graduate, Fort Bragg paratrooper, and former Army Captain, was appointed by the Honorable R. James Nicholson, the Secretary of the VA, to serve on the 14-member Advisory Committee on Women Veterans for a two-year term. Her active duty service from 1990-1995 included redeploying troops and equipment from Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and two humanitarian service missions—for Haitian migration to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and for Hurricane Andrew disaster relief in Miami, Florida.