



If there is to be any peace it will come through being, not having. Henry Miller

Reporting is over! And you did a great job. I love reading the stories of the projects. I do need to remind you that, just because you have a friend that did a wonderful project on their own, this does not mean you can take the credit because they are your friend. Good for you for having a wonderful friend. Sign them up to join your club and become a member.

Very proud that some clubs have done some great projects with our partners **USO** and **Sew Much Comfort**.

I'm sure at our next workshop you will hear some of the reports and be able to ask questions, etc. However, I had one club that I thought was so very creative. They put so much time and effort in their project that I could see every city following their lead. I am going to tell you just a little of what they did that just made my antennas stand up and read over and over. Great job ladies!

GFWC FORT WALTON BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB

Their report was named "War Memorial – Home of the Brave" and rightly so. The memorial was the idea of the club's president after attending the memorial for fallen alumni of Choctawhatchee High School. She felt that there needed to be a way to honor Choctaw's military alumni who gave their lives as a result of hostile action. Through many discussions and ideas, the mural came together through the efforts of one of their members who introduced the idea to a renowned muralist. The muralist took 5 days to complete.

To support the project, the club raised approximately \$11000.00 through donations and sponsorships for a 5K run/walk which took place on Veterans Day. The club partnered with the Northwest Florida Track Club from the community who provided their expertise in coordinating the run. The run was appropriately named "Home of the Brave" as a nod to the fallen and Choctawhatchee High School. They solicited sponsors for donations and were very fortunate that a local family donated \$5000.00 which allowed the project to move forward. Another donation came from the American Legion Auxiliary who donated \$1000.00.

Once the mural was underway, the next large task was confirmation the names of the alumni and then reaching out to the families of the fallen. The effort was to let them know about the mural and to possibly acquire a photo for the planned plaques, which were to be included in the mural. Since 10 of the fallen were a result of the Vietnam War, there was very limited information on the families and locating them proved to be a

huge task. Eventually, they were able to locate 10 families out of the 16 alumni. Eight families, along with their friends and other family members were able to attend the dedication which was held on September 2, 2016. The memorial will be a living memorial, which means if there is another alumni lost in combat, the GFWC Fort Walton Beach Woman's Club will undertake adding another plaque. The response from the families was astounding. Each family member who attended the dedication expressed their heartfelt gratitude and especially those whose loved one was lost in Vietnam. They were so grateful and felt that finally, they had closure for their family. The project was very humbling for the club members who assisted in the project. Approximately 400 volunteer hours were spent on this project.