PHYLLIS J. WILSON, US ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 (RETIRED) JOINS THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION AS NEW PRESIDENT

She succeeds Army Major General (retired) Dee Ann McWilliams who is retiring

(Arlington, Va., August 14, 2019)—Phyllis J. Wilson, US Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 (retired), will become the new president of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial (the Women’s Memorial or WIMSA) Foundation, which oversees the only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America since the American Revolution. On September 1, 2019, Wilson will succeed Army Major General (retired) Dee Ann McWilliams who has served as president of the Foundation since 2016.

“An accomplished, inclusive leader, Chief Wilson has the experience in nonprofit operations, community outreach and visionary leadership to lead our thriving and unique foundation towards a bright future,” said Army Major General (retired) Jan Edmunds, Chair of the Board of the Women In Military Service For America Foundation. “She shares the experiences of today’s military women and her forward-looking perspective and energy will help keep our true national treasure, the Women’s Memorial, viable and vibrant.”

Wilson comes to the Women’s Memorial Foundation following a 37-year military career. Most recently, she was a senior intelligence analyst for Calhoun International. She founded and led a non-profit, Wounded Warriors Have Families Too, Inc, has advised the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association, and has served on numerous boards, including the Allied Forces Foundation and the Army Women’s Foundation. Wilson is currently a member of the Council of Trustees of the Association of the United States Army and a Senior Fellow for Institute for the Institute of Land Warfare. She is already familiar with the Women’s Memorial Foundation having served as a WIMSA Ambassador in the state of Florida.

Wilson joined the Army as a private in 1981—enlisting like a majority of servicewomen. During her more than 37 years of active and reserve service, Wilson rose to the highest possible rank in her field and served as the Command Chief Warrant Officer for the United States Army Reserve. She served at all echelons, from tactical to strategic, and was mobilized during the first Gulf War. She also deployed twice to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She served in the active force and in the U.S. Army Reserve. As a citizen-soldier, she is a Registered
Nurse. Wilson has received the highest of recommendations from innumerable general officers as well as the Warrant Officer ranks, peers and subordinates alike. (Read bio here.)

"I know both Brig. Gen Wilma Vaught, the Memorial founder, and MG Dee McWilliams, both of whom are outstanding leaders. CW5 Wilson is a tremendous choice to follow in their footsteps," said Dennis Reimer, Former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. "Throughout her remarkable career, she has demonstrated she has the talent and skill set necessary to lead the Memorial Foundation into the future. In my opinion, she is absolutely the right choice for this critical position," he said.

“I am humbled to be chosen as the next president of the Women’s Memorial Foundation, an organization that plays a critical role in ensuring that the contributions of women to the nation’s defense are recognized, said Wilson. “I am honored to follow in the groundbreaking footsteps of General Wilma Vaught, whose drive and determination built the Memorial, as well as General Dee McWilliams, who has shepherded the organization through some of its most challenging times. I am excited to continue the evolution of the Foundation.”

Under General McWilliams leadership, the Women’s Memorial Foundation successfully established programs to reinvigorate its connection to military women and recruited Women’s Memorial Foundation ambassadors in every state to help educate the public on the service of military women and to encourage more women who served to connect and register their service with the Memorial. Additionally, McWilliams helped the organization completely clear its outstanding debt of $1.5 million through a combination of reduction strategies and securing commitments of support from key partners. And with the help of a Congressional strategist, she led a team that obtained federal funds to address deferred maintenance with the Memorial structure and began the process of updating the Memorial’s exhibits.

“The Foundation is well-poised for Chief Wilson’s leadership, given all our hard work and the support from donors who helped our organization become more fiscally strong than ever," said McWilliams.

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The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation maintains the only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America throughout history from the American Revolution to the present time. The Foundation is proud to recognize their devoted patriotism and courage as an integral part of our National heritage. The mission of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial and Education Center is to tell the story of women’s service to the Nation. Our goal is to make the history of women in the military—past and present—come alive as we honor their service. The Memorial hosts the world’s largest repository of Women Service stories registered by those who served, or their families.