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FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA TO VOLUNTEER WITH MISSION SERVE ON SEPTEMBER 11

First Lady will serve with Mission Serve partners George Washington University Freshman Day of Service, Pat Tillman Foundation, The Mission Continues, and Student Veterans of America at Vinson Hall Retirement Community for Veterans in McLean, Virginia

WASHINGTON, DC, September 9, 2010 – Michelle Obama, who along with Dr. Jill Biden last year helped to launch Mission Serve, the civilian-military initiative of the ServiceNation coalition, will be volunteering with Mission Serve and the George Washington (GW) University community this September 11, the National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Mission Serve, in the words of its Director, Afghanistan veteran Ross Cohen, is a network of non-profit organizations dedicated to “bringing together civilian and military communities through service and volunteerism.”

The First Lady will be serving with nearly two hundred GW Freshmen, veterans, active duty servicemembers, students, military retirees, spouses and Chesterbrook Elementary School students to renovate the Vinson Hall Retirement Community. The service is being coordinated with The George Washington University’s second annual Freshman Day of Service. Vinson Hall is supported by the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation, and among its residents include Navy Veterans of the Attack on Pearl Harbor and the Battle of Midway.

Serving with The First Lady will be Marie Tillman, Chair of the Pat Tillman Foundation, and George Washington University student and Tillman Military Scholar Amanda Thomson. After earning her Bachelor’s degree in 2006, Amanda enlisted in the Army and served honorably in Iraq. Now a student at GW, Amanda is pursuing her Master of Science degree in forensic science and high tech crime investigation.

Other guests will include CEO of Vinson Hall Rear Admiral Kathleen Martin (USN Ret.), George Washington University President Dr. Steven Knapp, and CEO of The Mission Continues Eric Greitens.

Service activities include renovating Vinson Hall’s loading dock, washing residents’ cars, and cleaning stairwells and storage rooms. There will also be gardening taking place at the adjacent Chesterbrook Elementary School. Chesterbrook’s community garden was inspired by the First Lady’s “Let’s Move” campaign.

September 11 was formally designated a National Day of Service and Remembrance by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in April 2009.

MISSION SERVE SEPTEMBER 11 SERVICE PROJECT:

Saturday, September 11, 2010

9 am – 3 pm: Service project.

1:15 pm: First Lady Michelle Obama will participate in a service project.

3 pm – 4 pm: There will be a reception and brief speaking engagement.

Speakers include:

Eric Greitens, Navy SEAL Veteran and CEO of The Mission Continues

U.S. Army Reserves Staff Sergeant Brian Hawthorne, President of GW Vets

Steve Lerman, Provost, The George Washington University

Vinson Hall Retirement Community

6251 Old Dominion Drive

McLean, Virginia, 22101

RSVP: Media who are interested in covering the First Lady's participation in this event can email firstladypress@who.eop.gov. A confirmation email will be sent if space is available to accommodate the news organization.

About Mission Serve

On Veterans Day (November 11) 2009, First Lady Michelle Obama, Dr. Jill Biden, Mrs. Alma Powell, and 1,500 members of the community joined together at George Washington University to launch *Mission Serve*.

As the [First Lady has said](#), "I've made it a priority to keep asking all Americans to join the cause of supporting our military families. And that's why last Veterans Day, Jill and I helped launch *Mission Serve* – a national network that brings civilian and military service groups together to help support our troops and families. But this network also encourages communities to tap that incredible spirit of service of our military families, as well as the talents of our veterans."

Mission Serve's Founding Chair, Chair, Colonel Rob Gordon, USA (Ret.), has [recently joined the Obama Administration](#) as the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, where he continues to forge innovative solutions to challenges facing our military families.

About Pat Tillman Foundation

The Pat Tillman Foundation is a national leader in providing educational support and resources to veterans, active servicemembers and their dependents. The Tillman Military Scholars program aids all veterans and specifically the ever-growing population of veterans and dependents of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

Inspired by the distinguished life and legacy of Pat Tillman, the Foundation is investing in veterans and military families through education, community and advocacy. The Tillman Military Scholars program is creating a community of scholars dedicated to improving their own lives, the lives of their families and their communities and country through a spirit of service. For more information on the Pat Tillman Foundation, visit www.patillmanfoundation.org

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