

## Women Veterans Make a Splash!

We are thrilled to announce the inaugural 'Women in the Water!' event at the Georgia Aquarium was a huge success. Over the weekend, March 12-13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, certified SCUBA divers, Gigglin' Marlin Dive & Swim who are trained with SDI Scubility Certifications and experienced snorkelers participated in an amazing in and underwater experience intended to provide adventure, support, connections, and great memories for veteran women. This could not have occurred without several non-profit and veteran service organizations joining forces in recognition of Women's History Month.

Three women veteran empowered organizations had a vision for this unique event: Humble Warrior Wellness & Yoga, Inc (Humble Warrior), LifeWaters nonprofit, and Georgia Military Women (GMW). The turnout was incredible with over 40 women veterans attending. Women flew in from Colorado, Texas, Missouri, and Wisconsin to join local women veterans from Georgia. A warm welcome and inspiring messages were provided by leaders from the partner organizations: Jill Campbell, LifeWaters Vice President and Director of Training, Dr. Amy Stevens, Founder of GMW and US Navy veteran, and Raquel Durden, retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel and Humble Warrior Chairwoman. Having the support of the newly appointed Georgia Veteran Services Commissioner, Patricia "Trish" Ross, was a delight as she shared reflections from her first 100 days in the position.

Over the two-day event, two dive groups and four snorkel groups shared the water with gentle giants such as whale sharks, giant manta rays, a rescue sea turtle appropriately named Tank the Turtle, and more. Tess O'Brien, a US Navy veteran shared, "This was, by far, the most amazing and humbling thing I have done". LifeWaters specializes in SCUBA diving training for disabled individuals (veterans, first responders, and civilians). The SCUBA diving skills are adapted for each disabled diver. As a nonprofit, they rely on donations, grants, and their volunteer dive staff to provide this wellness resource and experience. This was an adventure of a lifetime. We are so proud to say that women veterans made a BIG splash in the Georgia Aquarium and in the lives of other women veterans!

For more information visit:

[lifewaters.org](http://lifewaters.org)

[humblewarrior.org](http://humblewarrior.org)

[gigglinmarlin.com](http://gigglinmarlin.com)