



United States General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

February 20, 2001

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives

Subject: Federally Chartered Corporation: Review of the Financial Statement Audit Reports for the Gold Star Wives of America for Fiscal Years 1997-2000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested, we reviewed the audit reports covering the financial statements of the Gold Star Wives of America, a federally chartered corporation, for the fiscal years ended May 31, 2000, 1999, 1998, and 1997. The corporation's purpose is to operate in the public interest for patriotic, charitable, literary, educational, scientific or civic improvement purposes to honor the memory of those who have served the United States.

Federally chartered corporations are required under 36 U.S.C. 10101 to

- present the corporation's assets and liabilities and reasonable detail on the corporation's income and expenses in annual financial statements,
- obtain an annual financial audit by an independent public accountant, and
- submit the auditors' report and the corporation's financial statements to the Congress.

The objective of our review was to determine whether the audit reports complied with the financial reporting requirements of the law. In carrying out our work, we reviewed the corporation's financial statements and the accompanying notes, performed certain analytical procedures related to information presented in the financial statements, reviewed the auditors' reports, and made inquiries to corporation officials or the auditors as we deemed necessary. We did not review the auditors' working papers. Our review disclosed no reportable instances of noncompliance.

The audit reports included the auditors' opinions that the financial statements of the corporation were presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. We are returning the audit reports you sent with your letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Steinhoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being more prominent and the last name "Steinhoff" following in a similar style.

Jeffrey C. Steinhoff
Managing Director
Financial Management and Assurance

w/o Enclosures

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