



Press Release

Catherine Sanz
President
WIFLE Foundation, Inc.
wifle@comcast.net
www.wifle.org

WIFLE Foundation, Inc. supports the White House appointment of Julia Pierson as the first woman to head the United States Secret Service.

Women in federal law enforcement roles hold unique law enforcement positions in that it took Executive Order 11478, "Equal Employment Opportunity in the Federal Government," signed by President Richard Nixon on August 8, 1969, for women to be able to occupy federal government positions in the GS-1811 Criminal Investigator series and similar job categories from which they had previously been barred based only on their gender. Women began to occupy positions that held authority to carry firearms, execute search warrants and make arrests in 1971. The number of women in federal law enforcement has not been measured since 2008 but research at that time estimated the percentage of women at 15-20% by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The reason for the approximation is that all agencies did not report their statistics for the survey.

According to the BJS, the growth of women in federal law enforcement is less than one tenth of one percent from 1998 to 2008. Currently there are approximately 18,000 female federal law enforcement officers in the United States.

Ms. Pierson has been a staunch supporter of Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE) including providing the keynote address at our 2009 annual awards ceremony. The President's appointment of Julia Pierson as Director of the United States Secret Service is a significant milestone for women in all law enforcement agencies. When women rise to the top positions in federal law enforcement agencies, they serve as important role models for other women. In addition to serving as a role model, Ms. Pierson (along with others) serves in a policy making position that impacts the recruitment, retention and promotion of women and the efficacy of federal law enforcement.

For WIFLE release March 27, 2013
2200 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 102 PMB-204
Arlington, VA 22201-3324
301-805-2180