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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2004

REPRESENTATIVE CULP JOINS FELLOW WOMEN LEGISLATORS ON TRIP TO BAHRAIN

Tampa, FL — State Representative Faye Culp (R-District 57) has been invited to join a geographically diverse team of several local, state and federal women legislators who have expressed interest and expertise in International Relations on an upcoming trip to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The trip, scheduled for September 4-9, 2004, is part of an ongoing international outreach by the **National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL)** to facilitate global understanding between countries; provide political leadership training for women; and create business and trade opportunities. In past years, NFWL has traveled to Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil, and the Czech Republic to promote economic and democratic relationships with the United States. Representative Culp will be taking part in this year's trip to Bahrain as the incoming President of the National Order of Women Legislators.

The Foundation's literature regarding the trip states, "In the present state of current affairs, we feel it is important for women legislators in the U.S. to reach out to the Middle East. Not only is the Kingdom of Bahrain a longtime friend of the United States, it has also made remarkable democratic strides in the last few years. [Women received the right to vote in 2001]. We hope to strengthen this relationship, especially in terms of economic and democratic cooperation."

Prior to leaving, the team will be briefed by a U.S. Trade Representative on the United States' economic relationship with Bahrain. The trip itinerary includes scheduled meetings with the King and Queen, Parliament, Chamber of Commerce, and the Supreme Council for Women. Upon their return, arrangements will be made for various media opportunities, including outreach to local, national and international media describing the experience and individual impressions of the trip. The team members will also report to NFWL's International Policy Committee at the organization's 2004 Annual Conference, which will take place in November at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota, Florida. Representative Culp was a major force in arranging for this year's national conference to be held in Florida.

Further information on this and other NFWL projects can be found at www.womenlegislators.org, or by contacting Lillian Glidden, NFWL International Policy Coordinator at 202-293-3040 ext. 1003.

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