

Contact

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(LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Management
English
PowerPoint

Languages

English (Native or Bilingual)
Korean (Limited Working)

Certifications

Certificate in Public and Nonprofit
Leadership

Honors-Awards

2017 Armed Forces Insurance Fort
Meade Base Spouse of the Year
Bowie State University Presidential
Student Leadership Award
(Graduate Student)
LMI Student Veteran National
Scholarship
Hillvets100 Class of 2017
Silver STRAC Award

Publications

Student Veteran Spotlight
How the SVA Leadership Institute
Series Helped Me Develop My
Leadership Skills
How Google's Resume Workshop
Gave Me Fresh Perspective
This DoD program gives transitioning
service members 24/7 access to
mental health help
Leading Without a Mask

Maureen Elias

US. Army Veteran | Government Relations Professional | Passionate
Veteran Advocate | Storyteller | 2021 VA Woman Veteran Trailblazer
| 2021 Mighty 25 | views expressed are my own.

Oakton, Virginia, United States

Summary

Experienced advocate with substantial knowledge of key veteran issues and intimate knowledge and acquaintance with military and veteran non-profit groups currently serving in a leadership role in research, development, and advocacy of public policy for the benefit of military service members, veterans, and their families. Over 19 years experience with the U.S. Military service, both active duty and as a veteran. Have spent the last 15 years advocating for military family and veterans' issues employing exceptional interpersonal communications skills, while collaborating with multiple organizations to achieve a common goal.

Experience

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

1 year 8 months

Deputy Chief Of Staff

June 2022 - Present (1 year 5 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Advisor to the Chief of Staff

March 2022 - June 2022 (4 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP)

Storytelling Instructor

October 2020 - Present (3 years 1 month)

United States

U.S. House of Representatives

Professional Staff Member

July 2021 - March 2022 (9 months)

United States

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Associate Legislative Director of Government Relations

December 2019 - June 2021 (1 year 7 months)

801 18th St NW, District of Columbia, Washington DC 20006

Develop and advance PVA federal policy agenda.

Support PVAs team of advocates and campaign staff to advance policy goals.

Seek out and identify policy opportunities related to issue portfolio and make recommendations regarding policy positions and messaging.

Develop strong and collaborative relationships with federal agencies, partner organizations, coalitions, legislators and congressional staff on both sides of the aisle, and other stakeholders to advance shared goals.

Draft materials for lawmakers, the public, and the media to help advance PVA campaigns, including action campaign emails, factsheets, bill summaries and policy briefs, regulatory comments, analyses, and presentations.

Center for Law and Military Policy

Advisory Council Member

October 2018 - June 2021 (2 years 9 months)

Huntington Beach, CA

Aid CLMP in making structural and systemic changes. Advise and provide guidance on strategic policy and implementation-related matters.

The Center for Law and Military Policy is dedicated to empowering survivors of military sexual assault. We believe survivors should be able to sue their assailants in civil court. Those who protect the nation in uniform should have the same rights as the civilians they protect.

High Ground Veterans Advocacy

Member Board Of Directors

August 2018 - June 2021 (2 years 11 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

- Trained five novice advocates per class on national advocacy.
- Taught the basics of writing op-eds, one pagers, and the creation of other materials for distribution on the Hill.
- Worked with advocates to develop social media presence and how to develop grass-roots movements behind their efforts to affect policy change.

HillVets

HillVets Lead Protegee

June 2020 - January 2021 (8 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Public policy and leadership program focused on defense and veteran policy issues.

Vietnam Veterans of America

2 years 10 months

Assistant Director, The Veterans Health Council

January 2018 - December 2019 (2 years)

Silver Spring, Maryland

- Partnered with organizations to co-author articles on VHC topics that were published in Good Day Magazine, the National Grange Newsletter, the Soldier for Life newsletter, and Marine for Life online Network reaching over 5 million veterans.
- Represented the VHC at stakeholder meetings, congressional events, government agencies to include the DoD, NASEM, VA, advocacy organizations, and other organizations.
- Provided research summaries and analyses to enable policy creation using multiple streams of data to investigate comprehensive and complex projects on a range of physical and mental health-related issues.
- Created and regularly posted content on VHC social media channels, the VVA Veteran, and partners to an audience of approximately 2 million consumers.
- Delivered testimony in multiple congressional briefings on veteran health care and mental health, testified in front of the FDA and around the Nation on Opioid Dependence and Withdrawal.
- Co-planned and presented around the Nation at VVA Leadership Convention, VVA regional conferences, and community centers on PTSD, Secondary PTSD, and suicide risk and prevention, substance use disorder.
- Contributed to several media outlets as a consultant or quoted to include the CBS Podcast Connecting Vets, Military Times, Wall Street Journal, Fort Meade Sound off, Capital Gazette, VA Facebook Live, and the VVA Veteran.
- Ensured the successful transition of VHC operations through the sudden transition of two Directors in a five-month period.
- Translation of policy to impact statements to educate and motivate members and partners to action
- Wrote grants that increased annual fundraising from 50K to 150K

Veterans Health Council, Research Assistant and Veterans Advocate

March 2017 - January 2018 (11 months)

8719 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910

- Uses multiple streams of data to find information on comprehensive and complex projects
- Network with large contingency of local and intellectual leaders to work towards veteran health related concerns

Veterans in Global Leadership

Fellow

July 2017 - June 2018 (1 year)

Georgetown University

Attend a formal and structured four-day training program about scholarship or fellowship development, career guidance and networking at Georgetown University in Washington DC.

Each student veteran is provided a formal mentor for one academic year.

Mentors are prominent or rising figures in their fields.

Veterans in Global Leadership brings together the best and brightest minds in national security and foreign policy fields. Veterans in Global Leadership hosts events for their fellows throughout the U.S. from think tanks to top universities.

Veterans in Global Leadership provides specific support for specialized issues that female fellows navigate in their academic and professional lives. The program includes monthly calls with the current female fellows, and other professional and development support.

Fellowship Eligibility Requirements:

U.S. student veteran

Honorable discharge

Minimum 3.2 GPA and good academic standing with the university

Pascal Crisis Stabilization Center

Mental Health Counselor

May 2017 - December 2017 (8 months)

107 Circle Drive, Crownsville, MD 21032

During Internship, Conducted 1:1 individual counseling sessions with clients in an inpatient setting.

The main objective was to offer clients alternative solutions in coping with life's problems besides the use of substances.

Charted and recorded information in client files.

Quickly responded to crisis situations when severe mental health and behavioral issues arose.

Documented all patient information including service plans, treatment reports and progress notes.

Taught clients anger management techniques, relaxation skills, impulse control, social skills, emotional coping skills and functional living skills. Referred clients to other programs and community agencies to enhance treatment processes.

Guided clients in understanding illnesses and treatment plans.

Diagnosed mental health, emotional and substance abuse disorders.

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

Mental Health Counseling

February 2017 - December 2017 (11 months)

1821 Portal Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

Interned with Creative Alternatives during the Practicum, Internship I, and Internship II portion of my master's degree program.

Population of clients included adults with persistent mental illness who may not respond well to traditional treatment methods.

Referenced and used various therapy techniques.

Served patients with schizophrenia, bipolar, depression, anxiety, and personality disorders.

Conducted 1:1 individual counseling sessions with clients in an outpatient setting.

Charted and recorded information in client files.

Quickly responded to crisis situations when severe mental health and behavioral issues arose.

Taught clients anger management techniques, relaxation skills, impulse control, social skills, emotional coping skills, and functional living skills.

Referred clients to other programs and community agencies to enhance treatment processes.

Guided clients in understanding illnesses and treatment plans.

Diagnosed mental health, emotional, and substance abuse disorders.

Bowie State University

2 years 5 months

Mental Health Counseling, Master's of Arts

August 2015 - December 2017 (2 years 5 months)

Bowie State University

Received a Master's of Arts in Mental Health Counseling

Vice President of Internal Affairs, Graduate Student Association

August 2016 - June 2017 (11 months)

14000 Jericho Road

Prepare and submit all contracts

Attend university meetings as needed

Responsible for sending photos and information of events to university webmaster

Maintain and update the GSA calendar and website

Create and maintain a quarterly GSA newsletter

Student Veterans of America

Chapter President

December 2015 - June 2017 (1 year 7 months)

Bowie, Maryland

Incorporated non-military affiliated students into the organization, advocated to bring awareness to the needs to student veterans, worked to develop pride of service to the veteran staff and faculty, and cultivated relationships between eight community veteran service organizations and BSU student veterans. Completed the paperwork to make the BSUSVA a chapter of the Student Veterans of America and earned a \$1000 grant from Bank of America for the BSUSVA.

Selected as one the top 100 2016 student veteran leaders of the year and traveled to Dallas, Texas for the Student Veterans of America Leadership Institute.

As a result of veteran advocacy work on campus, the school now has a special recognition designation on the school id cards for veteran students, staff, and faculty. Working to help develop a paid mentor-ship program for veteran students at the university.

US Army

Counter Intelligence Agent

January 2001 - June 2006 (5 years 6 months)

Darmstadt Area, Germany, Monterey, CA

- Gathered, analyzed, correlated, and evaluated information from a variety of resources, such as law enforcement databases.
- Prepared comprehensive written reports, presentations, maps, and charts based on research, collection, and analysis of intelligence data.
- Collaborated with representatives from other government and intelligence organizations to share information and coordinate intelligence activities.
- Supervised and conducted investigations, collections and operations to detect, identify, counter, exploit and neutralize adversarial, Foreign Intelligence Service and Terrorist threats to Army and Department of Defense Equities

- Conducted CI collection activities and source operations including overt collection, surveillance and non-technical operations.
- Conducted weekly briefings to incoming personnel on Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army.
- Completed over 200 Top Secret and Secret Personnel Security Clearance investigations.

Education

Bowie State University

Master's degree, Mental Health Counseling/Counselor · (2015 - 2017)

Campbell University

Bachelor's degree, Psychology · (2010 - 2012)

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

Korean Language and Culture Proficiency, Korean Language and Literature · (2004 - 2006)