



**Carlos U. Fuentes**  
**Director**  
**National Legislative Service**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

Carlos Fuentes is the Director of the National Legislative Service for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It is his responsibility to plan, coordinate and implement the VFW's national legislative agenda with members of Congress, their staff and committees, and with other federal departments, agencies and organizations.

His mission is to work with Congress to create and protect the Quality of Life programs and services provided by the federal government to veterans, service members and their families, and to help defeat proposals that are not beneficial to America's veteran and military communities. This includes executing the VFW's Priority Goals, as it pertains to budgets, appropriations, health care, veterans' benefits and national security issues, as well as working on *The Independent Budget*, which is a comprehensive budget recommendation and policy document created by veterans for veterans.



Carlos served six years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve as a Civil Affairs Noncommissioned Officer. In 2009, he deployed to Helmand, Afghanistan, where he helped develop governmental infrastructure and contributed to humanitarian relief efforts in the war-torn region.

Prior to joining the VFW, he helped develop and pass veterans' health care legislation as a staff member on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs from 2011 to 2014.

In 2012, Carlos received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in International Studies from The American University, Washington, D.C. He is a life member of VFW Post 5627 in College Park, Md.

He and his wife, Claudia Lainez, reside in Beltsville, Md.