

### **Staff Sergeant Patricia King, US Army**

SSG King is a combat tested infantry soldier having served 19 years in the United States Army. Ms. King grew up on Cape Cod, in Massachusetts, and graduated from Cape Cod Technical High School in 1999. She is the only child of Kenneth and Veronica King.

Joining the Army after graduation, SSG King has been assigned in Vicenza, Italy, Fort Drum, NY, Fort Polk LA, Fort Carson, CO and Fort Lewis, WA. She has deployed to Afghanistan 3 times and has received the Combat Infantrymen's Badge and the Bronze Star.

Ms. King began transition from male to female in January of 2015. She became affiliated with an organization called SPARTA, a transgender led LGBT organization at the forefront for the fight for open transgender service in the military and the country's largest support group tailored specifically for transgender service members. SSG King has served as the Army Chapter leader of SPARTA from 2015-2017.

SSG King has been invited to the Pentagon on several occasions to advise senior leaders on transgender military policy and experiences. In January 2018, she was invited by Congressmen Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA) to attend the State of the Union address. This appearance was meant to bring attention the honorable service of transgender service members throughout the country and abroad.

Ms. King volunteers at both her church and as suicide hotline operator. In 2016, Ms. King graduated with a BS in interdisciplinary studies from Liberty University. She is a parent of two children; Peyton, age 12 and Isaiah, age 11 and currently lives in Tacoma, WA. She is an avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast and a pet owner who enjoys the company of her dogs and cats.