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# Biographical **INFO**

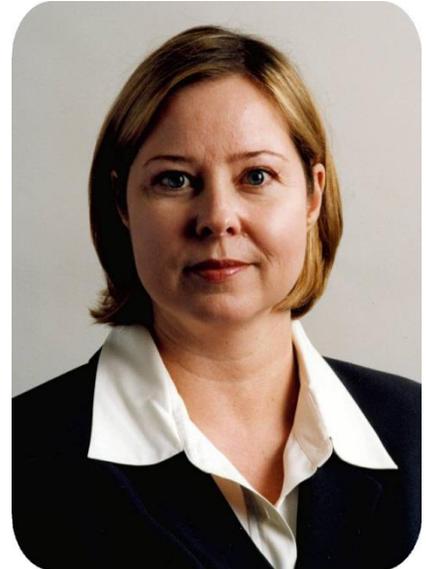
## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

### **JOY J. ILEM**

Deputy National Legislative Director  
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

Joy J. Ilem, a U.S. Army service-connected disabled veteran, was appointed Deputy National Legislative Director of the 1.2 million-member DAV on June 13, 2009.

Ms. Ilem is employed at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C. As a member of the DAV's legislative team, she directs the advancement of DAV's public policy objectives to promote and defend reasonable and responsible legislation to assist disabled veterans and their families nationwide, while guarding current veteran's benefits and services from legislative erosion.



Ms. Ilem began her DAV career as a member of Class III at National Service Officer Training Academy in Denver. She graduated in 1996 and was assigned as an NSO Trainee at the National Service Office in Phoenix, Ariz. In 1997, she was assigned as a National Appeals Officer with the DAV staff at the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C. In 1999, she was transferred to the National Service and Legislative Headquarters to serve as an Associate National Legislative Director and appointed Assistant Director in 2000, holding that title until her current appointment.

A native of Shakopee, Minn., Ms. Ilem was raised in the greater Minneapolis area, and is a 1977 graduate of Totino Grace High School in Fridley, Minn. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona at Tucson in 1994, majoring in archaeology, with a minor in religious studies.

Ms. Ilem enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1982. Following basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and advanced medical training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, she was assigned as a medic to the 67<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital in Wurzburg, Germany, where she underwent additional certification as an emergency medical technician (EMT). Ms. Ilem's military duties included emergency room assignments and non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of recovery room operations. She was honorably discharged from the Army in 1985.

A life member of DAV Chapter 10, Arlington-Fairfax, VA., Ms. Ilem resides in Alexandria, VA.