



Mario A. Marquez
Director
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division
The American Legion
Washington, D.C. National Headquarters

Mario Marquez currently serves as the Director for The American Legion's National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division. His responsibilities include managing a staff dedicated to the timely and compassionate delivery of benefits earned by U.S. military veterans; directing all matters involving veterans' healthcare, disability compensation claims and appeals, pension, debt management, discharge upgrades, military record corrections, life insurance, memorial affairs; and drafting and presenting testimony before Congress on all subjects pertaining to veterans' healthcare and benefits.

Mario retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a Sergeant Major with more than 31 years of service where he served in multiple positions across Expeditionary, Ground Combat, Aviation, and Logistics organizations. His duties included serving as a Landing Support Specialist, Drill Instructor, Combat Service Support Chief, Company Gunnery Sergeant, Operations Chief, First Sergeant, and Sergeant Major. The pinnacle of his career was serving as the III Marine Expeditionary Force Sergeant Major, the largest overseas-positioned Marine Corps combat force. During his military service, Mario spent 20 of 31 years deployed or stationed overseas during which he participated in four combat tours in Iraq; supported Operations Inherent Resolve, Southern Watch, and Enduring Freedom in the Middle East; earthquake disaster relief in Japan, and operations in Central America, Africa, and Kosovo. His personal decorations include two Legions of Merit, one Bronze Star, two Meritorious Service Medals; three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals; and five Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Mario is a member of American Legion Post #28 and VFW Post #9723 in Okinawa, Japan; Marine Corps Heritage Foundation; and life member of DAV. He is finishing his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland Global Campus and currently resides in the Washington D.C. area with his wife.