

Michael McLaughlin is the Legislative Director for the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) and serves as the County Veterans Service Officer for Blue Earth County, Minnesota, assisting veterans and their dependents in accessing their benefits. Michael grew up in Mankato, Minnesota, and is the son of Theresa and Tom McLaughlin. His father is a Vietnam veteran who served as an infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines before being severely wounded by enemy gunfire during the Tet Offensive. After high school Michael enlisted in the Marine Corps as an infantryman serving with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, deploying in 2004 and again in 2006 supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Michael and his wife Megan were married in 2006 and returned to Mankato the following year where Michael attended Minnesota State University. After he completed his bachelor's degree, Michael worked in the private mining sector in southern Minnesota. In order to work with his fellow veterans, he switched careers in 2013, accepting a position with Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (VA SSVF provider) as the sole homeless veterans outreach worker for the lower 37 Counties in Minnesota. In 2016, he began work in his current position as a County Veterans Service Officer. Michael was also appointed the VA Secretary's Rural Health Advisory Committee in 2016, serving until 2022. He was the recipient of the 2017 Minnesota Humanities Center Veteran on the Rise award. That same year, Michael accepted his current appointment to Legislative Director for NACVSO. In 2023, Michael was recognized by his peers across the country and received both the NACVSO's Distinguished CVSO and President's Award. He currently serves on the Mankato City Council representing Ward 1. Michael and Megan reside in Mankato, with their three children, Carly, Marcus, and Erin.