



Mario Marquez

Executive Director

Government Affairs

The American Legion National Headquarters

Washington, D.C.

Mario Marquez currently serves as the Executive Director of Government Affairs for The American Legion National Headquarters. His responsibilities include: managing a staff dedicated to the timely and compassionate delivery of benefits earned by U.S. military veterans; overseeing the daily functions of employees who support the commissions and committees of The American Legion (i.e. Legislative, National Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Veterans Education and Employment); and serving as the Legion's liaison to the President of the United States, Vice President, heads of the executive departments and other cabinet-level officials, members of Congress, and organizations with an interest and impact on military veteran and service member issues. Mario's previous assignments in the Legion include: Director, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division and Director, National Security Division.

Mario retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a Sergeant Major after more than 31 years, 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, participating in four combat tours in Iraq (OIF), Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom and supported Operations Inherent Resolve in the Middle East; earthquake disaster relief in Kobe/Osaka, Japan (1995), Operation Tomodachi (earthquake, tsunami, Tohoku Region, Japan-2011), Peace Keeping during Operation Dynamic Response in Kosovo and other exercises / operations in Central America and Africa. 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 an Executive Board Member of The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. He is a member of American Legion Post #28 in Okinawa, Japan, and the Marine Corps Association. He is a life member with the Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 1503 in Virginia, Marine Corps League, Disabled American Veterans and Naval Order of the United States.

Mario received his Bachelor of Arts, Summa Cum Laude, in East Asian Studies and Associate of Arts from the University of Maryland Global Campus. He is currently a graduate Student in Syracuse University's Executive Master's in International Relations Program in partnership with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Mario currently resides in Virginia with his wife.