



Kayda Keleher
Associate Director
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Kayda Keleher is an Associate Director for the National Legislative Service of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It is her responsibility to analyze and consult with Congress on issues related to health care, homelessness and women veterans.

Kayda was born in Camp Lejeune, N.C., where both her parents served in the Marine Corps, though she considers Buffalo, N.Y., to be her hometown. She enlisted into the Marine Corps out of high school and served five years as a combat correspondent working in public affairs. During her time on active duty she served one tour in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where she was responsible for journalism coverage of Female Engagement Teams, and worked alongside them in humanitarian efforts surrounding women and children.



After returning from Afghanistan, she began using the Post-9/11 GI Bill with a focus on biology in Buffalo, N.Y. While attending school she also worked as a women's refugee liaison, helping them learn English as well as integrate into American culture. Kayda moved to Washington, D.C. to pursue further education in psychology and public health at the American University.

Kayda has done volunteer work with a private, veteran-owned art therapy company for individuals with PTSD, and worked as the studies coordinator for AU's veteran community, where she served as a liaison between researchers and veterans. Kayda began at the VFW as a fellow, focused on women veterans and mental health. She later went on to cover the VFW's economic opportunities portfolio as a legislative associate, before being promoted to her current position and covering the health care portfolio.

Kayda currently resides in Washington, D.C., and is a member of VFW Post 5627 in College Park, Md., where she continues to serve on various panels and advisory groups addressing veterans' health care and benefits.

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