



Marisa Schultz Effingham, Illinois

Marisa Schultz is a Combat Veteran deeply committed to supporting veterans. Marisa's academic journey began at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois, where she earned her associate degree in Psychology before joining the Illinois National Guard detachment in Decatur, Illinois. She underwent basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Bliss, Texas. After completing her training, she continued her education at Eastern Illinois University. In December 2003, during her final year at Eastern Illinois, Marisa was deployed with her unit, 1544th Trans, out of Paris, Illinois, to Iraq. During her deployment, she served as a Gun Truck Driver, escorting civilian KBR mail trucks throughout the country. Tragically, her unit lost five soldiers during their year rotation, and 32 Purple Hearts were awarded.

Following her return from Iraq in March 2005, Marisa completed her Bachelor's Degree in business that same year. She then worked as a Human Resource Assistant before establishing her own business, which she owned and operated from 2006 to 2020. In 2020, Marisa pivoted her career to follow her passion for helping veterans and began working with The Salvation Army's Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program to support homeless veterans. She started as a Case Manager and is now a Health Care Navigator. She uses her position to help Veterans navigate the VA system and advocate for their care.

She is also an active church member committed to various community organizations, including serving as the Experience Lead/Public Relations Coordinator for the American Cancer Society's Bark for Life and President of a Non-Profit - Veterans of Log Base Seitz (VLBS). Marisa has received numerous accolades for her outstanding service and leadership. She has been a guest speaker at Christy Wright's Business Boutique Event, a guest panelist for Facebook, and featured in St. Louis Post Dispatch Stories of Honor. She is also an active alumnus of the Wounded Warrior Project, having served as Peer Leader and now, Warrior Advocacy Leader. Additionally, she served as Post Commander at Champaign Post 2019 American Legion in Champaign, Illinois, which honors one of the fallen soldiers from her unit. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R).

She was raised in Effingham, Illinois, and currently resides there with her husband, Michael Schultz, and their four children - Jackson, Julia, Donovan, and Liam, aged 16, 14, 11, and 11, respectively.