

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

Deborah Frett

Deborah Frett serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Business and Professional Women/USA and Business and Professional Women's Foundation. In this role, she ensures that the strategic goals of the organizations are achieved and supervises their implementation. In addition, Ms. Frett creates relationships to further the respective missions of the organizations. She is a frequent speaker and panelist on the creation of successful workplaces, pay equity, and advocacy issues as they pertain to working women, including women veterans. Ms. Frett is heavily involved in policy discussions and an advocate with regard to veteran issues and support for women and families.

Previously, Ms. Frett was an entrepreneur serving as an independent consultant and chief executive officer for DFA Project Solutions. She provided senior-level management and consultation on business strategy development, marketing, management, and operations for various projects and initiatives. Ms. Frett also served as executive director for an online start-up, SeniorNavigator, a public-private partnership initiative with the Virginia Health Care, AOL Time Warner, and CollisWarner Foundations. She was involved in the organization's grass roots advocacy at the state level, building coalitions on issues and bringing the necessary resources together to implement successful efforts.

Ms. Frett has a bachelor's degree in sociology from Quincy University in Quincy, Illinois. She has earned advanced certification in nonprofit management through The Nonprofit Organizations Program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Patty Hayes, Ph.D.

Dr. Patty Hayes was appointed by Secretary of Veterans Affairs James B. Peake, M.D. and Under Secretary for Health Michael J. Kussman, M.D. as Chief Consultant, Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group, effective April 13, 2008, having served as Acting Chief Consultant since February 2007. In the past year, Dr. Hayes has successfully worked across VHA to expand initiatives for women veterans' health care into a broad range of areas, including cardiac health, reproductive health and birth defect prevention, and full evaluation of care provision to the increasing numbers of women veterans. In addition, she has promoted comprehensive primary care to women veterans, including to the unique population of women with physical disabilities. Dr. Hayes also works across federal agencies, such as the Departments of Defense and Health and Human Services, to enhance the provision of quality care to women veterans.

Dr. Hayes has significant expertise in sexual trauma and recovery, serving for seven years as Victim Services Coordinator at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, a nonprofit counseling service. From there she moved to the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, initially using her expertise in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) counseling with veterans experiencing combat PTSD. In the mid-1990s, Dr. Hayes was appointed as Lead Women Veteran Program manager for Pittsburgh and for VISN 4, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Dr. Hayes also has published peer-reviewed research and regularly lectured University of Pittsburgh medical students, residents, and medical and psychology fellows.

Dr. Hayes received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Washington in 1974 and earned a master's degree in 1978 and her Ph.D. in 1984, both in clinical psychology, from Catholic University in Washington, DC.

Krista Korbar

Krista Korbar, a disabled veteran of the Bosnian conflict, became a National Service Officer for the 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in 2007. Based in Baltimore, Maryland, Ms. Korbar works to secure benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and functions as an "attorney-in-fact" for the veterans and families that she capably represents.

A life member of DAV Chapter 18 in Towson, Maryland, Ms. Korbar serves on the Maryland Department Women's Committee. As an active member of DAV, she has participated in various outreach programs and counseled members on their benefits.

Ms. Korbar served in the U.S. Army's 415th Civil Affairs Battalion under the U.S. Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command. While deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge and Operation Joint Guard, she received the Joint Service Commendation Medal. Her 17-year military career ended when she sustained a spinal injury during a training exercise at Fort Custer, Michigan.

Ms. Korbar is a native of Buffalo, New York and holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from American Military University, Manassas, Virginia.

CAPT Lory Manning, USN (Ret.)

Lory Manning is the Director of the Women in the Military project at the Women's Research & Education Institute in Arlington, Virginia.

Captain Manning served in the U.S. Navy for over 25 years. While on active duty, she served on the staffs of the Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Naval Personnel, Chief of Legislative Affairs, and on the London staff of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe. Her field tours include Communications Officer, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NCTS) Iceland; Executive Officer, NCTS Balboa, Panama; and Commanding Officer, NCTS Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.

Captain Manning served on the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans from March 1998 through September 2004. She currently serves on the Military Advisory Committee of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

She holds a bachelor's degree in history from Trinity College, Washington DC and a master's degree in liberal studies from Georgetown University. She also is a graduate of the College of Command and Staff, US Navy War College, and the Post-Command Course of the US Navy War College.