



LESLIE HAYNES

Leslie's family lineage would come from her mother's and father's sides of the family(s). Her grandfathers were both in the U.S. Army. Her father was in the U.S. Army and her mother served in the U.S. Army National Guard. Two of her uncles also served (one in U.S. Army and one in the U.S. Marine Corps). She wanted to fill in the generational gap of being in the U.S. military by joining R.O.T.C Marines in high school. Her first promotion from a private was to lance corporal. Changes in school brought about different outcomes in her life within the military realm.

Leslie would marry the love of her life just three years before he would die from a rare cancer that had metastasized (per his oncologist) in 2009. Rodric was a Staff Sergeant (E-6 SSG) in the U.S. Army with a promotional status of a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Sergeant/ Sergeant first class (E-7 SNCO/SFC). His MOS as a technical inspector of the AH-64 Longbow Apache would cause him to live on the tarmac (where burn pits were) while on deployments. Rodric was what some would call a "Lifer" because of his love and commitment to his country, his dedication to his soldiers, and his professionalism in his military career. Leslie stated, "In a sense, he is and will always be a "Lifer" as long as I continue to bring support and awareness to the soldier(s) and their "REAL" supporters, their families."

Leslie has a multitude of degrees (in various areas) ranging from Associates of Medical Assistants, Bachelors in Addiction Studies/Health Education from the University of Central Arkansas (alumnus), and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (alumnus).

Leslie is a current member of the Gold Star Wives of America, INC. since 2011. She serves as the South-Central Region Vice President which encompasses Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

She has worked closely with Andrea Fisher and other gold star family members on various projects by making suggestions and voting i.e using the artwork that she proposed (of the pried open chained heart link) that would be forever engrained into the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument sponsored by the Hershel "Woody" Williams Foundation.

Her memberships range from Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (T.A.P.S), Arkansas Patriot Guard Riders, Honorary member of the American Legion Post #74, National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Arkansas Association of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors (AAADAC). National Association of Social Workers (NASW).