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## VA attorney named as finalist for Military.com's Spouse Changemaker of the Year award

An attorney in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was recently named April 8 by news and information website Military.com as a finalist for its Military Spouse Changemaker of the Year 2019 award, which identifies and celebrates individuals who have made a sizable, direct impact on a specific area of military life.

An attorney for VA's Board of Veterans Appeals and a military spouse, Libby Jamison was honored for her work as a volunteer with the Military Spouse JD Network (MSJDN), an organization that advocates for licensing accommodations for military spouse attorneys, educates the public about the challenges career-minded military spouses face, encourages the hiring of military spouses and provides networking opportunities for military spouses in the legal profession.

"We applaud Libby for her leadership and advocacy for the military spouse community," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Her commitment to ensure that military spouses can continue working in their chosen profession, no matter where they live, speaks to VA's promise to provide better care and services for Veterans and their families."

Licensed-professional military spouses face an extra hurdle when they are relocated, as their licenses cannot always transfer between states. Jamison, who currently serves on MSJDN's board of directors as the immediate past president was instrumental in achieving bar-licensing changes in California and Washington - making it easier for military spouse attorneys to obtain licenses in those states. She is also co-founder of MissionLICENSE, which helps licensed professionals maintain career continuity with minimal disruption when transferring to another jurisdiction.

Jamison's achievements complement the Board of Veterans' Appeals' organizational efforts to support military spouses. In October 2018, the Board partnered with the Department of Defense' (DOD) Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP) as one of more than 390 affiliated employers who have committed to recruit, hire, promote and retain military spouses in portable careers. The MSEP is part of DOD's broader Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program.

Jamison is one of three award finalists. A single winner will be announced May 8 during the Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year reception just outside Washington, D.C.

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