

Latia Suttle was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She joined the military when she was 17 years old and honorably retired from the U.S. Army in 2014. Latia achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Two. Her MOS's were 920B Supply Systems Technician and 920A Property Accounting Technician. Latia had many duty assignments and deployments such as Ansbach, Germany; Dharan, Saudi Arabia; Fort Bragg, NC; Darien, IL; Dangriga, Belize; Camp Casey, South Korea; Fort Lee, VA; Fort Buchanan, PR (Puerto Rico), Baton Rouge, LA; Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; March Air Reserve Base, CA and Iraq.

Currently she is involved in the veteran community through such organizations and affiliations as The National Public Relations Officer for The National Association of Black Military Women, Chairperson of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee within the NAACP Beverly Hills/Hollywood Branch, Vice Chairperson of the California- Hawaii State Conference Armed Services and Veterans Affairs of the NAACP, member of the Mary McLeod Bethune Los Angeles section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., member of Community Coalition and Founder of the Reimagining Child Safety Group.

Latia is also a Certified Peer Support Specialist that assists individuals to regain control over their lives and their recovery process. Latia advocates for Women Veterans and their children stuck in the Family Court and Dependency Court crisis where children are being taken away from their mothers.

Latia is the recipient of the 2023 CalVet Trailblazer Award which honors remarkable individuals who are veterans themselves, dedicated to championing the cause of fellow veterans, with a special focus on women who have served. They are resilient women who have transitioned from military service to civilian life, achieving personal success, and actively assisting others on their journey to do the same. Latia is also the recipient of the 2021 Betty Fisher award, a prestigious honor awarded to an individual who demonstrates an outstanding commitment and dedication to the field of domestic violence prevention and intervention. Latia has written several resolutions for the NAACP to support veterans to include those impacted by Family Court and Deportation to name a few.

Latia wrote and submitted a bill proposal to start identifying Military Veterans when cases are open in Family Court. That proposal later developed into SB 1182 (Eggman). The bill was approved and signed by California Governor Galvin Newsom on September 17, 2022.

This is just a start to change what is happening amongst the veteran community in Family Court and Dependency Court. There is so much more to do for veterans like herself who have never

had a criminal charge, never been arrested, never drank nor did drugs. Veterans should not have to commit a crime to get the same wrap around support and connection to services that's given in Veteran Treatment court which is **only** available to veterans who have a criminal charge in addition to having a substance abuse problem or mental health challenge. SB 1182 (Eggman) is a start in the right direction to prevent a downward spiral for veterans with cases in Family Court.