

Influential Women Highlights Marquiesha Gillispie: Advancing Federal Acquisition And Military Family Advocacy

LINDALE, TX, UNITED STATES,
September 4, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/
-- 26 Years of Public Service Shape a
Career Defined by Strategic
Leadership, Mentorship, Faith, and a
Commitment to Military-Connected
Communities

Lindale, Texas — Marquiesha Gillispie is a seasoned public servant, federal acquisitions leader, and passionate advocate for military-connected communities whose career spans more than 26 years of service. Her professional journey includes 16 years of active duty in the U.S. Army and more than a decade as a civilian federal employee, giving her a unique perspective on both military service and the federal workforce. Throughout her career, she has combined technical expertise in federal acquisitions and telecommunications with a people-first approach to leadership, advocacy, and mentorship.



Born and raised in Las Vegas, Marquiesha's path into public service began unexpectedly. After experiencing financial and academic challenges while attending the University of Nevada, Reno, she made the decision to enlist in the U.S. Army. Her first duty station in South Korea proved transformative, introducing her to a lifelong commitment to service and mission-driven work. What began as an unexpected career decision ultimately became the foundation for more than two decades of leadership and public service.

Today, Marquiesha serves in a Division Director role at the General Services Administration (GSA), where she oversees telecommunications operations supporting the federal government. In addition to her leadership responsibilities, she serves as a warranted contracting officer and

acquisition professional, bringing extensive experience to complex federal procurement and telecommunications initiatives.

Over the course of her federal career, Marquiesha has developed a strong reputation for expertise in federal acquisitions, telecommunications, small business advocacy, and strategic leadership. She has led high-profile acquisition programs and contributed to significant governmentwide procurement initiatives, including work associated with the \$75 billion Alliant Governmentwide Acquisition Contract. Her work has also focused on strengthening small business participation and improving stakeholder engagement throughout federal procurement.

For Marquiesha, effective leadership extends beyond technical knowledge and program execution. She believes successful organizations depend on collaboration, communication, and recognizing the people behind every mission. Her ability to bridge technical excellence with people-centered advocacy has allowed her to work effectively with stakeholders across different levels of government and professional backgrounds.

A particularly meaningful area of Marquiesha's career has been her advocacy for veterans, military spouses, and military-connected families. As a former director of the Federal Military Family Network and president of her agency's Veteran Employee Resources Association, she has worked alongside senior federal leaders and interagency partners to expand career opportunities and improve retention efforts for military-connected employees.

Her advocacy has also included raising awareness of military spouse hiring authorities and supporting initiatives designed to create more sustainable career opportunities for families whose lives are shaped by military service. Her coalition-building efforts contributed to initiatives connected to the domestic employee telework overseas program and Executive Order 14100, helping advance discussions and efforts related to economic security for military and veteran families.

Marquiesha is particularly passionate about developing sustainable, PCS-proof career pathways for military-connected individuals. Frequent moves associated with military life can create significant challenges for military spouses and families seeking stable employment. Through mentorship, advocacy, and collaboration, she has worked to help address those barriers and create greater awareness of opportunities within the federal workforce.

Her commitment to service extends into volunteerism as well. She has contributed her time to the Federal Employee Education Assistance scholarship committee and has advocated for sexual assault survivors in the military. These experiences reflect her broader belief that public service is not limited to a job title or formal responsibilities. Instead, she views service as a responsibility to use one's knowledge, influence, and experiences to help others.

Education and lifelong learning have also played an important role in Marquiesha's professional

development. She earned a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Criminal Justice from Columbia Southern University after completing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Texas A&M University. She also holds the Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI) FAC-C Professional credential, formerly associated with DAWIA Level III Contracting and FAC-C Level III certifications. In addition, she has participated in executive education experiences through the Harvard Kennedy School and American University.

Despite her professional accomplishments, Marquiesha remains grounded in humility and faith. She attributes her success to staying humble and maintaining her faith, particularly during periods of significant personal and professional difficulty. Her experiences, including time in Afghanistan and challenging moments at home in the United States, taught her the importance of turning inward, praying, and remaining grounded in what truly matters.

Marquiesha believes accomplishments do not define a person. Instead, she believes character is reflected in how people treat others, how they show up for those around them, and whether they extend kindness and respect without expecting something in return. She has learned that success can sometimes make people lose perspective, but humbling experiences have reinforced her understanding that material achievements can never replace character.

She also emphasizes the importance of discernment, listening, and respecting the autonomy of others. After leaving the military, she learned that leadership requires listening to people even when they have different opinions or prefer a different approach. For her, communicating with respect and allowing others the freedom to contribute their ideas are essential elements of effective leadership.

Her faith has reinforced the belief that everything one receives can also be taken away, and that a person should remain prepared to do more with less. Marquiesha maintains that if she lost everything she had achieved, she would still be okay because she knows how to adapt, persevere, and make the most of limited resources.

That resilience informs her advice to young women entering her industry. Marquiesha encourages women to identify what makes them happy about themselves and amplify it, because she believes that authenticity is a personal superpower. At the same time, she encourages young professionals to be thoughtful and discerning about whose advice they accept.

Seeking mentorship and guidance is valuable, she says, but individuals should remain critical of the advice they receive and determine whether it aligns with their authentic selves. Young women should never lose themselves in someone else's expectations or recommendations. Instead, they should strive to become the best version of themselves while accepting advice that remains consistent with who they are.

Marquiesha also recognizes the challenges women, particularly African-American women, can

face when trying to balance authenticity with expectations of professionalism. She believes women should not have to suppress their personalities, appearances, opinions, or individuality to be taken seriously.

From hair and clothing to communication styles and leadership approaches, Marquiesha has observed how women can face unfair perceptions when they express strong opinions or present themselves differently from traditional expectations. She hopes to help break down those barriers by encouraging women to understand that professionalism does not require conformity. Whether someone chooses to wear a colorful blazer, an afro, or locs, Marquiesha believes those choices do not determine a person's professionalism or capability.

Ultimately, she believes one of the greatest challenges is convincing women that they are enough and that they can show up authentically without allowing fear of judgment to diminish their confidence.

At the center of Marquiesha's personal and professional philosophy are integrity, service to others, and lifelong learning. Integrity means doing her best whether or not anyone is watching. It is a value that has remained with her throughout her military career and into federal service. Even something as simple as picking up trash when she sees it reflects her belief that people should do what is right because it is right.

Service to others is equally connected to her faith. Marquiesha believes that part of her purpose is to serve others rather than live solely through self-interest. She views leadership as an opportunity to elevate others, recognize their contributions, and create environments where people can succeed.

For Marquiesha, lifelong learning requires humility. She readily acknowledges that she does not know everything and believes that admitting what one does not know is an important part of executive leadership. She often tells people that she is not necessarily the smartest person in the room, but she knows how to bring the smartest people together. By recognizing the expertise of others, she empowers them to contribute their strengths.

She makes a deliberate effort to give credit and recognition where it is deserved, viewing the strengths of others as "superpowers" that should be acknowledged rather than overshadowed.

After more than 26 years of service, Marquiesha Gillispie continues to build a career that brings together federal acquisition expertise, military experience, advocacy, and people-centered leadership. From her unexpected decision to enlist in the Army to her current role in federal leadership, her journey demonstrates the power of resilience, adaptability, and service.

Her mission remains rooted in helping others succeed—whether through improving federal acquisition programs, expanding opportunities for military-connected families, mentoring young professionals, or simply treating people with dignity and kindness. Guided by faith, integrity,

humility, and a commitment to lifelong learning, Marquiesha continues to demonstrate that true leadership is not defined solely by position or accomplishment, but by the people one empowers and the difference one makes along the way.

Learn More about Marquiesha Gillispie:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/Marquiesha-Gillispie>

Influential Women

Influential Women provides a platform where women from all backgrounds can connect, share their perspectives, and create content that empowers themselves and others. Through storytelling, thought leadership, and creative expression, Influential Women amplifies voices that inspire change.

Editorial Team

Influential Women

[email us here](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/939649044>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.