



Tom Porter
Ex-officio Representative
Blue Star Families

Tom Porter is Vice President, Government Affairs at Blue Star Families in Washington, DC. He leads the organization's national advocacy to empower and improve the lives of military and veteran families.

Porter comes to BSF with nearly three decades of Washington, DC experience as Congressional staff and as a government relations leader. Focusing first on national energy, water supply, and natural resources policy, he has spent the last nine years exclusively representing the interests of veterans and military families, primarily for the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Porter played a lead role in passing significant legislation benefitting veterans and servicemembers, including the *Honoring Our PACT Act* to establish unprecedented new benefits for those who suffered military toxic exposures and their families, the *Deborah Sampson Act* which was the most comprehensive women veteran's legislation in history, and reforms to the military justice system to protect victims of sexual assault and other serious crimes. He also was instrumental in defending the Post-9/11 GI Bill from cuts and abuse, among other accomplishments.

In addition to being a longtime Washington advocate on Capitol Hill and in front of federal agency leaders, Porter has also communicated on behalf of the military and veteran community through national, regional, and local media, including CNN, Fox News, NBC, ABC, Washington Post, NPR, and many others. He has testified numerous times before House and Senate veterans and armed services committees.

Porter is also a US Navy Captain (Ret.) with 27 years of reserve and active service around the world as a public affairs officer for US and Coalition forces, including during deployments to Afghanistan and the Middle East.

He is married to Northern Virginia attorney Jennifer Porter and has three teenage daughters.