



CATHERINE R. LAPORTE

Catherine R. Laporte (Kaplansky), a NYC Chapter member is the North East Region Chairwoman of the National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) and also serves on the NABMW National Executive Board. Chairwoman Laporte, served in the U.S. Army, and is now a Retired Soldier For Life. Catherine continues service to our Nation, as a civilian of the United States Department of Defense in the capacity of Public Affairs, Community and Media Relations Manager, U. S. Army, New York City Recruiting Battalion. Catherine enlisted in the U.S. Army after college and served as a 71L, Administrative Specialist in 139th Postal Company, Stuttgart, West Germany and completed active duty service at FORSCOM-FC, III Corps, Headquarters, Headquarters Command, G3 Operations, Fort Hood, Texas. Injured while on active duty, Laporte was retired by the U.S. Army as a Specialist.

Recently, Laporte served as Chief of Staff and Deputy Commissioner of Operations and Special Projects for the City of New York, Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) serving New York City's over 225, 000 Veterans, active duty military and their families.

Ms. Laporte also serves on the United States Army Garrison Fort Hamilton Military Retiree Council, where she has served for over 10 years in the positions of Chairman, First Vice Chairman and Second Vice Chairman, and Retiree Appreciation Day Chair. A trusted advisor to local military leadership and elected officials on Veterans, and Community engagements and issues of importance to the regional area, Catherine brings her wealth of experience in day-to-day operations, human resources, training, development, marketing, and public affairs and Veteran's services to NABMW. Catherine Laporte is also a contributor to the international bi-coastal niche PR Firm, CB Communications. After military service, Catherine went on to serve as a music recording artist manager for Grammy nominated artist and jazz great, David "Panama" Francis (Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Lucky Millinder Band) and others in pop and dance music and is a published BMI Billboard charted songwriter. Laporte has worked in commercial real estate development, human resources, business marketing and as a college educator.

Chairwoman Laporte hails from a military family. Laporte's father, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force, as an EOD expert in Korea and Vietnam, retiring after 25 years of service. Catherine also has been a military Naval spouse; it is this upbringing, living abroad and throughout the United States which she credits for shaping her foundation and pension of patriotic service, compassion, empathy, and diversity in her dedication to community ser-

vice. Obtaining a Bachelor of Arts and Professional Studies degree from Five Towns College where she graduated as Salutatorian, Laporte also attended SUNY Oswego and is certified in Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) Sustainability in Business from New York University, Stern School of Business. Laporte has received numerous civilian and military citations and awards and is recognized in the United States of America Congressional Record for her commitment to community service, through public private partnerships in benefit of the community at large. Laporte's public organizing and outreach campaigns include, President Barack Obama, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and current New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Catherine is a proud member of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), The National Association of Black Journalist, the Society For Human Resources Management (SHRM), the Center for the Women of New York, and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) to name a few.

Chairwoman Laporte states, "My U.S. Army story is a story of service to our Nation. I strive to continue to serve others - especially Veterans, and military families, while educating the public-at-large regarding the virtues, benefits and patriotism of military service. Service is my passion and my life's calling - Once a Soldier - Always a Soldier - A Soldier For Life.'