

‘Someone Somewhere is Better Off Than They Were’

Navy veteran Denise Estes helps veterans and their families file claims with the VA

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Navy veteran Denise Estes lives in Sparks, Nevada, and served in the military for 23 years. During her time in the Navy, Estes was deployed to South Carolina, Virginia, California, Spain and Italy. She served on three ships — a destroyer, a destroyer tender and an aircraft carrier — and became a senior chief petty officer. Estes was inspired to enlist by her father who served in the Navy in World War II.

Estes began working with the VFW in July 2012.

“After the military, I wanted to be of service to my community and really make a difference,” she said. “I started as an administrative assistant, and when the service officer position became available, I jumped on it.”

As a VFW Accredited Service Officer, Estes helps veterans and their families file claims with the VA. She also holds informational outreach programs about VA benefits options and VA hospital eligibility.

Estes said her greatest accomplishment was when she helped a veteran get his life back on track by providing support that helped him improve mentally, physically and financially.

Even though some days are challenging the effort is worth it to Estes, who believes it is important to leave the world better than how she found it.

During her 16 years as a VFW member and 11 years as commander of VFW Post 10053, she and her community have actively assisted others by hosting support groups, fundraisers and town gatherings. From scheduling appointments with veterans to aiding locals, Estes lends a helping hand both in and out of the office.

“Someone somewhere is better off than they were,” Estes said.

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