

Jasmine Shanti

Jasmine is an Army Congressional Fellow (Civilian) assigned to the office of a U.S. Senator. The fellowship develops legislative acumen among fellows through earning a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University and serving on the staff of a member of Congress for one year. Her portfolio includes National Security, Defense, Intelligence, Foreign Affairs, Civil Works, and Veterans Affairs.



Jasmine is also spouse to Chuck Werchado, mom to Alma Holly, a veteran, dog lover, and volunteer trauma-informed yoga teacher. Since her last name, “Shanti,” means “peace” in Sanskrit, becoming a yoga teacher was practically predetermined. Not preordained was that she’d ever work on the Hill or even graduate from college. In 2005, Jasmine became the first person in her family of origin to graduate with a bachelor’s degree. "Education is liberation," her mom would say, and Mom was right.

Learning and later mastering a craft, in Jasmine’s case strategic planning and public relations, has enabled her to provide security and prosperity for her family while empowering the organizations she serves to raise more funds, connect with more people, and do a better job at whatever it is the organizations need or want to do.

She has researched, crafted, administered, and evaluated numerous public relations campaigns for the USDA and the U.S. Army. Her graduate capstone project explored the management of water resources conflicts, focusing on negotiation processes in order to prevent, manage, and resolve natural resources conflicts. The mainstay of her service is advising senior leaders on outreach campaigns to gain support, engage audiences, deliver calls to action and inspire stakeholder participation in crucial initiatives; especially in the defense, public infrastructure, community planning, and agriculture space.