

Katelyn van Dam, née Geary, grew up in San Jose, California. She currently serves as the White House Fellow to the Department of Housing and Urban Development where she works disaster response in the Office of the Deputy Secretary. Katelyn also serves in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. An attack helicopter pilot by trade, Katelyn conducted combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan and counter-piracy operations in the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden. In her final active assignment, Katelyn instructed new Marine Corps officers in tactics and leadership as a staff platoon commander at The Basic School in Quantico. In her personal capacity, Katelyn co-founded and served as Director of Strategy and Policy for No Exceptions, a nonpartisan initiative that advocated for the military to fully integrate women into all combat arms specialties. The efforts of No Exceptions contributed to the successful implementation of the 2016 Department of Defense policy change allowing women to serve in any job for which they qualify. Upon mission accomplishment, No Exceptions shutdown after thanking supporters. Katelyn is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member and an alumna of the Center for a New American Security's Next Generation National Security Leaders program. Katelyn was selected as the American Red Cross Tiffany Circle's Distinguished Woman Warrior of the Year in 2015. Katelyn has published articles in traditional print media and online journals, and was a guest on the Center for Strategic and International Studies' *Smart Women, Smart Power* podcast and the National Public Radio's *Diane Rehm Show*. She is married to her amazing husband David, a decorated Marine Corps veteran. Katelyn holds a Master of Arts degree in International Economics and International Relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. Katelyn is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy.