

# Hillary Alberts

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<https://www.lyndhurstamericanlegion.com/sara-s-spotlight>



Before I get into this month's spotlight, I want to apologize for the delay in posting! Things got really hectic with the Thanksgiving holiday and all of a sudden we're a few days into December already! Time really does fly by doesn't it?! So without further ado, let's meet our November spotlight: Hillary Alberts!

I met with Hillary down at the post home and really enjoyed spending time with her! She's such an interesting person and a wonderful addition to our Legion family!

While raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, Hillary was born in Aurora, Nebraska on March 3rd, 1978, which makes her a Pisces! Oh and lookee here! See, not everyone in the spotlight has to be a Virgo! I told you I wasn't biased! Hillary now lives here in Lyndhurst with her husband and two daughters Grace and Eliza. Here's a fun fact, Hillary's husband chose both of their daughters' names! I have to say he's got good taste! They are both beautiful names to match both beautiful girls!

I'm not sure if you know but the Lyndhurst American Legion Post 139 has 3 female Legionnaire members and Hillary is one of them! Hillary served in the United States Air Force from 1996-2001; she ended her service in June of 2001. She joined up right out of high school. I asked her was that decision made because she came from a military family or for some other reason? She explained that while she had an uncle who was drafted and fought in Vietnam, her decision

to join the Air Force had more to do with not knowing what she wanted to do after graduation and that the Air Force sent out a great recruiter. She said she loves to travel so she was all in when they told her she'd get to travel! Can't say I blame her there! I love to travel myself!

A recent high school graduate, and I mean recent as in she joined up a couple months right after graduation, Hillary began her 5 year stint stateside training for 2 years in both Texas and Arizona before being stationed in Germany for the remainder of her tour. During For the majority of her tour, Hillary worked as a linguist translating from Arabic to English. She explained that after taking a few tests, she was given a list of positions she best matched with based on the results from those tests. She made the decision to be a linguist and then she took another battery of tests and from those results, they assigned her Arabic. She while she was able to choose her job position, she did not choose the language she studied. I asked her if she had an affinity for languages? She said looking back she probably did; she did take 2 foreign languages while she was in high school!

I have to admit when she first told me about her position, I literally pictured her working like those code breakers from World War II, intercepting and breaking Japanese and German coded communications. She told me it wasn't quite like that but definitely something along those lines. During her time in Germany, she was sent to Kosovo and while she worked in different capacity than her position as a linguist, Hillary was a part of the Peacekeeping Mission there. She said it was a completely different experience from what she was doing in Germany, which made sense since she was in Kosovo for a completely different reason.

I asked Hillary how her experience was working as a linguist? She said that she felt she gained a lot from her experience. She went on to explain that her grandfather was from Syria and that her time in the military was able to tie a part of her heritage that she hadn't really examined before. After being assigned Arabic and really taking a look at both the language and culture, it gave her a new perspective and understanding of that side of her family. I definite bonus I think!

Speaking of bonuses, Hillary said a bonus for her was that during her time in the Air Force was able to earn college credits and so when she went to college in San Francisco after she ended her tour, she had already earned 2 years worth of college credits and was able to finish her Bachelors in International Relations in 2 years years. She worked for a non-profit for a while before returning to school to earn her Masters in Law. Yes you read that right! Hillary is a lawyer! I think that in itself is quite an accomplishment! Currently, she isn't practicing law, but she is working in the federal government. Hillary works as an asylum officer in immigration services with the Department of Homeland Security. She currently screens applicants who are seeking asylum here in the States.

That has to be a tough job I'd imagine, especially working with the applicants one on one. I asked her if she'd consider that her biggest accomplishment? She said no, her biggest accomplishments were her children. I could see the wheels turning so I asked if she had any other big accomplishments? She replied her biggest accomplishment was yet to come. And I completely agree! Hillary is definitely destined for great things!

I always like to wrap up these "interviews" and I use interview very lightly because this did not feel like an interview at all! It felt like a catch up chat between friends! I asked Hillary if she could have lunch with anyone dead or alive who would it be? I think I finally stumped her because you could tell I was making her think hard about it. She did share an interesting fact about herself while she was pondering my question--she likes to run! I've heard people say there's something freeing about running but my first thought is always are you running from something or to something? She agreed with the consensus that there is something freeing about running. I find it curious to hear that same thing among all these runners I meet, however, I don't think I'd ever be curious enough to give running a try!

Speaking of trying, Hillary's got an answer for my lunch date question. She tried to pick just one but couldn't but she did narrow it down to two. Her first pick would be Michelle and Barack Obama and the second would be Sean Elloit. And yes that's Sean Elliott of the San Antonio Spurs. Hillary said she's always loved basketball and has been an admirer of Sean Elliott. I have to admit I'm not a basketball fan myself but I was super proud of myself for recognizing the name and actually getting it right! I always like to end these with our spotlight dispensing some advice. Hillary said the best advice she's gotten is the best one she could share and that's always treat others how you want to be treated. Simple and easy and I have to agree with this timeless adage.

Thank you for your service Hillary. I also want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me. I really enjoyed chatting with you! Hope to see you down at post!