



SHARENE BROWN

As an adventure enthusiast, Sharene Brown has explored various cultures, languages, and social settings across the globe. Her worldly travels as a military child and spouse have given her a passion for discovering new experiences. She will most likely never pass up the opportunity to dragon boat or outrigger paddle but would happily settle for a hike, run, transformative podcast, or curl up with a good book that takes her on different journey instead.

Sharene was born in New York and received her bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Virginia and a master's in management from Webster University. She has worked in advertising, with trade associations, and in education. A particularly unique experience was her post with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program, where she partnered with Japanese English teachers to teach English to middle school students outside of Tokyo, Japan. Sharene's zest for culture and adventure only grew from here, along with a calling to serve.

Married to her husband for over 30 years, Sharene is the spouse to the sitting Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, General CQ Brown Jr. She is also a proud mom of two adult sons, a staunch advocate for military families, and serves as an ambassador or advisor for multiple service organizations.

Fueled by her personal experiences raising one of her sons with special needs, Sharene is also deeply committed to advocating for enhanced military child education opportunities and special needs programs, including the Exceptional Family Member Program, School Liaison Program support, and local military educational organizations and their assistive services. Additionally, she strongly supports military spouse employment opportunities and career development.

In her unwavering commitment to these efforts and to the military community, in 2021 Sharene partnered with a team of fellow military spouses to launch a quality-of-life effort known as Five & Thrive. This effort highlights the top five quality-of-life challenge areas affecting military members and their families today. These areas have been and will most likely continue to be the following: childcare, education, healthcare, housing, and spouse employment. These top five focus areas are directly tied to recruitment, readiness, resilience, and retention of the forces. Sharene and the Five & Thrive Team aim to tackle these challenges by consolidating resources, amplifying preventative measures, sharing best practices, fostering community partnerships, and promoting the exceptional value of the military spouse. For more information on Five & Thrive visit www.fiveandthrive.org.