

## Wiki

Lisa Burns Smith (born July 31st, 1988) in Hartford, Connecticut, is a social worker, United States Air Force veteran, and community advocate living in Arvada, Colorado. On November 2nd, 2021, she was elected as the first-ever female veteran to serve on Arvada City Council, a home rule city in Jefferson County, Colorado.

## Early Life

Smith's mother is Ana Recanatini, born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1956. After immigrating to the United States in 1958, Recanatini became a naturalized citizen in 1958. She graduated with her master's from Central Colorado State University became an inner-city school teacher for elementary school children. Her father is Douglas Smith, born in Lee, Massachusetts in 1954. After graduating from the University of Maryland, he became a school social worker and mental health counselor in Stafford, Connecticut. Smith has two siblings, Brittany Smith, born in 1985 and Jason Smith, born in 1979.

Smith attended Rocky Hill High School in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, graduating in 2006. She played soccer and softball while attending school, she was a co-captain for the softball team and set the record for most stolen bases.

## Education

In 2007, Smith enlisted into the United States Air Force in 2007 as a Military Policewoman (Security Forces) and was stationed in Cheyenne, WY. In 2010, she left the Air Force with an Honorable Discharge to attend Colorado State University for her undergraduate degree in social work, which she obtained in December 2013. During her time at CSU, she interned for then-State Senator John Kefalas and worked in the Adult Learners and Veterans Services (ALVS) office. The office helped veterans transitioning from military to school prepare for classes, connect to resources, apply for financial aid and scholarships. Smith services as their Veteran Success Coach, working directly with transitioning veterans who were attending Colorado State University.

In 2018, Smith completed her master's degree at Boston College for Macro Social Work and Policy in 2018, where she also received the Deans Award. During that time, she built a new veterans program at her university. This program helps veterans interested in applying and current student veterans connect with resources and a veterans network to ensure a smooth transition into civilian life. The Boston College Veterans program is still growing and active today. She currently serves on the Boston College Veterans Alumni Board.

## Career

After Graduating and working at CSU, Lisa became an Intensive Case Manager serving older adults and disabled adults on Medicaid. She helped pilot the first-ever state-wide nursing home reintegration program called the "Colorado Choice Transitions" Program. This program is part of the federal Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration, a five-year grant program. The primary goal is facilitating the transition of Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) members from nursing and other long-term care (LTC) facilities to the community using home and community-based (HCBS) services and supports. This program is now a state-wide waiver for Medicaid clients.

While living in Boston, Smith worked for the Boston Mayors Office, Housing Innovation Lab. This office was created after the release of the Boston 2030 Plan created by then-Mayor Martin Walsh. The intent of this office was to explore and accelerate the topic of housing. The office worked by researching, testing, piloting, and scaling new ideas around housing and homelessness. Smith worked on two primary projects while working in the Mayor's Office. First, an intergenerational home-sharing program with a partnership through Nesterly. This pilot, managed by Smith, paired students attending local Boston colleges with older adults across Boston. This program has since been scaled up and is a fully functioning program. The other pilot consisted of a universal application and referral program for at-risk homeless youth within the Boston Public School district. This effort was a collaborative, cross-sector partnership to help identify and get resources for at-risk and homeless children in the school district. Smith project managed these two pilots during her time.

In 2017, Smith became a New Politics Leadership Academy graduate, a program that supports veterans and service corps members to prepare for a run for office. She later joined their Executive Council. Smith also worked with another nonprofit, Service to School, expanding their regional ambassador program. She served as a consultant in 2018, supporting the growth and development of a national nonprofit aimed at helping veterans get into top-tier schools across the nation.

Smith currently works with Team Rubicon, a veteran-based disaster response organization that deploys veterans to natural disasters and humanitarian crises worldwide. She started as a volunteer in 2013, which eventually led to her employment with the national organization in 2018.

Smith serves on the Clay Hunt Fellows Program team within Team Rubicon. The Clay Hunt Fellows Program is a six-month fellowship program for veterans transitioning into civilian life looking for purpose after putting away their uniform. They serve 48 fellows a year and a growing alumni group. Smith has deployed several times with Team Rubicon to include deployment in 2013 to Colorado in response to floods, 2015 in support of an Earthquake in Nepal, 2015 to South Carolina in response to floods, 2017 to help run a medical clinic in Greece, as well as several deployments to Texas to help rebuild homes after

a Hurricane Harvey. Since 2020, Smith has worked with her local city and county to support housing and COVID relief through PPE distribution and vaccine support.

#### Political Candidate

Smith filed to run for local office in Arvada, Colorado, in July of 2020. Smith is running for Arvada Colorado City Council in 2021. This is a four-year term and an at-large seat, meaning it will cover the entire city.

Smith has three main focuses on her platform for running: Smart community development, transportation, and infrastructure as well as influential community services and safety. Smith will aim to support local recovery efforts, promote vibrant communities, listen to residents and support local businesses.

#### Awards and Honors

Presidential Volunteer Service Award, 2020 and 2019

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Outstanding Unit Award, United States Air Force

Good Conduct Medal, United States Air Force

Deans Award for Distinguished Service, Boston College.

Fort Collins Rotary Club: Veteran of the year, 2015

Regional Manager of the Year, 2016

Policy and Community Organization Certification, 2018

Leadership and Management, 2018

Clay Hunt Fellowship Alumni

The Mission Continues Alumni

National Defense Service Medal for honorable service in the Air Force

"Boards and Committees:"

Colorado Senior Lobby Board

Congressman Perlmutter Veteran Advisory Council

Colorado National Association of Social Workers Board

Jefferson County Community Services Advisory Board

Arvada Chamber Government Affairs Committee

Arvada Chamber KAPS and Resiliency Taskforce

HCPF - Colorado Choice Transitions Committee

Arvada For Progressive Action Housing Committee

National Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council for Team Rubicon

New Politics Leadership Academy Executive Committee

Boston College Veterans Executive Committee

Veteran Legal Services Development Committee

<ref><https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/housing-innovation-fellowship></ref>

<ref><https://www.newpoliticsacademy.org/alumni-executive-council></ref>

<ref>[https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/ssw/bcssw-news/2020/shes\\_guarded\\_nuclear\\_missiles\\_cleaned\\_up\\_after\\_natural\\_disasters\\_and\\_helped\\_develop\\_affordable\\_housing\\_now\\_shes\\_launched\\_a\\_political\\_campaign.html](https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/ssw/bcssw-news/2020/shes_guarded_nuclear_missiles_cleaned_up_after_natural_disasters_and_helped_develop_affordable_housing_now_shes_launched_a_political_campaign.html)</ref>

<ref><https://www.arvadachamber.org/4-steps-for-businesses-to-prepare-for-a-disaster-by-lisa-smith-team-rubicon/></ref>

<ref>[wbur.org/npr/667870092/veterans-military-president-trump](https://wbur.org/npr/667870092/veterans-military-president-trump)</ref>

<ref><https://www.fcbreakfastrotary.org/stories/lisa-smith-with-team-rubicon-spoke-to-the-rcf-breakfast-about-team-rubicon-s-mission/></ref>

<ref><https://vimeo.com/253827956></ref>

<ref><https://teamrubiconusa.org/reflections/everyones-place-in-greece/></ref>

<ref><https://chhs.source.colostate.edu/alumna-helps-community-during-covid-19-pandemic/></ref>

<ref><https://arvadapress.com/stories/arvadans-give-helping-hand-through-backyard-sanitizer-workshop,304529/></ref>