

2024
El Paso County
Veteran of the Year

Debo' A. Wakefield was born in Clarksville, Tennessee (Fort Campbell) and was raised in various locations with her military family as well as back and forth to her home in Trinidad. She joined the Women's Army Corps at the age of 18 as a Medical Assistant and later transferred to surgical technician. Ms. Wakefield served over 21 years in the Army and Retired as a Sergeant First Class.

After the Army Ms. Wakefield continued her service in the medical field as a travel nurse, it was her work as a travel nurse that brought her here to El Paso and she so loved it she decided to stay. She retired from her paid nursing job in 2017.

In "retirement" She volunteers at local food banks to help distribute food. She Collects and distributes clothing, furniture and nonperishable for people that have had to resort to shelters, helping battered women get back on their feet.

Ms. Wakefield belongs to two organizations the buffalo soldier motorcycle club post Bliss and the Silhouette civic and social clubs in El Paso. Both groups help with many fundraisers during the year to give out \$2000. Scholarships for graduating seniors in El Paso. She also serves as the Chaplain to two different organizations the Flags Across America and Old Glory Memorial in Northeast El Paso. As a chaplain she takes on special duty to visit the sick and those who are recovering from surgery.

Ms. Wakefield enjoys spending time with her dear friend Tuskegee Airman 1LT James Clayton Flowers who lives in Las Cruces and is 108 years young. Her motorcycle group makes the trip bi-monthly to helps to cut his hedges pull weeds, and every year she organizes his birthday drive-by caravan every December 25th and this year he will celebrate 109!

Ms. Wakefield is a member of Aloha Medical mission where she volunteers at her own cost and travels to Honduras and spends a week doing volunteer work and surgical scrub nurse assisting surgeons in various surgeries for the poorest of the poor. Before her mission Ms. Wakefield gathers comfortable blankets, and stuffed animals to bring to Honduras with her, that way every patient wakes up with comfortable blanket that is theirs to keep.

Aside from these things she is also on the Committee for the Northeast Easter Parade and Veterans Day parade. Ms. Wakefield stated that she loves El Paso and her Community, and she is in her best state when she is giving back.