



JULIA PEKAS:

“A Life of Service & Family Dedication”

Julia Pekas grew up in Missouri, where she completed high school and began her studies at St. Joseph's Nursing School. However, after a year, she felt a stronger calling to serve her country and made the bold decision to join the United States Navy. In 1978, she attended boot camp in Orlando, Florida, before heading to Bethesda, Maryland, for Corpsman training.

Julia was assigned to Walter Reed Military Medical Center, one of the nation's most respected military hospitals. There, she found her passion working in the laboratory, where her skills and dedication quickly became evident. It was also at Walter Reed that **Julia** met her husband, **Mario Pekas**, who was also serving in the Navy. Their shared commitment to service brought them together, and they soon started a family.

By the end of her first tour, **Julia** had given birth to their first child. Despite the demands of motherhood, she chose to re-enlist for another four years, continuing her work at Walter Reed. In 1984, both Julia and Mario were assigned to Desert Storm, a significant chapter in their military careers. However, due to a back injury, **Julia**



made the difficult decision to leave the Navy. She was medically and honorably discharged, ending her active-duty service but not her connection to the military.

Even after her discharge, **Julia** remained a steadfast supporter of her husband's military career, helping him navigate the challenges of service life. Together, they raised two children, a son and a daughter, who followed in their parents' footsteps by serving in the United States Air Force.

Julia Pekas's story is one of dedication, both to her country and her family. Her journey from Missouri to the halls of Walter Reed, and eventually to supporting her family's military legacy, showcases her resilience and unwavering commitment.

Julia Pekas

Thank You for your Service!