What is your biggest achievement to date? I was 37 when I went back to college to get the final credits I needed to finish my degree in accounting and sit for the CPA exam. It wasn’t easy to take that leap, nor was it easy to study for the CPA exam in between my daughter’s volleyball matches, track meets or other various high school activities!

How has your background shaped you? I’d love to say that my perspective as an Army spouse and Department of Defense employee made me immune from the CPA pressures and meeting deadlines, but I still get stressed out. However, I’m able to step back and remind myself that no one’s life is on the line and that I’ve been through more difficult situations.

What is something you are passionate about outside of work? I believe in giving back to your community. I’m currently the treasurer for my township and previously volunteered with the chamber of commerce. During our time with the Army, I was an active volunteer in multiple Army and community programs at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, Ft. Benning, Georgia, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, Ft. Carson, Colorado and Ft. Hood, Texas.

Favorite vacation: In 2012, we did an RV tour that started at Mt. Rushmore, followed by Yellowstone, then northern Idaho mountains and finished with Army friends on the Washington coast. It was fantastic … and I don’t even like camping!

How has being a member of ISCPA helped you? The networking opportunities to talk to other professionals that we meet at CPE or other ISCPA events is invaluable. I’m so proud to be a part of an organization that continues to grow and evolve to serve their members and community while always reaching out to bring others to the table.

What are some of your philosophies and principles toward work and life? I never expect more of someone else than I would expect of myself. I feel that building relationships and a positive work environment is as important as the work itself. In our profession, we work long, hard hours. We need to surround ourselves with people that understand these challenges and make it easier, not harder.

People don’t know this about me: I only have one kidney. I donated a kidney to my dad in 2003 when he was going through kidney failure for the second time, a long-term result of Type 1 diabetes.

My heroes: My husband, who served in the U.S. Army through multiple combat deployments (two bronze stars) and my mom, who served the family through teenage drama, sports and activities all while taking care of my dad who had significant health problems as a result of diabetes (there aren’t awards for this, but there should be). Laurie and her husband John have a daughter Caitlin (22) and reside in Burbank, South Dakota.

First job: Babysitter.
What I wanted to be when I grew up: Professional basketball player.
Fictional family I’d like to be a member of: The Gilmores!
Favorite musician: Ed Sheeran.

If I was the Eighth Dwarf, my name would be: Foody – I love to cook and try new foods.
Favorite food: Seafood.
I never leave home without: My phone!
I am passionate about: Family, which includes our Army family.
Current TV obsession: It’s football season! Stay out of my way when Notre Dame is playing.

Special talent: Making a meal out of whatever is in the fridge or pantry.
Best advice I received: “No matter how good you think you are, there’s always someone out there better. You have to be willing to work harder to get it done.” – my dad.