

ENS Yolanda Figueroa Backus, USN

Ensign Yolanda (Figueroa) Backus was born and raised in California, attending Yuba City High School and then the University of California at Davis, graduating from UC Davis in 2000 with degrees in Biological Sciences and Political Science. She is the first from her family to graduate from college and the only one to attend medical school. On the path toward fulfilling her lifelong dream to become a doctor, she experienced working in many different fields from housekeeping to managing a fast food restaurant to the assistant editor of a scientific journal. As early as high school, Yolanda had a desire to serve in the military, with her grandfather and father both serving in the United States Army and finally had the opportunity when she commissioned into the United States Navy in 2005. A few months after Yolanda entered the U.S. Navy, her brother also joined the U.S. Marine Corps. In December 2006, Yolanda (Class of 2009) married Class of 2010 student 2nd Lt Chris Backus in a traditional military wedding. She is currently preparing to begin her clinical rotations and take the first part of the United States Medical Licensing Exam in June.