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(Dr.) LCDR Herlena O'Neal Washington, USN, (ret)

Is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. She graduated from a college preparatory school, Walnut Hills High School in 1977. Herlena enrolled in Lincoln College and graduated with an Associate Degree in Community Service. In 1979, she continued to pursue her education and obtained a BA in Community Service and Public Affairs from the University of Oregon in 1981. While in the United States Air Force, she obtained an AA Degree in Administrative Management from the Community College of the Air Force in 1988; a Master of Science in Management at Troy State University in 1991; Doctorate in Ministerial Education & Evangelism from Truth Bible College in 2002; Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor - Advanced Certification from National Christian Counselors Association in 2003; Master in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2014, Life Recovery Coaching 201 – 2020, Board of Christian Life Coaching - 2020, Graduate Human Resource Management – University of Phoenix – 2022, Awarded Honorary Doctorate Degree – St Thomas Christian University – Aug 2023

United States Naval Officer – 1981- 2007 - 25 years

A retired United States Naval Officer, a team-oriented professional, with over 25 years as a healthcare administrator. Residential expert in healthcare; leadership experience in a wide range of results-oriented programs involving all facets of naval operations, strategic planning, budgeting, resource management, change management, training, leadership development and technology integration

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – 1997 – present

Herlena became a member of Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in February of 1997. She is currently a member of the State of Florida military community- present. She served on the National Board of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated as the Co-Chair for the National Military Committee – Aug 2018- 2022. She was the past sponsor for the Mu Gamma Undergraduate chapter for 5 years. The chapter won the undergraduate National Z-Hope for 4 years, and she served on the military committee, and Amicae Auxiliary. She was the 17th President of the Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and was responsible for leading over 100 women in the main chapter, 2 undergrad chapters, and 1 auxiliary. During her 3-year presidency, her responsibilities included being Chairman of the Beta Alpha Zeta (BAZ) Scholarship Committee for 6 years, the chapter gave out 30 scholarships worth over \$25,000 dollars: Chaired or Co-Chaired, the Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter Community Pearls Luncheon for 7 years. The signature event honor leaders in the community. All proceeds went toward scholarships for high school seniors in Jacksonville, Florida. As a member of the Storcks Nest Committee, the committee won the 2017 Storcks Nest Regional Award. She chaired the Adopt-a-School Committee for 3 years for Lake Forest Elementary School and participated in the Susie E.

Tolbert Elementary Adopt-a-School, after-school program. Herlena volunteered monthly with mentoring, reading, and guiding underprivileged elementary school children; Chaired the Elder Care project at Woodlawn Grove Nursing Home – monthly visited nursing home residents. During her tenure, the chapter won numerous awards on the State, Regional, and National levels. After her tenure as president, she became a Life Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and accepted the position of National Military Co-Chair of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.- 2018-2022. On the local level, she was the Undergrad advisor for the Mu Gamma Chapter at Edward Waters University. Under her leadership, the chapter won the National Undergrad Chapter of the Year for 4 years and won the Undergrad Z-hope award for 4 years. Annually she was responsible for the chapter contributing to and participating in the following: Breast Cancer Walk, Wigs for Breast Cancer Survivors over 200 wigs were donated, March for Babies/Premature Awareness, Heart, Autism, and Sickle Cell Walk. She campaigned, collected over 1000 socks and toiletries for Trinity Rescue Mission, and fed the homeless during the Zeta Global Day of Service. They helped with food/water distributions and fed the homeless during the Zeta Global Day of Service. She took it upon herself to collect and contribute over 100 educational items and clothes to the Clara White Mission during their December to Remember Campaign and raised over \$3000 for the March for Babies, Baby Bottle fundraiser.

National Naval Officers Association, Jax Chapter – 1992 – present

She is a life member of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) and a local Jax Chapter member. Herlena has been a member of the organization for 32 yrs. She was the Eastern Region Vice President of NNOA from 2009 – 2011. Within the Jax Chapter, she currently serves as the Chaplain and as the Community Chairperson. She is responsible for their back-to-school drive for 2 local underprivileged schools. She monthly assisted with feeding over 500 homeless at St Francis Soup Kitchen and oversees the distribution of over 100 children receiving toys at Christmas. As Assistant Chairperson of the NNOA scholarship committee over the past 10 years, through fundraising with their Annual Golf Tournament and other Events, they successfully awarded 50 students over \$60,000 dollars in scholarship money. As the Community Chairperson, she accepted the Positively Jax Award - September 2020 for the Jax Chapters community service contribution to the local community.

Christ Sanctuary Ministries, Inc. – 2014 – present

Herlena is presently the President and Administrator for Christ Sanctuary Ministries, Inc. a non-profit charity that serves in the areas of service, social, charity, religion, and education. The mission of the ministry is to organize, encourage, and educate by providing mentoring, military initiatives, financial and healthy living guidance, scholarships, food, and toy donation to the community. Christ Sanctuary Ministries annually provides Christmas toys to over 100 children in the Jacksonville area. The organization has its own Scholarship program and has awarded 9 \$500.00 dollar scholarships totaling \$4,500 to seniors in Duval County. The ministry supports Duval Academy a juvenile facility that houses up to 28 young men. Monthly the ministry provides, mentorship, birthday celebrations, celebrates all major holidays, and celebrates each young man upon graduating from the facility. The ministry celebrates all the young men that successfully graduate from high school and receives a High School Diploma or GED. Annually the ministries chair the Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Baskets giveaway and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the young men. She's an advocate on behalf of the Veterans, those who served, and those who are currently serving in the military. She has spearheaded many initiatives supporting and honoring Veteran Campaigns: In June and Oct 2021 she spearheaded the Military Benefits Seminar and Claims Seminar via Zoom for over 100 personnel all over the world educating them

on what they don't know is hurting them, in the past she fed Veterans at the VA Clinic on Jefferson St., collected and donated 1,000 socks and toiletries to Elim Community Outreach, Inc., Trinity Rescue Mission, and City Rescue Mission, for the homeless Vets; participated in Women's Veterans Week, the Veterans Health Fair held at the VA Clinic in Jax, the Annual Veterans Day Parade, Wreaths across America by helping to place wreaths on the tombs of over 15,000 Vets, and provided Christmas for the Vets at the Clara White Mission.

President of the Duval Academy Advisor Board – 2003 – present

Since 2003, she has been the President of the Duval Academy Advisory Board, actively leading a committee of volunteers who mentor monthly up to 28 juvenile young boys incarcerated in the Duval Academy facility, helping them to become better individuals. She is instrumental monthly with planning educational, community, talent, and fun events. Her leadership has provided the following for the young men Jaguar games, Cummer Museum, Zoo, Jumbo Shrimp baseball games, golf, Easter egg hunt, Buffalo Soldiers, to name a few. The goal is to expose them to community events and hopefully change their mindsets.

Veterans Hall of Fame Society Board - 2018 – present

She serves as treasurer for the board. She was instrumental in the board awarding the University of Florida a \$3,000 scholarship for the Spring semester of 2022.

Sassy and Senior and Steppers - 2014 – present

She had been a member of the Sassy Seniors and Steppers since 2014 and Chaired the Scholarship Committee for 6 years. The scholarship has given out 21 scholarships totaling over \$13,000 dollars.

Greater Works Church, Inc., Education Department

She is responsible for the Education Department at Greater Works. Her responsibilities include quarterly recognizing all the midterm and end-of-quarter A/B Honor Roll students. She spearheaded the end-of-the-year graduation for all those that had received a degree; 4 high school students, 1 Ph.D. student, 1 Master's student, and 1 certificate graduate.

Greater Works Church, Inc. Military Program

She is responsible for the Military Program at the church. She recognizes all the National Birthdays, and holidays, and does a program for military personnel during Nov and May.

Awards and Certificates

Awarded Honorary Doctorate Degree – St Thomas Christian University – Aug 2023

Awarded - Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Award – April 2023

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – NAACP – Life Member - 2021

Received the Jacksonville Image Award – Pinnacle Award Category – Sep 2022

She was honored at the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Baseball game - in Jun 2021, in front of over 4,000 for her accomplishments as a military veteran and her achievements within the community.

Positively Jax Award – September 2020

For her outstanding work with the Veterans in Jax and her community service, she was honored and inducted, by past Governor Rick Scott, into the Veteran's Hall of Fame - 2018 at the Capital in Tallahassee, Florida. She is currently the Treasurer for the Veterans Hall of Fame Organization.

In honor and celebration of Veterans Day, her picture was one of the Jacksonville Veterans Hall of Fame recipients displayed at City Hall in Jacksonville for the month of November - 2021.

LCDR Washington on 28 November 2021 was one of the recipients from the Jacksonville

Veterans Hall of Fame honored at the Jaguars vs Falcons game for all her community service and military accomplishments.

Participated in unveiling all the names for The Florida Veterans Hall of Fame wall in Tallahassee, FL - Capitol - Mar 2020.

Community Service Award - Nu Beta Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Jan 2020

She has received numerous awards: 10th Annual Stop the Violence Recognition – Community Activist Award – 2019; Council on Elder Affairs Jacksonville Duval County Certificate of Achievement – 2019; Selected for the Veteran’s Hall of Fame Award. – Dec 2018; (first black female selected) Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. – 2018 Presidency Award; Presidential Award from Jacksonville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. – Apr 2017; Pillar of Success Award – 2015; Community Leader of the Year, from Sassy Senior and Steppers – 2014; Letter from the Governor of Florida, Rick Scott, for Community Service accomplishments – 2013; Zeta of the Year – 2008.

National Naval Officers Award (NNOA) Jax, Distinguish Service Award for the last 9 years; Chapter of the Year for Area 2 – 2017; Duval Academy Certificate of Appreciation – 8 yrs. Military Medals – Meritorious Service Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Air Force Commendation Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, US Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (2), National Defense Medal (2), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal (2), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Navy Expert Pistol Medal; 16 Certificate of Appreciation.

She has successfully volunteered her talent and has maintained a marriage to her husband Taylor (25-year veteran) for over 36 years. They have two children, MSgt Tayrell Washington (currently serving in the USAF), and Sherlena Washington, (3) Stepchildren Taylor Jr., Sekari, and Tedrick, 10 grandchildren, 8 great-grans, and her dog – Faith.