

MARTHA TAYLOR BUTLER

After traveling around with the US Air Force as a dependent-wife, mother, and DOD civil servant, Martha Taylor Butler enlisted in the USAF in 1976. Five years later, she finally received enough residency credits at one college through the Bootstrap Program which got her nominated for Officers Training School. After serving 14 years on active duty, she served on the board of directors of Black Veterans for Social Justice and on the NY Coalition for Fairness to Veterans.

Martha represented the commissioner of the newly formed NYC Department of Homeless Services as her Veterans' Liaison to the US, NYS, and NYC departments of Veterans' Affairs; and veterans service organizations. One year later, Martha was promoted to develop, implement, and administer the 90-Day Assessment Pilot Program that provided a one-stop, multi-service, continuum of care to over 25,000 men and women annually. One interagency collaborative won the 1995 Vice President Gore Hammer Award for innovations in breaking through the bureaucracy to serve homeless veterans. Subsequently, she served as a kinship foster parent on the task force of the commissioner of the new NYC Administration for Children's Services.

In 1999, Martha returned to federal civil service as a Partnership Coordinator for the NY/ NJ Census Bureau to help promote Census 2000 in the 19 most diverse counties in the USA. She served 13 years as chief of staff in the NYS Assembly, rounding out her civil service experience to every level: federal, including military; city; and now state.

She became a nonprofit Certified Governance Trainer for the leading world authority, BoardSource. She also completed the Nonprofit Leadership Program at the Fordham University Graduate Schools of Social Service and Business Administration. In early 2013, Martha completed the Campaign Management Boot Camp at The New School to polish her advocacy skills. Ms. Taylor Butler joined both the National Association of Parliamentarians and became secretary of the American Institute of Parliamentarians chapter.

Devoted to preserving the rich, untold history of black women in the military, Taylor Butler became a life-member in 2014 and served as the Membership Chair of the New York Chapter of NABMW. She is also a Life Member and was Co-Queens County Commander of the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS), Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (though was initially told she could only join the women's Auxiliary) and was a member of the St. Albans American Legion. Ms. Taylor Butler spoke to veterans and students on personal leadership—how she took control of her life rather than letting the circumstances of her many roles (wife, mother, divorcee, enlistee-to-officer, activist and advocate, executive and administrator) dictate.

Her leadership, character and integrity are trademarks that sustain her reputation and earned her Veteran recognition from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, an award from Military and Law Enforcement Veterans Association for "Diversity and Inclusion" during Women's History Month, and a Citation from Hempstead County Legislator Carrie Solages.

Blessed to have both parents, Taylor Butler now resides in Florida with them. Still committed to serving community wherever she is, she was elected to co-chair a countywide veterans caucus. She upgraded her NAACP membership to Silver Life. She was appointed by the State President as an Area Director to help chapters with organizational issues and to navigate the gamechangers pertinent to today's culture. As of January, 2019, she is serving as President of her Branch.

A lifelong learner, Taylor Butler earned a Master of Public Administration Degree with a concentration in Nonprofit and Faith-Based Organizations in May, 2018. She continues to pursue collegiate and practical education. This United States Air Force woman veteran is a servant-leader and social justice change agent.