

President Biography - Chief Warrant Officer 5 (Retired) Phyllis J. Wilson

President Women In Military Service For America Memorial (effective September 1, 2019)



Chief Wilson joined the Active Army as a Private on 25 March 1981 as a Military Intelligence (MI) German linguist Voice Intercept Operator. During more than 37 years of active and reserve service, she has served at all echelons from tactical to strategic, with duty in Germany, Iraq and the United States. In August 1990, she was mobilized to support OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/ OPERATION DESERT STORM and served as the Signals Intelligence collection manager for XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC.

In December 2002, she mobilized in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM as a senior Counter Terrorism Analyst. She served seven years at U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL as an intelligence analyst in support of Information Operations focused on the War on Terrorism.

She deployed twice to Iraq in support of a highly specialized Joint Special Operations Task Force. Her previous assignments include the 533rd Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion supporting 3rd Armored Division in Germany; 525th MI Brigade, Fort Bragg, NC; 337th MI Battalion, Charlotte, NC; 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY; 323rd MI Battalion, Fort Meade, MD; and CENTCOM Army Reserve Element, Tampa, FL. She served as the Chief of Mobilization Training for Army Reserve Intelligence soldiers preparing to deploy in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM/OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM at the Military Intelligence Readiness Command, Fort Belvoir, VA.

Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Phyllis J. Wilson served as the 5th Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO) for the United States Army Reserve. In this role she represented and advised the Chief of the Army Reserve/Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command on matters pertaining to training and education, career management, leader development and warrior transition issues for warrant officers within the Army Reserve. She also coordinated policy and statutory changes to support the readiness initiatives for the Army Warrant Officer Cohort.

Chief Wilson holds a Master's Degree in Management from Webster University, two Bachelor of Science degrees: nursing (registered nurse) and liberal arts (sociology/German) and three Associate of Science degrees. She has attended the Defense Language Institute for German and Spanish as well as the Defense Strategic Debriefing Course. She is a 2008 graduate of the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course and has studied at the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch, Germany, completing the Program for Advanced Security Studies in 2009. She also holds a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Duke University. She is pursuing a second

Master's Degree in Public Administration (Non-Profit Organizations focused) from Excelsior College.

Chief Wilson's military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Parachutist Badge. She was inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame in 2017.

As a Citizen-Soldier, Chief Wilson is a Registered Nurse and has held positions as a Director of Nursing; a Director of Clinical Operations; a Social Worker; a Home Health and Hospice Nurse and a Loan Officer. She has eight children: Joseph, Jeremy, Rebekah, Matthias, Rachel, Jared, Maria and Jesse. Four sons: Joseph, Jeremy, Matthias, and Jared are in the military and are all combat veterans.

In 2018, Phyllis became the first Army Warrant Officer ever selected to serve as a member of the Association of the United States Army's (AUSA) Council of Trustees. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Land Warfare.

Her non-profit experience includes being an Ambassador for the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial – the only major national memorial honoring all women who have defended America throughout history from the Revolutionary War to today. She also founded and led a non-profit, Wounded Warriors Have Families Too, Inc. since 2014. She has served on numerous boards, including the Board of Directors for the Allied Forces Foundation and the Army Women's Foundation. She is a fundraising advisor for the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association.