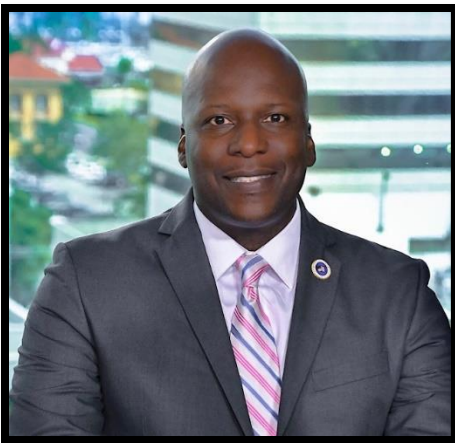




**MEMBER OF THE
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



LEE WASHINGTON, USMC VETERAN



A native of Punta Gorda, Florida, Lee aspired to be a US Marine as early as the 7th grade, enlisting and serving honorably from 1987-1998 on active duty in the United States Marine Corps. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Staff Sergeant, Infantry Platoon Sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

Upon returning to civilian life Lee worked as a personal bodyguard in Beverly Hills, CA; where he was responsible for the personal security of some of Hollywood's highest profile personalities. He eventually moved back to his home state of Florida, where he began a career in mortgage banking. Lee held the positions of Sales Manager for Bank of America/Countrywide Home Loans and Regional Sales Manager for Fifth Third Bank, overseeing his team's lending from Sarasota to Naples, FL.

In 2008, amid the market crash, Lee worked to help open, the Sarasota National Cemetery. August of 2009, Lee became a Veteran Services Counselor for Manatee County Veteran Services and was selected to lead the Veterans Division in May of 2013. Lee has been married to the former Robyn Faucy, of Sarasota and they have a blended family of 3, ages 31, 17 and 16. Lee was Manatee County's Employee of the Year 2013 and is a graduate of Leadership Manatee. He is the current Sr. VP of the Florida County Veterans Service Officer Association and an advisor to Manasota Veterans and the Manatee County Veterans Council.

Lee has been the guest speaker for Memorial Day 2014 at Sarasota National Cemetery, 2018 Veterans Appreciation Luncheon for Bradenton Kiwanis, special guest on ABC 7's Black Almanac, numerous METV interviews and programs, as well monthly community presentations around the county to civic organizations, at the colleges and assisted living facilities; all while fighting on behalf of Manatee county's Veterans and their benefits.