



**The Democratic Veterans
Caucus of Florida
2024 Retreat**

**April 5th - 6th, 2024
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
1501 International Parkway
Lake Mary, FL 32746**



The Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida Leadership



President Danny Fuqua



**Vice President
Dr. R. LeWayne Johnson**



**Secretary
Hazel Gillis**



**Treasurer
Marian Williams**

VISIT DEMETSFL.ORG OR CALL (407)340-2186

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A WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

I extend a heartfelt welcome and thank you to each and every one of you for attending the 2024 DVCF Retreat. I am new to being president, and am deeply honored to stand before you today and embark on this journey together. Our Retreat is not merely a celebration, but a convergence of individuals united by a shared mission. The Democratic Veterans Caucus is steadfast in its commitment to advocating for the rights and empowerment of all veterans who have served our country, including those who have transitioned into seeking elected positions. We honor you for your continued desire to be of service to our democracy.

I must express my sincere gratitude to Event Coordinator Marian Williams and the members of her committee who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of this event. To our esteemed guest speakers and program participants, your dedication to veterans does not go unnoticed, and I am immensely grateful for your contributions. We also appreciate the hotel staff for their dedicated attention and cooperation.

Furthermore, I wish to share my deepest respect and gratitude to our past president, Elena McCullough, in recognition of her unwavering dedication and outstanding service to the United States of America, the Democratic Veterans Caucus Florida, and the Democratic National Committee. Her exemplary leadership as vice president for eight years and president for three years has been instrumental in advocating for veterans statewide. Her tireless efforts on behalf of veterans leave a legacy of service that will continue to inspire us all.

Thank you all for joining us, and may this Retreat be filled with warmth, unity, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Danny Fuqua, DVCF President

*Vote for Congressional District 7
DNC Delegate Candidate*



MARIAN WILLIAMS

Founding Member of the Democratic Veterans
Caucus of Florida

Founder and President of the Democratic African
American Club of Seminole County

President of the NAACP of Seminole County

Former State Committee Woman - Seminole County

Vote in person on April 20, 2024, 10am - 2pm Only

Safeharbor Christian Church
730 Upsala Rd.
Sanford, 32771

OR Enterprise Museum
360 Main St.
Enterprise, FL 32725

Contact me at mmj9244@aol.com or 407-340-2186

PHIL EHR



U.S. CONGRESS

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY UTMOST GRATITUDE TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CAUCUS FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS IN ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING OF OUR VETERANS. YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SELFLESSLY SERVED OUR COUNTRY ARE TRULY COMMENDABLE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE. YOUR BRAVERY AND DEDICATION HAVE HELPED SHAPE OUR NATION AND PROTECT OUR FREEDOM. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO OUR COUNTRY.

COMMANDER, U.S. NAVY (RET.)



Dr. Robert LeWayne Johnson was born in rural Mississippi in the 1950s. At just five years old, he was working as a water boy in the cotton fields with his family.

Dr. Robert LeWayne Johnson is now a 34-year military veteran who served in the US Air Force for four years and the

US Army for 29 years. He is a retired Senior Chief Warrant Officer whose last assigned duty was with USAR Legal Command in Maryland, working with the Major General of the US Army Reserve Command. He was awarded a Bronze Star for his heroism in the first Gulf War.

Dr. Johnson has earned a Ph.D., a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Taxation, a Juris Doctor (JD) and has practiced law. He has also earned two master's degrees. He has said "Education is the great equalizer, and without it we can't go forward."

Dr. Johnson is retired from working for the U.S. Department of the Navy as a program manager with the presidential helicopter program. He founded the Osceola County Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida in 2019 and in 2024 he became vice president of the Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida.

Dr. Johnson is also the Chief Executive Officer of The Florida Coalition to Prevent Veteran Homelessness, Inc., an organization that he founded in 2021. He organized Veteran Jobs Fairs in Kissimmee in June, 2022, and St. Cloud in November, 2022. He recently partnered with the Mercy Foundation, as their Director of the Homeless Veterans Program, and the city of Kissimmee, to conduct a Veteran Resource Fair in November, 2023. He is currently a candidate for Florida State House District 46.

2024 DEMOCRATIC VETERANS CAUCUS OF FLORIDA RETREAT

To My
Fellow
Veterans,
Thank You
For Your
Service.



KEITH ABEL

FOR FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 98

WWW.VOTEKEITHABEL.COM

PAID FOR BY KEITH ABEL, DEMOCRAT FOR FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 98. APPROVED BY KEITH ABEL.



The Honorable Tom Keen is a decorated 21-year military veteran, a former Naval Flight Officer, and successful businessman in the high-tech aerospace training and simulation industry. He is a committed progressive who is the current state representative for the parts of Orange and Osceola County making up District 35. He won election in a hard-fought special election in January, 2024, turning a red seat blue.

Tom's commitment to public service continued long after serving our country. He has been affiliated with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, Disabled American Veterans, the US Naval Institute, the US Navy League, and the Military Officers Association of America and has served on both the City of Orlando Citizens' Police Review Board and the Mayor's Veteran Advisory Council. Tom has been married to Laura Keen for 32 years. They have two grown daughters.



The Honorable Lisa Dunkley was born in Jamaica, migrated to the United States as a young adult with her baby daughter and siblings. She is a proud US Army military veteran, entrepreneur and mother who has lived and worked in Florida for over twenty-five years. Since the 2022 election, she is the current state representative for District 97, which consists of part of Broward County.

Through working with the Department of Transportation and with the nonprofit sector, she has learned budget analysis and the importance of insuring that budget priorities meet the needs of the community. Education is one of her priorities.

As a veteran, she has worked tirelessly to connect Veterans to the resources and information available to them. She has sponsored and co-sponsored many bills to support veterans.

THANK YOU SPONSORS



**Jennifer Adams for Congress
The Hometown Candidate
for Florida's 7th District**



**Jewel Dickson
Volusia County
Democratic Party Chair**



**Michael Ledbetter
USAR 231 MB Co**



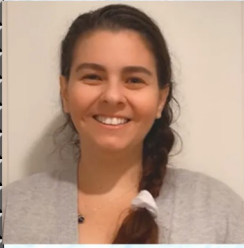
**Allek Pastrana for Congress
Candidate for CD7
Together WE can
UPDATE FLORIDA!**



**Scott Wacholtz
Secretary, Kendall Democrats
USMC 87-94**



Beverly Ledbetter



Kelly Wahlers Parrott is a United States Army veteran, nurse, mother, cannabis patient, and currently pursuing a Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan-Flint. She also serves as the Vice President of the Weed

For Warriors Project in Tampa Bay, a veterans organization focused on lowering veteran suicide rates through advocating for cannabis and other plant-based medicines as therapeutics in lieu of addictive and harmful pharmaceuticals as seen by the opioid crisis exacerbating the VA healthcare system. Kelly is a small business owner in the cannabis space that focuses on cannabis education and sponsoring veterans' medical appointments to obtain medical marijuana cards. As Suncoast NORML's director of patient and veteran affairs, she serves as a liaison for medical cannabis patients to ensure their needs are met.



Carlton Cartwright is a USAF veteran, a DVCF Director and the DVCF Media Chair, who captures our special events for posterity. More importantly, as Founder and Executive Director of Veterans Memorial & Multicultural Histories, Inc., he records videos of veterans discussing their service for the Veteran History Project and

the Library of Congress. He has recorded hundreds of veterans, some of our members included, so that their histories are not lost. He has dedicated much of his personal time, energy and resources to preserve these histories. If you are a veteran yourself and would be interested in being videotaped for this significant project, please contact Carlton during the Retreat so he may arrange to record your history. Please contact him at carlton3553@gmail.com or by text or call to 561-719-8106 and consider donating to this project. You may view his work on YouTube: youtube.com/@carltoncartwright1548/videos.



Broward County Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott

has been in office since January, 2021. Service is in Joe's DNA. His mom retired from Broward Public Schools, an educator for over 40 years. Joe's dad is a retired Army Sergeant Major. His wife of 16 years is an Army Veteran and Nurse Anesthetist who serves Broward hospitals. Joe graduated from West Point and was awarded the Bronze Star as an Army Captain in Iraq. He's passionate about addressing the challenges our election system faces. His MBA and 20 years of combined military and technology leadership experience gives him the skill sets required to improve the voting experience in Broward, and to build the team and capabilities needed to ensure fair voting.

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**Past DVCF President Col. Vic Ogilvie, USAF (ret.)
Past DVCF Secretary Carol Ogilvie, Board Members**

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**Dr. R. LeWayne Johnson, PHD, LLM, JD, MBA
Candidate, FL House of Representatives HD46
CW4(P), US Army Retired
Gina Y. Gomez-Johnson, MBA
Financial Accounting (GS - Retired)**

4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DELEGATE

**DELEGATE FOR THE 2024 DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

HAZEL GILLIS



VOTE



**10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
APRIL 20, 2024**



**IBEW Local Union 177,
966 N. Liberty St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206**

Club & Caucus Affiliations

Secretary Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida
Past State Committeewoman Duval County
Committeewoman Precinct 804
Past President Duval County Democratic Black Caucus
Democratic Senior Caucus Member, Past Secretary Democratic Black Caucus of Florida
DWIN Member



Hazel Gillis (904) 472-9023



**LAKELAND
DEMOCRATIC
CLUB** ★ ★ ★ ★

Let's Finish The Job



Keynote Speaker Phil Ehr advanced from Navy Seaman to Commander in a 26-year active duty career. He flew reconnaissance in the Cold War, combat support in Desert Storm, and oversaw U.S. combat operations in Allied Force, which was the most intense and sustained combat operation in Europe between World War II and Russia's invasion

of Ukraine. On shore duty, Phil provided strategic advice to senior leaders in Washington, Silicon Valley, London, and NATO, including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell; and helped civilian agencies use declassified space technology to improve border security, federal firefighting, and earth science research.

Phil's first mission in the Navy was the Mariel Boatlift in the Florida Strait rescuing men, women and children who risked their lives escaping brutality in Cuba for freedom and opportunity in America.

After the Navy, Phil taught children the game of chess in schools and fought Russian corruption in the World Chess Federation. Phil also taught British officers in their war college, challenged craven politicians who manipulated Americans with bigotry and lies, and founded a nonprofit to counter disinformation in domestic politics with combat-proven military tactics. Phil recently completed dozens of humanitarian aid delivery missions in Ukraine for people who—like the Cuban exiles he saw four decades earlier—risked it all for freedom.

Phil and Sue, his wife of 28 years, are blessed with two daughters. Phil is running to represent the people of South Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys, because they are suffering from extremism and chaos in Congress. New leadership is needed to solve problems that matter and to defend American freedoms, democracy and prosperity.

2024 DVCF Retreat Agenda
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
(Subject to Change)

Friday, April 5

5:30 PM - Meet at the dock for the Cruise
433 N Palmetto Ave, Sanford, FL 32771

Saturday, April 6

10:00AM - 12:00PM - DVCF Meeting

Orchid Ballroom - registration begins at 9:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker Dr. R. LeWayne Johnson

12:30PM - 3:00PM - Lunch Session

Salons FGH - registration begins at 12:00 PM

Opening Ceremonies

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome from the President

Introduction of The Honorable Tom Keen

Representative Tom Keen

Introduction of The Honorable Lisa Dunkley

Representative Lisa Dunkley

Introduction of The Honorable Joe Scott

Broward Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott