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Walker M. Williams III

Colonel, United States Air Force (Retired)

Colonel Williams is currently the National President of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States (ROA). He previously served as the National Deputy Executive Director of ROA, with additional duties as Chief of Staff and Director of Administration and Finance, for 14 years, from September 1991 through December 2005. During this time he supported five Executive Directors of the Association and 15 National Presidents and National Executive Committees. During the 2005 National Convention, he received the coveted ROA Harry S Truman Achievement Award for his "distinguished and tireless work on behalf of ROA and National Defense."

Colonel Williams was born 22 January 1938 in Buena Vista, GA, and graduated from high school there in 1956. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology prior to entering Aviation Cadet Navigator training at James Connally AFB, TX, in 1962. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Troy State University in 1974. Colonel Williams graduated from Air Command and Staff College in 1974 and Air War College in 1981, both in residence at Maxwell AFB, AL.

Upon receiving his commission in 1962, Colonel Williams was assigned as a navigator to the 41st Air Transport Squadron, Charleston, AFB, SC. He flew C-130Es and C-141As from Charleston AFB until separating from active duty in December 1969. He continued to fly C-141s at Charleston as a Reservist, joining the 315th military Airlift Wing (Associate) (AFRES) as an Air Reserve Technician (ART) in 1970. In 1973, Colonel Williams transitioned to the C-5A and was transferred to Dover AFB, DE, as an ART in the 512 Military Airlift Wing (Associate) (AFRES).

From late 1977 to 1981, he was assigned to HQ AFRES, Robins AFB, GA, as a programming officer (extended active duty) in the Plans and Programs function. In 1982, Colonel Williams was assigned to Fourteenth Air Force (AFRES), Dobbins AFB, GA, as the Director of Operational Plans. He was assigned to the Pentagon from 1984 until retirement in October, 1991, first as Chief, Programs Branch and then Chief, Programs and Resources Division, Office of the Air Force Reserve, supporting three Chiefs of the Air Force Reserve. In 1990, Colonel Williams was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force as a Legislative Liaison Officer.

Colonel Williams is a life member of the Reserve Officers Association, joining in 1970, and was an active participant with the Air Section leadership from 1980 through 1991, when he became Deputy Executive Director. He was President of Chapter 36, Warner Robins, GA, in 1979-80, and Chapter 1, District of Columbia, 1987-88.

A Master Navigator with more than 9,000 flying hours, his military decorations include the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

Colonel Williams currently resides in his hometown of Buena Vista, Georgia, where he owns and operates a bed and breakfast inn. He also volunteers his time as Finance Committee Chairman of the Buena Vista United Methodist Church and as Chairman, Marion County Development Authority.