



Terry Prince – Director – Illinois Dept of Veterans Affairs

Terry Prince was appointed Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs by Governor JB Pritzker on April 1st, 2021. As Director, he leads a team of 1,200 professionals, in partnership with numerous local and state organizations, to provide beneficial services for more than 650,000 veterans and their families across the state of Illinois.

Prior to this appointment, Director Prince served as the Superintendent of the Ohio Veterans Homes. In this capacity, he led 850 employees providing skilled nursing and domiciliary care for 801 veterans at three separate facilities including the 5th largest Veterans home in the country. At the conclusion of this assignment, he was awarded the department's inaugural Major General Manning Force Award, an honor that recognized his distinguished service in a position of significant responsibility.

Prince enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1986 and went on to serve at 14 different duty stations around the world with tours as Command Master Chief at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, NC and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Later, he was handpicked to be the 1st Senior Enlisted Advisor at the Defense Health Agency in Falls Church, VA. He closed out his illustrious 31-year career in 2017 as the 14th Director of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps and Force Master Chief of Navy Medicine.

Force Master Chief Prince's military awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (six awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards) and the U.S. Army Order of Military Medical Merit. He is also triple warfare qualified as a Surface, Aviation and Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist.

Prince earned a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Chapman University and is a graduate of the National Defense University Keystone Leadership Fellowship, Navy Senior Enlisted Academy and the Navy Command Master Chief course. He served as a proud member of the National Association of State Veterans Homes and more recently, as secretary and junior vice-president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). He is also a proud Eagle Scout and finisher of the Ironman Hawaii Triathlon World Championship.

There is a strong history of military service in Director Prince's family, with his grandfather, three uncles and two brothers all having worn the cloth of our nation. He and his wife, Dr. Jennifer Prince, a 12-year Navy veteran, reside in Will County, Illinois.