



Cassandra Taylor, is a 28 year Army Veteran, born and raised in Maywood, Illinois where attended Proviso East High School. At the end of her sophomore year, her parents relocated to Fort Madison, IA. After graduating from Fort Madison High School in 1981, she went on to study at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, IA. She later transferred to University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA in 1982 where she studied Liberal Arts. She received her Bachelor's Degree of Science in Technical Management in 2007 from DeVry University in Addison, IL; and her Master's Degree in Human Resource Management in 2008 from Keller Graduate School of Management in Schaumburg, IL. In 2019 she decided to go for her MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Management from Keller Graduate School of Management in Chicago, IL. She held several positions while in the military such as: Training Noncommissioned Officer, Human Resource Sergeant, Suicide Prevention Trainer, Sexual Assault and Harassment Trainer, Victim's Advocate and Unit Prevention Leader.

Her current employer is Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL where she works as an Ambulatory Analyst. She is the Founder and CEO of Top Flight Defense, Inc. a nonprofit organization to encourage and engage female veterans to impact their communities through awareness classes and empowering events. She is certified in Adult & Child CPR & 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, and Adult & Youth Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid for 3 years. She competed in the Ms. Veteran America 2016 and 2017 Competition where she made it to the top 25 contestants out of 400 other female veterans. The mission is to bring awareness to the number of homeless female veterans in the United States on any given day, as well raise funds to educate and house them and their children. She also has performed The National Anthem at several sporting and military events, such as: Chicago Sky WMBA, Professional Bull Riders, Chicago Wolves, and Chicago Bandits, Mission Bar B Que, and Monster Truck Jam. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Schaumburg Hoffman Estates Alumnae Chapter. And her hobbies are exercising, singing, dancing, and spending time with her grandchildren

Her immediate family consists of two adult children, four granddaughters, 4 brothers, one sister, and a Chocolate Lab.