



William S. "Bill" Spann

Bill Spann was appointed by Mayor Lenny Curry -- and unanimously confirmed by all 19 members of the Jacksonville City Council -- to serve as the City of Jacksonville's Director of Military Affairs and Veterans Services in 2015. He oversees a staff of 19 which serve the Northeast Florida military and veteran's community assisting with recovery of VA benefits, VA claims, and liaison with the area's four military bases (Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, USMC Blount Island Command and Naval Station Mayport) and other military commands. Among many other services, the office serves an average of nearly 10,000 veterans annually and connects those Vets with more than \$25.85M in new VA benefits each year.

From 2011 to 2015, Bill served as Vice President of Procurement for a Jacksonville-based Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) applying for and fulfilling federal contracts, and as President and CEO of the International Premium Cigar and Pipe Retailers, leading the trade association to the two most profitable annual trade shows in their 80 year history earning a total profit of \$3.2 million.

In November 2009, Bill joined the Florida Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) as Chief of Staff and was a prime mover behind implementing many improvement initiatives. These include creating a strong communications department, a responsive public records function, a human relations management advisory position, flex-work policies, and an overall culture of accountability and dignity for 450 employees in eight statewide offices. OFR reports directly to the Florida Cabinet led by then-Governor Charlie Crist and later Governor Rick Scott.

Prior to his role at OFR, Bill served four years as President & Chief Executive Officer of the Associated General Contractors of Greater Florida -- a trade association representing the commercial and general construction building industry -- with a territory covering 70 percent of Florida's 67 counties. AGC of America recognized this success with three national performance awards in two years, including the first-ever two-year repeat "Best of Show" awards in the 80-plus year history of AGC.

Upon retiring from the Navy in 2003, Bill served on Governor Jeb Bush's executive leadership team as Chief of Staff for the Florida Department of Children & Families (DCF). During his three years at DCF, Bill rose quickly through the ranks serving first as DCF's Communications Director, then Deputy Chief of Staff, and finally, Chief of Staff under DCF Secretary Lucy Hadi. As Chief of Staff for DCF, a 14,000-employee state agency with 15 regional offices statewide, Bill was a key advisor on a wide variety of legislative, personnel, strategic planning, and programmatic issues in a very intense, seven-day-a-week environment.

Bill retired from the United States Navy in May of 2003 having earned the rank of Commander. His final duty station was as the Director of Communications for the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. While at the Academy, he also taught *Ethics and Moral Decision Making for the Junior Officer*.

He is experienced with major print and electronic media, including *60 Minutes*, *60 Minutes II*, *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, *The Early Show*, *Nightline*, all major daily newspapers, and the Pentagon Press Corps. He has worked White House advance for two Presidents, has prepared his CEO for White House and Pentagon briefings, congressional testimony, state legislative presentations, and for editorial boards with *Wall Street Journal* and other major media outlets. He has worked international public relations contingencies in Somalia, Bosnia, Croatia, Albania, Italy, Japan, the Arabian Gulf, and Greece.

Bill is married to the former Judi Skelton of Chestertown, Maryland. They have two children, Dylan age 26 who is a professional photographer and PR Specialist, and Kirstin age 24, who is a Marine Corps First Lieutenant stationed at Iwakuni, Japan's F-35B squadron. Bill and his adult children enjoy off-road motorcycling and the family enjoys scuba diving, camping and other outdoor activities.