

Biography of Major (Ret) Wanda I. Williams

Major (Ret) Wanda I. Williams is a distinguished military leader, dedicated community advocate, and proud Virgin Islander whose life reflects service, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to uplifting others. Born in Puerto Rico and raised with the values of family, discipline, compassion, and integrity, she has carried these principles throughout her personal and professional journey. She earned an Associate of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a concentration in Management from the University of the Virgin Islands.

Williams retired after 33 years of honorable service in the United States Army and Army National Guard. Initially enlisting for “two years and nineteen weeks,” she quickly discovered her calling in military service. Her 18 years as an enlisted soldier formed the foundation of her leadership philosophy. She excelled across multiple military occupational specialties, strengthened organizational readiness, and remained deeply rooted in Army values.

Her military career began in 1990 as a Unit Supply Specialist (76Y), where she immediately distinguished herself through exceptional performance and leadership. In 1997, she transitioned from active duty to pursue her education, but her dedication to service led her to join the Virgin Islands Army National Guard (VIARNG). As a part-time soldier, she became known for her commitment to soldiers and families. Her impact on force strength was most notable during her tenure as a Recruiting and Retention NCO, where her mission-focused approach earned her the Chief’s 54 Award as the top recruiter.

In 2008, Williams received a direct commission into the Adjutant General’s Corps, quickly becoming a subject matter expert in human resources and organizational leadership. Her progressive leadership led to key assignments across the VIARNG, including:

- Aide-de-Camp
- Officer Branch Chief (AGR)
- Commander, Joint Force Headquarters–Virgin Islands (M-Day)
- Special Programs Officer to the Director of Joint Staff (AGR)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Officer (M-Day)
- Force Integration Readiness Officer
- Officer Strength Manager

Her influence extended beyond formal roles, serving with numerous working groups and committees that advanced organizational effectiveness across the VIARNG.

Throughout her 33-year career, Williams earned numerous military and civic awards, including:

- Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC)
- Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC)
- Army Good Conduct Medal (4)
- National Defense Service Medal (Bronze Star)
- Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3)
- VI National Guard Commendation Medal
- Senior Recruiting & Retention Badge
- Chief's 54 Recruiting & Retention Award (2003)
- VIARNG NCO of the Year (2000)
- Meritorious Service Award, National Guard Association of the United States

Beyond her military accomplishments, Williams is a respected civic leader whose contributions strengthen communities across the U.S. Virgin Islands. She serves as:

- Chairperson, Our Community Salutes – U.S. Virgin Islands, Inc.
- Employer Outreach Director, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)
- Member, National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)
- Member, Virgin Islands National Guard Association (VINGA)
- Member, American Legion Bromley Berkeley Post 133, Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI

In these roles, she advocates for service members, supports transitioning soldiers, builds community partnerships, and promotes employer engagement with the Guard and Reserve. Her civic leadership mirrors her military service—rooted in mentorship, advocacy, and a deep commitment to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Williams is celebrated not only for her achievements but for her character. She leads with empathy, listens with intention, and acts with unwavering integrity. Her legacy is reflected in the soldiers she has mentored, the families she has supported, and the communities she has strengthened. Her life's work embodies the belief that true leadership is measured by service and the positive change one brings to others.

She is married to Kevin A. Williams, Sr., and together they have five children and three grandchildren. Her devotion to family mirrors her devotion to service—steady, heartfelt, and unwavering.