



Rochelle Crump BIO

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Rochelle retired from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS), on May 31, 2018, as the Chief of African American Services, where she was employed with the State of Illinois for nearly fifteen (15) years). During this tenure she also served as the interim EEO Officer/Deputy Director and the ADA Coordinator. In addition Rochelle served as the liaison to the African American Advisory Council, and the liaison to the African American State Employment Plan, the IDCFS Birth Parent Steering Committee and other important internal and external Committees. Rochelle found it hard not to serve veterans, and employees would send employee veterans to her for assistance. With the help of one of her NWWU members who also worked at IDCFS, she created a pre-veteran's day recognition for veterans who were employed with IDCFS, set up refreshments and a veteran's information table during their break and lunch hour. Human Resources then stepped in and included all of the employee names to personalize it and sent it out state wide to IDCFS offices.

Prior to her employment with the IDCFS in 2003, Rochelle served as the, Assistant Director by IL State Senate confirmation, making her the first woman and African American to serve in the Executive staff of the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs since its' inception in 1945.

In 1998, the mayor appointed Rochelle as the Director/Community Liaison. Rochelle had served thirteen (13) years on the City of Chicago Mayor's Veterans' Advisory Council before the appointment. She also served as the Chair and a Board Commissioner by consent of the Chicago City Council Committee for Human Relations.

Rochelle served two-years at a Social Service Agency assisting homeless veterans

Rochelle began her veteran's career in 1974 as a work-study student at the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office, and in 1975, she was employed in career status.

After twenty-three years (23) years of federal service she resigned. During this tenure she served as a Veterans Service Officer (VSO), EEO Chair and the Federal Women's Program Manager.

Rochelle is the President and Founder of the National Women Veterans United (NWWU), a 501c3 not for profit Military Women Veterans Organization, formed in March 2005, for military women veterans of all branches of the Armed Forces, enlisted and officers and of all backgrounds, War and Peacetime. Under Rochelle's leadership NWWU successfully advocated for the IL Women Veterans License Plate. There is limited acknowledgement of military women veterans, and NWWU felt the need to recognize women veterans who never got a welcome home parade. NWWU created the "Women Veterans are Heroes Too" medal as a way to highlight their significant contributions of service in the Armed Forces.

In 2015 after Ten (10) years of advocacy and outreach, NWWU opened the only Women Veteran's Center in Illinois and it is one of few across the nation, that provide various gender specific services for military women veterans and their families, with emphasis on disabled, at risk and homeless military women veterans. NWWU has trained more than 20 NWWU members in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) to provide Peer-to-Peer support programs focusing on the eight (8) dimensions of wellness. NWWU provides creative art and crafts therapy, fitness activities, book club, and yoga and health initiatives. NWWU created the first 'Stand Down" for military women veterans as an annual event. ,

Rochelle Crump served honorably in the United States Women's Army Corps (WAC) during the Vietnam Era 1971 -1973.

Rochelle has mentored young men ages 18 years and up for more than 20 years, where she successfully facilitates peace and good sportsmanship in a community open Men's Night Basketball.

Rochelle completed her early education in Chicago; Illinois attended Kennedy King and Truman College and received a Master of Science Degree in Community Economic Development (CED) from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU).

Rochelle has received numerous awards and recognition from City, State, Federal, County and community agencies and organizations for her work as an advocate for Veterans