

Commemoration of the

75th ANNIVERSARY

of the

DESEGREGATION

of the

U.S. ARMED FORCES

**BLACK VETERANS
& GOOD JOBS**

JULY 25, 2023



Department of Labor National Office
Frances Perkins Building
Cesar Chavez Memorial Auditorium
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210



AGENDA

1:00 pm – 1:03 pm

Welcome

Julian Purdy – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans' Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor

1:03 pm – 1:08 pm

Opening Remarks

Julie A. Su – Acting Secretary of Labor

1:08 pm- 1:13 pm

DOL DEIA & Good Jobs Remarks

Alaysia Black Hackett – Chief Diversity and Equity Officer at the U.S. Department of Labor

1:13 pm – 1:18 pm

Armed Forces Present Day and VETS Commitment to Equity

Julian Purdy – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans' Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor

1:18 pm – 2:25 pm

Panel: Real Stories and Intervention Strategies

Yolanda F. Peacock (Moderator) – Research Analyst for the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service

2:25 pm – 2:30 pm

Closing Remarks

Julian Purdy – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans' Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor

Brought to you in partnership with the Chief Diversity and Equity Officer Team

SPEAKER BIOS



Julie A. Su became Acting Secretary of Labor on March 11, 2023. She was previously confirmed by the Senate to serve as the deputy secretary of labor on July 13, 2021. As deputy secretary, she served as the de-facto chief operating officer for the department, overseeing its workforce, managing its budget and executing the priorities of the secretary of labor. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Labor, Deputy Secretary Su served as the secretary for the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The LWDA enforces workplace laws, combats wage theft, ensures health and safety on the job, connects Californians to quality jobs and career pathways, and administers unemployment insurance, workers compensation and paid family leave. Su is a nationally recognized expert on workers' rights and civil rights who has dedicated her distinguished legal career to advancing justice on behalf of poor and disenfranchised communities and is a past recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant.



Julian Purdy is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy of Veterans' Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor. Julian has more than 12 years of service working for and in the federal government. As a former Army NCO, he is truly dedicated to public service and to the betterment of our nation's heroes.



Alaysia Black Hackett is the inaugural Chief Diversity and Equity Officer for the U.S. Department of Labor. She serves as the subject matter expert on integrating DEIA into the systems that guide the labor market, diversifying the workforce, dismantling historically exclusive systems that perpetuate discrimination in the workplace, and embedding equity across all our work.

PANELISTS

Yolanda F. Peacock (Moderator) is a research analyst for the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service. Ms. Peacock serves as the lead researcher and project manager for VETS' Black Veterans Research Project among other research and data analysis roles. Prior to joining VETS, Ms. Peacock served as an economist with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in various roles.

Patricia Jackson-Kelley is the Immediate past National President of the National Association of Black Military Women. She's an Advisory Commissioner for the Los Angeles County Military & Veterans Affairs 2nd district. She served in three separate branches of the military over her 26-year career: in the U.S. Navy Reserve, as an active-duty Air Force officer before joining the Air Force Reserve, and finally a member of the Army Reserve. She retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2003.

Victor LaGroon is a Veteran and DEIA subject matter expert. Victor credits his experience and its impact on serving people to his time spent with the 10th Mountain Division, U.S. Army, where he served as an Intelligence Analyst and was medically retired in 2006.

Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr. is the Veterans Employment and Education Division Director at The American Legion. During Mr. Sharpe's military service with the Army Reserve, Sergeant First Class Sharpe was deployed twice overseas, in Operation Joint Forge, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and recently for the Global War on Terrorism, in which he received the Bronze Star Medal for work completed in the restoration and improvement of public and private financial institutions and banking services in Iraq.

Barbara Ward serves as the Vice Chair, Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, she is also CEO of Ward and Associates, LLC., and former Director of the Center for Minority Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs. Her 47-year professional career included numerous senior executive level positions in the health care industry, state, and federal government. She was also an Air Force nurse who served during the Vietnam-era.

Fallon Williams was appointed as the fourth LGBTQ+ Veterans Community Outreach and Relations Specialist in 2021 by the DC Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs. Since appointment, her main goal has been to ensure that all veterans not only have a seat at the table including a voice, but also are displayed and heard. She served 5 years in the Georgia Army National Guard followed by 10 years active-duty Army. She completed two tours in Iraq.

Joe Wynn is the President/CEO of Veterans Enterprise Training and Services Group, a non-profit organization that helps veterans, their families and the community to achieve economic empowerment through education, training and entrepreneurship. He also serves as Legislative Liaison on Capitol Hill for the National Association for Black Veterans. Joe is an Air Force Vietnam-era veteran.