



---

## **Fernán R. Cepero**

---

July 1, 1989 - June 30, 1999  
**Air Force**, Personnel Specialist [3FOX1]

---

May 22, 2023 - Present  
**City of Rochester**, Human Resources  
Deputy Director of Human Resource Management

---

The stars and stripes weren't just a flag on my uniform; they represented a purpose bigger than myself. Serving as a Technical Sergeant in the Air Force wasn't just a job; it was a commitment. It meant pushing myself, leading my team, and being a part of something that safeguarded our Nation. The challenges forged resilience, the camaraderie built a family, and the deployments instilled a deep sense of pride. Though retired, that sense of service remains. It's a fire that motivates me to give back to my community, and a foundation of honor that guides me every day.







## Chris Kight

---

June 20, 1989 - March 1, 2005  
**Navy**, Data Processing Limited Duty Officer

---

September 19, 2022 - Present  
**City of Rochester**,  
IT, Data & Digital Services Manager

---

Service, to me, is about fostering unity amidst diversity—a fundamental American value. I chose to serve my community because I believe in promoting a character-driven pluralism where every individual is free to follow their conscience and strive toward their best self. My military service reinforced this belief, teaching me the strength that comes from diverse perspectives working toward a common goal. I joined the Armed Forces to give back to a Nation that values freedom and opportunity, and today, I continue that mission by serving my community with the same dedication to unity and progress for all.







# Rolando Delgado

---

August 16, 2016 - March 26, 2020  
**Army**, Stryker Systems Maintainer 91S

---

March 4, 2024 - Present  
**City of Rochester**, RFD, Firefighter

---

Service to me means being willing to set aside everything for the betterment of something bigger. I joined the Army to start on a path that would be meaningful and fulfilling, while benefiting my life. The military and Fire Services both embody that. Both careers are filled with people who aren't just willing to serve, but people who love doing it. It's very rare to find a career you love, but it's even harder to find a career where everyone loves the job just as much and gives 110%. Both careers are filled with individuals who will go above and beyond to achieve that mutual goal of service. Both the military and Fire Service have instilled discipline in me, and taught me lessons that are not taught by a single person, but the Career as a whole. They've instilled both discipline and motivation that fuel me to keep striving for new goals every day to serve my community.







## Elaine C. Beckley

---

March 10, 1978 - May 31, 1993  
**Army**, 71L, Administrative Specialist

---

September 19, 2022 - Present  
**City of Rochester**,  
Finance, Clerk III

---

I had heard that the Army Reserves would help pay for my college education. I must admit that arriving for Basic Training at Ft. McClellan, AL, turned out to be quite a shock for me. Fast forward; I made some great friends, learned extreme discipline, and surprisingly, made it through with some good memories. I took advantage of the G.I. Bill and job advancement courses while still receiving my full salary from the City of Rochester. I currently receive a pension for my years of service and am taking advantage of my veteran status.







## Isidoro D. Morale

December 28, 2008 - January 31, 2013

**Marine Corps**, 6046/Aviation Maintenance Administration Specialist

January 16, 2024 - Present

**City of Rochester,**  
NBD, Senior Zoning Analyst

After high school, I was at a crossroads. I wasn't ready for college, but I didn't want to waste time. Several friends of mine joined the Army, so I joined the Marines because I was inspired by their tradition and background. It was the most challenging and stressful four years of my life, but also the most rewarding. I was deployed twice in that time and spent half my time on Naval aircraft carriers working with AV-8B Harriers, which provided air support in the Middle East and Malaysia. Now I'm tired of boats.







## Sammie L. Drayton Jr.

---

November 1, 1990 - March 30, 1997  
**Army**, Combat Signaler Paratrooper 31UP

---

May 19, 1997 - Present  
**City of Rochester**,  
RPD, Commander of Administration

---

Service means dedicating oneself to the well-being of others and fostering a sense of community. I chose to serve because I believe in the power of collective strength, and the importance of standing up for those who cannot stand for themselves. My military experience transformed my perspective, teaching me resilience, discipline, and the value of sacrifice. It instilled a deep sense of purpose and connection to a greater mission, shaping who I am and how I engage with the world around me. Service is a commitment to something larger than oneself.







## Willie Joe Lightfoot

---

June 6, 1990 - December 14, 2002  
**Air Force**, Crash Fire Rescue / (3E731)

---

February 8, 1997 - Present  
**City of Rochester**,  
City Council, City Councilman At Large

---

I joined the military while in high school. The military literally saved my life. I kept me out of the challenging streets of the inner city of Rochester during troubling times in the 90s. I chose to serve as an alternative to college and because I love my country. The military has changed my life for the better, teaching me discipline, integrity, and endurance amongst many other things. I was able to see the world and serve in Operations Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom. I was the first city service member to be deployed after 9/11 to Uzbekistan at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base (aka K2 Camp stronghold freedom).







## Joe L. Thomas, Jr.

---

July 17, 1989 - January 22, 1996

**Navy**, Storekeeper (SK3), Petty Officer 3rd Class (E-4)

---

May 1, 2016 - Present

**City of Rochester**, City Clerk, Senior Legislative Coordinator

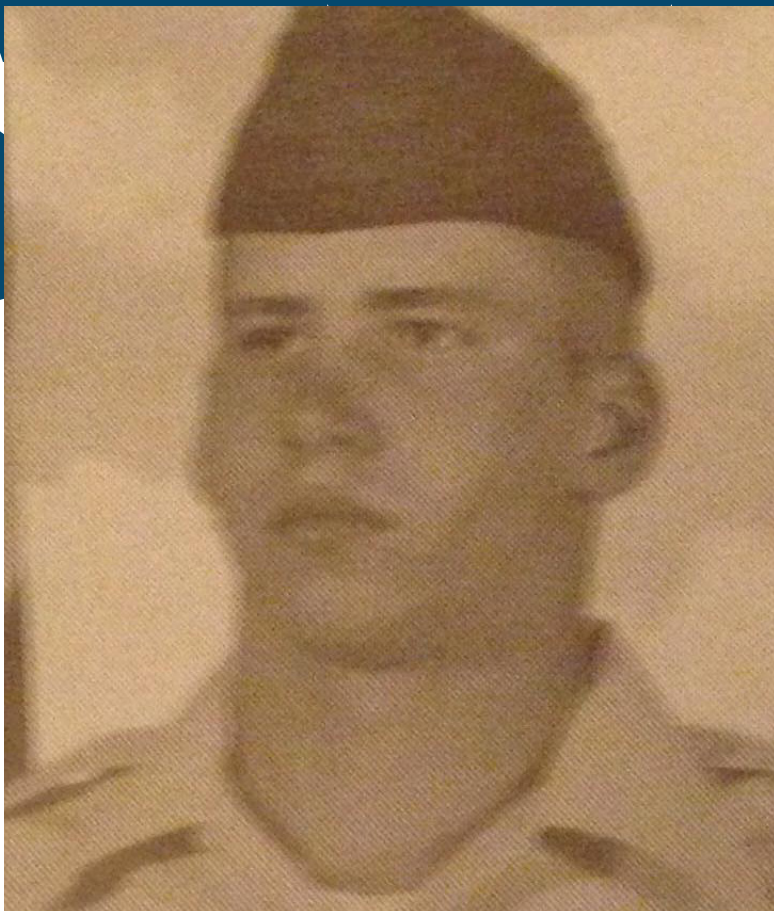
---

Why did I join the armed forces? I come from a large family. Having four older sisters, all of whom my parents put through college, it would have been a large undertaking for my parents to put my sister, and me, through college at the same time. I researched the Armed Services and saw that I could travel the world while gaining valuable skills that would enhance my personal life through the many benefits. I joined the U.S. Navy in 1989, and never looked back.

I enjoyed my military career and made friends for life throughout my eight years of service. The military is not for everyone but it impacted my life immensely.







## Patrick J. Flanigan

---

September 5, 1983 - July 5, 1987  
**Army**, IIC, Indirect Fire Infantryman (mortars)

---

October 8, 2008 - Present  
**City of Rochester**, Bureau of Communications and Special Events, Principal Communications Specialist

---

The military taught me that true service involves some level of sacrifice. When I joined the Army, I was motivated for personal reasons more than a sense of service. But from the first day of Basic Training, the overarching message of every lesson was 'mission before the men.' To prepare us for the reality of combat, the drill sergeants took every opportunity to remind us that we were part of something much larger than ourselves. While my thoughts on service today are much less 'dramatic,' I still consider all my roles in life with an elevated emphasis on their larger purpose in service to others.







## Vincent B. McIntyre

March 13, 1985 - April 21, 1993

**Army**, 12B Combat Engineer, Specialist Promotable

December 18, 2016 - Present

**City of Rochester**, DES, Superintendent Of Security

Military service offered a chance to travel to other parts of the world, further, my education, and establish better discipline in my life. I chose to serve because America is a great country, and my continued dedication to service means that I am part of its continuing freedom. The military changed my life because I gained so much knowledge, and traveled to countries that others have only dreamed of. I gained much discipline. A unique change in life. I saw the military as a way to earn money and to prove something to myself.







## Michael R. DeSain

---

September 1, 1987 - September 1, 1994

**Navy**, Petty Officer 2nd Class

(MOS/Title Upon Exiting the Military - Gunners Mate Guns)

---

March 18, 2024 - Present

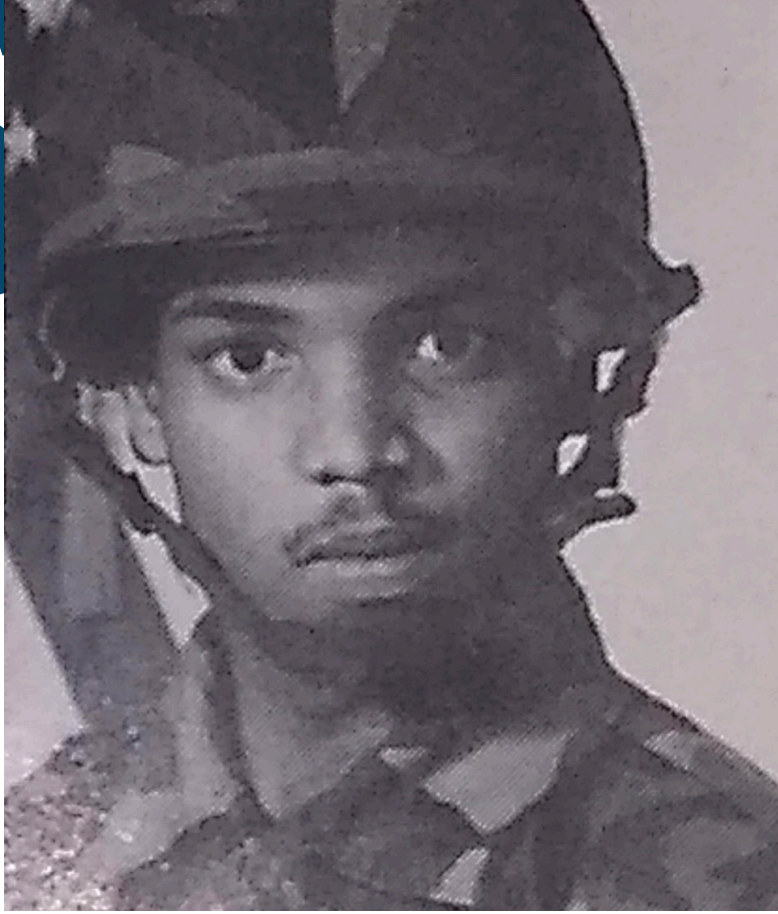
**City of Rochester**, RPD, Police Commander

---

Service above Self has always been a part of me. Serving for a greater good and the challenges that come with that cause. I chose being a Police Officer to continue helping others and making the world a better place for all of us. I consider being a Police Officer an honor and a calling to serve the community. Military service changed my life by adding discipline and attention to detail to my daily life, along with treating others with respect. I joined the U.S. Navy to have a sense of purpose in my life, to be bigger than oneself.







## Jaime L. Cruz

---

1984-1999

**Army**, 1st Battalion Infantry  
RTO

---

December 2019 - Present

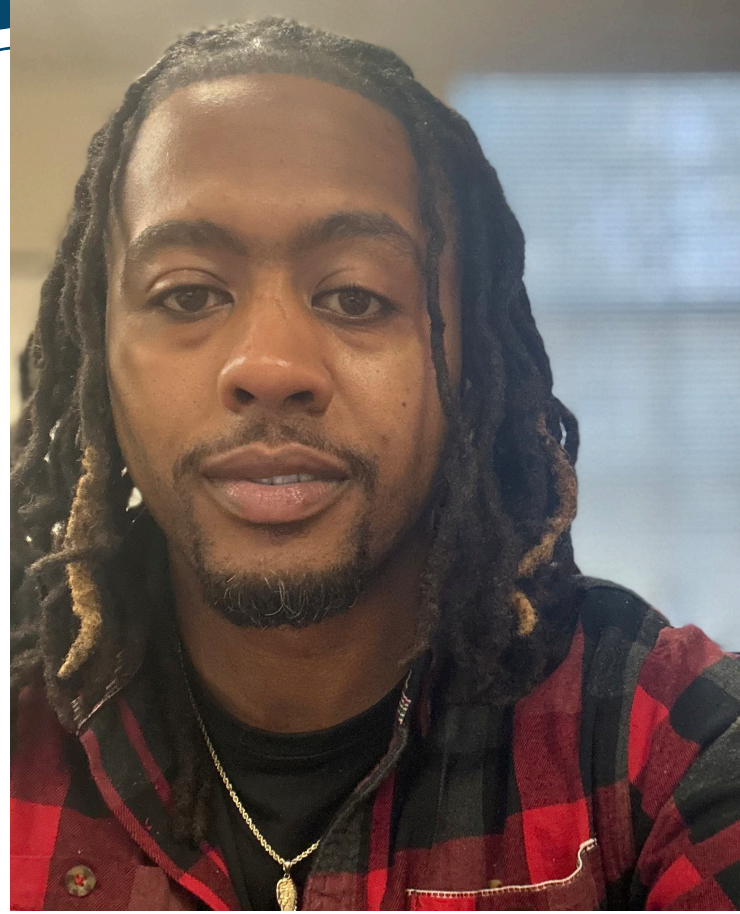
**City of Rochester**, City Security, City Hall

---

The Army for me presented a great opportunity to serve my country, and explore and learn about other countries all over the world. I had several amazing life changing experiences throughout my tenure with the Army, and it was the best decision I have ever made in my life. I am proud to have been able to serve.







## Michael T. Maxwell

---

Military Start Date: February 8, 2014  
**Army**, MOS/Title Upon Exiting the Military:  
91D, Rank Upon Exit: Specialist

---

July 5, 2023 - Present  
**City of Rochester**, DRHS - Youth Services Associate

---

Service, to me, means putting the needs of others before my own to make a lasting impact. I chose to serve our community because I believe in the strength of unity and the power of giving back. Military service has taught me resilience, adaptability, and the value of teamwork.

