

Honoring those who served U.S.

ALENE TARTER

Ethel A. ("Alene") Tarter is Director of Benefits and Assistance for the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in Bay Pines, Fla. The retired Air Force Master Sergeant has served in a myriad of leadership roles both in the military and with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Prior to assuming her current role, she served as a Veterans' Claims Examiner in the department from 1999-2002 and later as Claims Bureau Supervisor from 2002-2006. In 2006, she was selected as the Bureau Chief for the Claims Bureau before being promoted to her current position in 2009.

She leads a statewide team of 110 veterans' advocates helping Florida veterans and their families access earned state and federal benefits, services and support.

Her veterans' advocates are located in the Bureau of Veterans' Claims within the VA Regional Office in St. Petersburg, the Bureau of Field Services, strategically positioned in VA Medical Centers, most VA Outpatient Clinics, Community Based Outpatient Clinics and some Vet Centers, and the Bureau of State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education and Training.

She is a member of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 8) Veterans' OEF/OIF Reintegration and Suicide Prevention panel, the Florida Council on Homelessness, the State Advisory Council for Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery/Reintegration and the Supreme Court Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force.

Ms. Tarter holds both an Undergraduate Degree and Master of Business Administration degree with specialization in Health Care Administration from Wayland Baptist University.

She has two adult sons, Joshua and Matthew. She and her husband, Mike, live in Parrish, Fla.

(As of November 2018)