

## **BENEFITS**

### **Workshop Name: Know Your Benefits**

#### **Workshop summary:**

Anyone who served Honorably is entitled to State and Federal benefits. North Carolina and the Veterans Administration offer a plethora of benefits, services, and opportunities for all Veterans. The first step in receiving any benefit is to seek out an expert to assist you with finding the right benefit for you. County Veteran Service Officers are there to assist all Veterans with their needs. They are Nationally and State certified in the laws of the Veterans' Benefits.

#### **Speaker Bio:**



**Deborah Byrd-Bowins**  
**Veteran Service Officer**  
**Mecklenburg County**

Deborah is dedicated to assisting Veterans and their dependents in receiving their benefits. As a US Navy retiree, she has benefited and experienced firsthand many of the benefits she now ensures her clients receive as well.

Deborah earned three (3) Associate Degrees from York Technical College, Rock Hill, SC, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, and an MBA in Public Administration from Columbia Southern University. In the midst of her of achieving her education goals, she also joined the US Navy and retired in 2013. She became a Certified United States Postmaster, Customs Agent, Master Training Specialist and Afloat Training Specialist during her Navy Career.

A Twenty year US Navy Retiree with 7 deployments and 1 overseas tour, she has visited over 50+ countries. As a highly decorated Navy Sailor earning a Joint Services Commendation Medal, a Joint Services Achievement Medal and a Navy Commendation Medal, Sailor of the Year (2x) and 7 Navy and Marine Achievement Medals among other medals and decorations, she led by example and exemplified the Navy's Motto: Honor, Courage and Commitment.

Since Retiring from the US Navy she has worked for the Veterans Benefit Administration and Mecklenburg County as a Veteran Service Representative and Officer. She has dedicated her life to helping Veterans.

Deborah is married to Terrance D. Bowins, a US Navy Retiree himself, and has 3 children (Timeka, Terrance II and Trinity) and 2 grandchildren (Nico and Dominic). Her hobbies include gardening, singing, comedy and reading.

