

Donald M. Cassidy, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission

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Date Appointed to the Commission: March 24, 2004.

Work Experience: Following his retirement from the United States Air Force (USAF) in 1977, Commissioner Don Cassidy has worked predominantly in academia for North Park University in Chicago, Illinois, and for Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois. He retired in 2004 as Director of Operations for the School of Business and Nonprofit Programs at North Park University, where he regularly taught courses in Ethical Leadership & Strategic Management, Change Management, Diversity and Conflict, and Business Policy. Commissioner Cassidy presided over the merger of undergraduate and graduate business programs and the integration of the Axelson Center for nonprofit management into the new School of Business and Nonprofit Management, which he then directed.

While at Aurora University, he was involved with merging a long established undergraduate faculty with a relatively new graduate faculty. He planned, established and launched the School of Business, where he served as the Dean. He also served as Dean of Graduate Studies and Director of Development, coached wrestling, served as the judge of the resident halls council and managed the college's veterans affairs office.

From 1985 to 1998, Commissioner Cassidy was the Vice President of Corporate Development for Merchants National Bank in Aurora, Illinois. He was in charge of managing a cultural change from a traditional banking business to a modern customer-oriented banking organization. He assisted in significantly altering the organization, both structure and culture, while the bank's footings grew by approximately 30 percent and improved return on assets from .75 percent to 1.16 percent.

Military Service: After graduation from college, Commissioner Cassidy was commissioned as a regular officer in the United States Air Force. He rose to the rank of full colonel in 16 years.

He trained as a fighter pilot but was assigned to bombers where he flew more than 1000 hours in the B-47 during the height of the Cold War. He served as Maintenance Officer in the Strategic Air Command; Executive to the Comptroller of the USAF Headquarters Command; Chief of Maintenance for the Third Air Force in Ruislip, England where he was responsible for the logistic portions of integrating the F-111 fighter-bomber into the command; Director of Maintenance Policies and Procedures for Headquarters United States Air Forces Europe in Wiesbaden,

Germany; Instructor at the Air War College having been selected to remain on faculty after graduating from the Air War College; Director of Aircraft and Missiles Programs under the Deputy Chief of Staff Logistics, HQ USAF, the Pentagon, responsible for developing and managing \$8 billion in logistic programs each year, which included designing the programs, presenting them to the Department of Defense, OMB and Congress.

Medals for Valor & Awards for Outstanding Service: During his twenty years of service, Commissioner Cassidy was awarded two Meritorious Service medals; six Air Force Commendation medals; two Outstanding Unit Citations; the National Defense Service medal and seven marksman's ribbons.

Educational Attainment: Commissioner Cassidy received a Bachelors degree in History from Grinnell College in Iowa. He graduated with a Master of Science in Management from Colorado University and was honored as a Distinguished Graduate of the USAF Squadron Officers School and Air War College. He also attended the Royal Air Force Staff College in the United Kingdom and the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University.

Personal: Commissioner Cassidy has been married for 48 years to the former Rosalie J. Yeoman. They have three grown daughters and four grandsons. His hobbies include reading, traveling, gardening and woodwork. He is currently serving as Immediate Past President of the B-47 Stratojet Association.