



Vanessa Lee

Vanessa A. Lee, born in Harlem, New York on January 9, 1961, to Shirley and the late Clifford J. Lee, II. The eldest of three children, I was four years old, when the family moved to the borough of Queens, residing in the town of Hollis, then moving in 1967 to South Ozone Park, where the family lived until 1978, moving to St. Albans, Queens. One of my proudest achievements was purchasing my first home at the age of 29 years old.

A graduate of Hillcrest High School earned an associate degree in Applied Science from LaGuardia Community College, C.U.N.Y., having worked for many years as a Legal Secretary, in a Law firm, advertising agency and on the university level. In February 1985, I joined the United States Air Force Reserves, becoming a member of the 49th and 35th Aerial Port Squadrons at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, retiring in 2005, as a Technical Sergeant; having served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Desert Storm. A supervisor in the aerial port passenger service section, responsible for servicing military and commercial airline passengers with ticketing reservations, coordinating civilian passenger and troop airline manifests; while maintaining staff schedules, training records, and writing evaluations for promotion to the next rank. Also received credits from the Community College of the Air Force in Transportation Logistics and certified in 2000 as a Travel agent.

Earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree from York College, C.U.N.Y., I joined the New York City Department of Education in 1995, as a Family Worker in the guidance office, while studying for a Master of Science Degree, in Counselor Education from Queens College, C.U.N.Y. In 1997, I transitioned into a Licensed Guidance Counselor position, assisting students in grades 9-12 with academic advisement, intervention services, career exploration and college readiness. A certified Global Career Development Facilitator, Career Development Specialist, College Admissions Specialist, and a certified School Career Development Advisor. Having 25 years of school counselor experience, I retired July 2020. In 2021, I started my non-profit organization, "What's Aspiring Me."

In addition to joining the New York chapter of National Association of Black Military Women, I am a member of Vital Church NYC, member of the American School Counselor Association, member of the Association of Black Educators of New York; where I received an award during March 2017 Women's History Month honoring Women of Character, Courage and Commitment. A member of New York State School Counselor Association, New York State Career Development Association, National Career Development Association, a member of the National Action Network, and a volunteer and Community Liaison at the Zion Tabernacle Church Food Pantry.

