

J Gayle Gaymon comes from a large family with a long history of military service. At age eighteen, she was an orphan without parents and without grandparents. She dropped out of High School. One year later she got her G.E.D. She wanted to join the US Navy. However, living with her Aunt Essie and Nelson Leff, she needed permission to join the US Navy, and was denied out of concern for her safety. What followed was a series of jobs and enrollment in Fashion Institute of Technology, but when God puts a zeal for something in your heart, there are no forces that will destroy that spirit.

Three years later, at age 21, it was a dream fulfilled when she enlisted in the United States Navy. She went to Boot Camp, in Bainbridge, Maryland. She went to "A" School, Hospital Corpsman School, in Great Lakes, Illinois. She became a Hospital Corpsman. A Hospital Corpsman which is similar to the job of an Emergency Medical Technician except with the broader scope of responsibility while on combat. "Doc" as the Corpsman were often called, was responsible for the prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries. In addition, J Gayle had to maintain treatment records, supervise preventative medicine programs, perform clinical lab tests, render emergency treatment and operate sophisticated laboratory equipment. Naval Regional Portsmouth Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia was her duty station. She attended classes at Norfolk State University while in the United States Navy.

J Gayle served from 1/20/1972 to 1/17/1975. She was a Third Class Petty Officer. She was honorably discharged with a National Defense Medal. In addition, she completed three years in the US Navy Reserves and became a Second Class, Petty Officer; Hospital Corpsman.

J Gayle is a Vietnam Era-Veteran. While in the US Navy, she met and married her husband, Harry Lee Gaymon, a Hospital Corpsman, too. They had two children, Rahim Harry Gaymon and Ayisha Azizah Gaymon. She had one challenging time. In those days, women that became pregnant in the military; *married or single* were all discharged with a "*General Discharge.*" However, she was determined to complete her enlistment and get an Honorable Discharge. With the support of Chief Shirley Atkinson she penned a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, requesting the ability to complete my tour of duty. He agreed, and they put her on the night tour at Naval Regional Medical Center Portsmouth, Virginia. When her son was born, she sent him to live with her Aunt Bettie Geiger until she completed her enlistment.

J Gayle had a relatively easy transition, after leaving the military. She came back home to New York. She filed for unemployment, and within three months, she was employed at the Veterans Administration in Brooklyn, New York. She enrolled in New York City Community College to continue her education. After five years, she left the Veterans Administration, after her immediate supervisor in her end-of-year-review decided that "*since you are going to college, you do not need a pay raise.*" Angrily, she resigned. She learned the hard way, that you do not leave a job without having another job. After a year, she became a bargaining-unit employee,

PS-level5 Distribution Clerk. She continued my formal education, and completed the two-year Certificate Program in Christian Ministry, got a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies and a Master Degree in Public Policy and Administration. J Gayle received fifteen awards for Perfect Attendance, and ten awards for service performance.

J Gayle, at the United States Postal Service, worked her way up to Manager, Stations and Detached Mail Units (DDMU), Executive Administrative Service, (EAS), level 25. She managed six stations in New York City, specifically JAF, FDR, Grand Central, Lenox Hill, Gracie Stations, and the East Side Parcel Post Annex in the Bronx, New York. She managed two Mail Processing Units, specifically, Grand Central and FDR Station. She controlled and was responsible for a \$24.3 million budget, and operating expenses and 1,835, until she retired. J Gayle successfully completed the Mail Processing and Distribution Training Program, the Corporate Training Program, and Labor Relations Cross -Training Program with Certificates.

J Gayle went back to school and completed a doctorate degree in Congregational Ministry. In addition, she completed four units of Hospital Chaplaincy as a Chaplain Intern at The Riverside Church of New York, St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers, New York, St. Luke Roosevelt Hospital in New York City, New York, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, In New York, New York, respectively. She completed 2 ½ years as a Riverside Chaplain Intern where she was licensed as a minister, and became a Licensed Notary Public.

For the period of 02/2017 to 09/2018, she volunteered as a Laborer building homes for veterans with Habitat for Humanity of Westchester, for a total of 549 hours. Currently, she volunteers with the American Red Cross, since June 2018, as a Blood Donor Ambassador, Home Fire Campaign installing smoke detectors, Deputy Veterans Administration Volunteers Services, at James J Peters VAMC, Serving Armed Forces, (Caseworker, Induction and Deployment) and Disaster Spiritual Care. Also, she volunteers with the Yonkers Certified Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) in Yonkers, New York; at the Police Athletic League in the distribution of fresh food to city residents, to the Glory of God. In addition, she has completed The Equus Effect Veterans Program, Certificate of Achievement in Professional Development Series: a Commitment to Standards of Excellence in Emergency Management, Certificate of Completion: City of Yonkers Office of Emergency Management: Basic Community, and the Emergency Response Team, Training Course,

J Gayle is a disciple of First Baptist Church, Bronxville, the Leader and the Minister of Women Ministry. If there was anything she has learned, she said is this: *"The United States Navy empowered me. If I fall down nine times, I am going to get up ten. I do not know how to quit. I do not know how to give up. However, the LORD Almighty emboldened me, and my fervent hope is to strive to be "new and better" with every day."*