



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **New Leadership for Armed Forces Retirement Home**

The Department of Defense today announced the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) James M. Branham, U.S. Army, as the chief operating officer of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, effective February 5, 2018.

“Jim Branham’s breadth of operational experience at a variety of philanthropic institutions will bring a fresh leadership perspective to the Armed Forces Retirement Home as we move it to a sustainable future,” said Major General (Ret.) Stephen T. Rippe, U.S. Army, chief executive officer of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. “Jim’s work as a facilities executive and retirement community administrator will prove invaluable in turning the Washington campus into a more vibrant community for our residents and neighbors as well as providing a new source of long-term revenue for the Home.”

Mr. Branham most recently served as director of buildings and grounds at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland, where he was responsible for capital planning, logistics, and maintenance at one of the oldest colleges in the United States. Mr. Branham also served as an administrator at the Army Distaff Foundation’s Knollwood Retirement Community in Washington, District of Columbia, where he oversaw independent living care as well as support services, including facilities and engineering, grounds, housekeeping, security, transportation, IT, and resident services and activities.

Mr. Branham developed Knollwood’s capital improvement plan to renovate and upgrade living facilities and developed the community’s emergency response plan. In an earlier position as executive director for facilities at the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, Mr. Branham directed the maintenance, security, grounds, housekeeping, and IT support. In this capacity he also planned and led operations for major events at the National Cathedral including the state funerals for President Reagan and President Ford.

Mr. Branham is a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army where he served as both an armor and foreign area officer. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and holds master’s degrees in engineering administration from the University of Utah and information systems technology from The George Washington University.

The chief operating officer serves as the head of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, created by Congress in 1991 as an independent establishment of the executive branch of the federal government with oversight from the Department of Defense. The Home is one of America’s most enduring veterans’ retirement homes with campuses in Washington, District of Columbia, and Gulfport, Mississippi.

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