

## **Larry Burks Sr., LTC-US Army Retired**

Retired Army Lt. Col. Larry Burks Sr. is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and graduate of Jackson State University where he received a three-year ROTC scholarship his sophomore year. Burks graduated with a degree in biology and was a Distinguished Military Graduate from the ROTC program. He received a Regular Army commission as a second lieutenant and began his military career at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Burks has served in numerous assignments including Virginia, Kansas, Texas, California, Florida, Montana, the Republic of Germany, Korea and Panama. He deployed with the 1st Infantry Division during the Persian Gulf War in 1989-90, serving in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for its duration. He is a graduate of the Army's Combined Armed Service Staff College and the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Burks retired as a lieutenant colonel. Throughout his military career, Burks has supported active and retired military families to ensure their needs were met along with those of the broader community.

After retiring, he moved to Wichita and served as the first Senior Army Instructor for JROTC at Wichita Southeast High School from 1995 to 2005. He also served as a government contractor working as a logistics trainer for the U.S. military in the Republic of Georgia, Uganda and Ethiopia. While in Africa, Burks worked for DynCorp International with the United Nations and African Union in logistics management and project development. After returning the U.S., he worked as a logistics manager for the Associate Air Center and with various other community organizations.

Burks' extensive community involvement includes the Kansas Civil Rights Commission, Wichita City Building Commission, Political and Social Action Lay Leader for St. Mark United Methodist Church, Wichita Riverfest Volunteer Committee and the Wichita Branch of the NAACP, where he currently serves as branch president. He has worked on numerous community projects with his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, over the last 45 years and held local and regional leadership positions in Wichita and in an eight-state area. Burks is a proponent of civic engagement and strives to encourage youth and adults to be active to build the community where they would like to live.