



Speaker Robert “Bob” Asztalos is a Retired Navy Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (Fleet Marine Force). He was appointed as Deputy Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs (FDVA) on July 6, 2021. FDVA is a 1,500-member constitutionally chartered State Veterans’ Affairs Department with a \$160 million annual budget responsible for serving the nation’s third largest veteran population. Bob stepped down as the Chief Operating Officer for Medical Equipment and Supplies of America, a disabled veteran-owned small business that provides durable medical equipment to Veterans on behalf of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to that, he worked in government relations on health care

issues at both the state and federal levels since 1985. In Tallahassee, Bob served as the Chief Lobbyist for the Florida Health Care Association, representing nursing home and other long-term health care providers. In addition to lobbying, Bob coordinated the FHCA’s Emergency Response team in the State Emergency Operations Center during hurricanes and disasters. He has a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University. Bob completed 29 years active and reserve service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve. He currently serves in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as a small boat commander and Aids to Navigation Verifier.



Speaker Hershel H. Lyons served as the Florida Department of Education K-12 Public Schools Chancellor from March 2015 until his retirement in January 2019. During his tenure as Chancellor, Hershel’s priorities were to implement strategies that increased student achievement, decreased the achievement gap of African-American students, targeted the multiple issues surrounding public school equity and increased school community engagement, particularly among minority families. He came to the Florida Department of Education with over three decades of in-school and district leadership experience. Upon graduation from Tennessee State University, Hershel has dedicated his professional career to educating Alachua

County students. His school-based leadership positions included Assistant Principal at two high schools, middle school principal and high school principal. Hershel’s Alachua County district leadership positions included Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Deputy Superintendent, and Interim Superintendent for 2013-2014. His community volunteerism includes the Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Parent Empowerment Group, Florida Association of School Administrators, Florida Association of School Personnel Administrator, Florida Educational Negotiators, and Florida Association of District Schools Superintendents, Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. Recently, beginning in 2020 through 2022, he served as On-Site Administrator for Duval County’s George Washington Carver Elementary School. Currently, he is the owner of HH Lyons Consulting LLC. Hershel is married to Ravinia, a father of two and a grandfather of three.