

# Keynote Speaker

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Walter Gaskin—the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs—will deliver the Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday, August 10.



The former Deputy Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Military Committee, Gen. Gaskin also served as the Commanding General of the Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, and of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force in a year-long deployment in Al Anbar Province in Iraq during which he also was the Commanding General of Multinational Forces West. He graduated from Savannah State University in 1974 as part of its Navy ROTC Scholarship Program, and went on to earn a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

After being named the North Carolina Department of Military & Veteran Affairs in January 2021, Gen. Gaskin said, "It is my honor to serve the members of our military, veterans and their families in the state of North Carolina. Although I retired from active duty in 2013, my commitment to providing the opportunities, resources and care owed to our military members and veterans has never ceased."