



Plenary Speaker
Saturday, Nov. 10
9:45-10:45 a.m.
Room: Denver Ballroom

Paula M. Neira JD, MSN, RN, CEN

Service Beyond the Uniform: Military Service and the Path to a More Perfect Union

This plenary, drawing on the speaker's background as a naval officer, civil rights advocate and healthcare leader, will discuss the role military service has on advancing minority rights in the United States. For minorities, the ability to serve in the United States Armed Forces has been a catalyst for the advancement of civil rights throughout American history. When the military has enacted discriminatory policies, broader national policy has perpetuated prejudice and discrimination including contributing to healthcare inequity. This will be highlighted by describing the status of transgender military service. When the military has embraced diversity and inclusion it has been able to set the standard for civilian institutions. Through the lens of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) military service, the plenary will describe the history of evolving military personnel policies as well as the implications and effects such change has on broader society regarding civil rights and healthcare.