

JENEAN MICHELLE HAMPTON (B. 1958)

Lieutenant governor, Kentucky

Jenean Michelle Hampton was elected to office November 3, 2015 as the 57th Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky. She is the first African-American elected to a statewide office in Kentucky history. She is only the third African-American woman to serve as lieutenant governor of any state. Hampton was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and attended Wayne State University where she earned an Industrial Engineering degree.

Soon after graduating from Wayne State University, Hampton joined the United States Air Force. She served for seven years as a computer systems officer, eventually attaining the rank of Captain. She served in Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia in 1992. While stationed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, she was responsible for critical radar software used in both search and rescue missions and tracking enemy planes. In 2018 she was promoted to the grade of Lieutenant Colonel in the Kentucky Wing Civil Air Patrol. Hampton is a member of the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame.

As Lieutenant Governor, she implemented the Entrepreneurship Challenge scholarship for high school students. She also created the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Challenge for seventh and eighth grade girls, and the Bluegrass Book Buddies Challenge, a literacy initiative for Kentuckians of all ages. While seeking to advance and promote Kentucky's aerospace industry, Hampton created the Kentucky Aerospace Industry Consortium to foster networking and support.



Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians

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