



**For Immediate Release
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**Major General (MG) William J. Walker, USA Retired
Appointed Advisor for Drug Demand Reduction Efforts and Education
by the
Young Marines Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors of the Young Marines, a national youth organization headquartered in Dumfries, Virginia has appointed MG William J. Walker, USA (ret) as Advisor for Drug Demand Reduction Efforts and Education. General Walker served as a Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for over 30 years and retired as a career member of the Senior Executive Service. General Walker concurrently served as a DEA Special Agent and U.S. Army Officer in the National Guard where he served in a variety of staff and command positions from Platoon Leader to Commanding General.

By presidential appointment, General Walker served as the 23rd Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard. General Walker, a Military Intelligence Officer held a variety of command and staff positions of increasing responsibility including service with the NATO International Security Assistance Force - Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Following his military retirement in 2021, he became the 38th Sergeant at Arms of the U.S. House of Representatives and was the first African American to hold the position since it was established in 1791.

“With a broad career in drug law enforcement and the military, I am honored to be tapped for this significant position with the Young Marines,” said General Walker. “This incredible organization performs invaluable work with our young people, many of whom are vulnerable and impressionable. I look forward to making significant contributions to this critically important organization.”

General Walker became a Special Agent of the DEA in 1983 and served in national and international positions of increasing responsibility and trust, culminating with promotion to the senior executive service rank in 2003. His final assignment was Deputy Assistant Administrator in Charge of the Office of Strategic Warning Intelligence in 2014.

“The Young Marines Drug Demand Reduction program will be greatly augmented with the vast experience of General Walker,” said Col Bill Smith USMC (ret), Chair of the Board of Directors of the Young Marines. “His lifetime of DEA and military service to the nation aligns perfectly with the Young Marines mission. We are fortunate that General Walker is willing to give of his time and share his vast experience with our organization.”

A veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, he is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters and other awards and decorations.

Originally from Chicago, General Walker was educated at the University of Illinois (BA), Chicago State University (MS), the National Intelligence University (MS) and American University (MA). He completed the National and International Security Program for Senior Executives at Harvard University; the National Security Studies Program at George Washington University; the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Executive Leader’s Program at the Naval Post Graduate School, and the National Security Program at Syracuse University.

General Walker, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations received an Honorary Doctor of Strategic Intelligence from the National Intelligence University and is a Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Center for International Studies, Seminar XXI fellow and a National Academy of Public Administration Fellow.

About the Young Marines

Since the Young Marines' humble beginnings in 1959 with one unit and a handful of boys, the organization has grown to over 238 units with 6,400 youth and 2,750 adult volunteers in 40 states, the District of Columbia, Japan (Okinawa), and affiliates in a host of other countries.

For more information, visit the website at <https://www.YoungMarines.org>.

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