

## **Peter Henderson obituary**

It is with great sadness that I share that our colleague Peter Henderson passed on October 22, 2024, after a battle with cancer.

Peter served two tours in the Marine Corps during the height of the Vietnam War, where he earned numerous commendations, including a Combat Action Ribbon. After graduating from Howard University, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, embarking on a distinguished military career spanning more than 20 years, retiring as a Major.

Peter first worked with USAID in 1994 while serving with the U.S. Army's XVIII Airborne Corps in Haiti, where he worked with USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team. His expertise in organizing complex logistics, forging relationships with global communities, and maintaining composure in crisis situations, combined with his deep commitment to public service, made him a highly effective humanitarian leader.

After retiring from the Army, Peter joined USAID in 1996 as Team Leader for Operations Support in what is now known as the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. Over the course of his 28-year career at USAID, Peter held various pivotal roles, including in the Office of Civil-Military Cooperation (CMC). During his tenure in CMC, Peter served as the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Coordinator and Unit Security Officer. In doing so, he advanced USAID's partnerships to build more stable and prosperous communities.

Peter devoted his life to serving his country and humanity, often at great personal sacrifice. He placed himself in grave danger, endured separations from family and friends, and faced physical and mental hardships. Peter's service was never about personal reward or recognition; rather, it was about protecting others, upholding peace, and serving a higher purpose. He was always an optimist, witty and engaging, and, through thick and thin, thinking about others first.

Peter is survived by his wife, Joyce Evans, and his two sons, Evans Peter Henderson and Marcellus Thomas Henderson IV. My deepest sympathies are with them and all of his family and friends during this devastating time.

Peter's memory is carried in the hearts of all who knew him. You can reflect on and honor Peter's memory by signing this [virtual memorial book](#).

From USAID Counselor Clinton White, Nov. 5, 2024