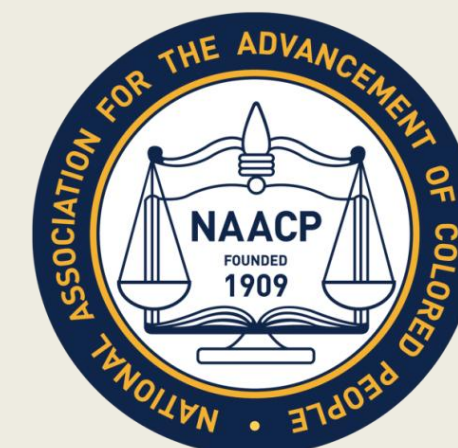


# African Americans in Winslow: Scenes From Our History



## Dennis Randles



Randles' official graduation portrait from the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Officer Training Academy

Dennis Paul Randles was born in 1952 in South Bend, Indiana. He spent the early part of his childhood with his grandparents in the small town of Caruthersville, Missouri, where he went to a segregated school.

At age eleven, Randles moved back to urban, multi-racial South Bend to live with his mother, stepfather, and five younger sisters.

After high school graduation, he moved to Chicago and completed training as a Registered X-ray Technologist and a Registered Nurse.

Randles' first job out of school was in New York City. Still unmarried but wanting a large family, he adopted the first of five boys, all of various ages and ethnicities.

Randles moved to New Orleans in 1982 and became a member of the LDS Church in 1984. He adopted his second son in 1989 and immediately moved to Gallup, where he adopted the rest of his children.

In Gallup he worked for Indian Health Services, transferred to the Winslow branch in 2001, and transferred to the Whiteriver branch in 2006.

In 2003, Randles became a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service, one of the seven uniformed services. In 2007 and 2008, he served in Afghanistan as the Executive Consultant for a new hospital in Kabul. He retired from the USPHS as a Lieutenant Commander in 2010.

In 2015, Randles began working at the Arizona Department of Corrections-Winslow as the Facility Health Administrator. There he oversees thirty-eight employees who provide the full range of clinical services to 2,000 inmates. He enjoys the work and values helping an underserved population.

Randles has a long history of community service and civil rights work. As a teenager, he volunteered in his church youth group and for Operation Breadbasket in Chicago.

Once his children graduated from high school, Randles began volunteer work for the Gallup branch of the NAACP in 1990 and became a lifetime member in 2004.

Though Randles has experienced some discrimination in the Southwest, his service in Afghanistan showed him that people struggle with similar issues all over the world.

He worked with the Hayes sisters to revive the Winslow branch of the NAACP in 2017.

Randles feels that Winslow is a wonderful, diverse place to live with the potential to get even better: "I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."



Randles in his garden in Kabul, Afghanistan