

Col. Ishmon F. Burks

Military/Educator

Ishmon F. Burks, has had distinguished and wide-ranging career in the military, public safety, and higher education. Ishmon F. Burks, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, currently serves as an assistant professor and academic program coordinator of criminal justice at Jefferson Community and Technical College. Burks holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Lincoln University of Missouri; Master of Science in Education from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana; Master of Arts in Criminology from City University of New York and is a graduate of the Army War College, and executive programs at the JFK School of Government, Harvard and the Kenan-Flagler School of Business, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Burks previously served as an Executive Vice-President at Spalding University, an Executive-in-Residence at Bellarmine University, and on the Board of Regents at Kentucky State University. Burks has also lectured on public safety topics at the University of Montpellier, France and at Lincoln College, Oxford University, Oxford England.

Burks is currently the only person to have served as the chief executive of the largest law enforcement and public safety agencies in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The agencies include Secretary of the Justice Cabinet; Interim Chief of Police, Louisville Metro Police Department; first African-American Commissioner of the Kentucky State Police; Chief of Public Safety; City of Louisville; Chair of the Kentucky Parole Board, Chair of the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council; and, Chair of the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Area for KY, TN, and WV.

Burks retired from the U.S. Army after a career that included serving as an Army Ranger advisor in the 1st Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam in Hue during the Tet Offensive. He also served two tours at the Pentagon and the U.S. Military Academy, West Point. He receive numerous medals including the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Burks is also the recipient of Louisville's Martin Luther King Freedom Award, and the Distinguished Citizen Award, the City of Louisville's highest recognition for excellence and innovation.

Ishmon and his wife Terri have three adult children, Angela, Wallis and Barak.