

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



BARBARA RUGANI-KYSER

Office Manager

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Barbara Rugani-Kyser is a retired Senior Master Sergeant of the U.S. Air Force, and is presently an office manager for DPR Construction. She has witnessed firsthand the benefits of receiving top-quality military training (specializing in construction) and applying it to a successful career in the civilian sector.

While in the military, Ms. Rugani-Kyser worked in logistics, ensuring that soldiers had ample human assets and resources to accomplish the missions they undertook properly. She vividly recalls her experience being stationed at a rescue unit in the U.S. Air Force. “It didn’t matter if it was raining, snowing or if there was a fire,” she states, “they would go in.” The honorable troops she talks about were pararescuemen, operatives who are charged with recovering and administering care to soldiers and staff in warfare and humanitarian situations. Ms. Rugani-Kyser supported them directly and learned to highly respect them for their ability to work in often precarious situations. “I have a tremendous admiration for men like that,” she remarks. After dedicating 26 years of service to ensuring the safety of our country’s skies, Ms. Rugani-Kyser was the recipient of the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal.

In the last 10 years, DPR Construction has been ranked one of the top 50 general contractors in the United States. With expertise in organizational management, Ms. Rugani-Kyser is responsible for performing administrative duties, assisting project managers and engineers, and updating drawings for project engineers. Additionally, she acts as a liaison between project engineers, owners, sub-contractors and project accountants. Ms. Rugani-Kyser, who attributes her success to her integrity, ability to pursue her heart's desire and faith in God, looks forward to growing in her current position.

Ms. Rugani-Kyser is presently pursuing a master’s degree in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary and holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Columbia College. She is a member of The Air Force Association and the National Association of Professional Women. In her spare time, Ms. Rugani-Kyser enjoys running marathons, reading, cooking, gardening, horseback riding, and studying art and history.



CONVERSATION WITH BARBARA RUGANI-KYSER

CAMBRIDGE WHO'S WHO: What would you like to promote most about yourself or your business?

BARBARA RUGANI-KYSER: I am a woman and I currently manage a construction site office; I have had past experience in the U.S. Air Force in this field. I served in Europe and the United States over my 26-year military career.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your career?

The most rewarding part of my career was being able to mentor the young troops. It was about being able to take what I had learned and share it with those who were going to take my position when I retired. That's really what my passion is, to replace myself with people who have the same passion and excellence because those are the people who are going to be guarding our skies.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment to date?

Having served as a logistics personnel in the Air Force planning and implementing mission readiness, which includes loading equipment on C-5 and C-17 aircraft.

What are your future career goals?

Since retiring from the military, my long-term goal is to get a master's degree in theology. I would like to move into working within the spiritual community.

And what specific steps have you taken toward achieving this goal?

I continue to learn and I am currently serving as a lay minister at [my] church.

What is the most difficult obstacle or challenge you have faced in pursuit of your goals?

I have definitely experienced a lack of time.

On what topic(s) do you consider yourself to be an expert?

Logistics and psychology.

What advice can you offer fellow members who work in your industry?

Don't take yourself too seriously, and keep your eyes and ears wide open and your mouth closed. Ask questions if you don't understand something; if it

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doesn't make sense to you, it likely doesn't make sense to others.

What advice can you offer people aspiring to work in this profession?

Ask questions and actively listen to the answer. Eye contact [is important] — when someone is speaking to you, look at them. That is very important.

What are you passionate about?

My passion is to be the person that I was created to be. "Barbara" was created with a purpose and my passion is to discover [what] that is.

Who have been your mentors or people who have greatly influenced you?

My first mentor was MSgt. Abraham Young, who was my very first supervisor in the Air Force. SMSgt. Rebecca Sunda, my shop chief at the transportation unit for which I worked at the Moffett Naval Air Station, really challenged me to be the best. James MacDonald and Wayne Cordeiro are both senior pastors who have also mentored me.

Do you have a motto?

The motto from my rescue unit was "These things we do that others may live."