

## Lt. Cmdr. Kasim J. Yarn

Director of Veterans Affairs



*A proven leader dedicated to expanding opportunities, increasing access for Rhode Island veterans*

On February 17, 2016, Governor Gina Raimondo appointed Lieutenant Commander Kasim J. Yarn as Rhode Island's first Director of Veterans Affairs. Kasim retired from the U.S. Navy after more than 20 years of military service. He joined the Raimondo administration in a full-time capacity in May 2016. Kasim reports directly to Governor Raimondo and is a participating member of the Health and Human Services Secretariat.

Kasim grew up in Jackson, Mississippi, but at the age of 18, enlisted in the U.S. Navy to see the world and serve his country. His first duty station was in South Weymouth, Massachusetts, a time that began Kasim's lifelong love affair with New England.

While stationed at Naval Station Newport in 1995, the Navy selected Kasim to attend college and become an officer. That same year, he met his future wife, Rosaria, a native of Italy who grew up in Westerly, Rhode Island. Kasim decided to go to school in the New England area and chose Boston University. He graduated in 2000 and shortly thereafter married Rosaria. Kasim also received his commission as a naval officer and was deployed aboard the USS Nashville in the Mediterranean area of operations.

In 2002, Kasim reported to the USS Biscoe and deployed to the Persian Gulf. After his assignments at sea, Kasim became an instructor at the Surface Warfare Officers School at Naval Station Newport in 2004. While in Newport, Kasim attended the U.S. Naval War College earning a Master's Degree in National Strategic Studies with a concentration in statistics in 2006.

RHODE ISLAND  
**NON-OPIOID  
PAIN TREATMENT  
SYMPOSIUM**

Change the Culture of Pain Management  
Sunday October 28th, 2018

Beginning in July 2007, Kasim served on several deployments with the Navy's Sixth and Fifth Fleets in increasing roles of responsibility. In July 2013, he returned home to Rhode Island from deployment to become a faculty member at the Naval War College.

Kasim and his family made Rhode Island their permanent home in 2004 and bought a house in North Kingstown in 2009. He and Rosaria have two children, Jonathan and Giovanna. All are die-hard Red Sox fans.



RHODE ISLAND  
**NON-OPIOID**  
**PAIN TREATMENT**  
SYMPOSIUM

Change the Culture of Pain Management

Sunday October 28th, 2018