



Brigadier General (Ret) Robert Crear is Chairman of Rye Development, the leading developer of new hydroelectric power on existing dams in the United States and he is President and CEO of The Crear Group consulting firm. Born in Vicksburg, MS, he is a 1971 graduate of Rosa A. Temple High School, has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Jackson State University and a Regular Army commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers through the ROTC program and Masters from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

He spent his 33 year military career serving worldwide culminating in commanding the Mississippi Valley Division where he was appointed by President Bush to also serve as President of the Mississippi River Commission. General Crear is the first and only native Mississippian and African American to ever command The Vicksburg District, US Army Corps of Engineers (1998-2001), The Mississippi Valley Division (2004-2008) and President of the Mississippi River Commission (2004-2008).

He also served on the ground in Iraq as Commander of Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (TF RIO), an organization he established, trained and led in 2003 with a \$4 billion budget that was responsible for extinguishing all oil well fires, restoring the oil infrastructure, production restoration and export capability.

General Crear also organized and served as Commander of Task Force Hope, the Corps of Engineers \$14.6 Billion infrastructure recovery and restoration effort in Mississippi and Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Among his many military awards and decorations, General Crear has received the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal.

His many inductions include, the Society of American Military Engineers Academy of Fellows in November 2002. Other awards include the 2004, 2006 and 2007 Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement in Government, Alumni of the Year and Stars and Stripes Lifetime Achievement awards (respectively). In 2006 he received the Infrastructure Security Partnership Distinguished Leadership Award; and Rock of the Year award. In 2010 he was inducted into the JSU Alumni Hall of Fame. In June of 2016 he was inducted into both the Army's inaugural class of the National Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Hall of Fame and the JSU ROTC Hall of Fame.

Gen. Crear is very active in community service. He makes time to mentor young people throughout the nation. He has served as past Chairman of the executive board of United Way of West Central Mississippi; as past post president in the Society of American Military Engineers; He currently serves as President of the Friends of the Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign; on The Salvation Army Board of Directors; and on the JSU Development Foundation Board of Directors. In July 2016 he was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to serve a 5 year term on the State Veterans Affairs Board representing the 2nd Congressional district. General Crear delivered the 2019 undergraduate commencement address at his alma matter, Jackson State University.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Reatha Hall, a career Real-estate Agent. They have four adult children who all attended JSU and five grandchildren.