

Christine A. Merdon, P.E., CCM

Acting Architect of the Capitol & Chief Operating Officer



As authorized by law, upon the November 23, 2018, retirement of the 11th Architect of the Capitol, the Deputy Architect of the Capitol/Chief Operating Officer became the Acting Architect of the Capitol.

As the Acting Architect of the Capitol/Chief Operating Officer, Ms. Christine Merdon is responsible for facilities maintenance and operation of the historic U.S. Capitol Building, the care and improvement of more than 570 acres of grounds and the operation and maintenance of 18.4 million square feet of buildings including: the House and Senate Congressional Office Buildings, the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress Buildings, the U.S. Supreme Court Building, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and other facilities. She is responsible for the care of all works of art in the Capitol under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library and is responsible for the maintenance and restoration of murals, outdoor sculpture and other architectural elements throughout the Capitol complex. She also serves as Acting Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden and the National Garden.

The Acting Architect of the Capitol is a member of the Capitol Police Board and the Congressional Accessibility Services Board, as well as an ex officio member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission. Additionally, the Architect of the Capitol is a member of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission, the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Capital Memorial Commission, the Art Advisory Committee to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property.



Before joining the AOC as Deputy Architect of the Capitol/Chief Operating Officer in 2010, Ms. Merdon worked in private industry, starting as a project manager and ascending to the role of Senior Vice President of Program and Construction Management with McKissack & McKissack. Her responsibilities included projects in Washington, D.C.; Chicago, Illinois; and Los Angeles, California. She has been responsible for the successful program and construction management of more than \$15 billion in major construction projects and programs including: Washington Nationals Major League Baseball Stadium, O'Hare Airport Modernization Program, Los Angeles Unified School District, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson Memorial Renovations.

Prior to her work in the private industry, Ms. Merdon was employed by the White House Military Office as a project manager responsible for managing classified design and construction projects at the White House, Camp David and other presidential support facilities.

Ms. Merdon began her federal career in 1981 as a cooperative education engineering student for the U.S. Navy. After earning her Bachelor of Science degree in 1987 from the University of Maryland in civil engineering, she continued her career with the Navy as a project engineer and project manager. In 1998, she received a Master of Science degree in civil



engineering. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia and a Certified Construction Manager.

Throughout her career, Ms. Merdon has won many outstanding performance awards, as well as excellence awards for construction projects. She is the proud recipient of the 2016 D.C. Professional Engineer of the Year award and an award-winning member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. She is also a member of the Society of Women Engineer, the Society of American Military Engineers, the former Chair of the Board of Visitors for the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Maryland and the past president of the National Capitol Region ACE High School Mentor Program. She also serves on the Board of Visitors for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Maryland.

Born in Paducah, Kentucky, she now resides in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband, Michael, and their daughter.