



Railsplitter Obituary



Robert Andrew Cocroft

November 16, 1946 – September 12, 2018

The longtime leader of the Center for Veterans Issues in Milwaukee, the state's largest private provider of transitional housing for veterans, died Wednesday, September 12, 2018.

Retired Brig. Gen. Robert Cocroft served as president and CEO of the nonprofit for more than 14 years. The center provides advocacy, services and housing to low-income, homeless, minority and women veterans and their families.

Cocroft, 71, also served as the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs deputy secretary from 1994 to 2002, running the day-to-day operations.

Gov. Scott Walker said on Twitter: "Sorry to hear of the passing of retired Brigadier General Robert A. Cocroft. I worked with him when I was County Executive and appreciate his service to our country, our state and our community. Tonette and I send our prayers to Gen. Cocroft's family."

Cocroft was a Vietnam-era veteran who served in Korea and Panama. Born in Mississippi, Cocroft moved to Milwaukee as an infant. He was a student and football player at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh when he was drafted into the Army in 1966 but decided to go through Officers Candidate School to become an infantry officer.

He served 40 years in the active military and reserve before retiring in 2006. Cocroft commanded at the company, battalion and brigade levels before finishing his career as the assistant division commander for operations in the Army's 98th Infantry Division.

Cocroft is survived by his wife, Jacquie, and two children, Robert and Diana.

Interment: Southern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery, Union Grove, Wisconsin.