

## Meet Van Pace.... A Full Career Of Helping Others Behind The Scenes



Van Pace has led a fulfilled life by many standards. For more than 20 years she worked for the federal government and was a key player in handling the aftermaths of two of our most tragic events.

For 15 years, Van worked with the Department of Energy as an energy conservation specialist. Prior to that she worked for many non-profit organizations as a grant writer.

“In my career, I learned how to do all the grants to get money. When I went to work for the Department of Energy, I was on the other side of the grant process. I reviewed grants and I reviewed statutes to make sure they were in compliance. I did oversight for energy and conservation programs.”

The DOE even sent Van to school to learn the construction industry. This gave her the opportunity to learn how to read commercial & residential blueprints, building materials, unified building codes — and other things necessary for her job.

“I learned the construction industry fairly well so when I went in and did energy conservation measure, for example in a hospital, I knew what to look for.”

This all aided in her work for FEMA later on.

When the office in Dallas was closing they offered Van jobs in Seattle and Chicago, but those offices would also be

closing eventually. So after talking over the options with her partner, Roger Meyer, Van decided to take the reduction in points and they moved to Washington D.C. After 15 years of working for the federal government, Van was starting over.

It was three years before Van went back to work in the federal government. During that time she sold insurance — casualty.

“I learned the insurance industry quite well,” said Van, even though she knew this was a career she wasn’t going to stay in.

Van credits Roger with finding her the job with FEMA in the Disaster Assistance office.

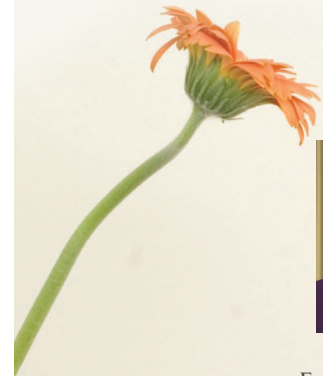
“If it hadn’t been for Roger I probably could not have succeeded with FEMA or the Dept. of Homeland Security,” said Van, adding he is not only very supportive, but he helped raise her kids — which gave her the opportunity to travel as the job required.

For three months, Van worked as a Disaster Assistance Employee/Caseworker for FEMA. It was a challenging job having to deal with victims of disaster.

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