

AS SEEN IN *Forbes & Fortune*

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN:
WASHINGTON, D.C.

LINKING LEADERS TO BUSINESS RESULTS™

**Crowned Grace International helps
organizations identify changemakers.**

"To lead you must leave a global thumbprint," says Stephanie Parson, Ph.D., president of Crowned Grace International, a premier solution integration provider for public and private sector organizations in the United States, Europe, Mexico, and Brazil.

Since its inception in 2003, the firm has touched thousands of individuals, introduced concepts founded in government policies, and helped clients meet and exceed congressional mandate requirements. Making it happen are Lean Six Sigma and project management-certified consultants, including retired military officers, senior enlisted military members, and multiple consultants and analysts who introduce plans that help clients identify areas for improvement. In turn, those ideas and concepts travel throughout an organization, affecting every employee in the organization, who, Dr. Parson emphasizes, are also leaders.

"We don't use the term 'employee,' instead, we use the term 'leader' because everyone is a leader over their own sphere of influence."

In addition to prestigious certifications, Crowned Grace Members have been responsible for project development, management, and execution with real-world teams and organizations around the world. "We don't just introduce the A team and bring the C team; we introduce and bring the A team," says Dr. Parson. "We analyze data and turn it into usable information for long-term business results."

Clients include the U.S. government—the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army, the Department of Energy, the Department of the Treasury, and other agencies—as well as the private sector. With so many offerings, customizable solutions may include mission support services, organizational development, change management, project management, and technology-based products and services. And, since leadership is the common denominator for organizational success, assessments, executive and professional coaching, workforce analysis, training, and development offerings are also available.

KEEPING THE FAITH

A military veteran, having served as a decorated U.S. Air Force commissioned officer, Dr. Parson has also linked strategies to business results throughout leadership roles at Seagram Spirits and Wine Group and Walt Disney World before starting her firm. However, success for Dr. Parson wasn't instant.



"I know what it's like to be unemployed, and I'm very passionate about supporting people who have done all that they know to do and cannot find opportunities," she says.

One of those passions is a contract with the U.S. Army Transition Assistance Program. Since 2015, the Crowned Grace team has worked to help soldiers and their families transition from the military to civilian life. "It can be a job, education, or starting a business," says Dr. Parson. "As the government continues to honor those who have worn the nation's colors, there remain opportunities for a successful transition." Other key contracts include supporting the Office of Naval Research in meeting its mission to plan, foster, and encourage scientific research related to future naval power.

Another area of personal interest is helping women understand and plan for their financial journey over their expected life span. There was a report which came out in 2021 that said that 43% of women 65 years or older are more likely than men to be impoverished. As women, we've got to have a financial plan.

One of Dr. Parson's personal mottos: "Leave a thumbprint behind. We cannot change the whole world; however, as we make a small difference, we all play a part in changing the world."

Having achieved multiple industry certifications and accolades as well as being a featured speaker and publishing a book, *Leadership From Ordinary to Extraordinary – The Character of a Leader*, Dr. Parson says, "Everyone claims their employees are the greatest resource, but do we believe and demonstrate this belief daily? You must know how to lead yourself before leading a team, and lead teams before you lead organizations."

