Biography

Van Zeck

Commissioner

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Bureau of the Public Debt

Van Zeck has served as the Commissioner of the Bureau of the Public Debt, U.S. Department of the Treasury, for the past 14 years, one of only seven executives to hold this title since the position was first created in 1919.

His journey to the pinnacle of this organization began soon after graduating from West Virginia University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Business Administration. In 1971, he began his federal service as an Auditor with the Bureau’s Internal Audit Staff. He rapidly advanced to a management position and then to the Senior Executive Service (SES) in 1983 as the Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Financing.

In April 1987, Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Baker III, appointed Mr. Zeck as Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of the Public Debt. Mr. Zeck served in that capacity until February 1998, when he was appointed by Secretary of the Treasury, Robert E. Rubin, to the position of Commissioner of the Public Debt.

As Commissioner, Mr. Zeck is responsible for managing the Bureau’s operations. The Bureau conducts the sale of Treasury securities to finance the public debt, directs debt servicing activities nationwide, administers the regulations governing the government securities market, and accounts for the public debt principle and interest costs. The debt financing operations are performed directly by the Bureau and by Federal Reserve Banks acting as fiscal agents of the Treasury. Public Debt also provides reimbursable administrative, financial management and information technology services to other federal agencies through its Office of Administrative Services.

With a career spanning more than four decades, Mr. Zeck’s longstanding federal service has been recognized with numerous accolades, including Meritorious Presidential Rank Awards in 1988 and 1993. In 1998, he was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Executive Award, the nation’s top honor for Senior Executive members.

Mr. Zeck consistently demonstrates a strong leadership style which is evident in the efficiency of the Bureau of the Public Debt. The breadth of programs and projects undertaken by the Bureau require a leader who has a strong understanding of his organization and can clearly communicate his vision to the employees he oversees. Mr. Zeck is an innovative leader who reflects the strengths and enduring characteristics of a federal executive ready to meet the difficult challenges of today’s economy and business world.