

**Marcelle Habibion, Ed.D., PMP** is Director, Program Evaluation Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Since 2001 Dr. Habibion has been involved in the emergency preparedness activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). She was a founding volunteer night manager at the Readiness Operations Center and directed the work of cross-functional evaluation teams studying emergency preparedness topics such as manpower surge capacity and essential paper records. It is her work with VA's Facilities Management, however, that she will be addressing at this sheltering-in-place symposium. She will tell the story of how VA partnered with the National Institute of Building Sciences to develop strategies and a methodology to assess the physical vulnerabilities of the Department's large inventory of facilities.

During her 26-year federal career at VA, Marcelle has drawn upon and expanded her many interests: three years as a systems analyst in the fiscal systems division, six years as a program analyst and ghost writer, another three years as VA's first Director of Child Care, helping to establish over 25 centers across the country at VA hospitals. She has spent the last dozen years in VA's Office of Policy and Planning, leading a variety of large-scale studies.

Dr. Habibion's career of evaluating large-scale programs began when she was a graduate research assistant at Columbia University in the late 60s and 70s. Her undergraduate degree is in economics and her doctoral degree was, in part, awarded on the design and field testing of a methodology to identify teacher training needs at the international level based on local culture.

In 1993 she was VA's first Woodrow Wilson Fellow, spending a week on the Lake Forest College campus as a lecturer. She has an extensive teaching background, primarily at the college level. Marcelle has served as an examiner of organizational excellence since 1993 using Baldrige-like criteria for VA, the Army, and the President's Quality Award Program.