

Ernest Almonte CPA CGFM CGMA CFF

Chief Visionary Officer – Almonte Group LLC
U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador – Rhode Island



Summary of experience

Ernie is currently the Chief Visionary Officer of the Almonte Group LLC. He is a Government Relations professional and lobbyist for several entities and is also a Certified Public Accountant and Certified in Financial Forensics.

Ernie was the Executive Director of the RI League of Cities and Towns, from May 2022 to October 2024. Ernie led a team of professionals tasked with leadership and financial training, process improvement and advocacy for all thirty-nine cities and towns local governments in Rhode Island.

The Secretary of Defense appointed Ernie to be the RI Chair of the RI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in 2021, a position he held in the early 2000s. The Secretary of the Army recently appointed him as the Army Reserve Ambassador for the State of Rhode Island which comes with the protocol rank of a 2-star General.

Ernie is currently the Chair of the RI Convention Center Authority, the Treasurer of the Rhode Island Life Sciences Hub, and a board member of the Narragansett Bay Commission. All of these are appointments by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island. Ernie was also the facilitator of Governor McKee's initiative to increase per capita income for all Rhode Islanders. He also serves on the board of directors for Blue Cross Blue Shield Rhode Island as the Audit Committee Chair. Ernie also served on the board of trustees for Bryant University and Johnson and Wales University.

He spent 16 years as the R.I. Auditor General where he was responsible for the State of Rhode Island financial, performance and fraud audits. He went on to become the Chair of the Audit Committee for the Department of Defense appointed by both President George Bush and reappointed by President Obama. He worked for Secretaries of Defense Gates, Panetta, and Hagel. Ernie currently serves on the Blue Cross RI board of Directors and the Chair of the RI Convention Center Authority.

Ernie was a National Chair of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, a National Chair of the Association of Government Accountants, and a National Chair of the State Auditors Association.

He is a former Chief of Staff to Lt Governor Sabina Matos, an Associate Director of the RI Department of Health, and National Partner of RSM US LLP, the fifth largest accounting and consulting firm in the world.

The Secretary of the Air Force selected Ernie to attend the National Security Forum at the Air War College in 2007. He is also a graduate of Leadership Rhode Island.

He has served in numerous positions as Chair of audit committees including universities, the Department of Defense Audit Advisory Committee at the Pentagon, and as a member of the

Government Auditing Standards Committee for the Comptroller General of the U.S. Ernie was named twice in the top 100 CPAs in the country by Accounting Today.

Ernie received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Business Administration from Bryant University in 2009.

Professional affiliations and credentials

- Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Global Management Accountant
- Certified in Financial Forensics and Certified Government Financial Manager
- Board of Director: Operation Stand Down RI (for homeless veterans), Leadership Rhode Island, and the Italo American Club of Rhode Island

Education

- Bachelor of Science, Master of Science in Taxation, and Honorary Doctorate, Bryant University
- Senior Executives in State and Local Government and Innovations in Governance, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Awards

- Department of the Army Meritorious Public Service Medal
- Department of the Army "Civilian Service Medal"
- Employer Support -Guard and Reserve - "Above and Beyond Award"
- 2008 and 2005 "Accounting Today" – Top 100 Most Influential People
- AICPA Gold Medal for Distinguished Service (The highest award you can receive from this organization)
- Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council "Robert M. Goodrich Distinguished Public Service Award" – 2004
- Giovanni da Verrazzano Man of the Year – For Outstanding Service to the Rhode Island Community – 2005
- R.I. Society of CPAs – Centennial Outstanding CPA in Government
- Alumni Service Award – Bryant University
- Public Service Award – Rhode Island Society of CPAs
- Beta Gamma Sigma – Bryant University Honoree
- Leadership Rhode Island – 2022 Threads of Leadership Award
- RI Society of CPAs 2023 Legend of the Profession Award
- Leadership Rhode Island – Rhode Island Community Service Award
- Italo American Club Person of the Year 2024