

TIMOTHY SMITH - Candidate for Veterans Service Officer



Tim Smith enlisted (after being drafted) into the U.S. Army in 1968 shortly after completing a B.S. degree in Biology and Chemistry. After basic and advanced training, Tim was deployed to USARJ (Japan) at the 249th General Evacuation Hospital, serving as a surgical and triage specialist as part of the hospital's support for Vietnam's most seriously wounded. This service earned his unit a Meritorious Unit Citation for exceptional support of combat casualties. In 1970, he earned a second MOS as a clinical lab specialist and was moved to the 406 Med Lab Headquarters for U.S. Army, Japan, Camp Zama where he

departed from service in 1971.

The Army became an impetus for Smith to spend a lifetime in healthcare, first gaining an M.S. in microbiology, then as owner and director of three major clinical laboratories on the west coast of Florida, and finally earning a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences, advancing to the level of Sr Vice President of Operations and Sales and Executive Board Member for the world's largest clinical laboratory. His work took him to seven different countries helping to advance diagnostic testing using various new technologies. Tim is now retired and lives in Chapel Hill's Governors Village with his wife, Marilyn.

Tim is only in his fourth year with the American Legion, but has been very active in various activities including: building and ground maintenance improvement projects, cooking and serving meals, setup and preparing for various meetings, donating time playing music for the Post social meetings and most notably starting a program to visit veterans in retirement centers, assisted living, and memory care facilities in the Post's area of propinquity. This program called *Operation Shut-in* is now in its fourth year and growing. His willingness to help veterans who are suffering from terminal illnesses and various infirmities in their later years is a passion that first started with his Army experience in caring for injured and mortally wounded during the Vietnam conflict. He often reflects on what he calls "the other side of war" - the suffering, the loss of lives and the mental and physical struggles of our veterans.

Tim would like to say the following: "As the Post's Veterans Service Officer, I will do my very best to ensure our veterans receive the best support and guidance I can provide. I will be aware and attentive to the needs of Post 6 veterans who are both new and long serving to our Legion, and I will serve with enthusiasm, empathy and humbleness. I will also support the Post Executive Committee by quietly observing, listening, and learning

how to promote the vision that we are all “brothers and sisters” who deserve a place at our Post because of our service to our country.”