

# Judge Advocate

## R. Keith Jeffers

Keith joined the VFW in 1972 while on active duty. He retired from the military in 1995, and became very active in his Post. He has served as Post Commander for 9 years. He has served as the Post Adjutant, Athlete of the Year Chairman, VOD Chairman from 2002-2008 and Post Service Officer from 1998-2008. The Post received All-State Honors in 2001-2002 and in 2004-2005. Keith was District 12 Commander in 2003-2004 and has served 12<sup>th</sup> District as Employment Chairman, Legislative Chairman, Homeless Veterans Chairman, and Service Officer. At the State level Keith has served as the Officer of the Day 2004-2006, Employment Chairman 2006-2009, and the State Service Director 2006-2010. He was recently appointed to the position of National Deputy Chief of Staff for 2008-2009. He is currently serving as the Department Surgeon, Department Employment Chairman, the State Service Director, and Commander of Post 4464.

Keith entered the service in 1968, served 2 years in the US Army and separated in 1970 as a Sergeant E-5 (P). He re-enlisted in the Army in 1972 and retired in 1995 as a Sergeant Major E-9. Some of his military awards include: The Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 60 Device, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, Air Medal (3rd Award), the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (4<sup>th</sup> Award), Army Commendation Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Bar (4<sup>th</sup> Award), Army Good Conduct Medal (8<sup>th</sup> Award), Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge. He served with the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, and 3 times with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, and with C Co. / 509th Airborne Infantry Pathfinder Detachment. He was the Readiness Group Sergeant Major at Fort Bragg, North Carolina during Operation Desert Storm. His other overseas tours include Vietnam, Germany (3years), and 2 tours in Korea (4 Years).

Keith was employed in 1997 by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services as a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOPS). He was one of the first Veterans Employment Representatives to work on campus with Disabled Veterans in the Voc Rehab Program. He was an original member of the Serving Warriors at Transition (SWAT) team who traveled throughout the State of Ohio providing informational briefings to deploying National Guard and Reservists and their families. Keith was honored as the DVOPS of the Year 4 out of 8 years. He received the VFW's Distinguished James C. Gates Award for service to veterans. Keith served on the Gallia County Veterans Service Commission for 9 years, 7 years as their President. He resigned from the Veterans Service Commission and State employment in 2008 to become the Gallia County Veterans Service Officer/ Executive Director.

Keith is a U S Army Sergeant's Major Academy Graduate, and has an Associate's Degree in Applied Science from UTEP. Keith is a life member of VFW Post 4464. He belongs to the Military Order of the Cooties Pup Tent 48, life member of the AMVETS, DAV, and Vietnam Veterans of America. He belongs to American Legion Post 23, the 40 & 8, and the Gallia Co. Veterans Association, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and the Gallipolis Shrine. He is a Kentucky Colonel and member of the Gallipolis Elks, the Gallipolis Harley Owners Group, and The VFW Past Commanders Association. Keith's four brothers are all veterans; three are life members in the VFW. His father served in WW II and his uncle John was a POW during WWII. Keith has the support of his wife Lisa, his family, friends and many VFW members.