

Timothy L. Von Bon  
Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America  
Northern Utah Chapter 1079  
Candidate for Regional Director Representing  
Region 9

Tim Von Bon is the 2018-2020 Chapter President of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA), Northern Utah Chapter 1079, in Ogden, UT, and a candidate for Regional Director, Representing Region 9. Utah Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) State Council President, Dennis Howland, has called Tim “an outstanding choice for Region 9 and extremely capable of fulfilling the duties of Regional Director.”

Tim is a 14-year Air Force veteran, Life Member of AVVA, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), and Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Two years ago, the Utah VVA State Council bestowed him with a VVA Honorary Life Membership for the work he has done to further the goals of the VVA in Utah.

For his commitment, motivation, dedication, and leadership in supporting the mission of the VVA, Tim has also been awarded the VVA Achievement Medal. Along with the membership of AVVA Northern Utah Chapter 1079, Tim aided the Utah VVA State Council and VVA Chapter 1079 to raise over \$500,000 to bring an 80% replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall to a permanent location in Layton, UT.

Tim has been a member in good standing since 2014, an AVVA Life Member since 2018, and a Charter Member of AVVA, Northern Utah Chapter 1079, having placed the first signature on the Petition for Incorporation. He became the Chapter Treasurer when Region 9 Director, Casey Farrell presented the Chapter with its Charter and swore in the first officers on February 2, 2017. Tim was successful in his election to Chapter President in April 2018.

Tim enlisted in the Air Force, February 1, 1982, and progressed through the ranks of Airman Basic, E-1, to Staff Sergeant, E-5. Tim was an Avionics Technician on the F-16 Fighting Falcon, troubleshooting and repairing the aircrafts Radar and Navigation, Flight Controls, Communications, and Electronic Countermeasures Systems. Tim’s Professional Military Education includes graduating from the Career Development Course for Avionics, Airman Leadership, and NCO Leadership Schools.

July 1985 saw Tim make the longest commitment in his life. He married the former Ms. Jill Buchanan. Their adventure through life has taken them from Hill AFB, UT to Nellis AFB, NV, Torrejon AB, Spain, and back to Hill. Somewhere in there were also two remote tours to Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea. Together they have three children, all grown and on their own, and four grandchildren.

After receiving a Temporary Disability Retirement in 1996, the Air Force determined Tim to be no longer worldwide eligible for deployment and he was given an early out and received a



Disability Severance instead of a full Medical retirement in 1998. After working for FMC Jetway Systems from September 1996 to October 2000, the Air Force called Tim back to service at Hill AFB, UT, where he became an Aircraft Electrician for the 573<sup>rd</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS) working his favorite fighter jet, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, performing depot level modifications, upgrading and repairing the aircraft's wiring and avionics systems.

Eight years later, Tim was given the opportunity to manufacture and repair the F-16's wiring harnesses, circuit breaker panels, and avionics matrices in the 573<sup>rd</sup> AMXS Harness Shop. With his extensive knowledge of the wiring and components of the F-16, Tim applied for and was selected to become the Supervisor of the Harness Shop managing a team of ten technicians. For the next four years, Tim and his team produced quality aircraft wire harnesses, with zero defects for the Warfighters.

As a reward for his hard work and supervisory skills, Tim was appointed the 573<sup>rd</sup> AMXS Self-Assessment Program (SAP) Manager. As the squadron's Quality Management Specialist for the next three years, Tim managed the squadron's SAP Program of 300-400 annual Self-Assessment Communicators (SACs) or checklists, with a 25% increase in assessment on time completion, a 10% increase in self-identified deficiencies, and a 30% decrease in Third Party Inspection identified deficiencies. The 573<sup>rd</sup> had zero Overdue Assessments for those three years.

When the SAP Manager for the 309<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Group (AMXG) transferred to another job, the AMXG Commander called upon Tim and challenged him to manage the Group SAP Program. Not being one to turn down a challenge, Tim accepted the appointment, applied for, and was successful in receiving his promotion to the 309<sup>th</sup> AMXG SAP Manager where he monitors and manages a nine squadron Self-Assessment Program with approximately 3,500 annual communicators.

Tim has been instrumental in reducing the number of overdue communicators and increasing production of aircraft on the production floor. Showing his commander that moving the level of responsibility to complete the communicator from the first line supervisors to second line supervisors, this lightened the workload of the overburdened first line supervisors and increased aircraft touch time. This also decreased the overall number of communicators to be completed by the group by two thirds. Today the 309<sup>th</sup> AMXG is running approximately 1,000 annual communicators with 16 months on time assessment completion.

Tim's leadership abilities have been developed in his 33-year military and civil service career and in the VFW by serving as Jr. Vice Commander and Sr. Vice Commander at both the Post and District levels and as Commander at the District level. He follows guidelines set before him in the VFW By-Laws and Rituals Manual and knows when to ask questions when he can't find the answers he's looking for. Most evenings, he can be found reading and re-reading the AVVA Policy and Procedure Manual or playing Country Life Meadows on Facebook. On weekends, Tim and Jill go on 'adventures' driving around Northern Utah, Southern Idaho, and Western Wyoming.