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**AVVA Life Member 900643**

I am running for re-election as Region 5 Director as the proud son of a Vietnam Veteran and proud lifetime member of AVVA. My day job is benefits coordinator for City of Lawrence, with a lifetime of volunteering.

As someone who was born Hard of Hearing, we'll never know the precise reason for my severe bilateral hearing loss. Because of this, Agent Orange advocacy and research in the next generation, as well as the grandkids of Vietnam vets, is very important to me.

Being around my father and veteran friends helped me find a passion to run with. In 1994, at the ripe age of 14, writing to Governor's, Senator's and others who would read my letter to collect all 50 State flags and District of Columbia to be displayed at The Moving Wall when it was hosted by VVA Chapter 295.

I became a life member of VVA in 1997. Prior to and after that, I had been volunteering in the locator tent, helping people find names of loved ones and friends engraved on The Wall. In the 1990's and early 2000's, there was an all-veteran's reunion known as Firebase Indy. I was a speaker at several programs held at The Wall honoring Gold Star Families in addition to a few Opening Ceremonies over the several times it has been hosted.

After graduating from Wabash College, I remained active with AVVA. I have served as AVVA Indiana State Council Vice President and have been President since 2015. My dad suddenly passed away in August 2011. Being proactively involved is a testament to his lessons and honoring his legacy.

Currently I serve as AVVA's awards committee chair, member of the bylaws and election committees, and as non voting advisor to the VVA membership committee and homeless veterans committee. I'm also a very active Regional Director attending state council meetings and other things in Region 5.

As we go forward, I strongly believe, life's experiences as "the next generation" will continue to bring an innovative approach to the future.

