

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS NEWS RELEASE



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For God and Country

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New American Legion Commander Elected

The American Legion Department of Arkansas is pleased to announce the election of Doyle Batey, of American Legion Post #1 in North Little Rock, as the 2019-2020 State Commander of the American Legion for the State of Arkansas. Commander Batey was elected June 23, 2019 in North Little Rock during the 101st Arkansas State Convention of the state's largest veteran's organization.

Commander Batey enlisted in the U.S. Navy in February of 1969 during the Viet Nam War, and served honorably for 20 years, retiring in April of 1989. Before retiring, he attained the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer, and served on four (4) different aircraft carriers and served in six (6) aircraft squadrons. Most of his time in service was working on the Grumman F-14 Tomcat aircraft, as he was part of the cadre of Navy personnel who introduced the F-14 to the Navy Fleet.

Commander Batey previously served with honor and distinction as American Legion Department of Arkansas Adjutant and State Director of the Arkansas Veterans Child Welfare Service. He also served seven years as Deputy Director of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs where he worked veterans' claims and represented veterans at the Board of Veterans Appeals. In addition, Commander Batey also had the responsibility for two (2) Veterans Homes, two (2) state veterans' cemeteries, and the State Service Officers Division.

Commander Batey is a Paid-Up-For-Life Member of the American Legion and is also currently serving as First Vice Commander of M.M Eberts American Legion Post #1 in North Little Rock, as well as a Life Member of Ye Steivos, the American Legion's National Association of Department Adjutants. He is also a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and is also proudly a Life Member of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada United States unit, known as ANAVICUS.

Commander Batey is from Blytheville, Arkansas where he graduated from Blytheville High School in May of 1968. He married his high school sweetheart, Deborah Jan Wadkins, formerly from Gosnell, Arkansas. Doyle and Debbie recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October of 2018. They have five (5) children: three (3) girls and two (2) boys. Doyle and Debbie currently reside in Beebe, Arkansas.

For more information, please contact Bob Renner, American Legion Department Adjutant, at (501) 375-1104, or visit the American Legion Department of Arkansas Web site at: www.arlegion.org.

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