



Greetings Arkansas Legionnaires. This is Patrick "Doc" Phillips, your Candidate for Department Commander 2023-2024. This short Biography will give you insight into my history and plans for the future this next Legion year.

I entered the Army in 1974 as a PVT, stationed in Washington D.C. as a Veterinary Technician and become the NCOIC of the Primate Research Unit at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. After my 3 years stint on Active Duty, I returned home to go to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln to study pre-veterinary medicine. I continued to serve in the National Guard in Nebraska. In 1981, I attended Officer Candidate School and graduated as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant as an Armor Officer assigned to a Armor Cav Unit. The same year I was accepted into Veterinary School at Kansas State University where I received my Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 1985. Upon graduation I was commissioned in the Veterinary Corp in the U.S. Army. I continued my military career until my final tour in Afghanistan in 2003 and retired in 2005 after 30 years of service. I had 5 deployments and have served in the military in over 17 countries.

I am married to Jammie Phillips, who is running for Department President this year and we look forward to servicing the Arkansas Legion Family together. Jammie is originally from West Memphis, and her parents currently live in Heber Springs. We have been coming to Arkansas for many years and consider this our forever home. We have 4 children, all of who served in the military. Between all of us, we have had 12 deployments to the "Sand". I am extremely proud of each of them. All have been Legionnaires in Wisconsin and Virginia. We have 4 Grandchildren and one on the way.

I started my career as a Legionnaire in 1999 after I spoke to a Legion Post about my tours. They graciously gave me a membership in the Legion and I cherish that moment to this day. The Legion leadership positions that I have held include, Post Service Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and Commander of Post 37 in Ames, IA. At the District level I have been a Vice Commander and

Commander of District 6 in IA and a member of the Department Executive Committee in 2016 thru 2018. I also served Nationally as a member of the VA&R Council in both Iowa and Arkansas. I have served as the Post 64 Service Officer and NE Area Vice Commander for the Department of Arkansas. I have also been the State Director of the Legion Riders in 2021 and 2022 as well as the Dean of our Nationally recognized Arkansas Legion College. I currently serve on the National Legislative Commission since 2022. I am a Proud Member of Post 91 in Beebe, Arkansas.

Looking forward, I have a 100 day plan that will address challenges and opportunities for our Department to move us forward and “Stop The Slide” in Arkansas. Communication will be key to the following priorities. Some of these priorities include revamping the membership team to be made up of top recruiters in each part of the state. Also, we will take the challenge of making sure we are fiscally responsible and try to achieve a balance budget going forward. The MOST important members of our Arkansas American Legion is the “**Blue Cap**” Legionnaires. It’s not the Officers of the Department , the DEC or District Officers. They are a resource to help each Post grow and improve. Without the membership and service of our Posts in Arkansas, we will continue to decline. In order to support this, Training at the District and Post level will be enhanced with more training at each level next year. We have a Great Training team to accomplish this challenge.

Again, thank you for your support and I look forward to serving this great organization this next year with your help, prayers and your Vote.

