



**Harold M. Burke, Jr.
State Commander
2003-2004**



Hal enlisted in the U.S. Army on September 27, 1966 and went to Vietnam for his first tour in November 1967. He served three tours of duty in Vietnam, returned home in June 1969 and was Honorably Discharged. He received the National Defense Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal with 6 Battle stars and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation and the New York State Medal of Merit.

Hal joined VFW Post 1895 in Rotterdam, New York in 1979 and became a life member in 1980. Hal is also a life member of Cootie Pup Tent 15, a life member of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 88 and a member of American Legion Post 1005.

At the Post level he held many of the Post Chairs and was Post Commander for 2 years receiving All State Post Commander honors in 1993-1994 and All State Post Quartermaster honors in 1994-1995.

At the County Council level, Hal held many chairs and was County Council Commander twice – receiving All State Council Commander honors each time, 1994-1995 and 1990-2000.

After holding many of the District Chairs Hal was elected and served as District Commander in 1977-1978 and he was the only All-American District Commander in the Department of New York that year.

At the National level he has had a number of appointments.

At the Department Convention in June 2003 in Binghamton, New York, Hal was elected to the high office of Commander of the Department of New York. At the Department level, he has held many elected and appointed positions.

Hal currently works for Lockheed Martin Corporation as a Supervisor. He has been with this company for 35 years.

He also serves his community as a volunteer firefighter in the town of Rotterdam and he serves as Fire Commissioner and Department Safety Officer.

Hal has been married to his wife Carol for 32 years and has two sons Harold III who is a police officer in Nashville, TN and Andrew who is an automotive technician for Saturn of Albany.