



William "Doc" Schmitz
State Commander
2014-2015



"Doc" Schmitz enlisted in the United States Navy in 1966. He completed Hospital Naval Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois in 1967 and was Senior Corpsman at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. "Doc" was then assigned to Camp Lejeune and worked at the Combat Engineering School as a range corpsman where he was awarded a meritorious mast and meritorious promotion for outstanding performance in medical duties. He became the only Navy Corpsman to be awarded the Marine Corps Combat Engineering Degree. He then went to Vietnam and was attached to USMC infantry and artillery. He served by treating field casualties and then in the First Medical Battalion, he ran a minor surgery clinic and manned the medivac bunker for incoming casualties. Doc returned to the United States in 1970 and obtained his degree in Registered Nursing, where he was awarded the New York State Nursing award, and was the only one ever hired out of the graduating class to be on the faculty of the school of nursing at the college. "Doc" worked in the Department of Corrections in the capacity of Registered Nurse and Acting Nurse Administrator and retired after thirty years of service.

"Doc" has a lengthy and rich history in service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was Editor of the NYS Overseas Veteran newspaper for nine years. "Doc" was the Commander's Special Project Chairman in 2006-2007. The special project was the Men's and Women's PTSD clinics at the Batavia NY, VA. His efforts led to the project exceeding all prior fundraisers for the Department, in excess of seventy thousand dollars. He was Post Commander for two years, Southern Tier County Council Commander for almost three years and District 5 Commander. He has also served on various District, Council and National committees including National Security. He was National Surgeon General in 2010-2011.

"Doc" was the Department of NY Surgeon from 2007-2012 and currently handles veteran's issues for Congressman Tom Reed in the 29th congressional district.

"Doc" was elected as State Commander at the 95th State Convention.

"Doc" and his wife, Deborah, reside in Corning, NY.