

*98th Convention Selection for Commander of The American Legion, Department of Indiana*

James B. May was elected The American Legion, Department of Indiana state commander by delegates from the 11 districts throughout the state during the 98th Indiana American Legion Convention July 9, 2015 in Indianapolis.

May is a 46 year member of The American Legion, Department of Indiana. His Legion career began in 1970 at the Burton Woolery Post 18 in his hometown of Bloomington, Ind. He's served every position available there, some several times over.

May has held many major offices on the District level, including Adjutant, Sgt. at Arms, Membership and Finance. Every post in the 7th district had 100% membership during his year as District Commander 2001 – 2002. He also served on many committees, among his most rewarding were Children and Youth, Employment and Legislative Committees.

He served as Department Southern Vice Commander 2009 – 2010. May has served as chairman of all four Department of Indiana commissions; Americanism, Children and Youth, Internal Affairs and Rehabilitation.

He served on the National Media and Communications Council and the National Convention Contest Committee

In 1983, May married his wife of 33 years, Marsha. Together, they raised his stepson Andrew Michael Stephenson, who is captain at the Indiana University Police Department in Bloomington, Ind. They have two grandsons, Z and Ty. Both are avid football players in high school and college.

May earned his Legion membership eligibility through his service in the U.S. Army 1968 – 1971. He deployed to Vietnam with the 23rd Infantry Division, known popularly as the Americal Division, 1969 – 1970. He served as a personnel sergeant traveling Vietnam to administrative support to troops in fire bases and forward operating bases across the country.

After his tour of duty, he continued to serve his nation in the Army Reserves here in Indiana for 18 more years. He retired with 21 years-of-service in 1990.

After his military service, May went to work for the Indiana Department of Transportation as a crew leader for signs and signals department in the Seymour, Ind., district for 20 years. He retired in 1989 and went on to work security and eventually as a purchaser at Crane Naval Base from 1989 until he retired again in 2010.

May takes American Legion membership very seriously. This year marked his 20th Consecutive Gold Brigade award at the 98th Annual Convention in Indianapolis. The Gold Brigade award is given to Legion recruiters who enroll 50 members or more. In 2001-2002, he recruited 182 members in his District.

His motto this year is, "Remember the Past, Look to the Future."

"We need to remember where we came from, how we were started," said May. "We need to get back to our roots in order to look and plan for the future. We need to get back to our core values and secure younger membership to be our future leaders."