

About Commander Richard Shea Jr.



Richard Shea Jr; born 27 April 1973 in Ft. Riley, Kansas to Randy L. Watkins and Richard Shea from the Southside of Chicago, and then raised on the Southside of Chicago. Richard Shea Jr. has been married for 16 years to PDP Laurie Shea with whom they have two girls aged 16 & 14, Richard also has a 25-year-old son from a previous relationship.

Following in a long family tradition of serving in the U.S. Military, Richard Shea Jr. joined the U.S. Marine Corps in Oct 93' attending basic training in San Diego, Ca. (Hollywood Marine) and then going on to Courthouse Bay in Camp Lejeune, NC. to become a Combat Engineer, and then on to his final duty station, Camp Hansen, Okinawa Japan with the 3rd Marine Division 3rd Engineer Battalion. It was to be short lived, after a debilitating knee injury he would receive an Honorable Discharge in Dec 94' and come back home to Chicago.

After doing rehab at the Lakeside VA in downtown Chicago, he would go on to do odd jobs until finally being hired as a Firefighter for the City of Chicago where he has worked for the last 18 years in some of the toughest parts of Chicago.

Richard's Amvets life really began when he was a young boy and his father would bring him to various events held by or at Amvets Post 43 in Burnham, IL., so while on leave before going to Okinawa his dad once again brought him to Post 43 but this time suggested he join before he leaves, so in April 94' Richard Shea Jr. became an annual member of Amvets Post 43 and finally a life member in 2004 and started becoming a very active member in 2005 when he started bartending at Post 43

and continued until 2010 when he was elected the Post Commander and continued in that position until this year finally giving up the gavel at Post 43.

While as a Post Commander he was also an Officer for both District 1 (Cook County) Adjutant 2011-13, Jr Vice Commander 2012-2013, District Commander 2013-2014 and Dept. of IL Amvets, R.O.T.C. Chairman 2012-2015, 2nd Vice Commander of Programs 2014-2015, 1st Vice Commander of Membership 2015-2016.

Richard Shea Jr has been an Amvet member for the last 22years, although his military life did not turn out the way he had wanted too thru Amvets he has been able to connect with Veterans and help by various means one of those venues that he has taken pride in is being able to go to our Nation's Capital in Washington D.C. and talk with our IL Congressional and Senatorial leaders about current Veteran issues that Amvets believes in and would like their support.