

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

* NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS - PO BOX 1055 - INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206-1055 *

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Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL) - Bio National Vice Commander Central Region

Butch is a National Vice Commander representing the Central Region. His membership to the Sons of The American Legion spans over forty years of continuous service for the veterans of our great nation. He is a paid-up-for-life member in good standing with Squadron # 24 in Champaign, Illinois. Butch's eligibility in the Sons of The American Legion is through his deceased father, Harl H. Ray, who proudly served in Iran as a member of the 791st Railroad Operations Battalion, Persian Gulf Command, of the United States Army during World War II.

The American Legion Family is a big part of Butch's life. His wife of forty-five years, Pam, is a member of Unit # 71 in Urbana, Illinois, and has served as American Legion Auxiliary President, Department of Illinois, and is currently serving as the National Vice President for The American Legion Auxiliary. They have two daughters, one granddaughter, and one grandson, all American Legion Family members. His Brother-in-Law, Marty Conatser, is a Past National Commander of The American Legion. Marty's wife, Sharon (Pam's sister), held the office of National President of the American Legion Auxiliary during the 2015-2016 membership year.

Butch has always been active in the programs and activities of the Sons of The American Legion. He has served his Squadron, District, Division, and Detachment in many positions and with many responsibilities. He served as Detachment Adjutant for two years and as Detachment Commander during the 2011-2012 membership year. On the national level, he has served as a member of four committees and/or commissions, and he was proud to serve as aide to the national commander for the 2008-2009 membership year. He also served as National Chaplain from 2014-2015.

Butch is a 43-year employee of the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State as the Executive Director of the Department of Physical Services, which oversees 25 state buildings in Springfield and Chicago, Illinois. Butch is also a long-time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he is an ordained elder and deacon and served as Youth Director for five years, he has been an advisor to the Jr. & Sr. High School Youth Groups and has participated in more than 12 annual Youth Group Mission Trips throughout the country. Supporting the "Aims and principles" of The American Legion has become a routine of service in Butch's life; Butch believes in the mission of the Sons of The American Legion and is guided by the traditions of the entire American Legion Family.