

Gary P. Nelson's Bio.

Born Gary P. Nelson on November 17, 1956 to proud parents Doris & Russell Nelson, Gary gained his eligibility in the Sons of The American Legion through his father's service, a W.W.II Army veteran who served at Normandy Beach, European Asian Theater and The Battle of the Bulge. His father was a 74 year member of the American Legion, a life member of V.F.W. Post #2648 and retired police chief. Gary's mother was a retired Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools and an Auxiliary member. Gary had a sister Barbara who was an Auxiliary member and was married to Jack Mahlbacher, an S.A.L. member.

A Charter member of his old squadron, Gary served as there first Commander for three years as well as Adjutant, Finance Officer and Judge Advocate. He is currently serving as Judge Advocate and Membership Chairman in his new squadron.

On the County level Gary served two years as County S.A.L. Commander. During his term as Commander, the County came close to doubling their membership and he also started several new squadrons. Gary has served as Adjutant, Finance Officer in past years and is the current Judge Advocate.

At the Detachment level Gary served two terms as Vice Commander and also two terms as Judge Advocate. As Detachment Commander (2004-2005) Gary and his team brought many new achievements to N.J., all time high in membership, all time high in donations to Special Olympics, close to \$40,000 in contributions to the Paramus Veterans Home (his Commander's project), #1 in Child Welfare contributions in the Eastern Region and #1 in per-capita in the Eastern Region. At the National Convention that year N.J.'s S.A.L. newspaper was honored and Gary's old squadron received #1 squadron in Americanism in the Nation. In 2006-2007 Gary was awarded the high honor of being named "Son of the Year" for his exceptional dedication to the American Legion Family and several projects he ran.

Gary received a B.S. in Management and Economics from Ramapo College of N.J. and a M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He has many other certifications in both Real Estate and Insurance, L.U.T.C., C.R.E.A., & others. Gary is a self employed Property Manager in his home town Cliffside Park for the past 45 years.