



## MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

### **Marine Corps Desert Storm Veteran Brenten T. Byrd, MS, VHA-CM NDSWM Co-Founder & Finance Committee Co-Chair**

Brenten Byrd has worked in the mental health recovery field since the mid 1990's. He currently serves as a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist as part of the Psychiatry Services Department for the Veterans Administration. He manages the Transitional Work & Supported Employment Program under the Compensated Work Therapy programs for the Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks located in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He assists Veterans recovering from Severe Mental illness, addictions, homelessness, and physical disabilities. His programs partner with many local agencies and recovery-based initiatives such as Veterans Treatment Court in order to help Veterans work through challenges and reintegrate back into the communities of their choice.

Brenten served honorably in the Marine Corps Reserves in the infantry as a non-commissioned officer and later as an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He is both a life member of the VFW and AmVets and is a Desert Shield/Storm Veteran. Brenten became interested in creating a Persian Gulf War Memorial back in 2010 when he was discussing a twenty year reunion with fellow Storm Veterans. It was somewhat of a shock to them that twenty years had passed and our country had yet to memorialize the sacrifices of those fellow Veterans who gave everything in order to free the people of Kuwait. When Brenten and some of his Marine brothers were invited in 2011 to meet with President H.W. Bush and General Walter E. Boomer USMC for the 20th anniversary they were already researching the necessary processes to erect a war memorial in Washington, D.C. A few months later the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association was formed as a 501c(3) in Springdale, Arkansas.

Thank you Brenten for your continued service to your fellow veterans and your shared vision to build the National Desert Storm War Memorial.