

## ***Veteran Volunteer of the Year Honoree:***

### **Phillip Allen, Veterans of Foreign Wars – Salem, WI**

When asked why he has dedicated his volunteer time to multiple Veterans of Foreign Wars efforts, Wisconsin Veteran Phillip Allen explains: “I can help other Veterans. The Vietnam Veterans were not treated very well when we got home. We need to show Veterans that they are appreciated by us and our country” Phillip served in the Navy from 1967 to 1968 in Chu Lai, a large air support base during the Vietnam War.

As the VFW State Hospital Director, he has traveled throughout the state, meeting with VA Hospital Directors to continuously improve the volunteer support the VFW can provide and leading a legion of Veterans Administration Voluntary Services (VAVS) Representatives that provide resources, support, and companionship to veterans in Wisconsin veterans homes and VA Medical Centers.

When family members from afar call to inform the VFW of a dying veteran in one of the hospitals, Phil ensures someone is there and that “No Veteran Dies Alone.”

He helped lead efforts to dramatically improve the experience for veterans staying at the Zablocki VA Medical Center Hoptel. Obtaining new beds and furniture and arranging for local and national restaurants to donate food for their meals.

Phil also serves as the State VFW Chaplain, speaking with those in need throughout the year and organizing an annual memorial service to honor those veterans that have passed away and express support to their families.

Through his multiple volunteer efforts, Phillip Allen has made a significant difference for hospitalized veterans and provided valuable support to numerous veterans throughout Wisconsin.