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Davmn.org

## Volunteer Bio

### **SCOTT BERNDT**

State Commander  
Minnesota DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

Scott Berndt, a Vietnam Era Army veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm from 1990 to 1991, is the current State Commander of the Minnesota Disabled American Veterans. In his current volunteer role for the Minnesota DAV, he oversees the department's many functions, and operations at all 32 Chapters across Minnesota.



Berndt joined Minnesota DAV in 1997 and has been very active in the organization throughout the years. In 2003 he was given the task to save the DAV Clothing store. He volunteered for an entire year to build the department back up and ensure it was in good standing. He then restarted the Chapter Clothing program in 2003, which had been shuttered since 1999. This program has since grown and expanded, and now is the primary income for all Chapters, earning over \$1 million annually. He has served at the Department level in all positions (except for Chaplain), and his longest position was Department Treasurer, which he held for over eight years.

After joining the Army in 1973, Berndt graduated from basic training in Fort Ord, Calif. Prior to leaving for a four-year tour in Germany, Berndt went to the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy in Fort Benning, Ga. He was the Distinguished Graduate among the 300 other NCO's attending, and was automatically promoted to Staff Sergeant.

After leaving the active Army in 1980, Berndt earned a 2-year degree in Mechanical Engineering in the machinist field, working as a machinist and senior programmer. In 1984 he joined the Army Reserves as a Combat Engineer. He later transferred into a Civil Affairs Company until 1998 when he retired from the Military with 23 years of service. He retired from his civilian career in 2002 after a serious accident.

His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal w/4 Oak Leaf Cluster, Expert Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> award), National Service Medal w/Bronze Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/2 Bronze Stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal, United National Medal, NCO Professional Ribbon (3<sup>rd</sup>), and more.

Berndt currently resides in Andover, Minn. with his wife Nancy. He and his wife raised six children, and now have 15 grandkids and seven great grandkids.

Berndt believes in training the younger Veterans to carry on the national duty and honor when the older Veterans are gone. It will be their job to keep up the fight for all the Veterans and their families for however long it takes to complete the mission.

### **About DAV Minnesota**

One of the driving forces behind DAV's mission is empowering veterans to lead high-quality and fulfilled lives. With more than 19,000 members in the state, DAV of Minnesota is an organization of veterans helping veterans, and it receives no government funding. The 32 chapters statewide work independently alongside community non-profits and advocacy organizations to fulfill promises made to the men and women who have served. DAV advocates for the men and women who defend the American way of life, and our leadership structure reflects that. Since our founding, our State Commander has been democratically elected by member veterans, ensuring that DAV will always put service for America's veterans first.