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Davmn.org

## Volunteer Bio

### **THOMAS (TOM) W. ANNONSON**

2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander  
Minnesota DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

Tom Annonson is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander for the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota. In this volunteer role for the Minnesota DAV, he works with the other board members on decisions that affect the overall mission. At the chapter level he is a member of the executive committee, chairman of fundraising and outreach, editor of the monthly newsletter, and joint administrator of the Chapter website and Facebook page.

Before serving on the executive board he was the Department's 4<sup>th</sup> Junior Vice Commander.

Annonson served in the U.S. Air force from 1974-1983. He attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Tex. He later was assigned to Kessler Air Force Base, Miss., for his specialty training as an Avionics Communication Specialist. From there, he was assigned to Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., to work on maintaining the communication systems on the B-52 (G & H Models), KC-135 aircraft and UH1N Helicopters. He then went to Anderson AFB, Guam for three years to maintain the systems on the B-52 (D & F models) and KC-135 aircraft. He was sent to Rhein Main AB, Germany where he worked at the enroute section for two years maintaining the transient C-5, C-141, C-130 aircraft that passed through the base. For his last two and a half years stationed there, he was assigned to a Tactical Airlift Control Element (TALCE) where he was temporarily deployed (TDY) to more than a dozen different countries to provide secure communications for joint exercises.

After his military service Annonson worked for 17 years as a Special Instrumentation Technician for the Department of Defense (Air Force) as a Civil Service employee. He holds a degree in Electronics.

His military awards and decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Service Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Small Arms Expert Ribbon with 2 Bronze Stars.

Annonson currently resides in Bemidji, Minn. with his fiancée, Marie. He has eight children from previous marriages, and 10 grandchildren.

"Being a volunteer with the DAV since 2008 has given me a renewed sense of purpose as a retiree. The satisfaction of helping my fellow veterans and their families with providing information on their eligibility of benefits, financial aid, general assistance, and advocating for legislative issues at both the State and Federal levels has been a blessing in my life. In doing so, it has also given me a greater appreciation of the men and women that have given their time, energy, and dedication over the past 100 years of this organization's existence to be a voice and helping hand for those of us in need."

### **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.

