

Laurie Emmer was elected to the high office of State Surgeon at the 96th State Convention held June 17, 2017 in Springfield, Illinois.

Laurie served in the United States Army from 1983 to 2005, retiring as a Medic. She earned her eligibility to the Veterans of Foreign Wars after deploying to Afghanistan with Task Force 504, 82d Airborne Division in 2003.

Laurie first joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Fayetteville, NC, later transferred to a post in Columbus, GA, and now maintains her life membership at Sycamore Post 5768 in Sycamore, Illinois. She served in a variety of position at her post to include All State Post Commander, a variety of positions at the 19<sup>th</sup> District to include All American District Commander and was elected to the high office of State Surgeon at the 95<sup>th</sup> State Convention.

Laurie is married to Mike, a retired United States Army Infantryman who earned his eligibility his Veterans of Foreign Wars eligibility deploying to the Gulf War, Somalia and Iraq, He is a life member of Sycamore VFW Post 5768. Laurie had 4 children; Kevin, Christina an Army veteran married to Joseph an active duty member of the US Army and Afghanistan Veteran, Andrew an Afghanistan veteran and life member of Sycamore VFW Post 5768, and Kaylie a member of the Sycamore VFW Post 5768 Auxiliary. Laurie has 4 grandchildren.