

Served honorably in the United States Air Force from January 1973 to November 1978 as an aircraft mechanic specialist.

Served honorably in the Illinois National Guard, 126th Air Refueling Wing, from February 1979 to January 2006 as an aircraft mechanic specialist for a combined 32 years and 11 months.

As a Desert Storm Veteran, I earned the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. I have also been awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; the Air Force Achievement Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters and one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster; and the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal.

I have filled all leadership positions at the Post level multiple times – including Post Quartermaster and the full accession from Junior Vice Commander to Commander, where I earned All-State Post Commander status.

I achieved All-State and All American status as the District 14 Commander in 2018-2019. Other VFW positions I have been appointed to include: Department of Illinois Chief of Staff, National Aide-de-Camp in 2016 and 2017, member of the Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs in 2018, and most recently a member of the Committee on National Bylaws, Manual of Procedures and Ritual in 2021.

Current positions include: Frederick M. Kocher VFW Post 4183 Commander, IL VFW District 14 Chief of Staff and District 2nd Year Trustee, VFW Department of IL Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, and Department of IL Convention Committee 3yr member.

I am a gold legacy life member of Frederick M. Kocher VFW Post 4183, Belleville IL. I joined Post 4183 in 2001

Extensive leadership experience in volunteer roles beyond the VFW include being a member of the American Legion, National Guard Association of IL (NGAI), St Clair County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) and a sitting member on the Board of Directors for The Eagle's Nest of St Clair County Men's Homeless Veterans Shelter.

Awarded the State of Illinois Treasurer's Outstanding Commitment to Community Service Award in 2020.

Recognized as VFW Department of Illinois Member of the Year for year 2019-2020.

VFW National Home for Children Life Member.