

Brett Nila was born in Aurora, Illinois and retired as a Colonel (O6) in 2009 after 30 years of service in the U.S. Army, the Illinois Army National Guard, and the Army Reserves. Commissioned through ROTC at Loyola University of Chicago in 1979, he served as a Tank Platoon Leader, worked on the field test of the (X)M-1 Tank, and served as a project officer on the "Position Location Reporting System" (PLRS) Project—the land-based precursor to the GPS (Global Positioning System). Leaving active duty as a Captain in 1983 he joined the Illinois Army National Guard and went on to command the 1644th Transportation Company (in both North Riverside & Rock Falls) and the 44th Support Center-RAO (Chicago), eventually transferring to the Army Reserve in 2004.

Brett joined the Ross Bishop Post #5696 in Lisle in 2008. His eligibility for the VFW is through service in the "Kosovo Campaign" from January - August 2000 as the Chief of Staff for the Theater Logistics Base (Camp Able Sentry), and then through service in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" from June 2007 - April 2008, as the Commander of the 640th Sustainment Brigade.

He became Post #5696 Commander in 2011, attained All-American status in 2017 and was appointed a "National Aide de Camp" in 2018. He was an All-American District Commander for 2020-21 and in June 2021 was elected Department of Illinois Junior-Vice Commander.

Brett's civilian career includes 21 years in the Commercial Property Insurance industry in Chicago after which he was hired by Easter Seals Headquarters in 2009 to launch what became its first successful nationwide service for Veterans: "Community OneSource." In 2012 he left to join his wife in purchasing a Home Care Agency which they operated through 2016. Since 2017, Brett has marketed his Voiceover services through "BrettNila.com".

Brett is a graduate of Marmion Military Academy in Aurora, Illinois and holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science from Loyola University of Chicago, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Keller Graduate School of Management and a Master of Strategic Studies (MSS) from the U.S. Army War College.

Brett's other volunteer work includes recording audio books for "Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic" (1992-96), Treasurer of the National Guard Association of Illinois (1997-99), Outreach Representative (2009-16) with Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR), member of the Army Area Retiree Council, Fort Sheridan (since 2011) and a member of Congressman Bill Foster's (11th U.S. District) Military Service Academy Appointment Board (since 2017).

In addition to the VFW, Brett also maintains membership in the American Legion, AmVets, the Military Order of Foreign Wars and the Society of the First Infantry Division. Owing to ancestral ties, he is also a member of the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Brett is currently retired and resides with his wife Pamela, a former Army Staff Sergeant, in Downers Grove, IL.