

# AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS NEWS RELEASE



*For God and Country*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New American Legion Commander Elected**

The American Legion Department of Arkansas is pleased to announce the election of Gene McVay, of American Legion Post #31 in Fort Smith as the 2009-2010 state commander of the American Legion for the State of Arkansas. Commander McVay was elected July 11, 2009 in North Little Rock during the 91st Arkansas State Convention of the state's largest veteran's organization.

Commander McVay is a 35-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard where he rose through the ranks as an Intelligence Analyst on the Northern tip of Japan, and the National Security Agency to become a command pilot and commander of a Multinational Joint Provisional Wing. He was a global-qualified aircraft commander on the C-141 Starlifter, and instructor pilot on the F-100 Super Sabre, F-101 Voodoo, F-4 Phantom II, and the F-16 Fighting Falcon. He flew 50 combat missions in Vietnam.

Commander McVay has served as 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice Commander and Commander of Post 31 Fort Smith, Chaplain and Commander of District 13, Department Vice Commander for the Northwest Area, Department Budget and Finance Committee, and Department Legislative Chairman. He is currently Vice Chairman of The American Legion National Distinguished Guests Committee, and previously served as President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, and is also a life member of the VFW, National Guard Association, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and has been awarded Life Membership in The American Legion by Post 31 in Fort Smith.

"I will seek to strengthen the common threads that bind us as legionnaires: love of God, love of country, and willingness to sacrifice for others," says McVay. He also adds, "If we were all the same, things would be pretty dull. Our strength lies in our diversity and the fact that we all took an oath in which we expressed our willingness to die defending this nation. As the largest Veterans' Organization, we must take a leadership role in standing up for Arkansas Veterans. By working together we can see great things accomplished in the future. We can do no less for our veterans, youth, widows and orphans, the Auxiliary and SAL, our State and Nation."

Commander McVay and his wife Magda reside in Fort Smith, and their daughter, Dr. Marcene McVay, also a Legionnaire, resides in Little Rock.

For more information, please contact Dub Allen, American Legion Department Adjutant, at (501) 375-1104, or visit the American Legion Department of Arkansas Web site at: [www.arklegion.homestead.com](http://www.arklegion.homestead.com).

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