

## BURLINGTON LODGE #32 F&AM 7TH ANNUAL TAKE A VETERAN TO LUNCH KEYNOTE SPEAKER DAVID A. CHRISTIAN, ESQUIRE War Hero – Inducted into National Military Officers Hall of Fame

Veterans Activist, Author and Businessman

After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School, he entered the US Army to earn benefits that would enable him to pursue higher education. He quickly progressed through the ranks, completing basic training, Advanced Infantry training, AIT Drill Cadre School, Officer Candidate School, J.F.K. Special Warfare School - Green Beret, US Army Airborne School, Vietnam War. He served as a 1st Lieutenant in Vietnam 1st Infantry Division Long Range Recon/Ranger Patrol Units and was selected by Commander George Patton to lead Recon of the 11th Armored Cavalry. His outstanding qualities as a combat leader and his personal leadership style resulted in his superior officers recommending promotion to the rank of Captain at the age of 20. Quote: "He always volunteered for the most dangerous missions. David was scored in the top 90% of his Combat officer efficiency report ratings and recognized as an asset and future value to the US Army. However, he was medically retired after being seriously injured with gunshot, Rocket Propelled Grenades and Napalm Burns received in combat."

As he was recovering from injuries which required multiple surgeries, David aggressively approached civilian education. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Villanova University on the Dean's List as a member of the National Honor Society, and pursued a Masters in Government from The University of Pennsylvania. He attended additional Graduate Studies at Bryn Mawr College (Russian Language Institute), Pa., and Middlebury College, Vt. (Immersion Russian Language School). He was conferred a "Juris Doctor" from Rutgers Law School in New Jersey.

David is known throughout the country as the "Youngest – Most Decorated Officer of the Vietnam War". Enlisting in the US Army at the age of 17, he was commissioned an Officer at 18 years of age and gained the rank of Captain by the time he was 20 - only to retire from the Army for combat wounds when he was 21 with full rank and privileges of Captain (0-3) for life.







David A. Christian speaking at Deciation of Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Doylestown PA

He distinguished himself in combat by being nominated for the top valor awards of the US Military including the Medal of Honor and 7 Purple Hearts receiving the Distinguished Service Cross and two Silver Stars for Valor. During his combat career, he discovered over 52 enemy Base Camps and when leading his 75th Ranger and 26th Infantry Recon Teams. His men often said that "they owned the jungle". Captain Christian is credited with personally destroying over 6 enemy machine gun nests while armed with only three hand grenades and a bayonet. He captured enemy POWs in hand-to-hand fighting, routed enemy insurgents, and captured valuable enemy documents and supplies. Rightfully, David is proud of his combat service, but his dedication to the military continued when he became a contributing author of the first Agent Orange legislation and the legislation on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that became the "Law of the Land for Military and Veterans."

David remains humble in all of his stellar accomplishments including helping raise \$9 million dollars in private donations for the construction and maintenance of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

David served as a presidential appointee under four US Presidents and as the Senior Advisor to the US Senate on Foreign Relations. Today, he owns and operates multiple domestic and international factories and firms, supporting The Department of Defense.

At the present time, David has developed a program to address the mental and physical needs of military and Veterans with an emphasis on suicide prevention. His philosophy "A Strong Body Fuels A Strong Mind" and runs multiple training sessions every year at the Newtown Athletic Club.



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