



# **JAMES E. NIER**

## **Past Commander-in-Chief Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

James E. "Jim" Nier of Austin, Texas was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at its 97th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky on August 23, 1996. He was only the third Texan to be elected to that high office in over 110 years of the VFW's existence.

He entered the U. S. Army in 1959 and served for 22 years. Overseas tours of duty included Vietnam (1962 - 63) and Korea (1967 - 68). He served seven years with the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Command and Control) at the Alternate National Military Command Center, Fort Ritchie, Maryland. A graduate of the U. S. Army Sergeants Major

Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, his last assignment was as an instructor there until his retirement in 1981.

He attended night school while in the Army and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Finance in 1975 from Mount St. Mary's College and a Master's Degree in Management in 1977 from Frostburg State College, both in Maryland. After retiring from the military, he was an Assistant Director of Personnel, and later a Mathematics Instructor at El Paso Community College. In January 1987, he was selected to be the Director of the Veterans Assistance Office for El Paso County, a county with over 54,000 veterans.

He joined the VFW in 1981, and is a life member of VFW Post 8919 in El Paso. He has held numerous VFW offices at the Post, District, Department and National levels. He earned All American honors as a District Commander (1986 - 87) and as Department of Texas Commander (1989- 90).

He is a member of the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, The Retired Enlisted Association, and the National Association of Uniformed Services and several other organizations and coalitions .

He was named "Veteran of the Year" in 1987 - 88 by the United American Veterans Organization of El Paso. He has received numerous awards from Veterans Service Organizations and County, State, and Federal officials and entities.

Following his year as Commander-in-Chief, he was appointed to the position of statewide Veterans Liaison for the Texas Veterans Land Board. On September 15, 1998 he was selected as the Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission and served in that position until his retirement on August 31, 2010. Texas has a veterans population of 1.7 million.

He was appointed to the President's National Hire Veterans Committee in February 2004. He and his wife Kimmy have four children and nine grandchildren, and reside in Austin. Their youngest son William is serving in the U.S. Navy.