

117th Congress Committee of Energy and Commerce, Congressional Biography of

Vail W. Smith U.S.M.C.

I, Vail W. Smith, am an Honorably Discharged Marine Corp Combat Veteran. My service included combat action as an Anti-Tank Assault Guided Missileman with Headquarters Company 1st Marines Regiment, 1st Marine Battalion/ Task Force "Papa Bear" in the Desert Shield and Storm Campaigns, also known as the Persian Gulf War. During my service, I was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, the Navy Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal w/2 Bronze Service Stars, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon w/1 Bronze Star, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait), and the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

I now serve active military, veterans, and civilians as a Peer Support Specialist and Mentor. I am a Peer Specialist Consultant, Instructor, and Mentor for DBSA participants. I serve as a volunteer on the Boards of the Lake County Coalition for the Homeless and the Live4Lali organizations. I identify as a proud United States citizen who is in long term recovery from mental health issues and substance misuse. Last but not least, I am a proud father and grandfather who wishes to do all he can to make the world a better place for them as well as veterans, military personnel, and civilians alike.