



Thomas Burke

Thomas Burke was elected to serve as Vietnam Veterans of America National President at VVA's 22nd National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

A Navy veteran, Burke, volunteered for service in 1963. He was sent to Helicopter Combat Support Squad One at Ream Field, California, and in his final year, served aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS *Hancock*. Burke is a Gold Star family member who lost his brother during the Korean War.

Burke's VVA service includes three consecutive terms as National Vice President (2019-2025). He was first elected to the VVA National Board of Directors in 2009 and served as At Large Director for one term (2009-2011) and as National Region 5 Director for two terms (2015-2019). As Region 5 Director, he represented the states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

Over his tenure at VVA, Burke has been appointed by the VVA National President as National committee Chair, Vice Chair, and as a member of several committees. He has led or has served as a member of the following VVA national committees: Government Affairs (2013-2019); Veterans Benefits Chair (2015-2019); Public Affairs (2011-15); Finance; Veterans Incarcerated; and Disciplinary.

Burke represented Ohio to VVA's Council of State Council Presidents as the president of the Buckeye State Council, a position he held for eight years. He first joined VVA in 2000, and was soon elected president of VVA Chapter 857, a position he held for eight years.

Burke's dedication to veterans, combined with his strength of leadership earned him the VVA Commendation Medal, VVA's highest award. In 2016, he was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

In his professional career, Burke spent 37 years in the Transportation & Logistics sector. Employed by the Canadian National Railroad for 27 years, he served as Market Manager for the pulp and paper division, with current annual sales more than \$14 B. Later, he was employed by the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, with operational control, marketing, and sales of the intermodal Terminal operation.

After leaving the Railroad Industry, Burke moved over to the trucking side of the transportation industry, serving as Vice President of Marketing for a privately held trucking company, prior to establishing a highly successful consultancy business in Logistics.

Burke, and his wife, Robin, reside in New Philadelphia, Ohio.