

**Harl D. "Butch" Ray  
Detachment Commander  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Illinois**

***Harl D. "Butch" Ray, was elected as the Son's latest Detachment Commander at the forty-eighth annual Detachment Convention of the Illinois Sons of The American Legion, held in Peoria, Illinois, June 24 - 26, 2011. He is proud to be serving as the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year Commander and will strive hard to continue the traditions of service to our Veterans, our children, and our communities passed down from past generations of The American Legion Family.***

***The Illinois S A L - "Guided by Tradition"!***

Butch's membership to the Sons of The American Legion spans over twenty eight years of continuous service for God and Country. He is a member in good standing of Squadron # 24, located in Champaign, Illinois where his father was a member of American Legion Post # 24.

Butch's eligibility in the Sons of The American Legion is through his deceased father, Harl H. Ray, who proudly served in the 791<sup>st</sup> Railroad Operations Battalion, Persian Gulf Command, of the United States Army during World War II.

The American Legion Family is a big part of Butch's life. His wife of thirty two years, Pam, is a member of Unit # 71 in Urbana, Illinois and has served as American Legion Auxiliary President, Department of Illinois and is currently the Illinois Department Executive Committee Woman and is serving as a member of the Girls State Committee at the National level. They have two daughters and one granddaughter, all of which are members of the American Legion Family.

Butch is a 30 year employee of the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State as an Administrative Assistant and Senior Project Manager for construction projects in Springfield and Chicago, Illinois. Butch is also a long time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church where he is an ordained elder and deacon in the church, served as Youth Director for five years, has been an advisor to the Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group and has participated in more than 12 annual Youth Group Mission Trips throughout the country.

Butch has always been active in the programs and activities of the Sons of The American Legion. He has served his Squadron, District, Division and Detachment in many positions and with many responsibilities. He has been a member of many committees and commissions, serving as Detachment Promoter for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network. He served as Detachment Adjutant for two years where he was also an ex-officio member of the Contest, Ad-Book, Audit, and Public Relations Committees. On the National level he has served as a member of two committees and was proud to serve as Aide to the National Commander for the 2008-2009 membership year. Butch is currently serving as Chairman of the Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee for the National Organization.

Supporting the "Aims and principles" of The American Legion has become a routine of service in Butch's life; besides his wife; his Mother-in-Law Irene Lofton and Sister-in-Law Sharon Conatser, have served as Department Presidents of the American Legion Auxiliary for the Department of Illinois, both also serving at the National level. His Father-in-Law Clay Lofton is a Past Illinois Department Commander, also serving on various committees and commissions at the national level, and his Brother-in-Law, Marty Conatser is a Past National Commander of The American Legion.

It is easy to see how this patriotic legacy has molded and influenced Butch as he has prepared for his year of service as Detachment Commander. He too will be **"GUIDED BY TRADITION"**