

## Charles E. "Butch" Joeckel, Jr.

### Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission

1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20004

TEL: (202) 756-7729

[www.vetscommission.org](http://www.vetscommission.org)

FAX: (202) 756-0229

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**Date Appointed to the Commission:** March 23, 2004.

**Work Experience:** Commissioner "Butch" Joeckel presently serves as an accredited Veterans Representative for the National Veterans Legal Services Program headquartered in Washington, D.C. From 1974 -1992, he served in many capacities with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) as a National Service Officer, Legislative Assistant, Assistant National Legislative Director, Deputy National Legislative Director, National Director of Services, Executive Director of DAV's Washington Headquarters, and as National Adjutant--Chief Executive Officer of DAV.

Each of these capacities required Commissioner Joeckel to be keenly aware of the benefits and services provided to our Nation's veterans. He is responsible for many expansive provisions presently in law that extend benefits to our most severely disabled veterans, himself a bilateral above the knee leg amputee of the Vietnam War. Wounded during the Tet Offensive, Commissioner Joeckel has been an advocate for veterans for some 39 years since his return from Vietnam in 1968.

More recently, Commissioner Joeckel served as Executive Director of Help Disabled War Veterans, an organization affiliated with Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) which provides personal computers, without charge, to veterans who are more-or-less housebound, thereby connecting them to the world outside their homes. In addition, he served as Special Projects Director of HHV, ensuring the continuance of the provision of computers to our most severely disabled veterans. He also served as a staff member of the President's Task Force To Improve Access To Health Care For Our Nation's Veterans.

Presently, Commissioner Joeckel is the Executive Producer of the American Veterans Awards (AVA) Show in Hollywood, California; a program that recognizes distinguished veterans from all walks of life, our Nation's military, National Guard & Reserves as well as our military families.

**Military Service:** Commissioner Joeckel served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and was wounded during the Tet Offensive in 1968.

**Medals for Valor & Awards for Outstanding Service:** Commissioner Joeckel lost both of his legs above the knees in a land mine explosion during an engagement with the enemy. He was awarded the Silver Star, Navy Commendation Medal with the combat "V" device, the Purple Heart and other meritorious awards for action in Vietnam.

**Educational Attainment:** Commissioner Joeckel received an Associate of Arts degree from Prince George's Community College Largo Maryland (after service in Vietnam); 1972 matriculated in Political Science at Towson State College in Maryland; and rehabilitated under VA's Vocational Rehabilitation Program, 1974-1976.

**Personal:** Commissioner Joeckel has personally benefited from nearly every health care and/or educational training program provided by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense. For the past 36 years, he has represented veterans in one capacity or another. Having experienced the traumas of war, injury, recovery, rehabilitation and overcoming his severe disability, he is, indeed, amply qualified to pass on the various issues confronting our Nation's commitment to its Armed Forces personnel and subsequently our Nation's veterans.

He is married to the former Dianne L. Jackson, whom he met at Bladensburg High School, a 1967 Grad, and the couple presently resides in Naples, Florida. They have three children and seven grandchildren.