



William J. “Doc” Schmitz
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

William J. “Doc” Schmitz was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 25, 2018, at the 119th VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

Doc served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1970. He served in Vietnam as a corpsman attached to United States Marine Corps infantry and artillery. In recognition of his service, he received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the VFW in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served as Department Commander, Post Commander, Southern Tier County Council Commander and District 5 Commander. He was also editor of the New York State Overseas Veteran publication for nine years. In 2007, he was elected Department Surgeon for the Department of New York where he served for five consecutive years. He served as the National Surgeon General from 2010 to 2011, and as the Inspector General from 2015 to 2016.



Doc worked for the Department of Corrections as a registered nurse and acting nurse administrator for 30 years before retiring. He currently is employed as the Director of Veterans Issues for Congressman Tom Reed of the 23rd Congressional District in New York.

Doc and his wife, Deborah, reside in Corning, N.Y.

-vfw-