

## **Commander Wayne Russell Steele**

### **International Association Legion of Honor**



Wayne Steele enlisted in the Marine Corps on October 29<sup>th</sup> 1970. Upon completion of basic training and follow on MOS training Private First Class Steele was assigned to the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune North Carolina for duty. Following his tour with the 2d Marine Division Sgt Steele was assigned duties as a Drill Instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina where he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. In 1977, he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing on Okinawa for duty with Marine Air Control Group 18 and the Commanding General, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing Staff Secretary's Office. Following his return to CONUS, he was assigned duties with Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 at Yuma, Arizona, where he was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant.

In February 1982, he was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer under the FY82 Warrant Officer Program and reassigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing where he served with Wing Engineer Squadron, Marine Wing Support Group 17. While there he was assigned the Aviation Ground Support Maintenance Detachment OIC for exercises Bear Hunt 82/83 and Team Spirit 83/84, conducted in Pohang, Korea. In 1985, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steele was transferred to Detachment "B" Marine Wing Support Group 17, Marine Air Base Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii for duty as the Engineer Operations Officer. Under a dual promotion system he was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1985, under the Limited Duty Officer Program and to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3 in February 1987.

In August 1988, he was promoted to Captain and transferred to MCAS El Toro, California with the 1<sup>st</sup> Force Service Support Group, where he served as the Operation Officer, Logistics Officer. In August 1990, Captain Steele deployed to Saudi Arabia with Brigade Service Support Group 7 during OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/STORM.

Following his return to El Toro and the completion of his tour with CSSD-14, Captain Steele was assigned duties as the Company Commander of Engineer Maintenance Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> FSSG aboard Camp Pendleton, California. While a member of Maintenance Battalion, Captain Steele was deployed to Somalia, East Africa, as the Executive Officer of the Maintenance Detachment, and the Officer in Charge of Wash Down Site #2 at Lido Peer in support of OPERATION RESTORE HOPE. He re-designated to the regular officer corps, as a combat engineer, in 1995 and selected for the Degree Completion Program in 1995, where he was assigned duties as a student at California State University, San Marcos where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. While attending school he was promoted to major. Following graduation, he was again transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion where he served as the Battalion's Maintenance Operation Officer. In July 1998,

Major Steele was transferred to the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing as the Operation Officer, Marine Wing Support Group 37 aboard MCAS El Toro

During July 2001, Major Steele was assigned duties as the Company Commander, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, MCRD San Diego, California. While at MCRD, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and received orders transferring him to U.S. Marine Forces Korea for duty as the Assistant Chief of Staff G-4. While in that billet he spearheaded the development of a 10 year master plan for the Marine Training Facility at Camp Mu Juk, Pohang, Korea. Lieutenant Colonel Steele was transferred in August 2003 to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton where he served as the Base Facilities Maintenance Officer.

In June, 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Steele assumed duties as Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 372. While the Commanding Officer, the Squadron deployed to Iraq in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. His unit received the Hatch Award as the MWSS of the Year in 2006. In August 2006 he attended the Naval War College and received a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Upon completion of the War Collage Lieutenant Colonels Steele's was assigned duties as the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Representative to U.S. Transportation Command, at Scott Air Force Base, IL and was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

On 12 July 2008 Colonel Steele assumed duties as the Commanding Officer of Marine Wing Group 47, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing in Macomb MI. Following command, Colonel Steele reported to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, CA and assigned duties as the Assistant Chief of Staff G4 for the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing. While in that assignment Col Steele deployed to the Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 12.1. On 1 October 2013, Colonel Steele retired from the Marine Corps with 43 years of active service

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit with gold star, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Commendation Medal with 4 gold stars, Navy and Marine Achievement Medal with 2 gold stars, Combat Action Ribbon and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Wayne Steele is married to the former Vicki Lynn Shepherd of Angola, Indiana. The Steele's have four boys, Matthew, James Kevin and Scott. They also have 11 grandchildren. and two great grandchildren.

On 11 December 2015 he was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason, Pass to Fellow Craft 29 January 2016 and Raised to Master Mason on 3 March 2016.

Lady Vicki and he enjoy traveling and visiting with Masons and especially Members of the Legion of Honor and look forward to a great year doing just that.