

# VETERAN OF THE MONTH

## Tellico Village VFW Post 12135



Ian J. Smith was born in 1979 at Fort Belvoir, VA. His father, Robert (Bob) Smith, was in the Army working at the Pentagon and his mother, Lorraine Smith, was a homemaker. Prior to his tour of duty at the Pentagon, Bob was a Vietnam veteran who voluntarily served two tours and received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. After his father was honorably discharged, the family moved to Lakeland, Florida, where Ian and his brother, Troy, attended George Jenkins Senior High School and graduated in 1997.

After graduation, Ian enlisted in the United States Army in 1997. He attended Basic Training (BCT) at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) for MOS 91B (Combat Medic) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. His first duty station was at Fort Benning, GA where he was assigned to a Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) as a medical specialist and earned the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB).

In 2000, Ian was assigned to Camp Casey, **Korea** as a Senior Line Medic for Delta Company, 1/72nd Armor Battalion and was the Battalion's Senior Combat Lifesaver instructor. In 2001, after his reenlistment, he returned back to Fort Sam Houston, Texas and graduated 91V Respiratory Therapy Technician School. During his tour in Fort Sam Houston, TX, he met his wife, Erica, and they were married in 2006. A year later, their son Kaleb, was born. During this period, Ian was selected to challenge the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) board by his Command Sergeant Major (CSM). He successfully challenged the

board and was awarded the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award (SAMA), which is also known to be limited to the top 3% of NCOs in the Army.

In 2012, Ian was deployed and served as an Intensive Care Unit NCOIC, forward deployed with the 10th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in support of a joint service mission for **Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Camp Bastion, Afghanistan**. He worked jointly with the British Army and they treated combat wounded service members and local nationals.

Ian was promoted to Master Sergeant (E8) in 2018 and continued in senior staff positions throughout his rest of his career. Upon his retirement, he was also selected and inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit (O2M3). His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (5th award), Army Commendation Medal (4th award), Army Achievement Medal (4th award), Army Superior Unit Award (2nd award), Military Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (1 campaign star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Korean Defense Service Medal.

After retiring from the Army, Ian and his family moved to Tennessee in 2021. Ian is a Lifetime Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and a member of VFW Post #12135 in Tellico Village, TN. He credits his success in life and the U.S. Army to his family. The support of his parents, brother, extended family, and especially his wife and son, allowed him to succeed in whatever duties he was assigned.

The Tellico Village VFW Post #12135 General meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. in the Tellico Village Yacht Club every third Wednesday of the month. Further information can be found on the Post website at: <https://www.tvvfw.org/>.