

# VETERAN OF THE MONTH

## Tellico Village VFW Post 12135

**Col (Ret) Brad Ward**, a native of Tampa, Florida, grew up in a military family where they lived throughout the United States and in Europe. Brad's family has an honorable history of serving the military where his father and uncles served in our nation's wars from WWII, Korea and then Vietnam.

Following his father's example, Brad knew early on he was destined to serve our country in the US Military. After graduating from high school in 1975, Brad began serving in the US Army Reserves as well joining the University of Tampa ROTC program. In 1979, Brad was commissioned as an Infantry Officer where he served for over twelve years before transitioning to US Army Special Operations Forces.

Throughout his military career Brad commanded conventional and Special Operations organizations at all levels from company through Task Force Commander in the United States and in over 64 countries with six combat tours. He also participated in a multitude of foreign war fronts such as Desert Shield/Storm, Bosnia, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and numerous Civil Wars in South/Central America and Africa with the United Nations and while assigned to US Other Government Agencies (OGA's). These deployments included US Unilateral, Joint, Combined, Coalition and United Nations Task Forces.

Brad also served as the Senior Military Advisor to the Undersecretary of State and is a qualified Department of State Public Diplomacy Officer where he designed, planned, and executed numerous US Government Strategies for the White House and the National Security Council concerning Disaster Assistance, foreign Civil Wars, Peace Mediation, War Crime Tribunals, Counter Terrorism, Psychological Operations, Civil Affairs as well as Nation Building. Brad has also directly participated in numerous Disaster Assistance, Consequence Management (CM), Combat, Counter Terrorism (CT), and Counter Drug (CD) missions internationally with the Department of Defense (DOD), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART), Department of State (DOS) and with Numerous Host Nations (HN) military and civilian organizations.



Brad's career also included non-traditional foreign duty assignments including Security Officer for the United Nations Treaty Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in Israel, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan, Senior SOF/PSYOP advisor to the UK in England and Bosnia. Colombian SOF instructor, and NATO PSYOP and CIMIC senior instructor. Brad holds numerous foreign badges and awards including the Italian Medal of Valor, Colombian SF Instructor Badge, German PSYOP Badge and 15 foreign jump wings.

Upon returning from Iraq in 2007, Brad's last Army duty assignment was as a Director and Professor with the US Army War College where he retired in 2009. After over three years in the reserves and 30 years of Active Duty, Brad decided to retire in 2009. A few of his awards included the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (w/OLC), Bronze Star (w/OLC), Department of State Meritorious Award and numerous others.

Brad immediately transitioned to the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) where he and a dear friend and retired SOF officer stood up and then ran the Special Operations Branch where his multi-disciplined team of Engineers and Scientists invented and operationalized advanced technologies for the US Department of Defense and the Intelligence Communities. Some of their inventions became the Department of Defense top innovation of the year for the US Special Operations Command (2013) and most were immediately deployed into combat theaters of operation. While at APL, Brad won the Scientific Invention of the Year for 2015 (Advanced Water Filtration) and holds two patents. Brad retired from APL in 2019 after 11 years and continues to advise DoD, Homeland Security, and the Intelligence Community as a Subject Matter Expert.

Brad and the love of his life, Doctor Janet Ward met in High School and the rest was history! They bought their house in Tellico Village in 2017 and moved here after they retired in 2019. They have been previously involved in multiple volunteer organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, Boy Scouts of America (BSA), Knights of Columbus, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the SOF Wounded Warrior Foundation. Brad currently serves as a Lieutenant with the Tellico Village Fire Department and is actively involved in providing Medical and Fire Services to Tellico Village and Loudon County at large. Brad and Janet have been married for 46 years and enjoy their life together giving back to their community, family and friends.

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/>.