



## **Wayne L. Miller**

### **Served in Vietnam, *December 1968 - July 1969***

Wayne L. Miller graduated from Albert Einstein High School in 1968 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps that June. He was assigned to Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marines Division. On July 4, 1969, Miller was on patrol in Quang Nam Province when his platoon was caught in a mortar barrage. His left leg was severed, his right leg and hand nearly lost, and he was peppered with shrapnel wounds and temporarily paralyzed from the neck down. After six months in military hospitals he was honorably discharged on January 31, 1970, and returned to civilian life. He received a Purple Heart for his injury in the Vietnam War, and received the 1983 Vietnam Veteran of the Year award from the Vietnam Veterans Civic Council of Washington, D.C.

Miller joined the staff of the Vet Center in Silver Spring in 1989 as a peer counselor. He currently works as the Vet Center Director providing counseling to Veterans and their families for post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, family and marital, drug and alcohol, bereavement, and other readjustment issues. Miller also provides counseling for local and national disaster victims and provides support at several memorials' dedications on the Mall in Washington, D.C. He's a natural counselor, a man who can speak of horrific events and dire outcomes with an air of calm and acceptance. It's as if his body language says: Yes, it was bad out there, very bad, but here we are, so let's see about the business of carrying on and rebuilding a life.

Miller performs as an entertainer and professional singer. He has performed the National Anthem and other patriotic songs all over the country including at a game of the Baltimore Orioles and the running of the Preakness Stakes. He gives motivational speeches and seminars, and mentors Veterans to help them participate in activities through vocation, education, sports, recreation, art and music. He is a life member of several Veteran Service Organizations, National Amputee Golf Association, and Knights of Columbus. He currently serves as Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs and has been a Commissioner since 2012.

Miller received a B.S. in Education from Frostburg State College, where he was a member of the varsity gymnastic team, and went on to receive an M.A. in Education from George Washington University, and a MSW from the Catholic University of America.

Miller currently resides in Silver Spring with his wife Elesia, who was his college sweetheart, and is the proud father of two daughters and grandfather to five grandchildren.