

Michael D. Strauss was elected as the Department Commander of The American Legion Department of South Carolina at the South Carolina 99th Annual Department Convention in June 2017. He was born in New York and enlisted in the United States Army in 1989 and was stationed at Ft. Gordon Georgia part of C Company 92nd Engineer Battalion headquartered out of Ft. Stewart, GA.

In 1990-1991 he was an active part of Operation Desert Shield & Desert Storm and deployed to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In 1994, he was honorably discharged from the military and soon after he began serving the community in the City of North Augusta, South Carolina. This is where he has continued to serve for 22+ years as a Police Officer, Firefighter and Animal Control Officer. He has been recognized by the City of North Augusta as the Department employee of the year in 2002-2003 and Public Safety Officer of the year in 2015.

In 1998 he Joined the American Legion in North Augusta, South Carolina Post #71. Within a year, he took over as 1st Vice Commander where he helped lead the Post to an all-time high in membership. He served four terms as a post commander in years: 2001-2004. During his time as Post Commander he helped lead the Post to another all-time high in membership. He continued his ascension in the Legion ranks serving as District 4 commander, Zone Commander and served as the Department 4th, 3rd, 2nd & 1st Vice Commander. He has been a very active Legionnaire serving the state; Department

Resolutions sub-committee, Department Law & Order sub-Committee; Nathan M. Wolfe Law Enforcement sub-committee; Department Membership & Post activities sub-committee; All time High Department of South Carolina Membership Chairman membership years 2007 & 2008; Department Centennial Committee and Department Oratorical Contest Sub-committee.

On the National Level, he attended Legion College in 2009, he has served on the National Security Commission and and since 2010 he's been serving on the National Membership & Post Activities Committee.

He has held membership in the Veteran of Foreign wars for 27 years, he is Past Commander of the Aiken County Veterans Council, Past Chef De Gare of the Voiture 1177 40/8 an American Cancer Society Relay for life team member and is a former Aiken County Coordinator for The United Way.

He currently resides in North Augusta, South Carolina and is a member of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia. He has been married to his beautiful wife Laura for 21 years and they have two children: Courtney, 19, who is a Palmetto Girls Stater & Mary 14.