

Thomas H. Corey

Tom Corey currently serves as president of the Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative.

Corey served as President and CEO of Vietnam Veterans of America, the nation's only congressionally chartered organization exclusively serving the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families, retiring from that position in 2005 after serving on the Board since 1985.

He currently works at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center as an Ombudsman and Program Specialists with the Directors office.

A native of Detroit, Corey entered the U.S. Army and was sent to Vietnam in May 1967 where he served as a combat infantryman and squad leader with the 1st Air Cavalry Division, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. While engaged in an assault against enemy positions on January 31, 1968, during Tet Offense, he received an enemy round in the neck, which hit his spinal cord and left him paralyzed and a quadriplegic. He was medically retired from the U.S. Army in May 1968. Corey is a decorated combat veteran receiving the Bronze Star Medal with V device for Valor, 2 Purple Hearts, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Citation, Republic Vietnam Gallantry Cross, the Combat Infantry Badge along with other awards.

After an extended hospitalization, Corey returned to his family in Detroit where he spent his time in and out of the local VA hospital. He relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida in 1972, where he has been involved in community affairs as a veteran's leader and advocate. He has served on many advisory boards with local government, and with the VA Medical Centers in Miami and West Palm Beach, the VA Research Foundation of Palm Beaches, VSIN 8 Management Assistance Council, Friends of Veterans Board, Friends of Fisher House Board, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 25, Board and Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative, President. He has received numerous awards for speaking out on veterans' and disabled persons' rights since his involvement in the mid-seventies.

Corey has returned to Vietnam 16 times since 1994 representing Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans Initiative program regarding our POW/MIA's and Agent Orange issues with successful results.

As a member of the Veterans Initiative Task Force, he has led delegations meeting

with top Vietnamese and Laotian leaders, government officials at every level, and the Veterans Association of Viet Nam organization leaders and members throughout Vietnam.

He has met with health care professionals leaders on the effects of Agent Orange from the U.S. and Vietnam, including U.S. Ambassador's to Vietnam and Laos, the U.S. Joint Task Force-Full Accounting in Vietnam and Laos, who are responsible for recovery efforts of Americans still listed as POW/MIA.

Corey was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in Vietnam.

He was the first recipient of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Commendation Medal, VVA's highest award for service to veterans, their families, and the community. In the citation accompanying his award it was said that, "Corey is the benchmark criteria for future recipients of this award." Corey also recipient of the Chapel of Four Chaplains, Bronze Medallion Award and Chapel of Four Chaplains, Humanitarian Award.

Corey was the founding President of VVA Palm Beach County Chapter 25 in 1981. In 1991, the chapter was renamed the Thomas H. Corey Chapter at its tenth anniversary celebration.

He was elected to VVA's National Board of Directors in 1985. In 1987 he was elected VVA's national Secretary and was re-elected in 1989, 1991, 1993, and 1995. In 1997 he was elected VVA's national Vice President and re-elected in 1999. In 2001 he was elected VVA National President and was re-elected in 2003 and served until 2005.

Corey is also a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart Association, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, 1st Cavalry Division Association, and the National Association of Uniformed Services.

Tom Corey resides in Jupiter, Florida. He has a son Brian, and a daughter Trang.