



**Donald E. Bridges of American Legion Post 78 in Swansboro**, was elected State Commander of The American Legion Department of NC at ceremonies in Raleigh on June 13, 2015. Bridges was sworn in by National Executive Committeeman Bill Richard of Hickory Post 48.

Bridges served in the United States Army from 1961-65, and was stationed in Washington DC for 3 years, 2 of those at the Pentagon. He served one year for the 5 95<sup>th</sup> Dragon Wagons, Mannheim, Germany.

At Post level, Don has served The American Legion as Post Commander, was a 100% Post Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Post Adjutant, Finance Officer, Membership Chairman, Cooking Committee and Grounds Committee. At Department level he has served on several committees to include Oratorical Committee, Convention Committee, National Security Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Redistricting Committee and Administrative Committee. Don's national appointments have included Distinguished Guests Committee, Homeland Security Council and the Charlotte Convention Committee.

In his community, he is a member of the Piney Grove Baptist Church in Swansboro. Bridges is semi-retired and owns Rocky Mount Roofing. Don is married to Carole Bridges, who is a member of Auxiliary Unit 58 of Rocky Mount. They have one daughter, Kimberly Payne (husband Kevin), and several grandchildren who are very proud of his commitment to veterans and The American Legion.