



**Gaither M. Keener, Jr. of American Legion Post 342 in Salisbury** was elected State Commander of The American Legion Department of NC at ceremonies in Raleigh on June 14, 2014. Keener was sworn in by National Executive Committeeman Jerry L. Hedrick of Post 8 in Lexington.

Keener served in the United States Marine Corps, serving at Marine Corp Base Quantico and Marine Corp Base Camp Pendleton with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division during the Vietnam War era.

He has served The American Legion, as Post Commander, was a 100% Post Commander, Post Judge Advocate, is a 28 year Go-Getter, served on the Post Boys State and

Oratorical Committees, as Athletic Officer and was the recipient of the National Pioneer Award in 1985.

At Department level he has served as District Commander, 100% District, Division Commander, Department Baseball Committee for 14 years, is a member of the NC Baseball Hall of Fame, Department Judge Advocate for 11 years, and has been a teacher at Boys State for 8 years and Legion College for 13 years. Keeners national service has been as a member of the National Finance Committee for the past 11 years, the national sub committees to baseball and insurance, has been a member of the World Series Committee, is a member of the Shelby American Legion World Series Board of Directors and a trustee for American Legion Charities.

In his community, he is a member of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church, a member of the Board of Directors of the Wake Forest University Deacon Club, Western Carolina University Foundation Board, a member of Gideons International Mason and Scottish Rite, and a Director of Soldiers Wish, Inc.

He attended Newton Conover High School, Western Carolina University, Wake Forest University Law School and Georgetown University Law School. Commander Keener is presently employed as Chief Legal Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary to the Board of Directors of Lowes Companies.

Gaither resides in Mooresville, NC with his wife Beverly Bogle Keener, a past President of Auxiliary Unit 342. They have 2 adult children, son Joe Keener, SAL member and daughter

Grace Keener Jones, Auxiliary member and Girls State staff member, and 4 grandchildren, all Junior Auxiliary members and SAL members.