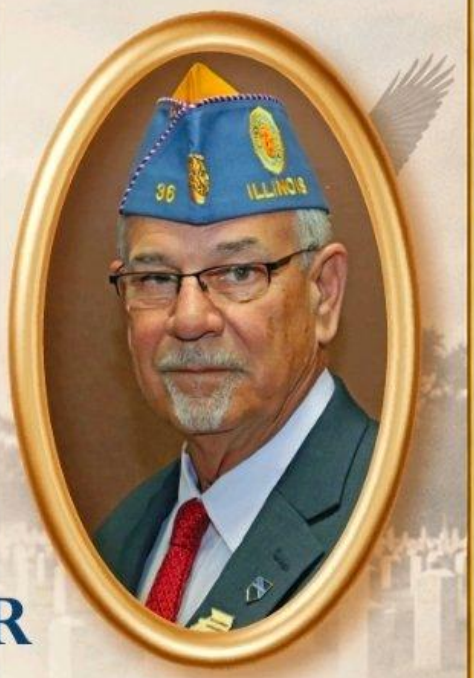
IN MEMORIAM

KEVIN J. O'CONNELL

March 15, 1953 - September 5, 2026



A LIFE OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND HONOR

Kevin passed away at home, peacefully and where he wanted to be. For over a year, he bravely battled cancer.

A Paid-Up-For-Life and thirteen-year member of Des Plaines Squadron 36, Kevin served with distinction at every level of the Sons of the American Legion. He was a Past Squadron Commander, Past 9th District Commander, Past 1st Division Commander, and served as Detachment Commander in 2022-2023. Most recently, he was our National Executive Committeeman (NEC) and was re-appointed to the National Emergency Preparedness Ad-Hoc Committee.

Kevin's eligibility – *his why* – came from his father, John O'Connell, a WWII Veteran who served in the Army Air Corps' 7th Air Force Pacific Theatre from 1942-1946.

Professionally, Kevin dedicated 39 years to law enforcement, rising to the rank of Chief. He later transitioned to the private sector as Director of Security for a major corporation before retiring. He was a proud father to Melissa, Meghan, and Maggie, and an even prouder grandfather to Marty, Tegan, Tinsley, and Tayler. He shared many wonderful years with his significant other, Tammy Girten.

Over a decade ago, Kevin began placing flags at the headstones of Veterans at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines the Saturday before Memorial Day. What began as a small gesture has grown into more than 5,000 flags placed annually with over 200 volunteers.

VISITATION

Monday, September 14 | 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM
G.L. Hills Funeral Home
745 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines
Preferred attire: Sport coat and SAL polo at minimum.

FINAL SALUTE AT 7:00 PM
The American Legion Post 36 Family will render honors.
Detachment Chaplain Bryson Taylor will offer prayer.
PNVC Harl "Butch" Ray will share remarks.
ANEC Mike Vozar will participate in flag folding to be presented to the family.

FUNERAL SERVICE

Tuesday, September 15 | 10:00 AM
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
1775 Grove Street, Glenview
Dress code: Legion business formal.

Rest in Peace, Kevin

The weather will always be good for the good looking guy in the back row.