

Project Veteran Assistance, Inc. is a public service whose personnel have been trained to seek out veterans and their widows who may be entitled to the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, particularly, the Non-Service Connected Improved Pension Benefit. There is no cost associated with these services. Steve and Sue will work with any veteran or the widow of a veteran, to help obtain their allowable benefits through the Department of Veteran Affairs. The applications for benefits are sent to the State Service Officer of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in the Regional Office of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Muskogee, who proof reads the applications and insures that all the information is in good order and accurate, who then forwards the applications to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for processing. The VFW represents the Veteran, their spouse or surviving spouse.

Steve is very passionate about what he does to assist veterans. I was surprised to discover that Steve was not a veteran, as typically many people involved in assistance to veterans are veterans themselves.

Steve finally explained that at 18 years old, he did what most 18 years old of the Vietnam War era did, he went down and registered with the Selective Service System. "I lived in a small town, and when I went to register I was told that they had been waiting for me. They immediately stamped me '4F' due to a birth physical disability," explained Steve. "I immediately said that I could type and file and do office work, but was told I could not make it through boot camp, so I asked if I could be stamped '1Y' not '4F,'" added Steve. After the many years of assisting veterans and their families obtain their benefits, Steve is very happy to assist and take credit for helping. Steve feels strongly the brotherhood of military is strictly for those who have served our country, and to Steve, those are the real heroes.

Steve and Sue have been married 20 years. They have two children, a son and a daughter and five grandchildren. They met through business and have worked together in both businesses through the years. Steve admits, "Sue is the brains behind the business; she is in charge of appointments, follow-ups, etc. She has the system that works for us and our clients."

We encourage veterans and veterans' families needing help to apply for VA benefits to reach out to Project Veteran Assistance. We thank both Steve and Sue for their support to our community and those veterans they assist every day.