



## **TOM GRIFFIN**

Tom and his identical twin brother were born during and orphaned by WW2 in Germany. After coming to America in 1952, an Army sergeant adopted the twins.

In Vietnam, Tom was wounded by enemy fire and stabbed in the elbow in hand-to-hand combat yet continued fighting. On his next two vacations there, he was with ARVN Infantry units and ended up as the last American in actual contact with the enemy.

His combat awards include a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, two Air Medals and the CIB. He has numerous other awards for efficiency, leadership and fidelity

Tom earned 2 Master's and 2 Doctorate degrees, leading to behavioral research work trailed by Social Work in Child Protective Services, ending up as the gate keeper for all child abuse in Monterey County.

Tom currently is the director of Monterey County's Military & Veterans Affairs Office, where he deals with helping all veterans, their families and surviving family members obtain the various benefits accruing them

In 1998, Tom founded the Veterans Transition Center which owns 40 homes on the former Ft Ord and is housing 55 homeless veterans and families. Tom is the creative force behind the program and has been its leader since inception. His determination to have the program succeed, his intuitive and astute decision-making prowess to navigate the sometimes politically loaded waters have kept the program alive, growing, successful, and thriving.

For the last 29 years, his service— since 9/12/2001 also included serving in California's State Military Reserve until September 2009, as part of the state's Military Department and National Guard. He was a colonel and brigade commander the last five years, often gone on long commitments.

Tom immigrated to America and took the commitment of service to country seriously. He is “for real” – a highly decorated soldier, a well educated and successful civilian executive. He knows the sacrifices and hardships of today's Army – he's been there!! He has an unmatched credibility both the Army scene as well as across the State and local community on the civilian and business side of the house.

Tom says he will retire one of these days – when he is ready!!

(provided by the speaker)