

Hilliard Carter Named 1980 Veteran Of The Year

When he came home from Vietnam in 1966, both hands and his sight were gone. Then his marriage fell apart. The temptation to let pain, bitterness and resentment overtake him was strong. But Hilliard A. Carter was strong too — and he fought back.

Today, the people Carter works with cite the humor, wit, confidence and enthusiasm the disabled vet brings to work with him every morning. Those qualities are really valuable to Carter in his job, helping other Vietnam veterans overcome readjustment problems that have haunted them since their return from the war in Southeast Asia.

Carter's success in pulling his own life together following his traumatic injuries in Vietnam and his work in helping other veterans cope with their war-related problems has earned him national recognition from the 667,000-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

The DAV has chosen this Veterans Administration (VA) employee as the nation's Outstanding Disabled Veteran for the Year for 1980. He will receive the award from DAV National Commander Paul L. Thompson — also a black veteran of the Vietnam War — at the DAV's National Convention in Honolulu, July 25.

Carter, who holds a masters degree in rehabilitation counseling and psychology from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, works as a counselor at the VA's "Operation Outreach" center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Operation Outreach is very similar to and, to a great extent, modeled after the DAV's Vietnam Veteran Outreach Program. Both programs at-

tempt to focus the skills of professionals from the community on the unique readjustment problems of Vietnam veterans.

The nonprofit DAV set up its program 21 months ago, following completion of an intensive, three-year, DAV-funded research project, which revealed that a half million or more Vietnam era veterans still suffer readjustment problems that severely hamper their lives. The VA officially initiated its outreach effort for Vietnam veterans in October.

Both programs attempt to help Vietnam veterans cope with delayed stress that's rooted in their wartime experiences and the way they were treated when they returned to the States. Delayed stress can crop up in any of a number of ways, including depression, alienation, anxiety, sleep disturbances, suicidal feelings, problems in relationships with other people, flashbacks, nightmares, and, in some cases, drug or alcohol problems.

Describing his work with Vietnam era veterans, Carter said, "We try to establish communication right away. Sometimes it's hard for these guys to show their emotions. They've had their feelings about Vietnam bottled up inside them for so long, and so many haven't talked about the war with anybody since they came home."

"I can relate to most of the veterans I work with. I've been there, and I know where these guys are coming from. It's mostly a matter of learning how to deal with your feelings about the war and what

happened over there.

"I think I went through that early," Carter said of his own readjustment after Vietnam. "Because of my disabilities, I had to go through it early. I lost a wife after the war and all that. I had to deal with problems related to the war and my disabilities back in '68 and '69."

"When the guys come into the outreach center with their problems, sometimes my mind goes back to the war," he said, "but now I can hold it in the right perspective. I'm not hostile or angry about the war, today. I think anger or bad feelings can only retard you — keep you from getting on with your life and making the best of your situation."

Carter moved to Jackson to work on the outreach program in November. Before that he worked at Hines VA Medical Center in Chicago. There he served as a group leader in the detoxification group, conducted individual problem solving sessions with clients, lectured on health care, and dealt with such individual patient problems as housing, employment, public assistance and outpatient care arrangements.

Fourteen years after he was wounded by the explosion of a hand-grenade booby trap while coming in from an ambush patrol near Tuy Hoa, South Vietnam, life has changed a great deal for Hilliard Carter. But the veteran of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division is happy. "My wife, Ollie, and I just adopted a little boy," he said with a proud smile. "His name is Aaron Baker Carter."



1980 Disabled Veteran Of Year

Hilliard A. Carter, who lost his sight and both arms in combat during the Vietnam War, has been named Disabled Veteran of the Year for 1980 by the 665,000-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Carter, a counselor for the Veterans Administration (VA) Outreach Program in Jackson, Miss., will receive the award at the DAV's National Convention in Honolulu, July 25-28.



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SMITH

William E. Smith has been named Maryland state manager of Calvert Distillers Company.

Smith, who has been national product manager for Calvert Gin and Crown Russe Vodka, had previously been Calvert's assistant to the vice president-director of marketing.

Calvert Distillers Company also markets Calvert Extra, Lord Calvert Canadian, Passport Scotch, Kessler Whiskey, Jameson Irish Whiskey, White Horse Scotch, Henry McKenna Whiskey, Burnett's Gin, Tusca Liqueur, Hudson's Bay Scotch, and Hudson's Bay Canadian.

A native of the British West Indies, Smith was graduated from New York University in 1968. He joined the marketing services division of Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc., Calvert's parent company, in 1971, and served with sales divisions of the company in national and field administrative assignments. In 1975, he was named senior brand manager in the Eastern division for Calvert Distillers Company.

Smith is married to the former Geraldann Francis of New York City. The family includes two children.

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