

DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL STEVE L. VERA

Command Sergeant Major

88th Area Command

New York Guard

Our Deputy Grand Marshall, Steve L. Vera is the Command Sergeant Major for the 88th Area Command of the New York Guard, the largest unit in the NY State Defense Force.

Vera enlisted in the US Army in 1988 as a TACFIRE Operations Specialist in the US Field Artillery. Following extensive training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma he was assigned to the 37th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Essayons, Republic of Korea. While conducting pre-combat checks of equipment, Steve sustained serious injuries to his right hand and was MEDEVAC to the 121st Evacuation Hospital in Seoul, South Korea. The injuries Steve received required advanced care and he was therefore assigned to Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington DC. In 1993 a medical review board determined that he be permanently retired, and he was therefore Honorably Retired in 1993.

Not one to take things lying down, Vera enlisted in the New York Guard as a Sergeant in 2004. In the years since his enlistment, Steve has attended all required military personal development courses on his rise to his current rank of Command Sergeant Major. Among his many commendations and awards are; Army Achievement Medal, Military Commendation Medal (2), Operations Support Medal (3), Medal for Humane Service (2), Aid to Civil Authority Medal (2).

As Command Sergeant Major, Steve Vera has been the Senior Enlisted Advisor to no fewer than four commanders of the 88th Area Command.

In his civilian life Steve serves as an Associate Court Security Training Officer (Captain) at the New York State Court Officers Training Academy.

Steve and the love of his life Patricia, have two children, Ebony and Amanda, and one grandchild Hailee Paige.

