

Tom Smock

State Ombudsman Director



Tom Smock currently works as a self-employed contractor in the insulation industry and has for the past 20 years. He has 8 full time employees, including his son Todd. Prior to being self-employed, he worked for a contractor and joined the Int. Assoc. of Insulators & Asbestos Workers in 1966 in the apprentice program.

Smock has been married to his wife, Bev, for 42 years. They have two sons: Todd, who has a wife, 3 great kids and a grandson; and Chad who is a special needs young man living and working in Waterloo. Todd joined the Army National Guard in 1984.

Smock joined the Marine Corps in 1960 on the delayed entry plan. He graduated from high school then went off to boot camp in San Diego, California. Three years later, he left as a Radio Telegraph Operator. He spent the better part of one year aboard ships in the Mediterranean and Caribbean, mostly in the ships' radio rooms.

When Tom was asked on his thoughts as the Ombudsman Director, here is what he said.

"As the Ombudsman Director, obviously my role is to coordinate assistance calls from both the employer and his/her employee who is trying to maintain dual careers. We have implemented in Iowa guidelines that are stricter than those set forth by our national office. This is very important to me and we are in the process of "choosing" trained ombudsmen within the state who are willing, committed and capable of meeting our criteria. I work very closely with DOL/VETS to make sure we are giving out the correct information. I have never sought-after a title or my name in lights. I am very content to do my thing and trust that, in this case, it makes our state committee meet the high standards set forth by our national office" Tom said.

Tom continued by saying, "If I could have a second calling, it would be a job helping others, and who needs our help more than the men and women of the Armed Forces. There is absolutely nothing that "makes my day" more than knowing I have helped a service member or their family with what to us may seem minor, but to them it means that someone out there is looking out for them in this small way."