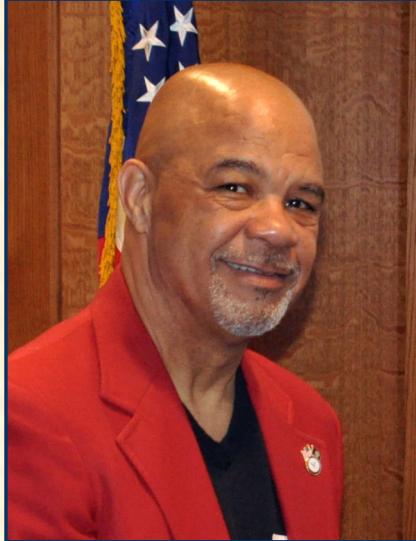




# Volunteer of the Month

## October 2017

### Edwin Johnson



Edwin Johnson III is the Buddy-to-Buddy October 2017 Volunteer of the Month! A practicing attorney, Edwin has become a trusted resource and expert for Veterans seeking aid from the program for legal advice or assistance in the year that he's been a Volunteer. He says, "The military saved my life. I know these kids come back from serving and are struggling, and if I can help them, that makes me feel good."

Edwin served in the Navy from 1973-78 as a radioman, stationed on the USS Chicago, USS Sterett, and USS Horne. He also played on the Navy's Subic Bay Admirals Football team while serving. After separating from the Navy, he worked in sales for 30 years before pursuing higher education in order to achieve his lifelong goal of attending law school, which he did at age 52. Edwin earned an

Associate's from Kalamazoo Valley Community College, a Bachelor's from Western Michigan University, and a Juris Doctorate from Cooley Law School.

After getting his law license at 54, Edwin found his calling in providing quality legal services to underprivileged individuals who normally don't receive it. Once, Edwin was connected with a Veteran struggling with PTSD needing legal defense for minor drug possession charges. He represented the Veteran and helped secure a great outcome not only for the Veteran but also for his brother. Edwin was able to get all of the charges against them dropped, and now the Vet's getting his life back together and even talking about wanting to go to law school.

Edwin was drawn to becoming a Volunteer Veteran because he wanted an opportunity to help fellow Vets and service members, and was impressed by the network of resources that Buddy-to-Buddy has built for Volunteers to connect those they assist with. He says he's driven to help service members and Vets because of "the sense that I'm helping guys who could have been me." In addition to volunteering with B2B, Edwin is also involved with the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court. He and his wife Sheena have six children, 12 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren and enjoy spending their precious free time with them at their lake house.

**We are thrilled to have you as a Volunteer, Edwin!**