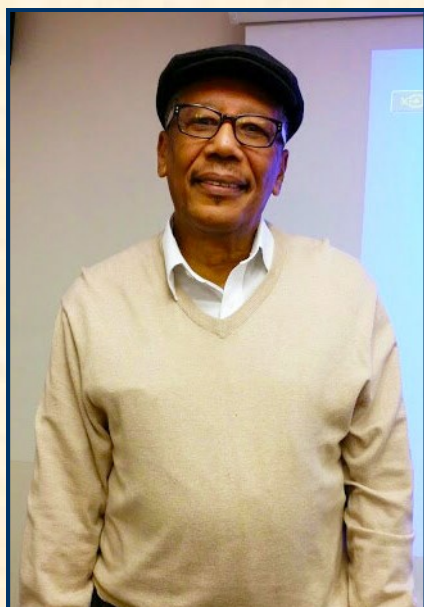


# Volunteer of the Month

## February 2016

*James Robinson*



James Robinson is the Buddy-to-Buddy Program's February 2016 Volunteer of the Month! James began volunteering with Buddy-to-Buddy in November 2014 and has been building solid relationships with soldiers at the Taylor Armory since then. Not only has James attended drill regularly, he has done an excellent job of logging consistently and recently helped us tremendously by following up with veterans regarding calls we received during the Veterans Day Phone Bank.

James has forged exceptionally strong relationships with the soldiers he has worked with in his units at the Taylor Armory, the 1776 MP CO and HHD MP BN. His calm, even-keeled and approachable personality has made him a trusted resource there and he has assisted veterans with issues including benefits and claims, employment, transportation, and housing.

James served three years in the Marine Corps, which included a tour in Vietnam. After his time in the service, James earned an Associate's degree in Management and then a BS in Marketing from Davenport University. He worked as a technical writer in the private sector for General Dynamics, AM General, and General Motors for many years before transitioning to the public sector. James then worked as a Veteran Employment Specialist, employed by the American Legion and the state of Michigan, for 16 years, a background that has made him particularly well-suited to assisting veterans seeking help finding employment. In addition to his work for Buddy-to-Buddy, James also volunteers with Employment Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

James learned about Buddy-to-Buddy from former East Michigan Regional Coordinator David Thomas while volunteering at a job fair at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Once he retired, James had more free time and decided that volunteering for Buddy-to-Buddy would be a great way to continue putting his expertise in veteran employment assistance to good use. Asked what he has enjoyed most about volunteering with us, James says, "working with the other Volunteer Veterans and interfacing with a lot of the soldiers that come to drill. We've built really good relationships with the officers and soldiers in the unit." James has three children and nine grandchildren, and he enjoys spending his free time with them and playing golf.

**Thank you for your dedication to service members and veterans, James!**