

Dr. Wayne "Doc" Reynolds

A Life of Service

Athens, Alabama

For nearly six decades, Dr. Wayne Reynolds has built a career defined by a single throughline: service. From the battlefield hospitals of Vietnam to the classrooms of Alabama, from statewide veterans' leadership to a seat on the Alabama State Board of Education, Reynolds has spent his life caring for others — as a **medic**, an educator, a nurse, an advocate, and an elected official.

Early Life and Military Service

Reynolds was born the oldest of twelve children to a father who had served in both World War II and the Korean War — a household where service was less an aspiration than an inheritance.

He carried that inheritance into his own life. From 1968 to 1969, Reynolds served as a **medic** in the United States Army in Vietnam, attached to the 95th Evacuation Hospital and the 22nd Surgical Hospital. He returned home a disabled veteran, later receiving a 90 percent VA disability rating tied to his service.

Education and a Career in Public Schools

Reynolds earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia, specializing in career and technical education — work that included launching one of the earliest high school student internship programs, in Muscogee County, Georgia. He went on to complete a Master's degree in Finance and a Doctorate in Education from Auburn University.

His career in public education spanned more than 30 years, first as a classroom teacher and eventually as a public school superintendent for over 12 years, including as superintendent of Athens City Schools until 1993. After retiring from that role, he continued contributing to Alabama education as a member of the state curriculum development committee and textbook review committee.

In 1996, he founded and operated the Quad County Child Nutrition Program, monitoring in-home child nutrition programs on behalf of the State Department of Education — work he continued for 20 years. He also went on to become a registered nurse in 2003, extending his caregiving into a second professional discipline.

Nearly Three Decades of Veterans' Leadership

If education was Reynolds's profession, veterans' advocacy became his enduring mission. His involvement with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) has spanned close to 30 years and multiple layers of leadership:

- **Alabama State Council President** — an office he has held since 1998
- **National Treasurer of VVA** — first from 2001 to 2003, then again from 2011 to 2019, stepping back only due to an Agent Orange–related leukemia diagnosis. After recovering, he returned to the role by re-election in 2022 and has since won additional terms, including a sixth two-year term at VVA's 21st National Convention in Orlando
- **Chapter 511 President** in Athens, Alabama, for three years
- Four years on the board of the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund
- Four years as secretary of VVA's Conference of State Council Presidents
- Service on national committees covering Finance, Veterans Healthcare, PTSD and Substance Abuse, the Constitution, Employment Training Business Opportunities, and Veterans Affairs

Beyond VVA, Reynolds holds life memberships in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion, and previously served on the board of the Alabama Veterans Museum. He has testified before congressional committees on veterans' and education issues and made numerous trips to Washington, D.C. to advocate directly with senators, congressmen, and their staff.

His service was formally recognized in 2011, when he was named Alabama's Veteran of the Year. He also received a bronze medallion from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, the Vietnam Veterans of America Achievement Medal, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Commendation Medal — the highest honor awarded to any member of Vietnam Veterans of America.

Public Office

Reynolds's move into elected office grew naturally out of his decades in education and veterans' advocacy. In 2018, at 71, he ran for the open District 8 seat on the Alabama State Board of Education, winning both the Republican primary and the general election. He was sworn in on January 1, 2019, representing a district covering Dekalb, Etowah, Jackson, Limestone, and Madison counties.

He was re-elected in 2022 and again in 2024, with his current term extending through January 2027. On the board, he has served as Vice President and Presiding Officer, and has been a steady advocate for local control of schools, transparency in board operations, and community-based safety initiatives.

He has also been active within the Republican Party at the local and state level, including multiple terms on both the Limestone County and Alabama Republican State Executive Committees, and previously ran for Athens City Council and the Alabama State Senate.

Faith and Community

Reynolds was ordained as a deacon at First Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Athens, in 1985. He remains an active member of the church, serving on its finance committee among other subcommittees. He has also been a longtime Rotarian, earning the organization's Paul Harris Fellow Award for his contributions.

Family

Reynolds has been married to his wife, Carol — herself a retired teacher — for more than 57 years. Together they raised two children: their son, Wesley, who served in the U.S. Air Force and now practices medicine, and their daughter, Paige, who works in weapons research for the U.S. Army. Wayne and Carol have two grandchildren.

A Legacy of Service

Across more than five decades — as a **medic**, a school superintendent, a nurse, a veterans' advocate, and an elected official — Dr. Wayne Reynolds's career reflects a consistent commitment: to the wellbeing of children, the dignity of veterans, and the health of his community. His work with Vietnam Veterans of America alone has touched thousands of fellow veterans across Alabama and the nation, while his decades in public education shaped opportunities for generations of Alabama students.

Few public figures can claim sustained leadership across three distinct arenas — education, veterans' affairs, and elected office — for as long as Reynolds has. That breadth, paired with the consistency of his service, is likely to be remembered as the defining feature of his legacy.

This profile compiles publicly available information as of 2026 and reflects Dr. Reynolds's ongoing career and current terms of service.