



Merle has been a Trustee of the Military/Veterans Educational Foundation (MILVETS) for over 25 years. He retired from the U.S. Navy as a YNC (E-7) in 1994. Merle retired from the Ohio Attorney General's Office as the Director of Constituent Services in 2009.

Merle was the State Commander of AMVETS Department of Ohio from July 2009 to July 2010. Besides being a member of AMVETS, he is also a member of the American Legion, VVA Chapter 670, DAV Chapter 3, Eagles, Elks, Moose and a 32nd Degree Mason. Merle is also a Kentucky Colonel and Tennessee Squire. In 2004, Merle received the AMVETS National Silver Helmet Award for the Civil Servant of Year; also known as the Veterans Oscar. In 2015, he was selected as the AMVETS Department of Ohio's AMVET of the year. Merle has received the 1999 MILVETS' Trustee of the Year Award and the 2011 CSM Jake Brewer Leadership Award.

Merle continues to advocate for Veterans and the Military as a lobbyist for AMVETS Department of Ohio and currently serves on the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission.