

# CORNETT & ASSOCIATES, LLC

a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business

5284 Randolph Road # 150 Rockville, MD 20852 Ph: (240) 223-7426 Fax: (208) 694-8221

From a young age, Don Cornett was groomed to be a leader. He had the opportunity to play and serve as a captain on several undefeated championship football teams. At five feet, seven inches tall weighing 160 lbs, he was selected to the All Metropolitan Football Team. Though small in size but big in determination, Mr. Cornett was awarded the defensive player of the year in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. With many honors and accolades, there was no doubt in his mind that when he enlisted in the Army he would do well. At the completion of Basic Training he was honored as the "Outstanding Trainee" among 800 men. After Basic Training Mr. Cornett completed Airborne Infantry Training, Jump School, and Special Forces Training making his way to Vietnam where he served proudly with the highly decorated 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. Mr. Cornett would give his country the same 110% that he gave to all the challenges that he faced in sports in hopes that he would return from the Vietnam War to play football in college one day.

With Mr. Cornett's first year of Vietnam almost up, he would walk point for Col. "Tony" Herbert for the last time. He did not realize then that his next battle would change the whole course of his life forever. After making contact with the enemy for over sixty straight days, he was wounded by shrapnel from grenades and small arms fire. The firefighting was so intense that rescue helicopters refused to land. When Col. Herbert heard who it was that was injured, he ordered his personal helicopter to land and get Mr. Cornett out of harms way. After receiving the Purple Heart along with the Combat Infantry Badge, he faced a new battle back home of recovery to complete his dream of playing football in college. He had faced unbalanced challenges before to go above and beyond the call of duty, and now with old scholarship offers collected in desk drawers, not many colleges would want to give him the same pre-war scholarship offer as a wounded soldier. As usual, it was an uphill battle for Mr. Cornett, but he made it to California to play one year of football on a semi-pro team who took a chance on him while he waited to play college football the next year. It was during this season that the war injuries set him back further, and he could no longer play football. His spirit of overcoming great obstacles remained in his focus while he continued his studies earning his Bachelor of Science Degree in three years and earning his Master of Arts in Education the following year.

Mr. Cornett went on to pursue teaching and coaching at the high school and college level. He was set apart by his ability to develop and maintain winning teams regardless of their starting point. Through a combination of motivation, communication, training and teamwork, Mr. Cornett developed an impressive track record of team turnarounds, wins and championships. At the same time his teams repeatedly received sportsmanship awards demonstrating not only their ability to play and win, but to do so with a positive attitude and a high level of integrity.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Cornett was hired to manage a consulting advertisement firm located in the New England region. After two years of hard work, he became the president and owner of the company that expanded into nine different states.

In March of 2005, Mr. Cornett established Cornett & Associates, LLC, a service-disabled veteran-owned business (SDVOB) in accordance with Executive Order 13360 that was signed by George W. Bush in October of 2004. The company is a full-service general contracting company with expertise in project management, engineering services and mechanical & electrical facilities construction. Mr. Cornett qualified for the SDVOB program established by the Small Business Administration because of the injuries he received during the Vietnam War. After numerous surgeries and physical therapy sessions over the years, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) concluded that he was permanently disabled and that his disability was completely service connected. The VA gave him a 100% disability rating.

As Mr. Cornett looks back over his past accomplishments, nothing makes him feel more proud than his marriage of 36 years and raising nine children. He states the reason for his success "Is because God changed my life when I became a Christian in June, 1971. I was 21 years old, and the Lord has truly blessed me."