## Politics and law keep him busy

## Vietnam vet beats blindness to rebuild life



John Todd not only practices law, but teaches political science and business law at Michigan Christian College.

By LETHA D. WILLIAMS

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Shelves along one entire basement
wall await John Todd's law books.
He built the shelves himself, which is
not an unusual feat for a 33-year-old.
Except Tod is legally blind.
While piloting a helicopter in tactical
support for the infantry during 1989,
Todd was hit in the face by a Viet Cong
anti-aircraft shell. Ten years later, he
passed the bar exam.
Todd and his wife, Joyce, graduated
in May from Georgetown Law Center
in Washington D.C. In June, they
moved to Avon Township with their 4year-old daughter, Lacey.

in Washington D.C. In June, they moved to Avon Township with their 4-year-old daughter, Lacey.
Todd is practicing law and teaching pollitical science and business law at Avon Township's Michigan Christian College. Mrs. Todd is an assistant prosecutor at the Oakland County District Attorney's office in Pontiae.
Todd was in college when he was drafted and sent to Vietnam in 1968. He had only three goals in mind then: to be a capitain stationed in Germany, to buy Jaguar an XKE, and to build chalets with his father. But flying near the Cambodian border, he was wounded. He spent the next vear in Maryland's Walter Reed ArriyHospital.
For his work in Vietnam, Todd received the distinguished flying cross for valor, 17 combat air medals and the cross of gallantry with the bronze star. For his wound, he received the purple heart.
WHEN HE LEFF Walter Reed, Todd

heart. WHEN HE LEFT Walter Reed, Todd

WHEN HE LEFT Walter Reed, Todd moved to New York City for treatment by an eye surgeon. The doctor restored enough of Todd's vision for him to distinguish shapes and colors. While in New York, Todd heard a television anti-Vietnam War editorial. "The anti-war movement was taking a new tact," Todd said. "They were depicting the vets as war criminals and drug addicts. I was terribly offended by that."

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He contacted the television station and asked for and received reply time. A member of President Nixon's staff saw Todd's presentation.

"And I was asked by the President to speak on behalf of him on Vietnam," Todd said.

Todd said. Todd supported Nixon's "Vietnamization" program.

"We had taken their war away from them," Todd said. "Vietnamization was simply a way to give them back their war if they wanted it."

He publically debated people like Gloria Stelann, Jerry Rubin and David Dillinger. And he won two Freedom 'Foundation awards for writing and speaking.

But he was not paid for his work with the Nixon administration.

been near someone who was a celebrity.

"I DIDN'T get paid because I didn't want to be attacked for taking money from the Nixon administration," Todd said.

He did, however, author and lobby for a bill passed by the 95th Congress in 1978. It provides survivor benefits for families of permanently and totally disabled veterans.

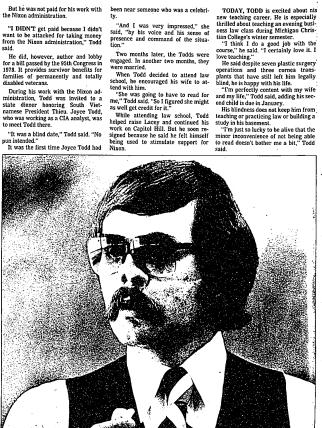
disabled veterans.

During his work with the Nixon administration, Todd was invited to a state dinner bonoring. South Vietnamese President Thieu. Joyce Todd, who was working as a CIA analyst, was to meet Todd there.

"It was a blind date," Todd said. "No

pun intended."

It was the first time Joyce Todd had



"I'm just so lucky to be alive that the minor inconvenience of not being able to read doesn't bother me a bit," says the Avon Township resident.



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