

Veteran's Day Prayer Service

11/11/16

As we gather today, we pray in a special way for all those who have passed away. First, we recall all the members of the Notre Dame community who have recently passed on. We pray that the Lord will welcome them into heaven, and that God will pour out His comfort and strength upon their families.

We also pray for all the men and women who died while serving their country. We ask God to welcome them into His Heavenly Kingdom, and to bestow on us a spirit of humble gratitude for their heroic sacrifice. We especially pray for the following Notre Dame alumni and friends who perished in combat while serving their country:

Graduates Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice

- George Richard Fitzgerald, Class of 1961, from Bridgeport, a member of the US Marine Corps, who died in combat on September 17, 1966, while serving in Vietnam
- David William Coppernoll, Class of 1961, from Bridgeport, a member of the US Army, who died in combat at age 26 on January 8, 1970, when his helicopter crashed, while serving in Vietnam. He served as a Green Beret in the 5th Special Forces group and died two days before he was supposed to return to the United States.
- Thomas John Bowe, Class of 1965, from Stratford, a member of the US Army, who died in combat on March 8, 1969, while serving in Vietnam.
- Russell Thomas Fant, Class of 1966, from Bridgeport, a member of the US Army, who died in combat on February 3, 1969, while serving in Vietnam
- Jack Richard DaCosta, Class of 1966, from Bridgeport, a member of the US Army, who died in combat on December 2, 1969, while serving in Vietnam. Mr. DaCosta was Special Forces Group Airborne and an Infantry Unit Commander.
- Thomas Brown, Class of 2000, from Shelton, a member of the US Army, who died in combat on September 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq.

And we pray for all veterans alive today, and for all members of the armed forces who are currently serving as defenders of our country. We also pray for those veterans who did not die during combat, but who passed on after their service to their country was completed. May God bless and protect them as they have protected us, and may God also abundantly bless their families. We pray especially for the following Notre Dame alumni who have served or are currently serving in the military:

- Jack French, Class of 1960, who served over 20 years in the military, including three tours in Vietnam as an Army helicopter pilot.
- From the Class of 1960: Joseph Bender and James Demma – US Army.

From the Class of 1961:

- William Roberti, who served in the US Army from 1966 to 2000 and retired as a Colonel.
- Robert Robinson, US Navy from 1961 to 1967, and attained the rank of Hospital Corpsman, third class
- Ed Courtemanch who served as a first lieutenant in the US Army Saigon Support Command in 1968 and 1969
- Robert Coffey who served in the US Army during Vietnam and received the Army Commendation Medal for work performed.
- Frank Zak who served for 25 years in the US Navy and retired as a captain
- Mary Kimmerlin who served in the US Air Force Medical Corp for six years.
- Mike Ceruzzi who served in the Navy from 1966 until 1976.
- William LaBaugh who served in the Medical Service Corp for 25 years before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.
- Also, from the Class of 1961: Jim Pinard – Air Force, Art Lawrence – Army, Ray Van Stone – Navy, Joseph Piazza – Army, John McCartney – Air Force, George Sherwood – Army, Richard Fry – Air Force, David Murcko – Army and Robert Urbanowicz – Navy.

From the Class of 1962:

- James Carletti who served as a captain in the US Navy and the JAG Corps from 1967 until 1998.
- William Fitzgerald who served in both the Marines and the U.S. Air Force
- James Magyar who served in the US Army in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969. He was awarded the Bronze Star, which is the fourth highest individual military award and the Air Medal.
- Kevin Conlisk – US Navy from 1966 to 69
- Don Johnson – US Navy from 1962 to 66
- Richard Grich who served in the US Navy and the Reserve Officers Candidate program from 1966 to 1970.
- Joseph Peddle, Jr, who served in the US Navy aboard the USS Windham County which participated in the landing at DaNang, South Vietnam.
- Also from the Class of 1962 - Joseph Maco, US Navy, Edward Agonis - Air Force, Charles Strba – Air Force, Thomas Cherry – Navy, Robert Braychak – Army, Thomas Cherry – Navy, Jim D’Agostino – Marines, Paul Fasold – Air Force, Bernie Gaydos – Army, Frank DeDonne, Army, and Gilbert Regan

From the Class of 1963:

- James Skarupa who served in the Navy from 1965 to 1971 and was based on battleships in the Mediterranean Sea as an Electrician’s Mate Second Class.
- James Capinera who served in the US Army from 1967 until his retirement in 2005.
- Mario Bonetti who served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1971.
- Robert Sisbarro who served in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.
- Michael McCann who was a Green Beret and a recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for Valor.
- Robert Halky who served in the US Army from 1967 to 69
- Also from the Class of 1963: William Stockell, Joe Alves, Robert Wight – US Navy, Daniel McCarthy – National Guard, Thomas Keating – US Army, Donald Cunningham – Army, Cliff Haury – Army, Tom Koronkiewicz – Navy, John

O'Connell – Army, Ron Janosko – Air Force, Ken Basque – Air Force, Ronald Szakolzay – Air Force, Daniel Loch – Army, Ralph Artido – Navy, Thomas Biroscak – Marines, Bob Cenci – Army, W. Gregory Duda – Air Force, Allen Foiw, Mark Giannini – Army, David Leahy – Navy, William Lynch – Navy, and Stephen Massimino – Navy.

From the Class of 1964:

- James Hart who served as a medic in the Navy during Vietnam.
- Timothy Golden, US Army and the recipient of two Purple Hearts for being wounded while serving and an Army Commendation Medal.
- Mark Conway who served in the Army during the Korean War.
- Edward Burke who served in the 9th Infantry Division of the US Army from 1968 to 1970 and saw active combat in Vietnam
- Peter Kodz – US Air Force from 1966 to 1970.
- George Burr who served on active duty in the US Navy from 1967 to 1968 and in the US Navy Reserves until 1971.
- Robert Ledalytner, a decorated combat veteran who passed away several years ago.
- Domenic J. Paniccia who served in the US Army from 1969 to 1971.
- Joe Palsa who served in the Army from 1967 to 1970.
- Additional members of the Class of 1964: Peter Neverdowski, Thomas Flyntz, Jeff Crooks – Air Force, Donald McCartney – US Army, Jim Gannon - Air Force, Ed Bannon - Air Force, John Marusa - Navy, John Molnar - Army, Robert Bracci - Army, Thomas Tomlinson - Army, Bernard Cooney - Army, Edward Oleksy - Army National Guard, Joe Dellamarggio - Air Force, and Anthony Pilotti – Air Force.

From the Class of 1965:

- Terrence Tiernan who served in Vietnam in 1968 as a Navy Medic
- David Prentice who served in the US Army from 1967 to 1989, including two tours in Vietnam, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

- Stephen Cavallo who served in the US Army from 1966 to 1968, having served in Vietnam.
- Harvey Auger who was awarded a Silver Star for valor in combat
- Jim Walsh who was a B52 bomber pilot in Vietnam
- Ron Beckech who was a nuclear submarine commander in the US Navy
- Henry Andrzejczak who served in the Special Forces during Vietnam.
- Pat Freeman who served in the Marines during Vietnam
- Anthony Cedrone who served in the US Navy during Vietnam.
- Also from the Class of 1965: Paul Leska, a Navy Corpsman, Thomas Lopez – US Army, Kenneth Fodor – Coast Guard, Richard Halligan – Air Force, John Nawowski – Army, Tim Reitano and Joseph Riccio.
- Bob Deveau, former ND physical education teacher and football coach from 1961 to 1966, who served in the Marines.

From the Class of 1966:

- Anthony Doyle who served in the US Navy from 1968 until 1972.
- James Bender who served in the Air Force with European NATO forces.
- Also from the Class of 1966: Peter Plantne II – who served in Vietnam in the US Army, Michael D'Ostilio – Army and Carmen Cartiglia – Air Force.

From the Class of 1967:

- Peter Putrimas US Army from 1970 until 1973.
- Ron Allen who was a captain and pilot in the US Air Force from 1974 to 1980.
- Donald Rodgeron who retired as a First Sergeant in the military.
- Patrick Dizney who served in the US Army reserves from 1968 to 1975
- Additional members of the Class of 1967: Edward Jones, Tony Piluso and George Farrell, who served in the US Air Force.
- Keith Chatting, Class of 1968, who served in Navy in 1972 and on active reserve duty until 1978.
- Jim Kessler and Bill Sabo, Class of 1968, both US Navy.

- Thomas Fedele, Class of 1969, who served in Vietnam in 1970 and 1971 as a member of the 11th and 19th Special Forces Unit and retired from the Army Reserves in 2001.
- Alvaro Suarez, Class of 1970, who served in Vietnam in 1972 and 1973. He enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1985, served on reserve and active duty for 34 years, including a tour of Iraq in 2003 and 2004 and was a Special Agent with the US Army Criminal Investigative Division.
- Marty Foncello, Class of 1970, who served in the US Army on active duty from 1974 to 1979 and in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard from 1979 to 2002. Mr. Foncello retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.
- Dan Augustine, Class of 1970, who served in the US Army for 25 years. He retired a colonel, but not before seeing service in 20 different countries. He is a veteran of the Panama invasion and Operation Desert Storm. He also served in the Pentagon on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Also from the Class of 1970: Randy Chiarenzelli - Army National Guard, Robert Flynn - Coast Guard, Arthur Johnson and Richard Marusa - both US Army.
- From the Class of 1971: Charles Potter - US Air Force and Richard Fohrenbach who served in the US Navy from 1973 to 1978 as a hospital corpsman.
- Thomas Foncello, Class of 1971, who served in the US Air Force from 1972 to 1975 as a jet engine mechanic. Mr. Foncello also served in the Connecticut Air National Guard from 1979 to 1983.
- From the Class of 1972: Victor Becker – Navy, Vincent Capuano – Navy, Robert Iacurci – Army, Pat McNiff – Army, and Phil Halligan – Air Force
- William Martin, Class of 1973, is a 27 year veteran in the US Army and most recently was stationed in Afghanistan.
- Also from the Class of 1973 – John Soldi – who served in the US Marines.
- Jeff Watcke, Class of 1974, who served in the Air Force and the Connecticut Air National Guard from 1975 until 1986.
- From the Class of 1975: Thomas Campoli – Navy, Philip Ferraro – Air Force, David McCarthy – Marines, and Thomas Medina, who is a 25 year veteran of the US Air Force

- From the Class of 1976: Mary Latimer – US Air Force and Eddie Henderson – US Army.
- Michael Bourque, Class of 1977, who served as a Navy Commander for 27 years.
- David Jennings, Class of 1978, who served eight years in the US Navy, worked on the nuclear power program, and served on the USS Michigan, a nuclear powered submarine.
- Jean Kearns, US Navy from 1992 to 2000 and Susan Bousa, US Navy – both Class of 1979
- Sue Roos, Class of 1981, who served in the Army for four years.
- Robert Seltenrich, Class of 1981, who served in the Army from 1988 to 1991 as a combat medic in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and received the Combat Medical Badge.
- Michael Harrigan, Class of 1982, US Army.
- Jeffrey Heyse, Class of 1982, who served 24 years in the Air Force, retiring as a major in 2007. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served in Afghanistan.
- Dean Danas, who served 25 years in the Air Force and Fred Hill, US Marines, both Class of 1983
- Rodney Garcia, Class of 1983, who served in the Air Force National Guard from 1983 to 2003 and was deployed to Italy, Norway and Turkey.
- From the Class of 1984: Edward Muldoon – US Navy, Steve Moran - US Navy, Dan Marrash – Marines, Kevin O’Leary – Army, and Chris Weller – Marines.
- Greg Florence, Class of 1984, who served in the US Navy from 1988 to 2009 and retired as a Commander.
- From the Class of 1985: Tony Rinaldi, US Air Force, Ed Devillers who attended the Naval Academy and then enlisted in the US Marine Corps.
- Lucendia Isler, Class of 1985, who served in the US Air Force for ten years
- Robert William Corris, Class of 1985, who served in the US Marine Corps from 1988 to 1994 and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.
- Peter Hristov, Class of 1985, US Navy.

- Julia Smith-Meade, Class of 1985, who retired in July, 2014 as a Colonel in the US Marine Corps
- William Loughman, Class of 1986, who served in the US Army and Army Reserves from 1987 to 1994
- Gary Krysta, Class of 1986, who served in the Navy on board the USS San Diego during the First Gulf War.
- Sueann Schorr, Class of 1987, who has served in the US Navy since 1991.
- Linda Cunha, Class of 1988, who currently in her 26th year of active duty with the Army National Guard. Having served in Iraq in 2004 and 2005, she also served in Afghanistan.
- Matthew Merced, Class of 1988, who served five years active duty in the US Marine Corps from 1993 to 1998
- Christopher Seveck, Class of 1990, US Air Force
- Greg Howard, Class of 1998 – US Marines
- James Scianna, Class of 2000, is a Lieutenant Commander who has served in the US Navy for the past thirteen years. He currently serves on the staff for the Oceanographer of the Navy working for the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, DC.
- Paul Wargo and Jay Gaspar, Class of 2001, and Michael Jankovic, Class of 2002.
- From the Class of 2004: Jeremy Alward, Michael Scholz, Dan Richie and Fernando Moreno. We especially remember Fernando who spoke at this prayer service in 2014 and died in a tragic car accident earlier this year.
- Richard Carraro, Class of 2005, who served in the US Army and was stationed in Africa as a leader for a drone security team.
- Courtney Patterson, Class of 2006, who continues to serve in the US Air Force
- Jessica Tietjen, Class of 2008, US Air Force.

We also remember family members of our current ND family who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces:

- Stephen Grens, host father to Jessica Pan, Class of 2019, who served in the Vietnam War from 1963 to 1967 and received a Purple Heart.

- Gil Hernandez, father of Marina Cartiglia Hernandez, Class of 2020, who served in the US Army from 1978 to 1981.
 - James Howe, father of Jillian, Class of 2018 and Jimmy, Class of 2020, who served in the US Navy for six years.
 - Jason Mosel, brother of Samantha Mosel, Class of 2019, who served in the Marines from 2002 to 2008 and two tours in Iraq.
 - Zandra Sookoo, mother of Ila Sookoo, Class of 2019, who served as a Hospital Corpsman in the US Navy from 1986 to 1992 and Stephen Zookoo, father of Ila Sookoo, who served as an Airman in the US Navy from 1987 to 1990.
 - David Vayda, father of Anthony Vayda, Class of 2020, who served in the US Navy from 1983 to 1989 aboard the USS Nimitz.
 - Patrick LaSella, father of Justin LaSella, Class of 2019, served in the Air Force for 28 years.
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- Ralph Sakal, the father of Mr. Sakal, who served in the Air Force during the Korean War.
 - Seamus Callaghan, the father of Dr. Callaghan, who served in the US Army in Europe during World War II.
 - Leonard Lucia, father of Mrs. Miller, who served in the Navy during WWII.
 - Joseph Calvi, Jr, a cousin of Mrs. Miller, who served in Vietnam and Mrs. Miller's uncle, Peter Valenti, who served in the Army during WWII.
 - Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, the brother of Mr. Fitzpatrick, who served four years in the Navy aboard the USS Kitty Hawk and USS Indianapolis.
 - Charles and Zigmond Zawadski, uncles of Mrs. Daniels. Charles was killed in action during the Korean War and Zigmond served in the Air Force until his retirement.
 - Joseph Saia, father of Mrs. Marzik, who served in the National Guard in Vietnam and Vincent Marzik, Mrs. Marzik's father-in-law, who served in the Air Force during Korea.
 - Brian St. Onge, father of Mr. St. Onge, who served in the Air Force during Vietnam. Edward St. Onge, Mr. St. Onge's grandfather, who served in the Army

during WWII and Phillip and Nicolas Buonocore, uncles of Mr. St. Onge, who served in the military during Vietnam.

- Robert Christy, Mr. Philipp's grandfather, who served during the Korean War.
- Raymond Guarino, uncle of Ms. Longo, who died while fighting in Vietnam.
- Joseph Feeley, father of Mrs. Bogan, who served in the Navy during WWII.
- Walter Ezepchick, father-in-law of Mrs. Ezepchick, who served in the Army during WWII and Mrs. Ezepchick's uncle, Joseph Shea, who dies while fighting in World War II.
- Agnes Donovan, mother of Mrs. Almeida, who served as an Air Force nurse during WWII.
- Joseph Slonka, grandfather of Mr. Sulzycki, who served in the Navy during WWII.
- Henry Oehmen, Jr, father of Mrs. Ayala, who served in Europe during WWII and received the Purple Heart.

The names you have just heard were provided to us by our alumni and friends. There are obviously countless more men and women who have graduated from Notre Dame and served in our military, protecting our rights, our freedom, and our democracy, that were not mentioned here today. For those veterans and all others who have fought for our nation, we pray together ... Our Father...