

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in The Military Chaplains Association of the USA. Please add chaplains@mca-usa.org to your address book to insure proper delivery.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



The Voice for Chaplaincy - Chartered by Congress - Serving Since 1925

Weekly Newsgram - August 23rd, 2017

The Chaplain Who Earned a Victoria Cross



On August 19, 1942, a secret amphibious operation, Jubilee, destined for tactical failure, launched from England with the goal of seizing the port town of Dieppe, holding it for 24 hours, and then withdrawing.

The larger strategic objective was to assure Russian leader Stalin that the Allies were still in the game and prevent him from seeking a separate peace with the Germans who were preparing for the siege of Stalingrad. The Allies saw this as an opportunity to test operational concepts in preparation for a larger assault to regain a hold on the northern edge of the European continent.

No matter the significance of the raid to the larger war effort, the soldiers who crossed the English Channel that day were committed to giving their all as they sought to honor the commitment they made to their nation. Among them was a chaplain who for many was known only as Chaplain X.

The Rev. John Weir Foote, a Presbyterian minister, had joined the Canadian forces in 1939 and was in theater attached to a light infantry regiment. He had gained knowledge of the operation through visitation among his men and had insisted he be included in the assault. His Commander assigned him to the landing team as a stretcher bearer. Only the Lord knew how much work the chaplain would have.

Though there is still debate, the assault was destined for failure from the outset due lack of planning and preparation. No attempt was made to neutralize heavy fortifications on the hills behind the port nor was there adequate attention given to ensure the element of surprise. The landing craft ran into coastal patrols on the way to the beach and thus were the defenders alerted and prepared before the boats were in view. The assault was not called off and in the midst of chaos and confusion, waves of troops continued to hit the beach even after

withdrawal was ordered.

Chaplain Foote remained committed to his ministry and delivered first-aid and morphine to dozens of injured soldiers; repeatedly exposed himself to heavy fire to retrieve the wounded; and gave up his spot on the last departing craft to wade back ashore and surrender along with nearly 2,000 of his compatriots.

Rescued from Stalg 10B 34 months later, Foote was one of only 16 Canadian soldiers and the only Chaplain to earn the Victoria Cross in the Second World War. When asked about his exploits that long day in August he responded, *"You can't be a padre and not go where the troops go - that's all I did. When I went in with the regiment and stayed with the men, there was nothing else I could have done."*

How blessed we are as chaplains to stand in the line of such stalwarts as Chaplain John Foote. May we all learn from his call to service.

Lyman Smith
Executive Director

[Article and picture from Postmedia News](#)



In Memoriam

Chaplain William Elza Donan, Jr.

CDR, CHC, USN, Retired
Baptist
Deceased August 5, 2017
Church Hill, TN

[We'll Meet Again](#) [A Six-Part PBS Series Winter 2018](#)

The tides of history can disrupt lives, throwing strangers together or tearing loved ones apart. WE'LL MEET AGAIN reveals these moving personal stories of hope, courage and love: from a Vietnam War baby desperate to find the American father she last saw 40 years ago to the military chaplain who helped a stranger through the trauma of 9/11, from a Japanese-American girl interned in 1942 who never forgot the classmate



who helped her during her darkest hours to civil rights workers whose lives were forever changed by the deep relationships they formed in the 1960s South.

The military chaplain included is Chaplain Doug Waite who re-connected with Chaplain Tim Mallard (see picture). Their first meeting was shortly after the events of 9/11 at the Pentagon. In this series the two chaplains are brought together to re-connect and explore the impact their first meeting had on both of them and the paths they have journeyed since.

Here is the original Washington Post article capturing Chaplain Mallard's thoughts shortly after the attack - originally published on Nov 4, 2001.

[The Chaplain](#)

[National Day of Prayer for Faith, Hope, and Life](#)

Save the Date: Join Us for a National Day of Prayer September 8-10, 2017

September 10, is World Suicide Prevention Day. This weekend, the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention invites faith communities across the nation to pray for those whose lives have been touched by suicide. Pray that we can all grow in faith that brings hope, and hope that brings life.

Whether in your church, your temple or synagogue, your mosque, or even by yourself, join us.

As we pray, let's also pledge to be aware of those around us who are struggling with any of life's challenges--especially those affected in any way by suicide- and to be there for them in their times of need.

Be there in person, be there with care, be there with prayer.

On this Faith-Hope-Life Day, we pray for emotional, mental, and spiritual healing. Just as we regularly pray for persons with physical concerns, such as cancer or heart disease, we especially pray this day for those dealing with mental health concerns and feelings of hopelessness, and for the people who love and care for them.

It's time to break the silence around suicide and help all who struggle. Please join us.

Because, where there is faith there is hope, and where there is hope there is life.

So Faith-Hope-Life Day, let's be there-in person, with care, with prayer.



www.Faith-Hope-Life.org

Roman Catholic Contract Chaplain Needed



The Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity South Potomac (NSASP), Dahlgren, Virginia, needs a Roman Catholic priest in good standing to be the contract Catholic chaplain aboard the base.

A priest applicant must have the endorsement of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) for the contract to be valid. The current contract Catholic chaplain will leave at the end of September and a new contract has been let for a priest to assume his duties in October for a period of one (1) year.

A Statement of Work is attached. The summary of services is, and is not limited to, to provide: Sunday and Holy Day Masses; Sacrament of Reconciliation; Baptisms; funerals; memorial services; weddings; counseling as needed; and other services as necessary and directed.

Point of contact is:
Chaplain Joshua Okwori, LT CHC USN
Command Chaplain
NSFSP Dahlgren
Office: 540-653-4848
Cell: 540-413-7029
Email: Joshua.okwori@navy.mil

[Statement of Work](#)

Chaplains in the Midst

As a follow up to last week's lead article concerning the service held in the Bon Homme Richard and its connection to a similar tragedy in 2005 in which Chaplain Bob Ledbetter perished, Norm Brown (MCA Lifemember) sent a note to provide more information on the tragedy of that day and the impact it had on him. Norm and Bob were classmates at the Naval Academy and by God's grace, Norm was able to be involved in remembering and honoring Bob's life.

That weekend was Homecoming at USNA & we had plans to go. I needed to be with the class, many of whom would attend Bob's funeral Monday in Norfolk. Homecoming was a bittersweet event. Bob wasn't the first classmate lost (we'd lost 2 in Viet Nam) & we've lost many since but every 5 yrs at our class memorial service when I hear his name amongst the nearly 200 now deceased, I recall that sad weekend.

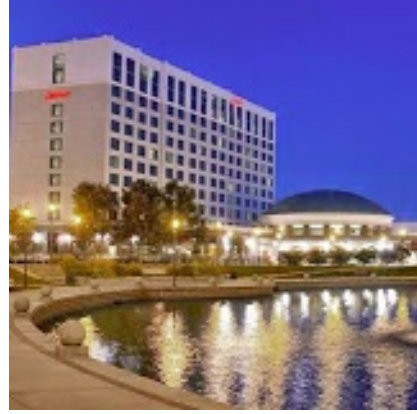
Chaplains for life.

[A Remembrance](#)

Religion and Spirituality: The Impact on Chaplains

Registration Now Open
[Sign Up Here](#)
or send an email to

chaplains@mca-usa.org
for a paper registration form



[Complete Schedule](#)

MCA National Institute 2017

October 23 - 26, 2017

[Newport News Marriott at City Center](#)

Newport News, Virginia

[Register for your room on line](#)

or call

866-329-1758

ask for Military Chaplains

Visit our [website](#). There you will be able to [update your contact information](#), [join](#), [pay your dues](#), [make donations](#), [file ministry reports](#), contact our supporters, [read The Military Chaplain](#) magazine and otherwise [connect to resources](#).

If you missed the August 16th edition of the Newsgram [click here](#)

SUPPORTING CHAPLAINCY IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM: Active, Retired and Former Chaplains of the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Civil Air Patrol

AND THOSE THEY SERVE: military members, veterans, and their families at home and around the world

The Military Chaplains Association of the USA
(703) 533-5890 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

