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

## **Weekly Newsgram - April 25th 2018**

### **Executive Director Notes**

The National Executive Committee of the Military Chaplains Association will meet this coming week at Fort Jackson, SC. We will convene on

Tuesday and conclude on Wednesday. Because of the importance of you, our members, in our organizational mission, I share our agenda with you as an attachment ([here](#)).



Given what I have written about the past few weeks, I doubt that much of this will be "new news" for you - and if you are an NEC member and this is the first time you have seen the agenda please let us know! - and I will highlight a few points as well. Below are some "amplifications" of a couple of areas.

You can clearly see that we are filling out the content for our National Institute on 6 and 7 November. If any of you have any topics that you would like to present for consideration, please get those to me so that they can go in front of the NEC next week for review.

In the membership area you will see a topic that I wrote about a few weeks ago, and which generated some excellent feedback from quite a few of you, and we will be looking at types of chaplaincies that would seem to fall under the umbrella of MCA.

We will also be having a discussion about where we are at financially, and as looking at a new membership level, that of Sustaining membership.

Moving along, you will see that we are looking at "re-booting" of some of our chapters as noted, and absolutely need your input if you are stationed in and/or live in one of those metro areas.

From conversations with Jan McCormack, there are a number of you who are already in the process of meeting the requirements for the Professional Military Chaplain status that we have rolled out with the Association of Professional Chaplains, and that is heartening.

You will note that there will be an update on that status of our Military Chaplain Journal, and moving beyond the printed word, revamping our on-line presence with new opportunities for social media to get the word out about MCA and re-looking where things stand with Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations.

Last but not least is a look at our strategic plan, and with that, a look at who we might want to work with as our strategic partners, and NCMAF is a good start point for that conversation.

My questions for you: 1) Is there anything we are missing from your perspective and 2) As we begin to start rolling out/reviewing some of these, can you step up to the plate to actualize one or more of these which jump out at you and attract your attention? We may have great plans, but without the people to support them they remain as concepts until folks help to bring them to fruition.

Feel free to email or call me with anything you see- or don't see- which you would like discussed, and we'll certainly add those suggestions into the hopper. Also, please remember us in prayer as we seek to have wisdom going forward.

Executive Director  
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[NEC Agenda May 2018](#)



## In Memoriam

*George T. Bryon*

Lieutenant Colonel, Chaplain Corps, United States Army, Retired  
Baptist  
born February 9, 1932  
deceased April 17, 2018  
Copperas, TX

**Introducing Qualifying Life  
Events:**

# Changes in Your Life May Mean Changes to Your TRICARE Options



When life changes for you and your family, your TRICARE options may also change. With TRICARE, certain life events (like moving due to a permanent change of station, getting married or divorced, adopting or having a baby, becoming Medicare eligible or losing health coverage) are called [Qualifying Life Events](#) (QLEs). QLEs include military and family-related changes.

Depending on your eligibility, a QLE may allow you to enroll in a new [TRICARE plan](#) or change your coverage options. If you want to enroll in or change your plan, you must make the enrollment changes within 90 days following the QLE. No matter when you initiate this change, coverage starts the date of the QLE. You must pay any enrollment fees or premiums due during that period.

"This is similar to civilian plans, where changes outside the annual enrollment window are only allowed after certain life events," said Ken Canestrini, acting director, TRICARE Health Plan. "This allows families to reevaluate health plan options and make any changes to have the health plan option that best meets their situation."

If one member in a sponsor's family experiences a QLE, all eligible family members may change their enrollment status during the QLE period.

This is one of several enrollment changes you'll hear more about throughout the year. Learn more about upcoming [TRICARE changes](#) and take command of your health care.

## Arlington National Cemetery Eligibility Survey



The leadership of Arlington National Cemetery has launched a second survey that is asking for everyone's thoughts on an important issue - the future of Arlington National Cemetery.

The survey is now available [here](#).

The Congressional Commission considering the future of Arlington thanks all who completed the initial survey. This follow up will provide more detailed information on specific issues so the Commission can make informed decisions on the future of this hallowed ground. The goal is to preserve ANC as an active cemetery for generations to come.

The survey can be shared and/or accessed on the cemetery's website at: [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility-survey](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility-survey).

## The Military Chaplains Magazine 2018 Themes and Submission Deadlines

### **Spring Issue** - *The Intersection of Spiritual and Psychological Care*

Articles to be submitted by April 30

Publication May 21

### **Summer Issue** - *Chaplains and World War 1*

Articles to be submitted by June 30

Publication July 23

### **Fall Issue** - *Religious Accommodation in 2018*

Articles to be submitted by September 30  
Publication September 24

**Winter Issue - Chaplaincy and Religion in a Post-Truth World**

Articles to be submitted by November 30  
Publication December 21

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If you missed the April 18th edition of the Newsgram [click here](#)

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