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

Weekly Newsgram - May 31st, 2017



Memorial Day **Arlington Cemetery 2017**

The nation gathered in many locations on Monday, to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The MCA was honored to be included in the parade of colors as part of the service in Arlington.

The President, Vice President, Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs, other cabinet secretaries, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were all in attendance.

Defense Secretary James Mattis reminded all present the ground on which we stood was not what makes this place special; rather this place is dignified by the lives of the fallen who rest in these rolling hills. He then referenced Agesilaus, King of Sparta, who

was seated on a backbench at a public event and said: "It's not the places that grace men, but men who grace the places."

This was a day to remember and tell the stories of men and women who paid for our freedom with their lives. "We must tell their stories so that our children and grandchildren will understand what our lives might have been like had it not been for their sacrifice." George H.W. Bush
Memorial Day, 1992

Lyman Smith
Executive Director



Chaplains Josephine Pinkney and Andrea King bear our colors



Welcome New Members

Chaplain Michael J. Monroig

LT, CHC, USN
Seventh Day Adventist
Chesapeake, VA

Chaplain Drew S. McGinley

1LT, USARNG
Assemblies of God
Forks, WA

FY 17 Senior Army National Guard Chaplain Section Sustainment Training

Senior Chaplains, Religious Affairs NCOs, and Chaplains Assistants all gathered at the National Guard Professional Education Center located on Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, AR this past week for their annual sustainment training. The topic was Chaplaincy 5.0: Future of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps. Speakers ranged from the Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (BG) Thomas Solhjem, to the the Rev. John Slye, Jr., Pastor of [Grace Community Church](#) in Arlington, VA.

52 of 54 State, Territory, and District units were represented by both members of the Army and Air Force Guard units. Several active component chaplains were also in attendance to include the Chaplain, U.S. Pacific Command, who joined the gathering to be part of a discussion on the State Partnership Program.

Chaplain Solhjem emphasized to the gathering the importance of "The 51%". More religious

support teams are located in the combined Reserve and National Guard than in the active component. Each member of these teams is a critical asset to religious ministry within our uniformed services. Chaplain Solhjem commended the members present for their dedication and challenged them to be ready at all times.

Pastor Slye is the pastor of "a church for people who don't go to church". His focus was on ministry to millennials. He shared from his own experience in founding the church he serves in an old VFW Hall to now pastoring a church with more than a dozen people on staff, most of whom are millennials. Many practical examples were presented of how the church can maintain its message and witness and incorporate a different sense to accommodate the needs and desires of this generation. As one example, looking at the Grace Facebook page - individuals are encouraged to come to church this Sunday, June 4th, dressed as their favorite Star Wars character.

As many of us come from careers as active component chaplains, we should always be impressed and thankful for the religious ministry professionals who serve in the Guard and Reserve components. These women and men dedicate themselves to long hours, exhausting schedules, and disruptions of family plans and careers to serve in our nation's armed forces. Their dedication and professionalism is an inspiration and a cause for thanksgiving.

A special shout out to Chaplain (BG) K, Edward (Ed) Brandt, USARNG, (MCA Life Member) and his team for their outstanding efforts.

'Grunt Padre' could be patron saint of Memorial Day

[from Crux by Mark Zimmerman](#)

At the end of the Military Archdiocese's 23rd annual Memorial Day Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Archbishop Timothy Broglio formally closed the archdiocesan phase of the cause of canonization for Father Vincent Capodanno, a Maryknoll priest and Navy chaplain killed during a fierce battle in Vietnam almost 50 years ago, on Sept. 4, 1967 at the age of 38. Now the cause goes on to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.



Capodanno's [biography](#) on the website of the Archdiocese for the Military Services describes his ministry: "He became a constant companion to the Marines: living, eating and sleeping in the same conditions of the men. He established libraries, gathered and distributed gifts and organized outreach programs for the local villagers. He spent hours reassuring the weary and disillusioned, consoling the grieving, hearing Confessions, instructing converts and distributing St. Christopher medals."

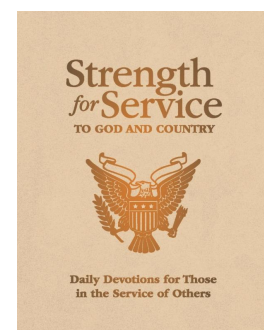
The military archbishop said Capodanno offers a role model not just for chaplains and those serving in the military, but for other Catholics to emulate. The cause for canonization, he said, means "this figure is worthy of imitation. This is not a Bronze Star. It's for us (that) we're doing this."

"I think Father Capodanno, in terms of virtues, he teaches us fidelity," Broglio said. "He teaches us perseverance. He teaches us immense charity, not only on the battlefield, but in the hundreds of little things he did for his Marines."

Strength for Service To God and Country

*You Are Invited To Write a Devotional for
Military Members*

* The United Methodist Publishing House is looking for 100 current or former military chaplains to write a devotional for a revised Strength for



Service devotional book!

- * This opportunity for anyone who has served or is serving as a Christian military chaplain
- * Devotionals are written to the service member from you using the Bible and your experiences

Email Dr. Ron and Marsha Harvell for information and a sample at:

StrengthforService@gmail.com

Annual MCA Awards and National Executive Committee Members

Please make your nominations now for our Annual Awards and NEC.

Each year we present three awards to deserving individuals who represent the values and principles we embrace and advance as an organization. The three are:

The National Citizenship Award - presented to an individual or individuals who make a significant contribution in public service and who support the values and needs of our nation's military members and their families.

The G, William Dando Volunteer Service Award - Our award for volunteer service is named for Chaplain Dando and honors one of our members who exemplifies a life long commitment to sacrificial service.

The David E. White Leadership Award - Presented by the Military Officers Association of America to a chaplain with a lifetime commitment and vision for Joint service, inter-agency collaboration, and overall ministry professionalism.

We also elect **four new members to our NEC** each year seeking to have all segments of our membership represented on our governing board.

Please send your nominations and supporting reasons to chaplains@mca-usa.org. Nominations will be received through June 30. Thank you.

Religion and Spirituality: The Impact on Chaplains

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

MCA Chapter Event

South Carolina Chapter

June 2017 Meeting

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

Speaker: Tim Wiles ([bio attached](#))



Critical Incident Stress Recovery

Luncheon Meeting
Tuesday, June 13th, at 1145
NCO Club, Lee Road, Fort Jackson, SC

Affirmative RSVP Only - 803-751-7316

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 May 24th edition of the Newsgram [click here](#)

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

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