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

Weekly Newsgram - February 14th 2018

Making a Difference

**Chaplain strangers
reunited after 16
years**



PBS Series "We'll Meet Again" - watch clips and episodes [here](#)

following condensed from the [Military Times](#)

On Sept. 11, 2001, a brief encounter between two chaplains stuck with them forever. Sixteen years later, they were finally reunited as part of a PBS series airing Tuesday night. Then-Army Capt. Timothy Mallard, now a colonel, and then-Coast Guard Cmdr. Doug Waite, now a retired Navy captain, were called to the Pentagon after one of the hijacked planes crashed into the building near Washington, D.C.

The two chaplains had never met - Mallard was assigned to the Pentagon as an intern, and Waite was stationed at the former Coast Guard headquarters at Buzzard Point in D.C. Neither one was at work when the attack unfolded, but they rushed to the scene.

"In my own mind, I think of it as a combat site," Mallard told Military Times, adding that it was an active incident site for about three weeks.

Everyone took turns working day shifts and night shifts. During one of Mallard's shifts, someone from the Federal Emergency Management Agency team ran into the chaplain tent and told Mallard they needed him.

He went out to find a search-and-rescue team who wouldn't go back into the building until Mallard talked to them.

"You talk about feeling overwhelmed and inadequate," he said. "I was trying to get them to

share their experiences and concerns and fears, but there was still a point where I felt like I just wasn't connecting."

Mallard had a Bible in his pocket and started reading through Psalm 23. "When I got to the point in that psalm where David says walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I looked to my right at the building. There was just this black gaping hole," he said. He finished the psalm, and the group locked arms and prayed.

"They said, 'OK chaplain, now we're ready.' "

Mallard went back to the chaplain tent, where he said his grief overwhelmed him. "I went in the corner and just fell down crying and weeping," he said. Mallard didn't know it, but Waite was also in the tent.

"I put my arm around him, let him cry, held him," Waite said, adding that he tried to remind Mallard that the Lord was going to take care of them and help them get through this. "He seemed to be better."

"I remember so much of his radiant presence and kindness," Mallard said. "He ministered to me and said a quick prayer for me, and that allowed me to go back out."

The two chaplains wouldn't see each other again for 16 years.

The producers tracked down Mallard and reunited the chaplains in November at the site of the 9/11 attacks in New York City, in a church near Ground Zero that hadn't been destroyed.

"You're kind of nervous and anxious and yet you want to move forward," Mallard said of seeing Waite for the first time in 16 years. "But I saw his face, and I thought, 'Oh my God, that's the face I remember.' All those years ago in the dark, just smiling at me." Mallard said it was a real blessing to connect with Waite and thank him.

"I never had the opportunity to do that, and that was important," Mallard said. Waite said he was happy to find out Mallard was assigned to the Army's Chaplain Corps at the Pentagon.

"You just don't know when you reach out to somebody who's in distress the impact that's going to have on them," he said.

[read more](#)

Lyman Smith
Director of Communications



In Memoriam

Annette Hawkins Balnicky

Commander, USN, Retired

born November 2, 1938
deceased January 25, 2018
wife of Chaplain Robert Balnicky
MCA Life Member
St. Petersburg, Florida

How the Military Chaplaincy Shaped Religion and State in Modern America

A Reflection during Black History Month

During a lecture at Washington University in St. Louis on "Pride and Prejudice: African American Chaplains at War", Dr. Ronit Stahl talked about chaplains during World War I and how they helped to integrate the Army through Religion.



Dr. Ronit Stahl

"There was a chaplain school where all the African-American and Caucasian chaplains had to go together instead of having a segregated school. The number of chaplains started to grow and more of them were African-American" she said.

In 1973, the military opened to having woman chaplains and Chaplain Alice M. Henderson of the African Methodist Episcopal church was the first African-American woman. Chaplain Matthew A. Zimmerman was the first to serve chief of chaplain.

"The theme of African Americans at war is really important because African-Americans have served the nation in so many different ways for so long and so many under recognized ways," Stahl said.

Stahl just wrote a book called "[Enlisting Faith: How the Military Chaplaincy Shaped Religion and State in Modern America](#)," which took her about 10 years to write. It talks about religious pluralism in the military through the twentieth century.

She has been giving lectures about topics in relation to her book since it came out. According to Stahl's website, The Wall Street Journal says, "Enlisting Faith" deserves to be read by anyone interested in an underexplored aspect of the intersection of religion and the state or, even more, in the stories of those who honorably served them both.

"The military has been an engine for change in American society, so seeing how change happened in that space tells us something about America but also about the possibility for change in other spaces," Stahl said.

Dr. Stahl is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and was a postdoctoral research associate at Washington University in St. Louis.

[Help is here for people with severe disabilities struggling with student loans](#)



Due to a recent change in federal law, borrowers whose student loans are forgiven on or after Jan. 1, 2018, due to "death or total and permanent disability" no longer have to pay federal income taxes on those forgiven loans.

Now, when the Department of Education or a private lender forgives a student loan due to a borrower's death or disability, the amount of forgiven debt no longer counts as income and does not cause a borrower's federal taxes to go up. Prior to this change some borrowers with disabilities faced financial distress driven by a tax bill because they qualified for debt relief. A Catch-22.

Example

If a disabled veteran has \$20,000 of student loans forgiven, that veteran will no longer be hit with thousands of dollars in additional federal taxes.

Know a servicemember or a veteran with questions about credit cards, auto loans, or debt collection? The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau provides help for servicemembers, veterans, and military families at every stage of their military career and beyond. See their [guides for navigating financial challenges](#).

Women's Military Chaplain Training May 29-31 2018

The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces and the Military Chaplains Association are co-sponsoring the Women's Military Chaplain Training on May 29-31, 2018 at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, Marriottsville, Maryland. The focus of the training is Connect, Cultivate and Contextualize. Women serving as military chaplains in all components and all services are invited to attend. Unfortunately, chaplain candidates are not able to attend.



Those attending the training will increase networking skills, resilience and pastoral identity while decreasing isolation. Chaplain (Major General-Retired) Lorraine Potter, first woman Chief of Chaplains for the Air Force, will be the keynote speaker. She will address how to cultivate a network while increasing resilience. Chaplain Potter will also share her story as the first female Chief of Chaplains of the Air Force and provide mentorship and modeling for those in attendance.

Registration is open through April 16th. Cost is \$150 per participant. This will cover all meals and lodging.

The Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center is at 1525 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104, rccbbonsecours.com 410.442.3120. Each room is a single room with a private bath providing toiletries and towels. The closest airport, the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), 7035 Elm Road, Baltimore, MD 21240, is 22 miles away.

All meals will be served in the dining room and two hospitality rooms will provide fresh fruit and beverages 24 hours a day. If you have special dietary needs, please fill out the appropriate form available at on-line [registration](#).

More information is available at NCMAF.net

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