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

Weekly Newsgram - December 19th 2018

**Navy Chief
of Chaplains
promoted to
Rear Admiral
(Upper Half)**



from the Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains

I'm writing to share with you the good news that our Chief of Chaplains has been promoted to Rear Admiral (Upper Half). Having been confirmed by the Senate on Tuesday, Friday morning, the 14th of December, Chaplain Scott was promoted by the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Richard Spencer. As RADM Scott noted during his promotion, this is really about our Chaplain Corps and the high esteem it has in the Department of the Navy. It is no small thing that our service secretary himself took the time to honor us by presiding over RADM Scott's promotion. We are grateful for Chaplain Scott's leadership and the support of SECNAV.

Please share this good news with all RMTs and leaders in your domain, and offer a prayer of thanks to the Almighty for the ministry we've been graciously called to.

Blessings on your weekend and your holiday celebration!

R/GNT

Gregory Neil Todd
RDML, Chaplain Corps, USN

Congratulations Chaplain Scott - MCA Life Member

In Memoriam



Chaplain Edward Francis Boucher

United States Navy, Retired
born April 4, 1934
deceased November 22, 2018
Roman Catholic
Muskegon, Michigan

Chaplain Patrick J. Kelly

United State Navy, Retired
born April 3, 1924
deceased December 6, 2018
Roman Catholic
Military Chaplains Association Member 1967
West Roxbury, Massachusetts

**Executive Director
Notes**

Like many of you, this past weekend I had the opportunity to participate in a [Wreaths Across America](#) ceremony, in my hometown of Memphis, at the Memphis National Cemetery. I occasionally - and wryly- refer to this as my annual Memphis family reunion,



as my Dad and Mother, Grandfather and Grandmother and one uncle are buried there. Another uncle has his memorial marker located at the cemetery.

For those of you who are not familiar with Wreaths Across America, it began with Merrill Worcester of Maine donating excess wreaths from his company, Worcester Wreaths, to decorate an older section of Arlington National Cemetery, which had over the years seen a decrease of visitors. Mr. Worcester chose ANC as he had visited it as a young child - he never forgot that visit. Over the years, that first donation, facilitated by Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, has grown not only at ANC, but nationwide. This year, for the first time, internationally with the American Battlefield Monuments Commission (ABMC) cemetery at Normandy.

The eventual goal is to have a wreath at each veteran's grave site, regardless of location. Having helped coordinate the cemetery at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, participation in the program, and now having attended the WAA ceremony in Memphis for the fourth year, I can certainly state that this is one of the more meaningful events I take part in each year. If you would like any additional information about the program, you can find it at their website, wreathsacrossamerica.org.

And as I look at the calendar, I am well aware that many of us will be in a car, train or plane over the next few days for holiday gatherings. I wish each of you a safe trip, and a rewarding time with family and friends.

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Naval Chaplaincy School and Center Graduates Last Chaplain Class at Fort Jackson

by Cmdr. Leroy C. Young, Naval Chaplaincy School and Center Public Affairs



FORT JACKSON, S.C. -- The Naval Chaplaincy School and Center (NCSC) conducted its final Basic Leadership Course (BLC) graduation at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Dec. 13, before its relocation to Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island.

NCSC moved to Fort Jackson as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, consolidating both chaplains and religious program specialists (RP) training at the same location. Since then, NCSC has evolved into a headquarters that develops and delivers religious ministry training to achieve fleet readiness both in traditional classrooms settings and through mobile training teams at 12 worldwide locations.

"Each BLC class is enhanced and improved upon the last, and I have a tremendous sense of gratitude to those classes that preceded us here at Fort Jackson and laid the foundation for our success," said Lt. j.g. Bradley Lawrence, a Roman Catholic priest assigned to Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan.

The 21 BLC graduates were grateful for their experience at Fort Jackson, in particular, the comprehensive training and the expertise of the instructors.

"My experience at Fort Jackson was invaluable," said Lt. j.g. Brandon Kenyon, a Southern Baptist chaplain assigned to Naval Base Ventura County, California. "To be the last class at Fort Jackson means we get to take part in not only the end of something great, but the beginning of the future in the Navy Chaplain Corps."

Senior officials believe that the move to Rhode Island will benefit NCSC through closer ties with all the other naval training commands at Newport.

"Newport is in the midst of a Navy culture," said Rear Adm. Brent Scott, chief of Navy chaplains. "When you are training new chaplains and you are orienting them to the sea services, the culture matters. Every service has its own cultural language and tradition."

RP "A" School will convene at Naval Air Station Meridian, Mississippi through a NCSC Learning Site Meridian in February 2019. All chaplain training courses, along with the mid-level RP Managers course, will return to its former home at Naval Station Newport with the first class convening in March 2019. These relocations will enable new officer and enlisted personnel to develop as leaders and Sailors alongside their Navy counterparts.

"Fort Jackson has been a wonderful place for us to take the next steps as Navy chaplains," said Lt. j.g. Chandler Whitman, Episcopal priest assigned to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73). "While we are excited for the move to Newport, we are thankful to have trained in South Carolina."

Chaplains and RPs play a critical role in helping the Department of the Navy achieve and maintain a ready force. Religious ministry and compassionate pastoral care are characterized by cooperation, tolerance, mutual respect, and respect for diversity, as well as an emphasis on understanding the pluralistic military environment. Chaplains and RPs are embedded within commands operating at sea and ashore to ensure 24/7 availability for service members and their families.

For more news from the Chaplain Corps, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/crb/>.

For more information on NCSC, visit
<https://www.public.navy.mil/netc/centers/chaplain/Default.aspx>

'A Force For Inclusion,' **Britain's Royal Air Force Gets Its First Sikh & Muslim Chaplains**



In a first for the British military, Sikh and Muslim padres have become part of the Royal Air Force's Chaplain's branch.

Ms Kaur was selected as a chaplain while studying in the UK for her doctorate in engineering and has been working towards this role since 2005, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said.

The two padres, as they are officially referred to, graduated at Royal Air Force

(RAF) College Cranwell, RAF's training and education academy, on Thursday, after completing reservist officer training.

"Padres provide spiritual and welfare support to all soldiers, sailors, airmen and women, and their families. They deploy on operations and aboard ships when they go on long deployments," the MoD said.

"Padres can also go out on patrols and live on the front line, on hand for when personnel need them," it notes.

The appointments form part of the Ministry's new diversity strategy to increase diversity and inclusion across the armed forces.

The strategy titled 'A Force for Inclusion' is aimed at ensuring that diversity and inclusion are a major part of all of the department's work, including workforce policies, culture and behaviour.

"It has been an absolute privilege to welcome our first Sikh and Muslim commissioned Chaplains into the Royal Air Force and I look forward immensely to working with them into the future," said John Ellis, RAF Chaplain-In-Chief, the Venerable (Air-Vice Marshal).

"My role in the RAF as a flagbearer of the Muslim Chaplaincy will see me work with the RAF Chaplaincy branch to negotiate and establish the place of World Faith Chaplaincy within the RAF," said Omar, who studied for his Master's degree in translation studies at Portsmouth University before completing a post-graduate course and joining RAF ranks.

"An overdue and exciting venture that will see me work side by side as a commissioned Muslim chaplain along colleagues from different faiths," he said.

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