

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 - October 11th, 2017

Less than two weeks to the National Institute

Registration Still Open!

Chaplaincy and the American Way

On October 10, 1942 the Senate elected its 56th chaplain, the Rev. Frederick Brown Harris. He followed in the footsteps of the Rev. Z.T. Phillips who had served since 1927 and passed away in May of 1942.



Chaplain Harris escorts Jean McCarthy for funeral services for her husband, Sen. Joe McCarthy 1957 (AP Photo)

Throughout the 19th century, Senate chaplains held office for only a few years. Prominent clergymen who were well connected contended for the appointment to the Senate to enhance their status in the larger cultural context. Typically, as the party controlling the Senate changed, so did the chaplain. Chaplain Phillips survived the change of party control in 1933 and served until his death.

Chaplain Harris was a prominent religious figure when elected having served at Washington's Foundry Methodist Church. Many thought he might survive the party change as did Harris. Such was not to be. When the Senate majority changed in 1947, and the Republicans gained control, the Rev. Peter Marshall was installed as the new chaplain. A Presbyterian from the South who had made a name serving in New York, Marshall was well regarded and had a national ministry through his non-profit and his writings. Marshall died suddenly from a heart attack at the age of 46, just over two years after beginning his service at the Senate.

Shocked by the sudden death of their Chaplain, Senate leaders reached out to Chaplain Harris and he returned to his former position. Harris continued to serve until his retirement in 1969.

During his service, Harris shaped the modern Senate chaplaincy more than any other. He conducted the funerals of Herbert Hoover, Robert Taft, and Douglas MacArthur. And he led the Senate in prayer when they heard the news of President Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

We sometimes think religion in general, and chaplaincy in particular, has been separated from politics in our grand American experiment. Yet, through our history the two have been intimately intertwined. Chaplain Harris did much to forge a professional chaplaincy which transcended the political divide and provided care for all. As professional chaplains, may we all seek to follow in his footsteps.

Lyman Smith
Executive Director

Read Senate Elects a chaplain, Oct. 10, 1942 from POLITICO [here](#)



In Memoriam

Chaplain Jane Bingham

Captain, CHC, USN, Retired
Joined MCA 1986
Deceased October 2, 2017
Walden, Colorado

Suicide Care, Prevention & Research Initiative

Carol Stewart and Dr. Jessica LaCroix will be in attendance during our Annual Meeting in Newport News VA from October 23-26. As researchers developing a Special Operations Force Suicide Prevention Workbook for chaplaincy, the seek chaplains, chaplain assistants, or religious program specialists who have had experiences managing suicide-related events within the SOF community.

Anyone who has been part of such a chaplain care situation is invited to meet with them for a confidential 60 minute interview to better understand the needs and challenges of care providers working with SOF service members and their families in this important area.

Please send a note to chaplains@mca-usa.org to sign up for this opportunity. Sign ups will also be available at the meeting

For more information see the attachment [here](#).

Seeking Employment?

VA Commission Established to Recommend Under Secretary for Benefits

October 10 - WASHINGTON - Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the establishment of a search commission to help identify candidates for the position of VA Under Secretary for Benefits. The Under Secretary for Benefits is the senior official within the [Veterans Benefits Administration](#) (VBA) that oversees a variety of benefits and services to Servicemembers, Veterans and their families.

Search commission candidates will be selected based on criteria governed by law along with appropriate skills, knowledge and attributes as leaders, managers and educators. The commission is a prerequisite to the President's appointment of an Under Secretary candidate, subject to Senate confirmation.

By law, the appointment is made without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability both in fiscal management and in the administration of programs of VBA or of similar content and scope.

VBA includes a network of 56 regional offices and more than 21,800 employees. Nearly four million Veterans currently receive compensation for disabilities incurred in service or pensions for wartime Veterans who become totally disabled in civilian life. In addition, more than half a million widows, children and parents of deceased Veterans are paid survivor compensation or death pensions.

Other programs administered by the Under Secretary for Benefits include: education benefits, vocational rehabilitation and employment for Veterans, and life insurance, as well as VA guaranteed home loans for both active-duty personnel and Veterans.

The commission, once named, is expected to complete its work by December 1.

To apply for this job, go to <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/481447500>

Religion and Spirituality: The Impact on Chaplains

**Registration Now Open
Sign Up Here**

Complete Schedule



MCA National Institute 2017

October 23 - 26, 2017

[Newport News Marriott at City Center](#)

Newport News, Virginia

Please Note: Our room block has expired. Rooms are still available at the hotel. If you qualify, use the military rate. This is within a few dollars of the room block rate.

Register for your room on line

or call
866-329-1758

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 October 4th 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:

