

**MCA** 

THE MILITARY CHAPLAINS  
ASSOCIATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# The Military Chaplain

November-December 2005

Volume LXXVIII Number 6

*1948 Stamp honoring the  
Four Immortal Chaplains*



*Posthumous Special Medal for  
Heroism - 18 January 1961*



George L. Fox  
Methodist

Alexander D. Goode  
Jewish

Clark V. Poling  
Dutch Reformed

John P. Washington  
Roman Catholic

## Chaplains Cooperating for Ministry



*Pentagon  
Chapel  
Window*

## IN MEMORIAM

Thomas F. Currier, USA, Ret, Mason City, IA  
Paul E. Sever, USA, Ret, Brooksville, FL  
Arthur F. Wright, USA, Ret, Kailua-Kona, HI  
Haywood K. Cross, USA, Ret, Arnold, CA

## NEW MEMBERS

Vernon W. Gillenwater, CAP, Act,  
Powder Springs, GA  
James T. Mucha, USN, Act, Aiea, HI  
Darrell A. Neves, USA, Ret, Okemos, MI  
James B. Purdy, CAP, Act, Tucson, AZ  
Eusebia D. Rios, USAF, Act, San Antonio, TX  
Kraig A. Smith, CAP, Act, California, MD  
Victor H. Smith, USN, Ret, Williamsburg, VA

## RE-ACTIVATED MEMBER

Robert L. Morris, Jr., USA, Ret, The Villages, FL

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Walter E. "Walt" East, USN, Act, Seaford, VA  
Albert Franke, USA, Act, Fort Drum, NY  
William Sean Lee, ARNG, Act, Abingdon, MD  
Elden H. Luffmann, USN, Ret, Ocala, FL  
Carroll Starling, USN, Ret, Virginia Beach, VA  
Paul Sweedlow, VA, Act, Northport, NY  
Edward H. Whitford, CAP, Act, Tecate, CA

## NEW ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERS

Bruce G. Kittleson, Virginia Beach, VA  
President, Olive Branch International  
Richard J. Spady, USAF, Ret, Seattle, WA  
President, Forum Foundation



### NATIONAL OFFICERS

John B. Murdoch, CAP  
President - 2006

James T. Spivey, USA  
Vice President - 2006

Kenneth R. Colton, USAF  
Secretary - 2006

Edward T. Brogan, USAF  
Treasurer - 2006

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

C. Ronald Phelps, VA - 2006  
Jack R. Klugh, VA - 2007  
Gaylord T. Gunhus, USA - 2008  
Thomas K. Chadwick, USN - 2008

### TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

George F. Kelly, VA/CAP  
Thomas B. Webber, USN

### TRUSTEES

Michael L. McCoy, VA - 2006  
Edward J. Kelley, USN - 2007  
Grover G. DeVault, USA - 2008

### PAST PRESIDENT

Edward J. Kelley, USN  
2002-2004

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gary R. Pollitt, USN

### ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

George E. Dobes, USN

### NATIONAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 7056  
Arlington, VA 22207-7056

**NEW** Phone and Fax  
703-533-5890

[chaplains@mca-usa.org](mailto:chaplains@mca-usa.org) or  
[www.mca-usa.org](http://www.mca-usa.org)

## SPECIAL LIFE MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

William F. Bateman, Pleasant Hill, TN  
Leon Bell, Jr., Lumberton, NJ  
Robert E. Bergeron, Framingham, MA  
John K. Bontrager, Chula Vista, CA  
William E. Calbert, Washington, DC  
Newton V. Cole, Houston, TX  
William David Cooper, Bolivar, TN  
John L. Daniel, Allentown, PA  
Franklin D. Daniels, Falcon, NC  
James H. Erickson, Chicago, IL  
Douglas C. Hall, Oklahoma City, OK  
Michael D. Halley, Suffolk, VA  
Donald J. Harlin, Albuquerque, NM  
George E. Harris, Farmington, CT  
Bruce C. Herrstrom, Sioux Falls, SD  
George E. Hoop, San Antonio, TX  
Charles D. Kemp, Lakeland, FL  
Abram G. Kurtz, Newville, PA  
Warren G. Martens, Burton, WV  
Chester W. Ross, Goodland, KS  
Dale M. Sawyer, Hillsboro, OR  
Stan Scott, Heath, TX  
John W. Simons, Pittsboro, NC  
David E. Spradling, Scottsdale, AZ  
Eldon R. Smith, Louisville, KY  
John R. Thomas, Madison, WI  
William E. Thompson, Jr.,  
Los Alamitos, CA  
Gary J. Ziccardi, Goldsboro, NC  
John B. White, Arlington, TX

Thank You  
for your commitment  
to sustain MCA ministry!

*Membership and Contribution data  
as of 31 October 2005*

**Magazine Designed by:**  
Polcari Design Group, Bethesda, MD

**Printed by:**  
Kirby Lithographic, Arlington, VA

## National President



Greetings to all MCA Members and Friends!

As this issue of the Military Chaplain is beginning to arrive in your mailboxes, the "Holiday Season" is also arriving. Two of these holidays are devoted to military service. The United States Marine Corps celebrates its 230th birthday on November 10. "Veterans Day" follows on November 11. We pause to offer grateful prayers and respectful salutes to all who have served and are serving our Nation.

A series of holidays and Holy Days follow. Some have profound religious significance for various traditions. Others are much more secular in focus – at least as currently observed in American culture.

This year the holidays are framed in natural disasters and a continuing war on terrorism. Many from our ranks have been involved in both. Take time to spiritually recharge yourself as you move into holiday ministry.

As "spiritual first responders," our prophetic voice calls for us to look ahead. While we are planning to celebrate, remember those who will not. Our pastoral voice brings ministry of compassion and comfort to them. Our professional voice challenges us to frame our ministries well during this season rather than in haste because we too are so busy.

In Psalm 73:28, Asaph says "But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works." Drink deeply from the well that God has provided, and seek to touch others in this season with that same life-giving Water.

The MCA leadership team extends to you the warmest of holiday greetings. May the peace of God richly dwell in all of your homes, ministries, and holidays!



## Word from Hurricane Zones

On your behalf, we sent notes to all life and regular members currently known to reside in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Following are excerpts of messages sent back.

*October 17. Thank you for the personal note. We appreciate your concern. My wife, Lela, and I evacuated to our daughter's home in Pensacola two days before Katrina hit and we stayed there almost two weeks.... We are doing fine. Just need more patience as we await information from the insurance company and try to find a roofer.*

*October 25. I think I do have a roofer. I had been talking with one and he called me last Saturday and said that they had the materials for the roofs... I finally got the claim response from USAA insurance for the house and garage... Over all, I think we got off better than most people. My next door next door neighbor on the west is living in a trailer that is parked in his driveway. My neighbor on the east has the garage of the house across our street in the front yard.*

Del Gremmels, Biloxi, Mississippi  
Army, Ret / MCA Member 1967, Life Member 1986

---

*Thanks for the note. It was interesting dealing with KatrinaRita personnel - people who ran from major hurricanes twice in just a couple of weeks and were doubly displaced. So many had no idea where family members might be.*

*We opened the Trinity Shelter in the parish hall at 2000 Thursday, 22 September. We closed it at 1445 Wednesday, 12 October... Some of this reminded me of the Midwest Floods of 1993, when I was in Marshall, Missouri and was on CAP duty throughout the entire 44 days. Many similarities and many differences.*

*The U.S. is full of warm-hearted, helpful people. We in the Episcopal Church have been concerned for some time about making the Church a safe place for people. For a troubled time in at least one place, that came about!*

Richmond F. Thweatt III, DeRidder, Louisiana  
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church  
CAP, Act / MCA Member 1994

## From the Editor

*Have you heard about the Four Chaplains?  
Which four chaplains is that?  
The Four Chaplains of the U.S.A.T. Dorchester.  
Sorry Dad, don't know anything about them.  
Well you need to find out.*

This exchange with my father took place soon after announcing plans to resign from my first pastorate and enter the Navy Chaplain Corps. My parents were adolescents during World War II. In all the war news, the now legendary sacrifice of the Dorchester Chaplains became widely known. Years later, my parents remembered "The Four Chaplains." They saw their heroic behavior as the highest ideal for all military chaplains.

At Navy Chaplain Basic in Newport, I learned about "The Four Chaplains" and the chapel dedicated to their ministry and memory. Their story became a benchmark for my own evolving outlook about cooperation between chaplains from different faith groups. This doesn't mean that I thought about the Dorchester Chaplains every day. It does mean that they were an integral part of a tradition that I also observed in many senior chaplains around me.

Last issue of *The Military Chaplain* we launched the theme "Chaplains for Life." Now we emphasize another crucial concept: "Chaplains Cooperating for Ministry." You will see these two themes play together throughout this and future issues.

"Chaplains Cooperating for Ministry" conveys one of the sober duties and enduring joys that we embrace in our ministry specialty. Cooperation for the sake of those we are called to serve does not appear to become a finished product. Rather, it seems more like a continuously developing art. Certainly the complex religious environment within the uniformed services today poses new challenges for that art.

Please note! Some present and future articles on this second theme may touch on sensitive subjects. This is certainly true when discussion of ministry cooperation involves various views of religious accommodation and ministry integrity. Risky for our quiet little publication? Maybe. We do represent wide and diverse perspectives across the entire MCA membership.

Of course - potentially controversial discourse among religious leaders probably fares better with accurate writing, thoughtful reading, respectful listening, and mature sharing. Hard work? Yes! Even so, compared to the Dorchester Chaplains, this calls for a lesser sacrifice.

A few Sundays back, George Dobes and I ventured up to Emmitsburg, MD for the annual Sea Services Pilgrimage at Seton Shrine. Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde, Roman Catholic Bishop of Arlington, VA presided. He expounded Matthew 21:33-43. Here is an excerpt:

*Remember: the vineyard is a symbol or image. God's vineyard is not land but one much more precious and valuable – people and life itself. The portion of the vineyard God asks us to care for differs for each of us according to our age or vocation. But the Lord does ask us to be concerned and involved and to bring forth good grapes, good results, "fruit worthy of Him and the people entrusted to us."*

Bishop Loverde spoke many more words that nudged the old comfort zone. But I surely did get the point about my particular corner of God's Vineyard and the necessity to keep working it.

How about it members and friends? Let's talk. Let's risk. Let's grow. Perhaps we will discover something altogether new and wonderful about serving all those that we are called to serve.

*Gary R. Pollitt*



*Bishop Loverde and Chaplain Pollitt  
at Seton Shrine reception.*

## Welcome Aboard!

LCDR Chaplain Thomas B. Webber, CHC, USN was recently appointed to fill an empty slot on the National Executive Committee until our next annual meeting in April 2006. Chaplain Webber received initial pastoral training at Grand Rapids Theological School and is endorsed by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

Prior to entering the Navy, Tom ministered as a civilian pastor for fourteen years, primarily in the Midwest and Western regions of the country. During this time, he developed a ministry specialty for aiding wounded or deeply discouraged congregations.

Chaplain Webber has served a wide variety of Navy operational assignments from Destroyer Squadron Six and USS Trenton (LPD 14) to an eight-month deployment with First Marine Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom. There he gave pastoral care in both settings of war and nation building. Ministry with the Marines focused on comfort, encouragement, and character development. Ministry to the Iraqi people included working with schools and leaders (civic, religious and tribal) as well as protecting archeological treasures.

Chaplain Webber completed a Navy-sponsored Th.M. program in Ethics at Emory University. He holds a D.Min. in Homiletics from Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary. Tom recently returned from a six-month unaccompanied tour at the US Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan. He now serves as a research fellow at the US Naval Academy Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics.

Tom enjoys most sports, but especially golfing, hunting, fishing and martial arts. As a third-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, he started Cornerstone Martial Arts College in Virginia Beach. Tom holds a world record for breaking 491 boards in 60 seconds.

Tom and Karen have been married for 26 years and have two children Hannah and Micah.



Chaplain Thomas B. Webber  
MCA Life Member

### CONGRATULATIONS CHAPLAIN CANDIDATE 2005-2006 SCHOLARSHIPS

Michael A. Carollo, Air Force  
Emmanuel School of Religion

Kendall W. Taylor, Navy  
Asbury Seminary

Mark S. Valigorsky, Army  
Lutheran Theological Seminary of  
Philadelphia

Jessica B. Ward, Air Force  
Denver Seminary

*Look for biographies and photos of the  
presentations in our next issue*

**Keep your subscription to *The Military Chaplain* current. Renew your annual dues by 31 December 2005.**

## The Gift

Ron Phelps, Chair of our MCA Nominating Committee, provides insight on ministry cooperation. The context is a chaplain from one tradition keeping the integrity of ministerial call and identity in meetings with chaplains of other traditions.



The saga of the Four Chaplains of the USAT Dorchester has become a hallmark of modern day chaplaincy. Four clergymen serving as chaplains in World War II gave away their lives preservers and died enabling four others to live. As heroic and important as that part of the Four Chaplain's story is, it is "the rest of the story" that makes their gift foundational in chaplaincy.

That gift is the demonstration of pluralism in action. In a period of history when interfaith relationships were generally discouraged and often forbidden, these four men of God found genuine and deep respect for each other and the faith tradition each represented. As they lived and ministered mutually, they also died arm in arm with a common prayer and song. Their mantle is now the MCA mantle we embody as "The Voice of Chaplaincy."

Unfortunately, in some circles, the history of religious isolation and disrespect of other faith traditions continues. Perhaps some attitudes that contributed to recent Air Force Academy issues may have been rooted in this age old problem.

In 1986, when the Veterans Administration (now The Department of Veterans Affairs) decided to open a National VA Chaplain School, I was selected as the Director. I was told that my interfaith relationships were one of the important factors in my selection. I regularly briefed our endorsing community (ECVAC members) about our curriculum and strong focus on pluralism and religious accommodation.

One endorser, in particular, kept saying that he just didn't understand my focus. On one occasion when we were hosting a major ECVAC conference, I was asked again to address pluralism, religious accommodation, and constitutional issues. At the close of the presentation this endorser said, "Now I understand where you are coming from."

Within months of that meeting, I was invited to be the luncheon speaker at ECVAC's annual fall meeting. This endorser was invited to offer grace before the meal. As he came to the lectern he said,

*My dear friends and colleagues, I must always be true to who I am. But, I must also be true to my friendship and acceptance of you my dear*

*friends and colleagues, and so as I pray in the tradition of who I am I ask for your understanding and acceptance.*

In the presence of two Jewish and one Islamic clergy among the group, he offered a traditional Christian prayer and ended it "in Jesus name."

My reaction was, "He really did get it". No one, I am sure, felt that he was imposing his tradition, or ignoring the tradition of others. Sensitivity to and acceptance of other religious traditions is the cornerstone of the foundation that the Dorchester Chaplains built.

Chaplain C. Ronald Phelps  
Veterans Affairs / MCA Life Member



C. Ronald Phelps exemplifies the "Chaplain for Life" who treasures the notion of "cooperating for ministry." Since ordination at First Baptist Church, Lingleville, TX in 1959, Ron has served pastoral roles with three churches, the Allen Park VA Medical Center, and the Plymouth City Fire Department. He filled three supervisory billets with the VA. Ron also served Wayne County as Director of Pastoral Care in the Child Care Center and Director of Probation for the District Court.

Ron graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a BD in 1961 and M.Div 1973. He has extensive background in Clinical Pastoral Education including service as Field Education Supervisor, St. Johns Provincial Seminary, Plymouth, MI from 1979-1986. Among a lengthy list of awards and honors, Ron received the MCA Distinguished Service Award in 1991. Since "retirement" from the VA in 1997, he voluntarily stands watches as a Human Studies Committee member or an Ethics Consultant with Sentara Hospital and Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Ron loves music and sailing. He is currently involved with a sail yacht racing crew and quite handy with a wrench. Ron has been a member of Hampton Baptist Church since 1987. Ron and Audrey were married in 1955. They currently reside in Hampton, Virginia.



## American Cadet Alliance Answers Call

The Commander of the 19th Brigade (Volunteer Coordination Detachment) Texas State Guard requested help from the American Cadet Alliance during Hurricane Katrina. The ACA mission was to assist with in-processing, physical screening and oversight of the Katrina survivors who sought refuge in five east Texas locations.

ACA National Chaplain, Lt. Col. J. Delano Ellis II, CAP deployed to Texas with Cadets and Staff. In addition to ministry with his troops, Chaplain Ellis ended up preventing two rapes. According to ACA National Commander J.J. Land, the Texas State Guard has nominated Chaplain Ellis to receive a personal decoration in recognition of exceptional ministry.

Chaplain Ellis is the Senior Bishop of the United Pentecostal Churches of Christ, having previously served as the Presiding Bishop for more than 15 years. He is also the Superintendent of Chaplains for East Cleveland Safety Forces, Chaplain for the City of Cleveland, Bishop of the First Episcopal Diocese for the Church and President of the Joint College of African-American Pentecostal Bishops. He developed a non-paid professional ministry as a Cleveland Police Department Chaplain. Chaplain Ellis is an MCA member who served on our National Executive Committee.

The American Cadet Alliance, Inc. (ACA), United States Military Cadet Corps was founded in 1909. It holds distinction as the oldest and longest-serving Cadet organization in the United States. The ACA has Army, Marine, and Naval Cadet Brigades. The program is managed and operated by non-paid professional officers.

ACA's mission is: "To instill in young Americans, through a multi-faceted cadet program which is physically and mentally challenging and rewarding, the importance of national pride, service to others, and maintaining a drug-free and gang-free lifestyle."

Youth age twelve and older or those currently in the sixth grade are eligible for participation. For more go to [www.militarycadets.org](http://www.militarycadets.org).

### The Military Chaplain



*Cadet Corporal Daniel Williamson, USACC, Military Cadets of Greensboro NC at the communications station, Texas National Guard Armory, Kilgore, TX.*



*SGM Ray Schnabel, USACC, Military Science Instructor, Military Cadets of Tampa Bay, FL assists with screening and check-in of Katrina survivors.*



*Chaplain Ellis invoking God's blessing for the people and the mission.*

Several issues back, we presented the superb efforts of the Military Chaplains Fellowship in Marion County, Florida. They have worked in partnership with the local Military Officer's Association of America chapter to fill an enormous void. Every quarter they hold a service at the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park. They have now held nine services honoring 2067 deceased Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and WW2 Merchant Marine veterans.



*Top: VFW Commanders prepare to read their lists of the deceased.*

*Bottom: Chaplain Pollitt with Pam Styx, WAC Veteran's Association National Officer*

**First Call** Les Muncaster  
Director, Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band

**Invocation** Chaplain Edward Shoupe  
LtCol, US Air Force, Retired

**Posting of the National Colors** Honor Guard  
Marion County Sheriff's Office

**National Anthem** Mrs. Marsha Muncaster

**Welcome** Chaplain Lamar Hunt  
COL, US Army, Retired

**POW/MIA Table** Chaplain John Meyer  
LtCol, US Air Force, Retired

**Tenor Solo** *A Soldier's Last Letter* John O'Brien  
GYSGT, US Marine Corps, Retired

**Prayer for Other Uniformed Citizens**  
Chaplain Elden Luffman  
LCDR, US Navy, Retired

### ***Roll Call of the Honored Dead***

**Bellringer** Captain David O. Olson, Jr.  
US Navy, Retired

**Drummers** Andy Boff, Lake Weir High School  
Stephen Brykailo, West Port High School

**1st Reader: Deaths through July 21**  
Robert Poucher  
Commander, VFW District 22

**2nd Reader: Deaths July 22-August 6**  
James A. Curley, Sr  
Commander, VFW Post 7193

*Mrs. John Meyer prepares POW/MIA table.*



**3rd Reader: Deaths August 7-22**

John Thornburg  
Commander, VFW Post 8083

**Prayer for the Nation**

Chaplain Robert Morris  
COL, US Army, Retired

**4th Reader: Deaths August 23-September 6**

Frank B. Perkins  
Adjutant, VFW Post 7193

**5th Reader: Deaths September 7-22**

Joe Dimattico  
Jr. Vice Commander, VFW Post 4781

**6th Reader: Deaths September 23-October 8**

Leroy Jones  
Chairman, VFW Post 7193 Patriot's Pen

**Soprano Solo *Eternal Father, Strong To Save***

Mrs. Marsha Muncaster

**Recognition of Honored Guests**

Chief Jeffrey Askew, US Navy, Retired  
Marion County Veterans Service Officer and  
Veterans Park Director

**Rifle Salute**

Honor Guard

**Taps**

Les Muncaster

**Retirement of the National Colors**

Honor Guard

**Closing Remarks**

Chaplain Lamar Hunt

**Benediction**

Chaplain Gare M. "Mike" Harrison  
LCDR, US Navy, Retired

During the ceremony, each name is read and the bell is struck over a continuous drum roll. MCA Life Member Lamar Hunt informs us that the readers have included the Marion County Commissioners, the Ocala Mayor and City Councilmen, and all members of the school board. Roberts Funeral Home, Bruce Chapel East supports the ceremonies with tents, chairs, cool water, and a paid ad in the local newspaper. Service order from 8 October 2005. Thanks to new Life Member Chaplain Elden Luffman for his assistance with photos.



*L to R. CDR Bill Pulver; Chaplains Morris, Hunt, Harrison, Meyer; CAPT David Olson.*



*Top: "Gunny" O'Brien singing *A Soldier's Last Letter*.*

*Bottom: CAPT Olson rang the bell 255 times during this service.*

## Chapter Debates Key Issues



First Row: Helen Hummer, George Hummer, Ted Kelley, Grover DeVault, Paul Yeun  
Second Row: Tom Lucas, Jim Young, Wayne Gosnell, Dolores Young, Ray Acker, Bill Foreman, Dan Ressetar, Bill McElroy, Dave Crocker

Our Susquehanna Chapter met on September 29 at the Officer's Club in Mechanicsburg, PA. The Chair, Grover DeVault, MCA Life Member and Trustee (2008) sent a report that is summarized below. They certainly did not just talk about the weather in Pennsylvania. Their agenda included an "open and lively" discussion with "many points of view expressed."

Chaplain DeVault presented a short summary to set the stage for discussion of three major issues:

- 1) Constitutionality of the military chaplaincy.
- 2) Growing diversity/plurality in military ministry.
- 3) Public prayers in "Jesus name."

Grover stated that "A study of early history of the United States demonstrates that most people wanted a society that had Christianity at its core. In the more recent times our country has moved away from our founding faith and has begun to interpret the Constitution differently."

Chaplain DeVault cited the 1971 Supreme Court ruling in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*. This stated three conditions for our government not to violate the Establishment Clause:

- 1) Reflect a clearly secular purpose;
- 2) Have a primary effect that neither advances nor inhibits religion;
- 3) Avoid excessive government entanglement with religion.

*Katcoff v. Marsh*, the Harvard University student lawsuit filed in 1979, was dropped in 1986. The complainants lacked funding for further appeal. You may remember that the court ruling allowed chaplains to stay in place to guarantee religious

exercise right for soldiers. But, this did not settle the constitutional question.

Then Chaplain DeVault noted that *Anderson v. Laird*, 1972, a class action suit, successfully eliminated compulsory chapel attendance at our three military academies. More recently in 2001, the ACLU won opposition against mandatory prayers before meals at Virginia Military Institute.

Grover went on to say "Many chaplains and others feel that the chaplaincy is living on borrowed time." Then he sparked important and vigorous discussion with "What do you say?"



Shall we invite ourselves into the Susquehanna Chapter's discussion? From across our MCA membership, what do you say?

What do we as the professional association of chaplains chartered by the Congress say? When and to whom should we say?

Is it even possible for us as the MCA to say anything together? If so, how do we muster the collective energy and courage to constructively speak?

### CONSTITUTION OF THE MILITARY CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION

Article I: Purpose of the Association: (From the Articles of Incorporation, Section 3, Public Law 792 – 81st Congress of the United States, September 20, 1950)

Humbly invoking the assistance of Almighty God, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- (a) to safeguard and strengthen the forces of faith and morality of our Nation;
- (b) to perpetuate and deepen the bonds of understanding and friendship of our military service;
- (c) to preserve our spiritual influence and interest in all members and veterans of the Armed Forces;
- (d) to uphold the Constitution of the United States; and
- (e) to promote justice, peace and good will.

## The “Accommodation” Doctor

The editorial hinted that "cooperation for ministry" discussions push right at free exercise and accommodation issues. The following begins a regular feature in question/answer format. Our columnist is Captain Victor H. Smith, CHC, USN, Ret. Vic completed thirty years of ministry in the Navy with endorsement from the Church of Christ, Scientist. Over time, we will tell you more about his distinguished service.



*Even before I first worked in the Navy Chief of Chaplains' office, fundamental questions about free exercise of religion in the military kept arising that needed considerable thought, research and prayer. For the remainder of my career, these shaped my leadership and respect for the chaplain occupation. I share some thoughts with the readers:*

**Q:** Why can the government use federal funds to pay chaplains?

**A:** The U. S. Constitution's First Amendment says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ." There are two sides of this phrase: a) separation of Church and State, or the Establishment Clause, prohibiting the government to favor one religious faith over another or impose a preference on its citizens, and b) free exercise of religion for all citizens.

*The military chaplaincy balances these. Citizens defending their country and its constitution still have religious rights and needs. These may be very difficult to attain when isolated from ministry resources and support systems during military assignments. The military can not totally ignore religious practice just because of mission and operations. Nor can it appear to endorse one particular faith group or favor one faith group using federal funds.*

**Q:** Why doesn't the government simply give the job to someone else and avoid all of the delicacies?

**A:** *The government has no ability to create ministers or ministry. Only faith groups create religious leaders. The government "borrows" imams, pastors, priests, rabbis and so on from the nation's faith groups. The government makes them uniformed chaplains with an officer's commission and pays their salaries.*

*As uniformed officers within the military institution, chaplains are given unique access to military personnel, installations, and work spaces [by comparison with civilian ministry norms] and insider status. This happens in order to provide personal ministrations to those serving their nation in the most trying of circumstances. Chaplain duties relate directly to ministry as described by the governing directives of the Armed Services. And, there is generally constraint from collateral duties that may conflict with religious duties.*

*We need to bear in mind that the government has some expectations along with the significant privileges afforded its paid shepherds in uniform. The government requires chaplains to live with integrity under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice and any other doctrine or policy that may pertain. And, the government [most often through the unit commander] expects and needs chaplains who respect and care for all of its personnel – not just ones from a chaplain's own faith group.*



*Chaplain Smith aboard USS Missouri (BB-63) c. 1987.*

Coming in the  
January-February Issue

How Free is Free Exercise?

More National Institute  
Information

## 7th ARCOM Adopts School in Iraq

The 7th Army Reserve Command in Europe is the only U. S. Army Reserve unit permanently stationed on foreign soil. When V Corps deployed to Iraq, they took with them Army Reserve units from the 7th ARCOM, units that would be the essential eyes and ears for their larger active duty parent unit. In the midst of numerous combat and combat support operations, soldiers from the 7th ARCOM adopted an elementary school in Iraq.

The key 7th ARCOM soldiers in Iraq who developed the idea of adopting an Iraqi school were MAJ Melvin Jones of the 10th LPAT (Logistics, Planning and Augmentation Team) and SSG Charles Morse of the 280th ROC (Rear Operations Center). The purpose of adopting this Iraqi school was to show the children of Iraq that the U. S. military was their friend and to show charity toward those innocent victims of war. The school was an elementary school with grades 1-6. They desperately needed supplies, specifically paper, pencils, art materials, rulers and English language picture books.

The 7th ARCOM Commander, BG David Zabecki, stated, "I see this as a long-term project in which the 7th ARCOM provides sustained support to this school over a long period of time." Assigned to be the project officers for this task were Chaplain (MAJ) Kenneth Lawson and chaplain assistant SPC Kelli Overturf. Stationed in Germany, Lawson and Overturf began collecting donated supplies from 7th ARCOM soldiers and family members.

Interest in the "Adopt a School in Iraq" program grew rapidly. BG Zabecki created an Operations Order to give his official approval of the program and help coordinate all those who wanted to assist Chaplain Lawson and SPC Overturf. The order stated,

*This is a great opportunity to assist Iraq's next generation to give them a true understanding of our personal and national values. The chaplain will take the lead by coordinating the 7th ARCOM efforts in support of this worthy cause. The 7th ARCOM staff will provide maximum support to ensure mission success.*

With the senior chaplain (LTC) Gregg Drew's approval, SPC Overturf developed a calendar by which supplies would be collected, inventoried, packaged, and shipped to MAJ Jones and SSG Morse in Iraq. Chaplain Lawson spread the word. Supplies began to rapidly come in.

As donated supplies began to arrive, MAJ Jones and other 7th ARCOM soldiers delivered them to the school. MAJ Jones stated that the Mayor of the Iraqi village was present to make sure the supplies went to the school children and to publicly thank the U. S. troops for their generosity. Since their school was looted by the Iraqis during the war, the children were thrilled to have even the simplest items.

The faces of the children radiated from the fact that they could have their own pencils, books, and writing paper. The 7th ARCOM maintained contact with this adopted school throughout their deployment and frequently visited the school to distribute more donated supplies collected in Germany and Italy by Chaplain Lawson and SPC Overturf.

In speaking of the program, 7th ARCOM Operations Officer LTC Mark Rabenstein commented,

*It has the potential to change anti-U.S. attitudes, reinforce pro-U.S. attitudes, and may help in some small way to stabilize the situation in Iraq a little bit faster. Also, the United States will be dealing with these kids as leaders of that country in 20 or 30 years. Every little bit helps.*

Prayerfully, this command-sponsored and chaplain-coordinated effort contributed to these worthy goals.



*Chaplain (LTC) Kenneth Lawson, Total Force Integrator, U. S. Army Chaplain School, chatting with two Sergeants*

## First Senior Enlisted Advisor to JCS Chairman

Gen. Peter Pace has selected Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey to serve as the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman beginning 1 October 2005. This is a newly created position established to advise the chairman on all matters involving enlisted personnel in a joint environment. Gainey has more than 30 years of active duty experience including an extensive background in joint operations. He has served in his current billet as the Command Sergeant Major for 3rd Corps and Fort Hood, Texas since 9 May 2003. Biography available at [www.hood.army.mil/fthood/3Corps/bios](http://www.hood.army.mil/fthood/3Corps/bios).

### MCA Member Benefit

Hertz has renewed our discount benefit for 2006.  
Military Chaplains Association  
CDP# 1571318

Remember to mention this number when you are arranging travel. Visit [www.hertz.com](http://www.hertz.com) or call (800)654-2210

## Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association

This non-profit association of about 3,000 members was established in 1994. Among other things, this volunteer group built and operates a museum in Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY near the north-eastern bank of Seneca Lake. The Association sponsors educational events and holds annual reunions.

They are currently searching for all permanent party Women's Air Force (WAFS) Basic Trainees and Special School Training Personnel of the 3650th Basic Military (Indoctrination) Training Wing from 1950 through 1956. Visit the museum website at [www.sampsonvets.com](http://www.sampsonvets.com) or contact Chip Phillips at (716) 633-1119 or [chip34@aol.com](mailto:chip34@aol.com).

Our thanks to Sgt. Allen H. Goldblatt, USAF, Ret, Kansas City, KS for sending this notice.

## Strengthen the Parent-Child Relationship Across the Miles

*This book has been endorsed by:*  
*Military Chaplains • Parents Groups • Marriage and Family Counselors*  
*Librarians • Children's Advocates*

### "101 Ways To Be A Long-Distance Super-Dad...or Mom, Too!"

- Immediate Shipping
- 50% Discount (25 or more copies)
- We pay all shipping and handling
- CCR Registered Vendor (Dept. of Defense)
- Government Credit Cards/Purchase Orders

#### Blossom Valley Press

5141 E. Woodgate, P.O. Box 13378, Tucson, AZ 85732-3378  
(520) 325 -1224

e-mail: [argonne1@earthlink.net](mailto:argonne1@earthlink.net)



\$9.95  
Single Copy Price



# MCA NATIONAL INSTITUTE

25-27 April 2006

Marriott Memphis Downtown  
250 North Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103

## In coordination with the Third Biannual Army Chaplains and Assistants Reunion

Our 2006 National Institute involves a new approach in location siting and event scheduling. Following is a broad schedule in order to see the pattern of our coordination with the Reunion. Specific timings within this framework will be completely identified prior to the National Institute.

### Monday, 24 April

MCA National Executive Committee [all day]  
Army Reunion Registration [begins at noon]  
Army Reunion Evening Event

### Tuesday, 25 April

MCA National Executive Committee Meeting [morning]  
MCA National Institute Registration [1000-1400]  
MCA Opening Session [1400-1630]  
Army Reunion Session [morning] & Banquet [evening]  
*No official MCA event for the evening*

### Wednesday, 26 April

MCA Annual Business Meeting [breakfast]  
Army Reunion Session [morning]  
Joint Army Reunion / MCA Memorial Service [morning]  
*Army Reunion concludes after the Memorial Service*

MCA Emerson Foundation Luncheon  
MCA Institute Session [afternoon]  
*No official MCA event for the evening*

### Thursday, 27 April

MCA Institute Sessions [morning and afternoon]  
*Continental breakfast & breaks throughout the day | no official MCA lunch event*

MCA National Citizenship & Distinguished Service Awards Banquet [evening]  
*Main Institute program concludes with the banquet*

### Friday, 28 April

MCA National Executive Committee Meeting [morning]

## Important Registration Information!

1. All participants must make their own arrangements for hotel lodging. Please do so not later than 24 March 2006 in order to receive the Reunion/Institute rate which is \$89.00 per night single/double plus tax. **The hotel cannot guarantee the rate or room availability beyond 24 March 2006.**

2. For hotel reservations, call 1-800-228-9290. **Please use the precise event title "Retired Army Chaplains Reunion."** This phrase does not describe all who participate in either program. But it is crucial for the Marriott Hotel master reservation system to function accurately. Even if you are not participating in the Army Reunion program, this phrase covers the room block held for both the Army Reunion and the MCA Institute.
3. Reserve your lodging as early as possible! Please also note that the MCA National Office cannot handle Marriott hotel reservations or otherwise negotiate them for you.
4. MCA member registration fees for the National Institute program cover event costs such as: hotel meeting room services and equipment, refreshment breaks, and awards.
5. Look for more details on the MCA Institute theme in your January-February 2006 magazine as well as the MCA website. Expect relevant presentations, timely discussions, and important business sessions. Among other things we will discuss how "war and natural disasters" impact the collegiality of chaplains and their growth in ministry within a pluralistic environment.
6. For more information on the Army Reunion, please contact Chaplain Bob Howerton at (901) 755-8282 or **chap91236@aol.com**.
7. MCA Registration Form and Information also provided at **www.mca-usa.org**.

## Defense Department Authorization

The 2006 National Institute has been reviewed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. By DoD letter dated 6 July 2005, there is no legal objection for the participation of DoD personnel in this event. The following statement applies: "The Department of Defense finds this event meets the minimum regulatory standards for attendance by DoD employees. The finding does not constitute a blanket approval or endorsement for attendance. Individual DoD component commands or organizations are responsible for approving attendance of its DoD employees based on mission requirements and DoD regulations."

# Registration Form

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTITUTE REGISTRATION FEE**

Member: \$95.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*[Spouses are invited to attend all Institute events]*

**Registration Fee TOTAL**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL EVENT MEAL RESERVATION**

Wednesday, 27 April \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Meeting Breakfast [Hotel]  
\_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$20.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday, 27 April \_\_\_\_\_ Emerson Luncheon [Hotel]  
\_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$25.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, 28 April \_\_\_\_\_ National Citizenship and Distinguished  
Service Awards Banquet [Hotel]  
\_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$45.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal Reservation TOTAL**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL Payment Enclosed**

*[Registration Fee Total plus Meal Reservation Total]*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your total payment by 24 March 2006.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here and mark dietary request. Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Kosher \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you decline listing in a printed in roster of attendees.

**Send this form with your remittance to:  
Military Chaplains Association, P.O. Box 7056, Arlington, VA 22207-7056**

# THE MILITARY CHAPLAIN

ISSN-0026-3958

P.O. Box 7056

Arlington, VA 22207-7056

Vol. LXXVIII, Number 6

November-December 2005



PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE  
PAID

THE MILITARY CHAPLAIN (ISSN 0026-3958) is published bimonthly by The Military Chaplains Association, 5541 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207. Articles in this publication express the point of view of the authors only and are not necessarily those of the Association, The Military Services, The Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Civil Air Patrol. Similarly, the advertisements do not reflect an endorsement by the association unless so indicated. This publication is mailed to all members of the Association. Membership dues are \$35.00 per year, \$18.00 allocated for the magazine. Subscriptions to all non-members is Domestic \$18.00 per calendar year, Foreign \$24.00, Library rate 3 years \$45.00, \$60.00 foreign. Phone/fax is (703) 533-5890. Periodicals Postage Paid at Arlington, VA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to EDITOR, THE MILITARY CHAPLAIN, P.O. Box 7056, Arlington, VA 22207-7056. If this publication is addressed to a member of the U.S. Military service whose address has been changed by official orders, it is to be forwarded, except to overseas APO's without payment of additional postage. Send form 3579 to Editor, THE MILITARY CHAPLAIN, P.O. Box 7056, Arlington, VA 22207-7056 Copyright 2005 by The Military Chaplains Association of the USA. Copyright is not claimed for editorial material in the public domain. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

## Going Where Warriors Go



## Your Chaplains Care

Help us work to preserve  
their crucial ministries!

**Military Chaplains  
Association**

**CFC #2118**



## Combined Federal Campaign

# # 2118

YOUR CFC GIFT COUNTS!

### Donations to MCA Support:

Voice in the Military Coalition  
and other Veteran communities

Readily accessible information  
and referral services

Scholarship opportunities for  
Chaplain Candidates

An inter-service forum for  
pastoral development

### Contribute to MCA through:

Individual donations

Chapel Fund donations

Designated Offerings

Local United Way campaigns

The Combined Federal Campaign