

**Former POW
Robert Certain Challenges
Us to **Pan For GOLD**
in the Muck of War**

Welcome Aboard!

Membership Information as of 15 June 2009

New Life Members

Gary R. Breig, Lt Col USAF, Jacksonville AR
Roman Catholic

Gary L. Hedges, Lt Col CAP, Ft. Olgethorpe GA
Independent Fundamental Bible Churches

Juliana M. Leshner, VA Act, Louisville KY
Evangelical Congregational Church

Bill Lord, COL USA Ret, Springfield MO
Southern Baptist Convention

Lucy E. Pierre, VA & CAP Act, Philadelphia PA
National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

David N. Poland, Capt CAP, O'Fallon MO
Conservative Baptist Association of America

Joseph R. Primeaux, LCDR USN, Escondido CA
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Jerome A. Ward, Lt Col USAF Ret, Ft. Worth TX
Roman Catholic

New Members

Bonita P. Barnes, VA Act, North Little Rock AR
Alliance of Baptists

Brenson P. Bishop, COL USAR, Louisville KY
Presbyterian Church USA

Harris B. Brody, LTC USAFR / CAP Act, Warminster PA
Jewish

Harold H. Caserta, Jr., CDR USN, Jacksonville NC
United Methodist Church

Bruce R. Clapham, VA Act, Topeka KS
Roman Catholic

David Scott Deese, LT USN, Bremerton WA
Church of the Nazarene

Daryl W. Densford, CPT USA, Deployed Europe
Church of the Nazarene

John D. Doughty, Lt Col CAP, Albuquerque NM
Coalition of Spirit Filled Churches

Sanford L. Dresin, COL USA Ret, Wilmington DE
The Shul at the Aleph Institute

Hugh L. Dukes, COL USA Ret, Mt. Washington KY
American Baptist Churches USA

Paul D. Everett, VA Act, Anchorage AS
Christian Methodist Episcopal

Jason V. Forte, CPT USA, Copperas Cove TX
Assemblies of God

Yolanda L. Gillen, LCDR USN, Jacksonville NC
Christian Methodist Episcopal

Anthony Guererro, 1LT USA, Macungie PA
United Methodist Church

Daniel W. Hall, LT USN, El Centro CA
Baptist (All Points)

Kenneth L. Hegtveldt, COL USA, Bremerton WA
Conservative Baptist Association of America

Bryan J. Hult, BG USA/ARNG, Indianapolis IN
Evangelical Free Church of America

Dwayne A. Jackson, LT USN, Upper Marlboro MD
National Baptist Convention USA Inc.

Jeff B. Jenkins, LT USN, Camp LeJeune NC
Southern Baptist Convention

Brent R. Kelly, USA Act, Louisville KY
Southern Baptist Convention

James F. Kirkendall II, LTC USA, Oklahoma City OK
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

William D. Logan, Capt USAF, Columbus MS
United Methodist Church

Manuel Mak, VA Act, Danville IL
Southern Baptist Convention

Laurie M. O'Reilly, VA Act, Biloxi MS
The United Church of Christ

David L. Pettis, VA Act, St. Cloud MN
Southern Baptist Convention

Paul Rech, Capt CAP, Boonton NJ
Presbyterian Church USA

Richard S. Rogers, COL USA Ret, Greenville NC
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Charles E. Smith, LTC USA Ret, Ypsilanti MI
Progressive National Baptist

Malcolm M. Sparer, VA Act, Sonoma CA
Jewish

Patricia A. Spelling, VA Act, San Antonio TX
Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Timothy W. Storms, Sr. VA Act, Maysville KY
African Methodist Episcopal

Marvin D. Sweezy, LTC USA Ret, Slatington PA
Free Methodist Church

Larry O. Toney, COL USAR, Fayetteville NC
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ

Stanton D. Trotter, MAJ USA, Alexandria VA
Anglican

John A. Zinck, VA Act, Tucson AZ
American Baptist Churches USA

New Associate Members

Ken J. Ackerman, CDO CAP Act, Northglenn CO
Christian

Maynard P. Ericksen, Nursing Home Chaplain,
Oakdale MN, *Lutheran*

Bill D. Hunter, Prior USN, Scottsdale AZ
Protestant, Non-denominational

Bobby R. Smith, Endorser, Dallas TX
Baptist General Conference of Texas

Panning for Gold in the Muck of War

*Chaplain Robert G. Certain
Colonel, U. S. Air Force Reserve (Ret.)
Prisoner of War, North Vietnam*

When combat troops come home from war, we have been profoundly changed. Some of that change is not so good; but some of it can actually lend us a greater understanding of who we are, what society is about and what God's work in the world is about. Our wartime experience can bring a wealth of understanding as I discovered in my journey from the prisons of Hanoi to full freedom nearly three decades later.

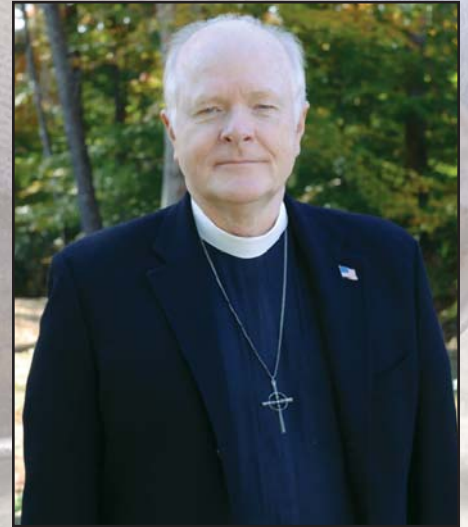
A few years ago, my wife and I went on a tour of Alaska, including the famous gold fields. I discovered that it takes a good technique and a lot of patience to pan for gold, to wash away copious amounts of mud to find the little flakes and nuggets of the precious metal hidden within. At the end of the day, it was not the technique, the water, or the mud that we valued — it was the gold. Finding the "gold" in combat experience can be accomplished with similar diligence.

I came out of Hanoi, went into seminary and then straight into parish ministry. I had always equated what was going on inside of my soul from early December

parties and dinners. The amount of tension I felt, however, was more than these events could have caused.

In post-combat stress, the veteran is not stuck in the past, reliving the memory of combat. Rather, when the themes of warfare repeat in an entirely different set of circumstances, the resulting emotions and decisions will likewise be thematically similar to the emotions felt and the decisions made in the initial event. For me, the mission which ended in my shootdown and imprisonment was marked by disappointment, danger, shifting positions, mechanical problems, flight planning errors and the natural events of the atmosphere. We overcame them all, but were shot down at the very moment of success.

Since that night, there have been several times in my life in the Church when we entered major projects in church life, like capital campaigns, where all of these themes were repeated. Each time, as we approached probable success, my anxiety level would peak and I would be ready to leave, to eject. I came home from Vietnam in 1973, but did not find the key to



The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Certain, Rector of St. Peter & St. Paul Episcopal Church in Marietta GA; founding president of Care For The Troops, Inc.

Most of us come home, leave the service, return to our families and careers and make good livings and good contributions to society. Even so, the intense experience of warfare leaves us with important work to do if we are to fully utilize the positive aspects of those days in subsequent careers. Bringing the troops "all the way home" is not just the responsibility of the government.

Older veterans have a role to play in the full and complete return of those who come after us. As we share the experience, strength and hope of our post-military careers, other veterans may be able to gain insight into their own stories and find new ways of panning the value from the silt of their troubling times. All of us — employers and family members, churches and synagogues, physicians and veterans themselves — have a vested interest in converting combat liabilities into assets for societal leadership. We all have a responsibility to pan for the gold.



Bringing the troops "all the way home" is not just the responsibility of the government.

until Easter day with the liturgical season. Each year, I was focused on making everything work right: extra education, fellowship, and liturgies as well as cultural

unlocking the chains of prison until twenty-eight years later as I finally learned to pan for the gold in the muck of my wartime experience.

Highlights from the Joint MCA and VA Meeting 21-24 April 2009



Chaplain Paul Swerdlow with his new Emerson Foundation plaque as well as one in memory of his wife Molly. Foundation members standing with Paul in the front row L to R - Ric Renne, John White, Mary White, Jan McCormick, and Ernie Newsom. Second row L to R - Gary Pollitt, Ken Colton, Bill Sanford, David White, George Vogel, Wayne Hoffmann, and Grover DeVault. Paul and Molly Swerdlow are Emersons #120 and #121 respectively.



Emerson Foundation Luncheon

The Trustees of the Military Chaplains Association established the Emerson Foundation in 1991. They sought to provide a means whereby members and friends could contribute to funds held in trust for long-term resource development. Membership may be granted to those who contribute or are honored by a contribution of \$1,000 or more. New members each year are recognized officially at our National Institute. The Foundation is named for Pastor William Emerson of First Parish, Concord, Massachusetts and Chaplain of the Provincial Congress in 1774. He is often recognized as the first chaplain of the Revolution.



The Rev. Dr. Robert Certain, Emerson Foundation Speaker, challenging us to understand the special needs of Wounded Warriors.



President Mike McCoy recognizes Bill Keith with Honorary Life Membership in the MCA. The National Executive Committee extended this status in gratitude for Bill Keith's role in our 2008-2009 ministry project to republish and distribute his chaplaincy classic *Days of Anguish, Days of Hope*.



MCA Life Member and baritone vocalist Ralph Smith [far left side of photo] leads our National Anthem as the Irving High School U. S. Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard presents the Colors. Major David Wirsig, USMC (Ret.) escorted this superb team. Ralph is a retired Army chaplain and member of the Dallas-Metroplex MCA chapter.



MCA Life Member and retired Navy chaplain Ernest Newsom serenades during the banquet. Ernie brought both saxophone and clarinet on an airplane from Tennessee.

Annual MCA Awards Banquet



National Treasurer Eric Renne assists with final banquet table preparation. "Ric" is a retired Air Force chaplain, member of the National Capital chapter, and longstanding participant in numerous MCA activities.

Military Chaplains Association 2009 National Citizenship Award Presented to The Honorable Gordon H. Mansfield



The Military Chaplains Association, chartered by the Congress of the United States of America, annually recognizes an eminent American whose life and work exemplify leadership in public service, courage in moral conviction, and loyalty and personal faith while serving God and Country.

We enthusiastically declare that Gordon H. Mansfield is such an American.

In recognition of exceptional concern for the citizens who defend our Nation and their well-being at every stage of life and career; tireless labors within government and private sectors — most recently given as Deputy and Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs from 2004 through 2008; profound demonstration of productive adjustment to major physical disabilities; and ardent support for religious freedom witnessed by deep personal faith as well as high regard for the ministries of chaplains, the Military Chaplains Association is honored to commend Gordon H. Mansfield of Alexandria, Virginia with the 2009 National Citizenship Award. Given this 23rd day of April, Two Thousand and Nine in Westlake, Texas.

Our 2009 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

in order of recognition:

Chaplain Andrew G. McIntosh

Captain, U.S. Air Force
Senior Protestant Chaplain
36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

Chaplain John M. Painter

Major, U.S. Air Force Reserve
Staff Chaplain, 315th Airlift Wing
Charleston Air Force Base

Chaplain Yolanda L. Gillen

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy
Regimental Chaplain, CLR-27 and
Deputy Regimental Chaplain,
2d Marine Logistics Group
Camp LeJeune, NC

Chaplain David B. Thames

Lieutenant, U.S. Navy
Supervisory Chaplain Course Officer
U. S. Naval Chaplain School
Fort Jackson, SC

Chaplain John P. Oliver

Chief, Chaplain Service
Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Chaplain James A. Sickmeyer

Lieutenant Colonel, Civil Air Patrol
Region Chaplain, North Central Region
Civil Air Patrol

Chaplain David Lile

Major, U.S. Army
Brigade Chaplain, 3HBCT, 3ID
Fort Benning, GA

Chaplain Rebekah Ann Montgomery

Captain, U.S. Army National Guard
Brigade Chaplain, HHC 58th Troop Command
Maryland Army National Guard

Congratulations!



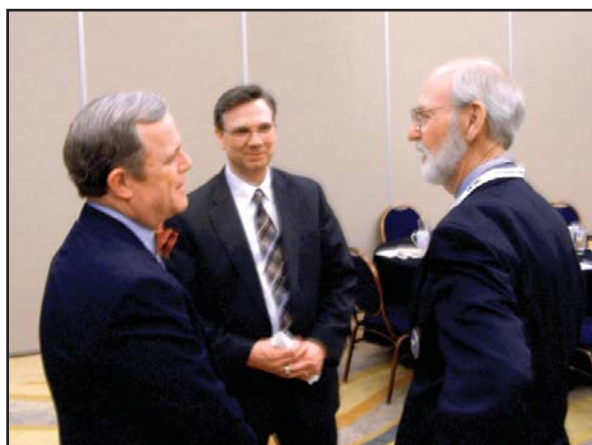
L to R - Chaplains Laurie O'Reilly and Julianna Leshar, Hon. Gordon H. Mansfield, Chaplain Linda Leibhart.

Laurie serves at the VA Medical Center in Biloxi, MS. Julianna is at the Medical Center in Madison, WI. Linda is an Army Reserve chaplain and Lead Chaplain at VAMC Bath, ME.

Since his retirement as Deputy VA Secretary, Gordon has been studying theology through Catholic University in Washington, DC.



Mary Johnson receives a special MCA memento from President Mike McCoy during the 2009 National Institute Awards Banquet. Mary is the wife of deceased member Chaplain David Johnson. Mary is accompanied by her in-laws, Tom and Darlene Johnson. Mary continues active interest in the ministry of MCA. David served a full career as an Air Force chaplain — Tom as a Navy chaplain. Both represented the Presbyterian Church USA while on active duty. Tom completed service this year as an MCA Trustee. He continues as a key leader in the San Diego area MCA chapter.



Friendly conversation between three very serious Baptists. L to R – Jim Spivey, Keith Ethridge, Bill Lord. Retired Army, Jim is our most recent MCA Past President. Keith is Director for the VA National Chaplain Center.

Bill is working hard to reorganize the Army Chaplain Regimental Association.

THE INFANTRY PROVIDES FIREPOWER.

CHAPLAINS PROVIDE COMFORT.



There's strong. Then there's Army strong. Do your part to spiritually strengthen our troops and their Families by joining the U.S. Army Chaplaincy. Serve at the frontline of the Soldiers' lives, developing close-knit relationships rarely found in any other ministry. Will you consider the call? Find out more at info.goarmy.com/chaplain/b569 or call 1-888-238-8287.



ARMY STRONG.



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.

Major Ministry Features

Ministry Profession Advocacy

- ▶ Represent the ideals, challenges, accomplishments, and needs of military chaplains to religious communities, civilian leaders, Veterans Service Organizations, and news media.
- ▶ Promote cooperative ministry in order to advance and safeguard the religious rights and spiritual welfare of all personnel whom chaplains are called to serve.
- ▶ Enhance government and community efforts to support citizens about to enter, now within, or returning from war zones.
- ▶ Participate in The Military Coalition comprised of 34 military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations that represent over 5.5 million personnel and their families.
- ▶ Member of the Veterans Day National Committee.

Ministry Profession Support

- ▶ Promote the concept, calling, and commitment of "Chaplains for Life."
- ▶ Maintain a Joint service and inter-agency forum for ministry analysis and development.
- ▶ Assist post-graduate preparation for service in the Air Force, Army, or Navy chaplaincies through the annual award of Chaplain Candidate Scholarships.
- ▶ Provide pastoral services where uniformed chaplaincy resources are not available.

Information and Referral

- ▶ Respond to inquiries regarding chaplaincies, chaplains, and religious expression in the Armed Services and Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ▶ Assist persons outside the government or the military system in order to help them gain appropriate access for information and issue resolution.
- ▶ Maintain a database of over 8,600 chaplains - active, Guard, Reserve, retired, or deceased.

Under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, the Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA) is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt organization and a public charity. The MCA undergoes annual financial audit by a Certified Public Accountant. The MCA annually reports major ministry accomplishments and audit findings to the U.S. House of Representatives.



Major Ministry Objectives Calendar Years 2009 and 2010

Ministry Profession Advocacy

- ▶ Increase awareness of MCA purposes that are established by charter from the Congress and implementation of these purposes through major ministry features and objectives.
- ▶ Extend nationwide ministry by coordination with local MCA chapters, formation of new chapters, and function of the South Carolina chapter as local liaison with the chaplain schools at Fort Jackson, SC.
- ▶ Carry out membership obligations with The Military Coalition and the Veterans Day National Committee.
- ▶ Continue collaboration with the Church, State, and Industry Foundation, the National Alliance for the Public Trust, and the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces; and seek partnerships with other chaplaincy groups.

Ministry Profession Support

- ▶ Maintain a standing invitation to Unit Ministry Teams returning from OEF/OIF for support to those who begin or continue a healing journey and desire confidential listening by MCA member chaplains outside military and religious faith group channels.
- ▶ Publish a "Smart Card" in file folder format that aids recognition of key symptoms for the signature and "hidden" wounds from OEF/OIF and provides durable referral information for Wounded Warrior care.
- ▶ Strengthen connection with chaplain corps enlisted personnel and promotion of their vital role for delivery of religious ministry.
- ▶ Continue improvements in the MCA Ministry Support Network with particular focus on support for families that desire access to chaplain ministry during funerals, memorials, and interments at national cemeteries.
- ▶ Develop the LTG Hal G. Moore "Commanders and their Chaplains" series of letters and essays on the relationships between military commanders and their chaplains.
- ▶ Complete distribution of Bill Keith's republished Days of Anguish, Days of Hope in order to disseminate values for acquiring and sustaining "spiritual resilience" seen through the experience of Chaplain Robert Preston Taylor as a POW during World War II.
- ▶ Conduct the 85th MCA Annual Meeting and National Institute in coordination with dedication of the Air Force and Navy chaplain schools on 6 May 2010 at Fort Jackson, SC.

Information and Referral

- ▶ Rework MCA website information links for increased efficiency and effectiveness in response to inquiries and requests for support.
- ▶ Rework MCA database architecture to improve ministry asset analysis for referrals and enable total online administration of new and existing memberships.

Voice for Our Profession ☆ Serving since 1925 ☆ Chartered by Congress
www.mca-usa.org

2009 Department of Veterans Affairs Diversity and Best Practices Awards

The Second Annual Director, Chaplain Service Diversity Award
Veterans Affairs New Jersey Healthcare System Chaplain Service



Seated L to R: Chaplain Matthew Eraly, Chaplain George Kelly; Second Row L to R: volunteer Russell Poland (35,000+ hrs), Chaplain M. Mendel Herson, Chief Chaplain Tom Malek-Jones, Chaplain Joseph Chacko; Third Row L to R: Chaplain Robert Mikol, Chaplain Kenneth Truslow, Coordinating Chaplain Burton Vincent, Chaplain Habeeb-Ullah El-Amin, Chaplain William Warman. Not Pictured: Secretary Julie McMichael, Chaplain Michael Phipps (on active military duty), Chaplain Nancy McCoy, Chaplain Michael Lankford.

Best Practices Awards

Spiritual Assessment Followup

VA Medical Center Fort Meade, SD
POC: Chaplain Ralph Vencill

Support Group for Families of Newly Returning Veterans

VA Medical Center, Madison, Wisconsin
POC: Chaplain Juliana Leshar

Welcoming Ceremony for Community Living Center Residents

VA Medical Center, Northport, New York
POC: Chaplain Paul Swerdlow

Records Survey & Tracking

James H. Quillen VA Medical Center,
Mountain Home, TN
(Award presented at the Medical Center)
POC: Chaplain Theodore Bleck-Doran

Seamless Transition Team Chaplain Support

VA Medical Center, Augusta, GA
(Award presented at the Medical Center)
POC: Chaplain Ronald D. Craddock

Resources...

- ▶ Bayview United Church of Christ in Norfolk, VA is seeking a new Pastor. Contact Ted Drake at (757) 583-1606.
- ▶ Marcella Massa offers to organize volunteers who will knit helmet liners, scarves, and neck warmers for winter duty in Afghanistan. Call (914) 584-6710. Referral from CH (COL) Jacob Goldstein.
- ▶ "Centuries of Service: Military Chaplains in the USA" Visit the marvelous UNCW Randall Library collection. <http://digitalcollections.uncw.edu/chaplains/>
- ▶ Pocket Crosses
Father Douglas Jerome, a sightless Episcopal priest and Vietnam Veteran with 7 years in the Navy, makes pocket crosses for the Troops from native Oregon woods. No cost to recipients. He even covers postage. Father Jerome says 'it is my way of saying "Thank You" to all of you who are serving our country in such a noble way.' Send inquiries to: dpjerome1@eotnet.net

- ▶ Incident Command System Training
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides self-paced independent study courses for those who wish to participate in emergency response and recovery. All courses are free of-charge to eligible enrollees. Chaplain Tom Webber, MCA National Executive Committee, highly recommends courses ICS 100, 200, 700, & 800. <http://emilms.fema.gov/>
- ▶ Air Compassion for Veterans (ACV)
We featured this ministry in our March 2008 magazine. Chaplain John Hoffmann, retired Army, active Civil Air Patrol, and MCA Life Member regularly ministers on behalf of ACV. The mission and purpose of ACV is to ensure that no financially-needy veteran/active duty military person or their family member(s) is denied access to distant specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, or rehabilitation for lack of a means of long-distance medical air transportation. The ACV headquarters is in Virginia Beach, VA. For more information call (888) 662-6794. www.AirCompassionForVeterans.org

No Dry Ink In This Town

Chaplain Ron Craddock* recently sent me news that calls for our serious attention to “the assault on TRICARE.” Ron was referring to momentum in Congress that would seriously clobber military retiree health care benefits beginning in 2011. There is little or no dry ink in Washington, DC. Massive spending shifts are underway or under consideration. Only so much money is available — even when the printing presses are cranked up to warp speed. “Robbing Peter to pay Paul” is common practice in our government budget system.

Unfortunately, Ron was pointing to only one of many tips on the iceberg. In December 2008, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) published an expansion of its regular report to House and Senate Committees on the Budget. Under the title *Budget Options, Volume I: Health Care*, the CBO outlined 115 options for the reduction of federal spending on health care, altering federal health care programs, and making substantive changes to the nation’s health insurance system. This 236 page report includes specific treatment of military and Veteran health care at Chapter 9: “Premiums and Cost Sharing in Federal Health Programs.”

On the next page we provide a table of the eighteen options discussed for the Chapter 9 topic. Scan down through them for an

overview of the scope. Please remember that this is a list of options not specific legislation in process. Congress heavily relies on CBO research and reporting. Lawmakers also receive many other inputs that substantially increase alternatives for their consideration.

Why do promises to Military and Veterans seem to change so much? Or, why aren’t all promises to Military and Veterans somehow fenced from reconsideration and revision? Among many possible responses to these questions, my first thought is usually a structural answer. Promises are vulnerable, promises change because they are made in a public policy context and thus in a political context.

When you swore your oath of commission, enlistment, or appointment, you made a firm promise. You are expected to fulfill that promise no matter what others around you are doing and no matter what our national leaders seem to be doing. Why is it that military people are expected to be relentlessly faithful to their promises and the terms of those promises — both explicit and implied?

A military oath has moral and legal dimensions and consequences that are a unique commodity. Make no mistake. It is sacred — and arguably so in a wide variety of settings. Several of our Veterans Service Organizations use the following statement as another way to convey the point.

A Veteran — whether active duty, discharged, retired, National Guard, or reserve — is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount "up to and including my life."

By the way, if you have served on active duty for 90 days in wartime or 180 days in peacetime, you are a “Veteran.” Whether you become eligible for federal or various state level Veterans benefits depends on the nature of discharge from service. Thus, issues for Veterans are important long before you separate or retire because you are already one even while wearing a uniform.

At the congressional level, there are many considerations and trade-offs that bear upon any given legislative action. I am not accusing the entire federal establishment of wholesale deception or treachery with the Warrior Class. I am simply saying that we cannot afford to view other players in this arena with the same lenses we view ourselves and our promises as clergy or military under vows.

We minister in the public square. Countless different agents and agencies have potential influence on our personal or professional lives during active service or in retirement. The dynamics of public policy and administration are not a place where most chaplains find much interest or joy. Even so, this is a crucial ongoing concern — especially for we who joined ourselves to Institutional Ministry.

Can we keep up with Health Care issues let alone all the others that have a direct or indirect effect on the welfare of military, Veterans, their families, and survivors? Not likely. [Before this magazine reaches you, the Congress already might have passed a new omnibus Health Care Bill.] Among other things, this is why David Chambers and Bill Dando worked many

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**MCA member Ron Craddock is retired Navy and Chief of Chaplain Services at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta, GA.*

Photo courtesy of Lance Cpl. C. Lindsay



No Dry Ink In This Town

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years ago for MCA to become a member of The Military Coalition. That membership puts MCA chaplains and associates in alliance with 33 other groups that represent over 5.5 million people. See the back cover for a list of the 34 Coalition partners.

Membership in The Military Coalition gives MCA a “seat at the table” with dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to seek equity and preserve life quality of the people who give our Nation “a blank check” when they join the military. This furnishes chaplains — including those on active duty — with a legitimate and legal vehicle to express concerns as a ministry profession while we provide essential information or advice to the Administration and the Congress.

Here is an example of recent Coalition action. Last February, the Administration proposed a new Third Party Billing policy. The Department of Veterans Affairs would bill a Veteran’s personal insurer for service-connected disability or injury care. Potential savings to VA was projected at \$530 million per year. Several Coalition associations quickly and loudly spoke against the proposal. They rallied support from key members of Congress and sent

representatives to the Oval Office. Meanwhile, MCA joined a Coalition letter of urgent concern to President Obama. For the moment at least, the proposal is dead.

***We might rightly add,
“whatever one does not sow,
no one else reaps.”***

On a positive side, Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and James Inhofe (R-OK) are sponsoring a law entitled the Military Voting Protection Act of 2009 (S.1026). They are joined by numerous Senators across party lines. This law seeks to correct problems with absentee ballots encountered during the 2008 national election and years prior. The Personnel Committee of The Military Coalition put forth a letter in strong support of the legislation. On behalf of MCA, I enthusiastically concurred and signed the letter.

The activity described above often seems all too remote from the sacred privilege of serving at pulpit and altar — or out among the Troops in their operational spaces. However, I am reminded of sowing and reaping or what some call “The Laws of Harvest.” Solomon, Jesus, and Paul addressed the



*Chaplain Gary Pollitt
MCA Executive Director*

moral dimension with great consistency. We often generalize their teachings by “whatever one sows is what one reaps.” We might rightly add, “whatever one does not sow, no one else reaps.”

If for no other reasons, a congressional charter, connection to The Military Coalition, and viable access to government leaders are substantial warrants for joining MCA and becoming involved in our unique ministry opportunities. Believe me, every single vote counts in the advocacy arena as well as individual votes at the ballot box. Thank you for your participation. Blessings!

Gary

Premiums and Cost Sharing in Federal Health Programs

- Option 81.** Replace Medicare’s Current Cost-Sharing Requirements with a Unified Deductible, a Uniform Coinsurance Rate, and a Catastrophic Limit
- Option 82.** Restrict Medigap Coverage of Medicare’s Cost Sharing
- Option 83.** Combine Changes to Medicare’s Cost Sharing with Restrictions on Medigap Policies
- Option 84.** Impose Cost Sharing for the First 20 Days of a Stay in a Skilled Nursing Facility Under Medicare
- Option 85.** Require a Copayment for Home Health Episodes Covered by Medicare
- Option 86.** Impose a Deductible and Coinsurance for Clinical Laboratory Services Covered by Medicare
- Option 87.** Increase the Basic Premium for Medicare Part B to 35 Percent of the Program’s Costs
- Option 88.** Permanently Extend the Provision That Provides Cost-Sharing Assistance for Qualifying Individuals Under Medicaid
- Option 89.** Eliminate the “Doughnut Hole” in Medicare’s Drug Benefit Design
- Option 90.** Institute a Premium for Higher-Income Enrollees Under Medicare’s Drug Benefit Similar to That Used in Part B
- Option 91.** Increase the Fraction of Beneficiaries Who Pay an Income-Related Premium for Part B of Medicare
- Option 92.** Base Federal Retirees’ Health Benefits on Length of Service
- Option 93.** Adopt a Voucher Plan for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program
- Option 94.** Require Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans to Subsidize Premiums for Medicare Part B and Reduce Coverage of Medicare Cost Sharing by an Equivalent Amount
- Option 95.** Increase Health Care Cost Sharing for Family Members of Active-Duty Military Personnel
- Option 96.** Introduce Minimum Out-of-Pocket Requirements Under TRICARE For Life
- Option 97.** Increase Medical Cost Sharing for Military Retirees Who Are Not Yet Eligible for Medicare
- Option 98.** Require Copayments for Medical Care Provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to Enrollees Without a Service-Connected Disability

84th Annual Meeting of the Military Chaplains Association

A record number attended our annual business meeting this year. In order of signing, those who logged in were as follows: Mike Pollitt, Michael Carr, Manuel Mak, Ron Craddock, Yolanda Gillen, Scott Jimenez, Alan Baker, C. Garland Vance, Fannalou Guggisberg, Jim Taylor, Lawrence McConnell, Jim Pope, John White, Paul Swerdlow, Babs Meairs, Tom Johnson, Mary Johnson, Bill Lord, Wayne Hoffman, William Sanford, Ric Renne, Murray Berger, George Vogel, Gary Hedges, John. Murdoch, Whit Woodard, Kendall Thomas, Ron Phelps, Tom Chadwick, Dave White, David Graetz, James Ryan, Ken Colton, Terry Sparks, Ted Boback, Doug Weadick, Joseph O'Keefe, Laurie O'Reilly, Gary Pollitt, Mike McCoy, and Jan McCormack. In addition, we had several other members and observers not pictured.

Retired and active Navy MCA members at the 84th Annual Meeting on 22 April 2009 pose with RADML Alan T. Baker, Chaplain of the Marine Corps and Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains. During the Annual Meeting, Chaplain Baker addressed the vital importance of community support and networking with chaplains of all services and career status in order to care for Wounded Warriors and their families.



Go to www.mca-usa.org for more information and the application form to join the Military Chaplains Association



Army, Air Force, Veterans Affairs, and Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol chaplains with Chaplain Baker. Note the wonderful smile on the back row right under the exit sign. Thank you Bill Sanford for short-notice fill at our Registration Desk!

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Special Warrior Ministry Panel. Chaplain David Graetz speaks about care for Warriors returning from OEF/OIF. Chaplains Ron Craddock, Linda Leibhart, and Brenson Bishop ponder his remarks and prepare for their turns to speak. RDML Alan T. Baker, Chaplain of the Marine Corps and Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains, responded to their presentations from an active duty senior leader's point of view. This session was a distinctive highlight of our joint MCA and Veterans Affairs chaplain convocation.



Mr. Stephen Dillard, Acting Director of the Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, briefs the joint convocation on Friday morning, 24 April 2009.

Chaplain Will Kinnaird, Associate Director of the VA chaplaincy and action officer for our meetings.

Photo is a rare moment with Will not moving but sitting for a meal. Not pictured but crucial to the event were the VA National Chaplain Center's "Dynamic Trio" of Marla Maratellos, Lee McKinney, and Laurie Shaw.

Thank You!



Annual Meeting 2010

We anticipate return to Fort Jackson for dedication of the new Air Force and Navy chaplain schools. That date is projected for 6 May 2010. Please mark your calendar. More information to follow ASAP.



Wednesday Evening Praise and Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Hugh Morgan, MCA member, retired USAF chaplain, endorser for the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, speaks on "The Favor of God." Doctor Morgan led our Scripture meditation during the 2009 National Institute special Wednesday evening Praise and Prayer Service.



50th Anniversary of Seminary Graduation

CH (LTC) Richard C. Baker, USA Ret., recently celebrated 50 years since graduating from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA. Richard and his wife traveled to Gettysburg last April in order to participate in his class reunion. Richard and Marjorie Wilke-Baker pose with senior Christopher Laughlin, who is also an Army chaplain candidate. In the background is a statue of Martin Luther and historic Schmucker Hall.



Military Officer Association of America's 2009 David E. White Leadership Award

Grover G. DeVault is an MCA Life Member, Emerson No. 112, recent MCA Trustee, and President of the Susquehanna MCA Chapter. Go to our webpage for the full story.

During our 2009 annual dues renewal period, the following members sent extra contributions:

Sustaining Member Renewals

- Robert G. Certain, USAF Ret, Roswell GA
- John M. Crotty, USAF Ret, Bronx NY
- Timothy R. Hall, USN Act, St. Marys GA
- David E. Mullis, USN Ret, Alpharetta GA
- Phillip J. Rapp, USA Ret, Clifton VA
- Gerald R. Richardson, Abbottstown PA
- Keith Travis, USA Ret, Atlanta GA
- Jerome A. Ward, USAF Ret, Ft. Worth TX

Contributing Member Renewals

- Eugene A. Brown, CAP Act, Alpharetta GA
- Frank W. Clawson, USA Ret, Salt Lake City UT
- Ronald D. Craddock, VA Act, Evans GA
- Timon W. Davison, USA Ret, West Liberty IA
- Alton K. Ethridge, VA Act, Yorktown VA
- Fannalou Guggisberg, USAF Ret, Sun City West FL
- Thomas M. Rardin, VA Act, Hewitt TX
- John F. Schaeffer Jr. USN Ret, Knoxville, TN
- Ray D. Strawser, USA Ret, Westminster MD
- Richard Sweatt, CAP Act, St. Matthews SC
- James R. Taylor, VA Act, Lutz FL
- Jack E. Tretheway, USN Ret, Milwaukee WI

Other Special Contributions

- All Faith Chapel, Protestant Community
- Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, CA
- Richard C. Baker, USA Ret, Brenham TX
- Tommy C. Jones Jr., Seattle WA
- Robert L. Maase, USAF Ret, Alhambra CA
- Gary R. Pollitt, USN Ret, Jacksonville FL

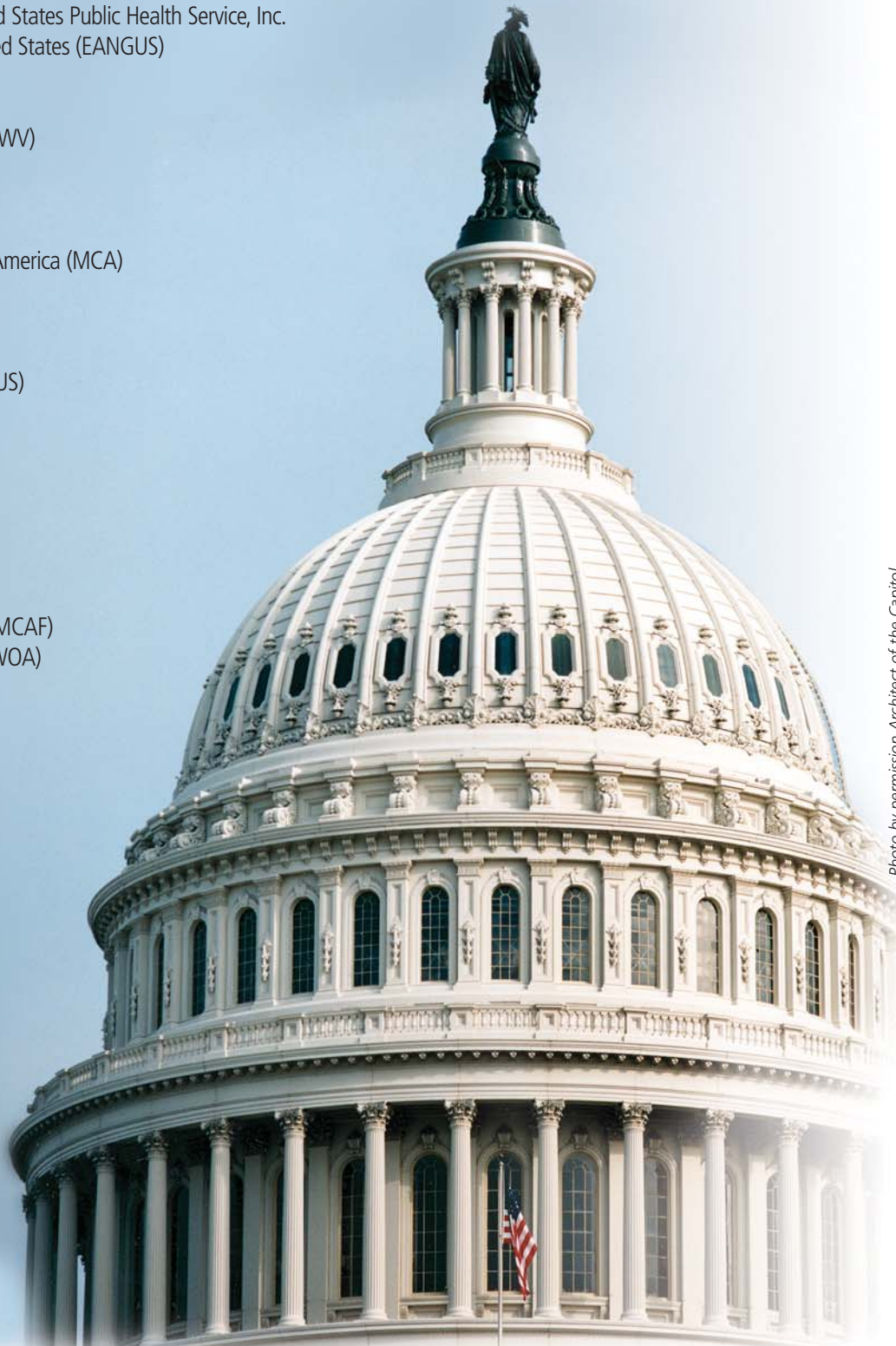
Thank You!



The Military Coalition

www.themilitarycoalition.org

- Air Force Association (AFA)
- Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
- Air Force Women Officers Associated (AFWOA)
- American Logistics Association (ALA)
- AMVETS (American Veterans)
- Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
- Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
- Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
- Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
- Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, (CWO&WOA) of the United States Coast Guard
- Commissioned Officers Association (COA) of the United States Public Health Service, Inc.
- Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
- Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
- Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)
- Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWW)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Of America
- Marine Corps League (MCL)
- Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
- Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
- National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)
- National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)
- National Military Family Association (NMFA)
- National Order of Battlefield Commissions (NOBC)
- Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
- Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
- Reserve Enlisted Association (REA)
- Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
- The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
- Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces (SMCAF)
- United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
- USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)



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