

# Nebraska Department Chaplain Initiatives

*Enhancing Service for Community Awareness*



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American Legion Nebraska Department Chaplaincy

# Chaplain Initiatives

## ➤ Introduction

### ➤ Encouragement

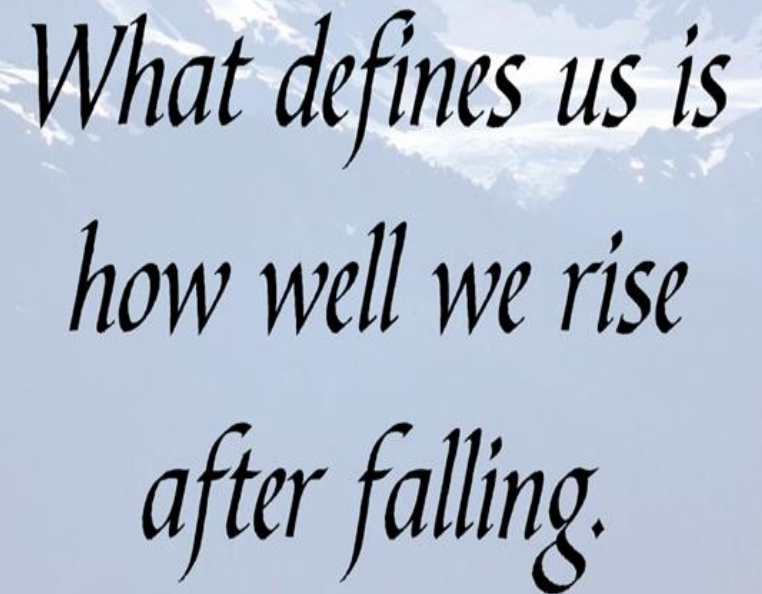
- Stay the course: God, country, and family

### ➤ Exhortation

- Seek the Lord for provision and counsel

### ➤ Community Relations

- Greater public awareness of the American Legion experience



*What defines us is  
how well we rise  
after falling.*

# Chaplain Initiatives

## ➤ a Calling

### ➤ Mission

- Foster Legionnaire wholeness (body, mind/soul, and spirit)
- Establish visible expressions of Legionnaire history and purpose

### ➤ Objectives

- Recruit and retain chaplains for post and district positions
- Develop chaplain interchanges through *Nebraska Legionnaire*, social media, and other public relations efforts
- Foster Legionnaire observances for community participation



# Specific Initiatives

- NE Department Chaplain Post Everlasting monthly Taps accounting
- NE Department Post “9-11” Recruiting
- “Open House” @ Department, District, and Post levels
- **Wellness visits to:**
  - VA hospitals and veterans’ homes
  - Districts and Posts



# Chaplain Initiatives

## ➤ Getting the Word Out

### ➤ Nebraska Legionnaire newspaper

- Chaplain columns
- "Ask the Chaplain" column
- Prayer requests
- Observances

### ➤ NE Post, District, and Department

newspapers and newsletters

- (the same)

### ➤ Facebook and websites

- Video messaging



# Chaplain Initiatives

## ➤ Ministering Spirit

- **Ministering...** a calling or devotion to serving God by serving His people (John 13:5,12,14)
- **Counseling...**clarifying the problem; no Judgment, no guilt-tripping, no shaming
- **Qualifications...**know the Lord, know His Word (i.e., the Bible)
- **Role...**encourage and exhort the faithful
- **Belief...**God, country, family



# Chaplain Initiatives

## Community Relations

### Community Relations

#### Post and District Chaplains oversight

- Four Chaplains, 3 Feb
- VE (Victory in Europe) Day, 8 May
- Decoration (Memorial) Day, last Monday
- Independence Day, 4 Jul
- VJ (Victory over Japan) Day, 5 Aug
- Armistice (Veterans) Day, 11 Nov
- Post Everlasting
- POW/MIA



# Chaplain Initiatives

## ➤ Chaplaincy

### ➤ District Chaplain responsibilities

- Oversee Post chaplains
- Train prospective post chaplains

### ➤ Department Chaplain responsibilities

- Supervise Post and District chaplains
- Invocation & benediction at all state meetings
- Minister to all Legionnaires
- Orchestrate observances and ceremonies as available during state, district, and post meetings

### ➤ Maintain regular communication with National Chaplaincy, and NE Department, District, and Post chaplaincies





# Chaplain Initiatives

## ➤ Persuasions

- **Nebraska Legionnaire lifestyle**
  - God, country, and family
- **Department Chaplain interests**
  - The Word (i.e., the Bible)
  - Legionnaire morale and welfare



# Chaplain Initiatives

## ➤ Conclusion

### ➤ Renewals

- A reason for being a Legionnaire

### ➤ Retention

- A reason for remaining a Legionnaire

### ➤ Recruitment

- A reason for asking others to join



**ATTENTION**  
All Military Veterans  
to Include Active Duty, National Guard & Reserve  
You May Qualify to Join  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**Serving Our Community  
by Focusing on:**

- Children & Youth Programs
- Veterans Legislation & Benefits
- Scholarship & Financial Aid
- National Security & Protection of Our Flag

**To Learn More, Contact:**

Eligibility Dates	
Gulf War/War on Terrorism Aug. 2, 1990 – present*	Korean War June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
Panama Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990	WWII Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946
Lebanon/Grenada Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984	WWI April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918
Vietnam War Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975	* if currently serving on active duty today, <b>you are eligible.</b>

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