



National Chaplain Event Planned for May 17-19, 2024

Rev. Peter R. Hook, State Chaplain

For fifty years the members of VFW Post 1865, and the citizens of Kenosha, Wisconsin, honored the VFW National Chaplain and other VFW Chaplains for the service they provide. This was a special event not duplicated anywhere else in the world.

Unfortunately, a number of years ago, the tradition stopped when Post leadership changed. Past National Chaplain, Ted Bowers, presented the idea of bringing this event to Pennsylvania to his home Post (Richard J. Gross VFW Post 8896) in East Berlin, PA. The East Berlin Post decided to take on the responsibility of honoring the VFW National Chaplain and the work of Chaplains. They held their first event in 2017 when Rev. Peter R. Hook from Department of PA served as National Chaplain. The second "National Chaplain Event" took place May 18-20, 2018, and VFW National Chaplain, Rev. James Gray from Department of GA was honored. VFW National Chaplain, Charlene Cobb, from Wisconsin was honored May 17-19, 2019. In May 2020-2022 the events honoring Rev. Jim Jenkins from Kansas, Father Joseph Gallick from Massachusetts, and Harold Sayles from Virginia had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The tradition continued in May 19-21, 2023, when Debb Halter from Missouri was honored. Next year, May 17-19, 2024, we look forward to honoring David Frei from Idaho.

This is a retreat weekend for Post, District, and State Chaplains and their spouses. Check-in is Friday evening, May 17, 2024, and we will be having dinner together at the East Berlin Post at 6:00 pm. On Saturday, Armed Forces Day, a special guided tour of the Gettysburg battlefield by Chaplain John Wega has been planned. Chaplain Wega is an expert, not only in Civil War history, but in the role Chaplains and faith played in the Civil War. Then, on Saturday evening there will be a dinner and program honoring our special guest, our VFW National Chaplain.

We have reserved rooms at the Altland House (<http://altlandhouse.com/inn-suites/>) 1 Center Square in nearby Abbottstown, PA 17301 (717) 259-9535. These rooms are for guests who will check in on Friday, May 17, 2024, for 2 nights, departing the morning of Sunday, May 19, 2024. Those planning to attend the National Chaplain Event who desire to stay at the Altland House, should call the Altland House individually on a first-come, first-served basis to review room features and nightly rates.

Chaplains, and anyone else who would like to attend, should put this their calendar now and contact Chaplain Hook at 267-229-7722 or PeterHook@verizon.net to fill out a reservation form.

Blessings as you serve,

Rev. Peter R. Hook

Past National Chaplain

Eastern Conference Chaplain

PA State Chaplain

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