



Being Trustworthy: A Chaplain's Commitment

Rev. Peter R. Hook, VFW National Chaplain, 2024-2025

Dear VFW Chaplains and Commanders,

Recently, two similar experiences caused me to reflect deeply on what it means to be a trustworthy person.

1. The First Incident

Arrangements had been made for the CEO of an organization serving homeless veterans to give a presentation to a group. From the beginning, it was clear that the group intended to make a financial donation and simply wanted to learn more about the ministry. Detailed plans were confirmed in advance—directions, phone numbers, everything. But when the day arrived, the CEO was a no-show. No phone call. No explanation. No apology. The person simply didn't come.

2. The Second Incident

I had hired a man to do a small landscaping job at my home on a Saturday morning. We agreed on the time and the pay, and he assured me he'd be there. But again, the day came—and he didn't show up. No text, no call. A week later, when I ran into him, all he said was, "Pastor, I'm sorry I didn't come to do that work." No reason. He had simply decided not to come.

Both situations share a common thread: a failure to follow through on a commitment. A failure to do what was promised. And a failure to show the most basic courtesy—communicating when plans change.

As Comrades—and especially as Chaplains—we must be different. We must be **trustworthy**.

Trustworthy people do what they say they'll do. They keep their word—whether the commitment seems major or minor. This is often how people decide whether or not we can be trusted: *Did we follow through? Were we dependable?*

I urge you: Write down your appointments, promises, and commitments—and then honor them. Personally, I use both a digital calendar on my iPhone and a physical

month-at-a-glance planner that I carry with me. I review both regularly so that nothing slips through the cracks. In fact, part of my routine at the beginning of each day is to review my daily, weekly, and monthly calendar.

For trustworthy people, their word is their bond. If something unavoidable arises, they communicate. They make the call. They show respect for others by being honest, clear, and responsible.

As VFW Chaplains, let us model this kind of integrity. In a world that often shrugs off broken promises, let us be people whose word can be counted on—**every time**.

With deep respect and enduring gratitude,



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