



Be the Lighthouse in Somebody's Storm

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

Every veteran has faced storms. Some were encountered on distant battlefields. Others are fought quietly at home through grief, loneliness, illness, moral injury, or memories that refuse to fade. As VFW chaplains, we will meet men and women navigating each of these challenges.

It is easy to believe we must have all the answers.

We do not.

Instead, think of being a lighthouse.

A lighthouse does not calm the sea. It does not stop the wind or remove the rocks hidden beneath the waves. It simply stands where it is needed, shining steadily through the darkness. Its light offers direction, hope, and the reassurance that someone is watching over the journey.

That is often the ministry of a VFW chaplain.

Your presence at a hospital bedside may mean more than the perfect prayer. A listening ear after a meeting may ease a burden someone has carried for years. A handwritten note, a phone call, or a quiet word of encouragement can remind a fellow veteran that he or she has not been forgotten.

Jesus described His followers as the light of the world. We are not called to draw attention to ourselves but to reflect His light so that others can find hope and direction amid life's storms. Often, the brightest witness is simply showing up with compassion, patience, and a willing heart.

You may not always see the results of your ministry. The veteran you encourage today may never tell you how much your kindness mattered. Faithful service is rarely measured by applause or recognition. It is measured by lives touched through simple acts of care, compassion, and steadfast love.

Whether you are beginning your service as a VFW chaplain or have served faithfully for many years, remember this: Your calling is not to rescue everyone from every storm. Your calling is to be a faithful light, shining consistently and pointing others toward hope, peace, and God's enduring presence.

Today, someone in your Post may be searching for that light.

Be the lighthouse in somebody's storm.

Thank you for serving those who have served. Your ministry truly makes a difference!



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