



# OCT Chaplain's Corner

## Comrade Chaplains



First and foremost, from the bottom of my heart, thank you. Since the passing of my dear wife, Tina, I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, prayers, cards, flowers, and kind words. Your support has been a lifeline in this season of grief. My family and I have felt carried by the compassion of this great VFW family, and I am truly humbled.

I also want to thank you for your confidence in electing me to serve as your National Chaplain. It is both a blessing and a sacred responsibility. As a son of Kentucky, I promise to bring a little of that southern charm, along with a whole lot of faith and dedication, to this ministry. Together, we will continue to walk alongside our veterans, their families, and our communities with compassion and integrity.

October is a full month across the VFW:

Oct 2–5: Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training – Kansas City, MO

Oct 9–12: Junior Vice Commanders Training – Kansas City, MO

Oct 17–19: Big Ten Conference – Bettendorf, IA

Oct 24–26: Eastern Conference – Wilmington, DE

Oct 31 Deadline: Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year entries due to local Posts

These gatherings and deadlines remind us that while grief and hardship touch each of us, our mission presses forward. Let us remain faithful in encouraging one another, lifting each other up in prayer, and being present for those who need us most.

As Paul reminds us, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” May we live that calling each day—through a listening ear, a prayer shared, or simply showing up when someone feels forgotten.

Thank you again, comrades, for being my family in Christ and in service. May the Lord bless each of you as we continue this good work together.

**In His service,**

*Darren Atkins*

**Darren Atkins  
VFW National Chaplain  
2025-2026**

October 1, 2025

