



JUN Chaplain's Corner



June is a month that brings many things together. It marks the beginning of summer, the closing of one chapter, and the beginning of another. For many of us in the VFW, it is also a season of reflection as we gather for conventions, celebrate accomplishments, and prepare to continue the work ahead.

As I sit and write this final Chaplain's Corner as your VFW National Chaplain, my heart is filled with gratitude. It has truly been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve this organization and the remarkable men and women who make it what it is. Over the past year, I have had the privilege of meeting chaplains and comrades from across this country who continue to serve veterans and their families with compassion, humility, and dedication.

I want to offer my sincere thanks to all of those who helped and encouraged me throughout this journey. Thank you to the Post, District, and Department Chaplains who faithfully carry out the quiet work that so often goes unseen. Thank you to those who made phone calls, checked on comrades, visited hospitals, comforted grieving families, and simply showed up when somebody needed a friend. Ministry is often found in the small moments, and many of you have served faithfully in those moments time and time again.

June also brings us to several important observances. On **June 6th**, we remember the anniversary of D-Day and honor the courage and sacrifice of those who stormed the beaches of Normandy in defense of freedom. We also recognize **Flag Day** on **June 14th**, a reminder of the principles and sacrifices represented by our nation's flag. And on **Father's Day**, we pause to give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors, and role models who helped guide and shape our lives.

As chaplains, our mission does not end with one convention year. The need for compassion, encouragement, and presence continues every single day. There are still veterans who feel alone. There are still families carrying burdens that few people see. There are still comrades quietly fighting battles within themselves. Never underestimate the power of a simple conversation, a caring visit, or a reminder that somebody matters.

To those continuing in the Chaplaincy, I encourage you to remain steady in your calling. Continue learning. Continue listening. Continue serving with kindness and patience. Sometimes the greatest ministry we provide is simply being present.

I also want to thank all of you who supported the growth of chaplain resources, training, and outreach throughout this past year. My prayer is that those efforts continue to grow and help equip chaplains for the important work ahead.

If you are able, I look forward to seeing many of you at the VFW National Convention in Reno. Until then, continue taking care of one another and never forget the difference you make in the lives of those you serve.

Yours in Comradeship,

Darren Atkins

Darren Atkins
National Chaplain 2025-2026
Veterans of Foreign Wars

