



MAR Chaplain's Corner



March has a way of reminding us that seasons do change—even when winter seems like it's holding on with both hands. The mornings may still carry a chill, but there's a softness in the air that whispers of spring. And if we pay attention, we can see little signs of new life pushing up through the ground.

That's how hope often works in our lives. It doesn't always arrive in a loud or dramatic way. Sometimes it just shows up quietly, like a crocus breaking through frozen soil. Sometimes it comes in the form of a kind word, a handshake, or a phone call from a Comrade who just wanted to check in.

As chaplains, we are often walking alongside folks who are still in their winter season. Some are carrying grief. Some are battling loneliness. Some are fighting battles that don't show on the outside. March reminds us that even when things feel dormant, growth can still be happening beneath the surface.

This month also brings us closer to the observance of **Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29th**. It is a sacred opportunity to recognize those who served during a difficult chapter in our nation's history. Many of those veterans returned home without the welcome they deserved. As chaplains, we have the privilege of offering what may have been missing decades ago—gratitude, respect, and a listening ear. A simple "Welcome home" still carries healing power.

March is also a time when many of our Posts and Departments are deep into planning, elections, and community activities. There can be busyness, and sometimes even tension, when decisions are being made. In those moments, let us remember that our calling is not only to offer prayers at meetings but to be a calming presence within them. A steady voice. A reminder that we are on the same team, serving the same mission.

And let me encourage you this month to take care of yourselves as well. Even the strongest among us need rest. Even the encourager needs encouragement. Step outside when you can. Feel that early spring sunshine on your face. Let it remind you that renewal is part of God's design.

If someone in your Post has grown quiet, reach out. If someone hasn't been around in a while, make the call. Sometimes the very act of being remembered can lift a burden we never even knew they were carrying.

March teaches us patience. It teaches us that new life doesn't rush, but it does arrive. So let us walk faithfully through whatever season we find ourselves in, trusting that warmer days are ahead.

Until next time, may you carry hope in your heart and share it freely with those around you.

Yours in service,

Darren Atkins

Darren Atkins
VFW National Chaplain
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