NOV Chaplain's Corner



Greetings Chaplains and Commanders!

November is a special month for those of us who have served. It is a time to honor our veterans, remember the sacrifices made by military families, and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. But before we get too far into November, I have a little unfinished business.

Remember that homework I gave you?

It's **BUDDY CHECK TIME!**

For the past two months, I have been asking you to reach out to someone you have not heard from lately. In October, I encouraged you to make a Buddy Check and then tag someone else to do the same. Well, how did we do?

Did you make that telephone call, send that message, tag another veteran to do the same? I hope so. Sometimes we get so busy taking care of our responsibilities that we forget the simplest things can make the greatest difference. A telephone call may take only five minutes, but to someone who has been sitting alone all day, those five minutes might mean everything.

And remember, you can still use our A Simple Buddy Check tool at https://lotcs.org/tag.html. Tag someone, encourage them to tag another, and keep that chain of kindness going.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

On November 10, we celebrate the birthday of the United States Marine Corps. To our Marines, past and present, happy birthday! Your proud traditions of honor, courage, and commitment continue to inspire generations of Americans. The following day, November 11, is Veterans Day. This is a day that belongs to every man and woman who has worn the uniform of our Armed Forces.

Many of our Posts will hold ceremonies, parades, or gatherings to recognize the service of our fellow veterans. As chaplains, we may be called upon to offer prayers, provide words of encouragement, or simply stand alongside those who served. But I want

us to remember something. Not every veteran will be standing in a parade. Some will be in hospitals or nursing homes. Some will be confined to their homes. Others may be carrying memories of their military service, or of comrades who never came home.

Those are the veterans I especially want us to think about this November. Attend the ceremonies. Honor the flag. Thank those who served. But afterward, find someone who could not attend. Give them a call. Pay them a visit. Let them know that Veterans Day includes them, too. That is how we turn remembrance into service.

REMEMBERING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

November is also Military Family Appreciation Month. Having served ourselves, we understand that military service affects far more than the person wearing the uniform. There are spouses who manage households during deployments, children who miss birthdays and holidays with their parents, and families who wait anxiously for news from loved ones serving far from home.

As chaplains, we should remember to thank them, too. Perhaps your Post knows a family with someone currently deployed. Maybe there is a military spouse in your community who could use a little encouragement. Reach out. Sometimes asking, “How are you doing?” is just as important as thanking someone for their service.

A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

On Thursday, November 26, our nation celebrates Thanksgiving. For many of us, Thanksgiving means gathering with family and friends, sharing a meal, and remembering the blessings God has provided throughout the year. But Thanksgiving can also be a difficult time. There are veterans who will spend the holiday alone, and families gathering around a table where someone is missing.

We should be especially mindful of them. If your Post is planning a Thanksgiving dinner, consider inviting someone who might otherwise spend the day alone. If you know a veteran who cannot leave home, perhaps someone could deliver a meal or stop by for a visit. Sometimes a plate of food, a friendly conversation, and a little companionship can turn a lonely holiday into a meaningful one.

Thanksgiving reminds us to be grateful for what we have. Chaplaincy reminds us to share those blessings with others.

PRAYERS FOR THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU!

Our VFW National Chaplain website has a Prayer Request page at https://lotcs.org/prayer-request-chaplain.html. Requests submitted through this page come directly to me as your VFW National Chaplain. If you are facing a difficult situation, concerned about a loved one, or simply need someone to join you in prayer, please use this resource and share it with others who may need it.

PUTTING OUR GRATITUDE INTO ACTION

As we approach the end of November, I want to leave you with another little assignment. Yes, I know. More homework! This month, I am asking you to do three simple things. Thank a veteran. Remember a military family. Reach out to someone who may be alone this Thanksgiving. You do not need a special committee or an organized program to accomplish any of these things. You simply need a caring heart and the willingness to act.

And while you are doing that, please continue your Buddy Checks. Our responsibility to care for one another does not end when Veterans Day ceremonies are over or the Thanksgiving dishes have been put away. Chaplaincy is not something we do only when we are wearing our VFW caps or standing behind a podium. It is how we treat people every day!

IN FAITH AND SERVICE

As we give thanks this November, I am especially grateful for each of you who serves our veterans, their families, and our communities. May God bless you and your families, our veterans, our military families, and all those who continue to serve our nation. And may we never forget that sometimes the greatest way to show our gratitude is simply to share it with someone else.

Happy Veterans Day and may you all have a blessed Thanksgiving.

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