

Brother Knights,

The Veterans Affairs Working Group sends warm weather greetings. We are thankful for time spent promoting the veteran programs during our breakout room at the recent 125th Annual Convention held in Ft. Wayne. See attached photo of the Veteran Affairs table where we conducted a door prize raffle for 7 great prizes. We thank you for your generous FREE WILL donations to support our core programs.

The Veteran Affairs Working Group was also pleased to present a BIG CHECK to Supreme Council member John Applebaum. Donated \$6,000.00 to Warriors to Lourdes and \$5,000.00 to Co-sponsored seminarians.

Along with the long-standing Warriors to Lourdes and Honor Flight programs we were also most excited about the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the USA! No doubt many celebrations to be planned and what an honor to remember all the men and women that keep our country safe. Our Working Group has recently embarked on a new project with Wreaths Across America (WAA) and the theme for 2026 is "REMEMBER ME", a tribute to all those who have made countless sacrifices. Wreaths Across America core activity (known by many) is coordinating wreaths to place on military cemetery graves in December of each year for those deceased. This year the scheduled date is December 19th, 2026 at over 5,000 cemeteries throughout the USA, but there is much more. Wreaths Across America: Remembers, Honors, and Teaches. Lesson plans- K thru 12 are available on their website www.wreathsassamerica.org – what better way to educate our youth on the finer points of learning about America during this year of celebration. Feel free to peruse the website to learn more.

VAWG future plans:

- Veteran Affairs offering 2 new REBATE programs in 2026 for Honor Flights and Wreaths across America donations. Councils and Assemblies that make a minimum one-time donation of \$500 to either an Indiana Honor Flight and/or Indiana Wreaths Across America-wreaths (VAWG sponsor site IN-0238) can receive a \$100 rebate from the Veteran Affairs Working group. Please provide your proof of donation then email a copy of your donation to veteransaffairs@indianakofc.org for the rebate.
- Continue to encourage donations for Warriors to Lourdes, Scholarships, and Chaplains.
- Continued promotion of our Dog Tag Project.
- Deliver additional Mass kits to Camp Atterbury.

Attachments: WAA ordering instructions. INVET#1 form for Warriors to Lourdes and Scholarship donations. Dog Tag Order form. Honor Flight 2026 schedule and contacts. WAWG PPT.'s presented at Annual Convention.

Finally, we would like to note that the U.S. Postal Service Announces Additional 2025 Stamps honoring the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps. See sample

of stamps below. Note: these stamps are now available! USPS plans to raise the price on July 13th from .73 cents to .78 cents. USPS also plans 2 times a year price increases with a total of 5 increases by 2027.



In closing, we thank you for your continued support of our essential programs that honor and recognize our veterans, service members, chaplains and seminarians seeking to follow in the faith set forth by our Fr. McGivney.

Look forward to maybe seeing you at the Convention in Ft. Wayne!

Vivat Jesus,

Gerald Bromley – Chairman, Veterans Affairs Working Group (please contact me with any questions).

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