

Brother Knights,

The Veterans Affairs Working Group is pleased to report we experienced very informative and instructive set of presentations at the recent Annual Convention in French Lick. We thank you for your "free will" donations at the Convention to support our programs. Our VAWG group was able to generate the interest of several Knights in getting more information during our workshop, featuring Warriors to Lourdes, Honor Flights, Chaplain support, scholarships, and 4th degree activities.

Also pleased to report we recently received a generous donation of \$5,000.00 from the family of recently deceased brother Knight Jerry Kessens. With this donation we will be able to purchase multiple Mass Kits for active military chaplains, with the balance distributed to the Father McGivney scholarship Fund as directed by the family.

We were recently informed that there is a need for new vestments for visiting priests at Camp Atterbury (Edinburgh, IN). Assembly 1906 Frankfort, IN is likely the first in the process of making a donation to achieving the goal of updating the new vestments. The VAWG is planning on matching funds received (via fundraising) and donations to reach the goal to acquire these new vestments. We are seeking donations from all concerned. This assembly also recently received a donation of a Mass Kit from the family of a deceased Knight. The Mass Kit will be presented in early June to recently assigned Father Garrett Braun (USAF Chaplain - Evansville diocese).

VAWG future plans:

- Present newly acquired Mass Kits to Indiana active chaplains identified.
- Expand our VAWG group to become more active in the Wreaths Across America Program.
- Early planning for another Bourbon Raffle, broader range of prizes! Stay tuned!
- Build a reference library by creating a "VAWG Military Chaplains Reading List" of books, articles, and commemorative publications that all members can source.
- Continued promotion of our Dog Tag Project.

The VAWG would like to thank you again as our Dog Tag project continues generate funds for the programs we support. Consider purchasing a bag of 50 or 100 for summer events (order form attached). VAWG would like to formally recognize Assembly 253 Evansville, IN for not only purchasing 100 tags, but generously presented a check to VAWG during the Convention for the full gross amount of \$1,000.00.

Attachments: Dog Tag Order form. Honor Flight 2025 schedule and contacts.

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 footsteps of Fr. McGivney.

Vivat Jesus,

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

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