

Brother Knights,

The Veterans Affairs Working Group trusts you all had a safe and meaningful Memorial Day weekend. Most localities were very active in memorial ceremonies, flag placements, honor guards and color guards. Noteworthy was recent activity going on at the local VA in Ft. Wayne. Knights from 2 Councils participated in putting up the ceremonial flags around the entrance to the VA Hospital for Memorial Day. Knights were from Councils 16065 (FT Wayne) and Council 18497 (Waterloo). The Flags were placed on Saturday 23 May and took down Tues, 26 May. Council 19497 will be volunteering to put the flags up for the 4 July Holiday as well.

In Gary Indiana, a Knights Color Guard was conducted at the University of Indiana Northwest on May 27th. The Color Guard was presented by the Abraham Lincoln Assembly 235 and Master of Ceremonies was USMC retired Daniel Reardon (see photo).



As a follow up to our projects this year, we are very pleased to be supporting the Indiana Honor Flight program by offering a special rebate. Basically, any Council or Assembly that donates a minimum of \$500 to one of the 4 Indiana based Honor Flights will receive a \$100 rebate. Honor Flights this year are averaging \$600-\$750 per veteran. Only requires the documentation that the funds were processed for the Honor Flight, and our Veteran Affairs working group will send the \$100 check to your Council/Assembly. The letter describing the details of the program are found here in the link...

<https://d.docs.live.net/9f5ef9df75e6ac34/Documents/Knights/VAVS/Honor%20Flight/Honor%20Flight%20Rebate%202026/Council-Assembly%20Honor%20Flight%20Appeal%20-%20Spring%202026.pdf>

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.

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.

Vivat Jesus,

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

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