

2023-08-30 – **Calling all Chaplains.**

If you are now, or considering being a Chaplain, at whatever level (Post, District, or Department), this message is for you. It is also for Commanders considering/recruiting members for Chaplain appointments.

How important is it that we have Chaplains? Who can be a Chaplain? What is it to be a Chaplain in the American Legion? What? Why? How? And When? These questions and others may be answered in *“The American Legion Chaplains Handbook”* and the *“Chaplain’s “How To...” Manual”* (with links to each on the www.walegion.org, with the “Chaplain...Resources”).

Why is it important that we have Chaplains?

That answer may be summed up in the following, as found in the “Chaplain’s Handbook”, as follows:

“FOR AND COUNTRY...”

Like our nations founding fathers, the veterans who founded The American Legion acknowledged God as the source of all our rights and freedoms.

Apart from God, our history as a people has no meaning. In this faith our institutions were created, our laws enacted, and our liberties secured. To safeguard our sovereignty and our prosperity, that same belief must direct our social and economic paths today.

Conceding the erosion of moral and spiritual values in recent years, and recognizing our dependance upon God, The American Legion reaffirms them of His proper place at the center of the nation’s life.”

Further it goes on to say:

“The American Legion’s founders believed the God and country cannot be treated as mutually exclusive if the United States is to survive and prosper. Thus, they created the office of post chaplain, charging it with keeping this association high in the minds of members.”

For answers to the rest of the questions, please go to the links mentioned above. But also let us remember that the Chaplain, the Meditations/Messages, and Prayer Requests can come from all faiths and religions. Also, everyone is encouraged to submit Messages or Prayer Requests to be included on the Chaplains section of our website. It is not just mine, but all of us. “Inclusion” is so important because by “Exclusion” of any results in missing opportunities of observing, celebrating, or considering contributions to enhancing and bettering our daily lives and appreciation of others’ beliefs. Wherever we set aside ours, or others’ beliefs in God by our various interpretations of who our God is personally, we set aside what our founders were striving for in “Freedom Of Religion” to worship, or not to worship, as we please without fear. As long as we keep God in front of our wishes and desires, as noted in our Preamble to the American Legion Constitution, we can succeed by His will, mercy and grace.

So, for anyone wishing to *“...help Legionnaires and others grow in their relationships with God and one another, and to minister to people wherever there is a need.”* Please let your Post and/or District Commander know. Also, I am ***again*** trying to update our District and Post Chaplains Listing, so as “Need” may arise, Legionnaires can find our quickly who the Chaplains are within a District or Post.

If anyone has any questions or comments about The American Legion Chaplaincy, please let me know.
“For God and Country”

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