

F O R G O D , C O U N T R Y , & H O M E

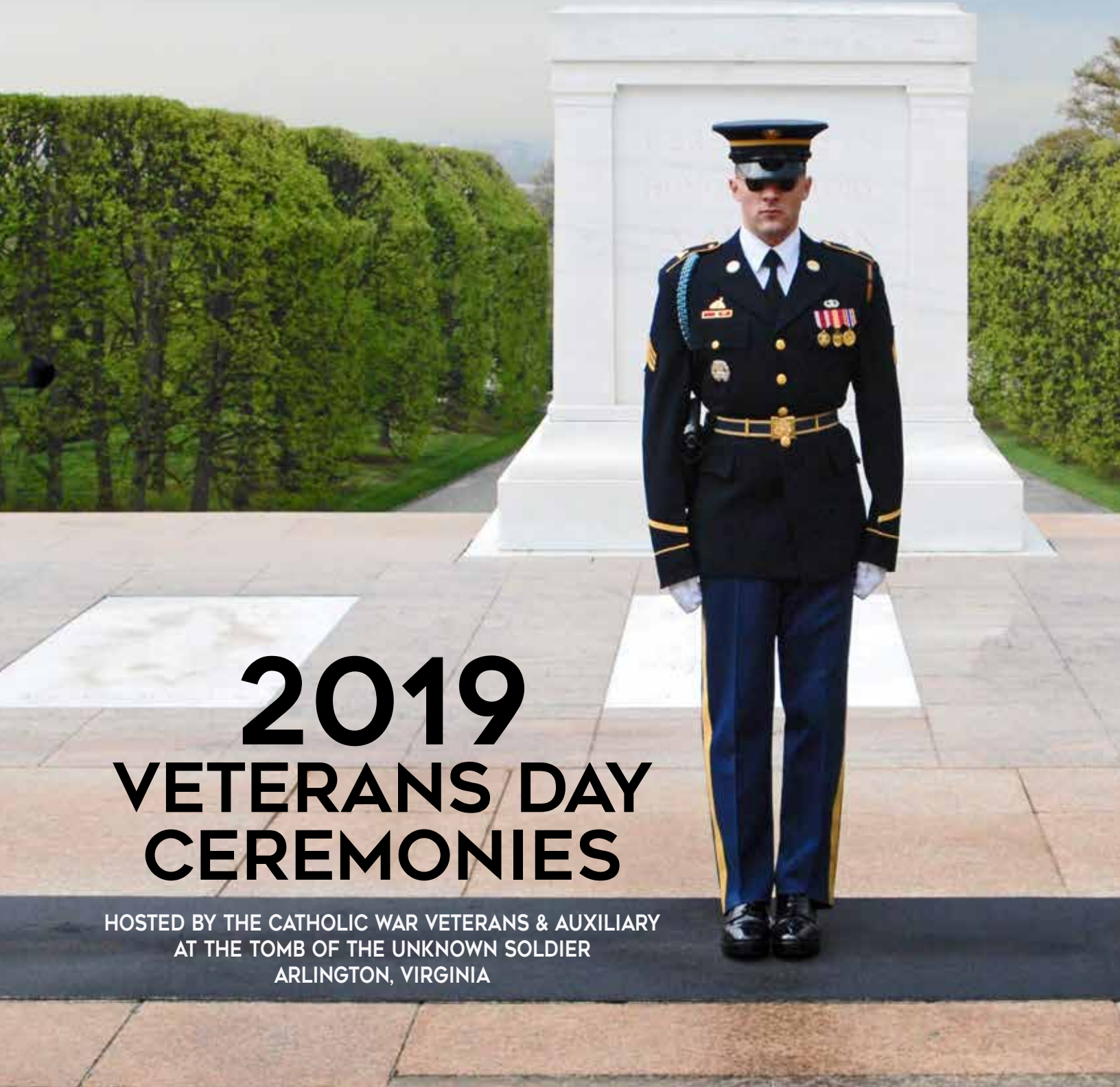


EST. 1935

# CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FALL 2019



# 2019 VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES

HOSTED BY THE CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS & AUXILIARY  
AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



## FROM THE COMMANDER

I want to take this opportunity to keep our membership informed and updated as to several important matters that are happening on the National level of our Catholic War Veterans organization.

Thanks For your Vote of Confidence. I want to thank the membership for electing me to a third term. I congratulate all the newly-elected officers of the CWV and the Auxiliary. My thanks to our past officers for their work and dedication to our organization.

### APPOINTMENTS

Several officers were appointed at the National Convention. Our Chaplain remains Msgr. Edward Coyle; Executive Director is David Crum; Adjutant is Nicholas Taylor; Jose Garcia, PNC continues as our National Service Officer. The offices of National Liaison, Auxiliary

Liaison and National VAVS were offered to Marvin McFeaters, Julian Mendoza, Denise DeBlois and Manuel Tanguma, PNC, who declined appointment for various reasons. These offices remain vacant, and I will consider anyone who wishes to be of service. Please contact me if you have an interest or know of someone who might be a good candidate.

### UNIFORMS

Please take note and heed as new uniform regulations will be strictly enforced as of 1 January 2020, unless due to extenuating circumstances approved by the National Commander beforehand.

**MEN: FORMAL/DRESS** Uniforms will be a Navy Blue single breasted sport coat/jacket, khaki (tan) pants/slacks, white shirt (short or long sleeve depending on weather), CWV tie, CWV garrison cap and dress shoes. **CASUAL** Uniform will be khaki (tan) pants/slacks, CWV polo shirt, and garrison cap.

The appropriate uniform **MUST** be worn for our various meetings and events. If anyone has a question concerning the correct uniform, please refer to your event guide or ask one of the National Committee Officers. While we do appreciate that many of you are also involved with other organizations such as the DAV, VFW, etc., we require that when attending any CWV function, you be attired in our CWV uniform.

**AUXILIARY: FORMAL/DRESS** Uniform: A motion was made and passed that all auxiliary members will now wear black dress pants/slacks. Until further notice, the light blue blazer/jacket, white jewel neckline blouse (men are to wear white dress shirt, short or long sleeve), garrison cap and black shoes (no high heels) will be worn. Jewelry should be confined to CWVA earrings or small pearl. Any handbag is to be black. Please remember to have white gloves needed for certain functions, rites or ceremonies. **CASUAL** Uniform will use the CWVA polo shirt. As with CWV members, please be aware of the dress code for the functions which you will be attending.

### UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

And now for something it is necessary for me to address. It was brought to my attention there were incidents of unacceptable behavior on the part of some members at our convention. The complaints alleged harassment and bullying. No specific persons were named and the incidents could not be verified or proven, but are being addressed. A formal Code/Policy of Conduct will be presented at the National Board Meeting in November, and posted on our website for all members to see. Let each of us review our own behavior and make every effort not to damage the reputation of any other member, or our organization.

Bullying and harassment can not and will not be accepted from anyone in this organization!

### HASTA LA VISTA, SAN ANTONIO!

We missed those of you who could not attend our convention in San Antonio. Many of us reconnected with old friends and made some new ones as well. The San Antonio area had much to offer and we had a good time. I particularly thank our Reverend Clergy, who took time from their busy schedules, to renew

our sense of faith and charity. I sincerely thank all of those who worked on the convention committee. My compliments to Convention Chairman Jose Garcia, PNC and Convention Auxiliary Chairlady Lupita Martinez, PNP, as well as our National Executive Director Dave Crum for their many hours of work in preparation for a most successful convention experience.

### **NEXT YEAR IN NEW YORK!**

Plans are already being made for our August 2020 National Convention in New York. We hope to see more of you there! The committee is working on a possible visit to the USS INTREPID Museum in Manhattan, a movie studio in Queens and a New York Mets game at Citifield! Stay tuned!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

I want to encourage more of you to consider making a special effort to attend more of our meetings and events, particularly the upcoming Veterans Day meetings and ceremonies in Arlington, Virginia in November. A good show of our members in dress uniform at Arlington National Cemetery would be an awesome sight! The Catholic War Veterans is the sponsoring organization this year.

REMEMBER: "GOD'S GOT THIS!"

*Frank Kowalski*

National Commander

## **A WORD FROM OUR CWVA NATIONAL PRESIDENT:**

### **AUXILIARY and VETERANS:**

I am so thankful for all the help I received at the Texas Convention. Everything was wonderful, especially the Texas hospitality. The Auxiliary luncheon was so much fun, and a big thank you to everyone for the lovely gifts and the money. I really did feel like "Queen for A Day." I hope everyone enjoyed the entertainment. I know I did. The Commander's Banquet was great—good food, good entertainment and a nice evening of friendship and dancing.

A welcome to the past and present officers. With your help we will continue to grow. Here's looking forward to another good year in CWV/CWVA. Always remember—God, Country and Home!

*Anna McMaster*

CWVA National President





MARIA PEREZ, Past Texas Department President and a member of San Jose Auxiliary Post 1805, was selected to receive the prestigious Honor Legion of the Order of St. Agnes Award. Currently 2nd VP of her Unit, she has previously served as Texas Department President; 1st VP for 5 years; Texas Dept President for 4 years, and Director for 3 years. She received Outstanding Member Awards in 1997 and 1998, and the President Gold Medal Award from the National Department in 2007. On the National level, she served as Ritual Officer, Standards Chairperson and Department President's Chairlady.

She assists with various fundraising activities in her parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mission Church,

Texas, and adopted an elderly lady she visits weekly, taking her food, clothes and other necessities. She founded American Legion Auxiliary Unit 93 and remains active with their activities. As a member of the Mission Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary she helps with Toys for Tots and Halloween goody bags. Six has 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

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## 2019 ST. AGNES AWARDS PRESENTED AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

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REGINA BILODEAU, a member of Rev. Louis A. Ramsay Unit 1624 in Manchester, New Hampshire, joins Maria Perez in also earning the St. Agnes Award. She has served as President of her Unit since 2015. On the National level, she served two terms as Ritual Officer, Standards Chairperson and is currently serving her second term as National 2nd Vice President. She received an Achievement Award from National President Bonnie Kowalski in 2018. In 1981, she enlisted in the Marine Corps, then the Reserves for six years, and the Inactive Ready Reserve in 1987.

A parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Manchester, she has been a member of the Sanctuary choir for 10 years as well as the Parish Council and Bible Study Group. She serves as a caller at the weekly Department-sponsored Bingo. Recently retired after 43 years with the 9th Circuit Court of NH, she is a dedicated Auxiliary member, having organized a baby shower for female Veterans, as well as Valentine's Day, Memorial and Veterans Day events. She has one son and is a Stepmother to two stepchildren.





## LEO HALEY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

Leo has served the organization for over 50 years, and has distinguished himself in many ways—military service, family, career, parish, community and service to veterans. He enlisted in the Navy in November 1952 after graduation from high school. He served aboard the fleet oiler USS CANISTEO during the Korean War. He remained in the inactive reserves from 1955-1960.

Mr. Haley never married. He has been employed as a City Street Department Foreman, Sales and Advertising Manager for a coal company and a Common Pleas Court Attendant. In his home state of Pennsylvania, he is known

as “Mr. Catholic War Veterans,” having performed in both post and department echelons, and having held every office in the state.

On the national level, Leo was Chairman of the National Conventions of 2010 (Buffalo, NY) and 2016 (Portland, Maine). He has served as National 1st Vice Commander (2009-2011), and National Commander (2011-2013).

A lifelong member of St. Patrick Parish in Pottsville, PA, he played Santa Claus at the children’s Christmas party for many years, and is one of the organizers of the annual St. Patrick Parade in Pottsville, successfully encouraging teen involvement. He is a member of the AOH, American Legion, VFW, Navy League, and Navy Club of the USA.



## AUXILIARY LOTTO TICKETS ARE IN THE MAIL!

The National Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary will be mailing out their 2020 lottery tickets by October 30. They are \$25.00 each and will be good for 6 months, starting in February, April, June, August, October and December.

If you are a lucky member who is not receiving mailed tickets but wants to be, just contact Renee Rygalski at (419) 346-4973, or by e-mail to [renee3r@hotmail.com](mailto:renee3r@hotmail.com) or via snail mail at the following address: 101 Orville Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43612.

I will gladly send you some lucky tickets. The winners will receive \$50.00 on Monday thru Friday, and \$100.00 on Saturday! We will be sending tickets to at least 5 auxiliaries, so be on the look out for yours in the coming weeks! Good Luck!



## REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR CALENDAR STUBS

**If you need more calendars,  
Please call the National Headquarters at 703-549-3622**

# 2019 ST. SEBASTIAN AWARDS



## **RAMIRO GOMEZ** **DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

A 52-year member of the Catholic War Veterans, Ramiro Gomez has been involved in his parish Church and school, and programs sponsoring Patriotism, Youth, Catholicism and Veterans. He is a member of Jose Tolento Post 1109 in San Benito, Texas since 1947.

He has served his Post and the Department of Texas in various offices since the 1960's, attending state and national conventions, particularly active for an 87-year-old Korean War Veteran. He maintains the Department's accounting and

travel system and provides new officer training. In his parish of Mary, Mother of the Church, he is an usher, Past Men's Club President, arranges ceremonies for Memorial Day, Flag Day and Veterans Day, and is Chairman of the Thanksgiving Food Basket Committee.

He is also a Past Faithful Navigator of the 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus and Past Grand Commander of the Order of the Alhambra.

## **JAMES FINKEL** **PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER**

A native of New York City, he is an Army Veteran who served in Germany. He married the late Lorraine Walker and they were blessed with five children. He spent most of his working career with the New York City Transit Authority as motorman, motorman trainer, tower man and yard supervisor before retiring in 1966. He served with distinction as a union official with TWU Local 100.

50 years ago, he joined St. Sebastian Post 870, and held several Post-level positions. He was then elected to officer positions

in Queens County, before becoming Chapter Commander in 1992. He moved on to offices with the Department of New York as 2nd and 1st Vice Commander and finally Commander, in 2000. At the National level, he was elected as a Director in 2003 and headed national committees including Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. He was elected National Commander in 2013. He has demonstrated strong Catholic faith in his interface with the Clergy of the Military Archdiocese, and arranging local and national commemorations and Masses. He still serves as a lector in his parish of St. Sebastian!





# Welcome to San Antonio Our Hometown!



Members of San Antonio Post #1907 were pleased to host this year's 84th Catholic War Veterans National Convention



## ANNUAL FATHER CAPODANNO MASS

The Catholic War Veterans were well represented at this year's Memorial Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Joining National Commander Frank Kowalski were (from left), Auxiliary 3rd Vice President Darby Swope, National Auxiliary President Anna McMaster, and Louise Dechan, a member of Auxiliary Post 1.

## STUDENTS DONATE TO CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

Department of New York Commander Marvin Jeffcoat used the occasion of a 9/11 visit St. Raymond's Parish School in East Rockaway, Long Island to address students about military service and Veteran appreciation. The Principal, Sister Ruthann Gypalo, and the students demonstrated their appreciation by presenting a check for \$500 to the Catholic War Veterans for their charitable endeavors.



# ST. SEBASTIAN AWARDEE HONORED WITH PLAQUE BY POST #386



CWV Post #386, re-named the Joseph R. Farina Memorial Post, paid tribute to its Past Commander and recipient of the organization's highest honor with a plaque dedicated with great fanfare on Memorial Day



Catholic War Veterans render the traditional salute to fellow fallen warriors at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Members of the Farina family unveiled the memorial to the community activist. Joe Farina passed away in December 2018.



CWV Post #386 Commander Robert Schiela salutes after placing a wreath at the memorial. Joining him are members of the Post, to include World War II Veterans Sal Foti, Rocco Panella and Frank Pavlik.



At the same ceremony, the LCDR Nicholas Brooks, USN KIA Award was presented to Deacon Tony Ferraiulo, Post Chaplain, for his contributions to the New Windsor, NY community.





Post 1957 Commander Cortland Mehl (2nd from right) holds award presented by Mayor Martin of Stamford, CT.



Post Secretary Fred Morabito displays award from the Mayor.

## **KULKA BROTHERS**

**Post 1957**

**Senior Veterans of the Year Awards**

# **DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA CWVA CONVENTION**



The Ladies met this year in Altoona, PA. National President Anna McMaster Aux 1342 congratulated newly elected Department President Geraldine Schwartz Aux 1051 and senior member, Marie Fitzpatrick Aux 1051. (Back row): Sue Miller, 2nd VP Aux 1342; Marge Petronis, Welfare Officer Aux 731; Helen Jones, Historian Aux 731; Darby Swope, Ritual Officer Aux 1342; Antoinette Auriemma, Treasurer Aux 1182; Phyllis Sylvester, Director Aux 1182; Jean Ciabotoni, Director Aux 1182, Gerry Wright, 3rd VP Aux 731, PDP Mary Quilter, 1st VP, Aux 731.

# Busy Night for Post 386!



*Service Officer Mike Lutz presents check to Maria Garcia.*



*Sister Iliana accepts check for the school's summer program.*



*Bob Schiela, Jack D'Angelo, Jake Marcone, & Ms. Migdal.*

Members of Joseph R. Farina Post 386 attended two graduation ceremonies simultaneously to present three Salvatore Foti Academic Scholarships to graduating eighth graders. Presentations included a certificate describing the merits for the award as well as a \$250 check to be used toward their tuition at the Catholic high schools they plan to attend in September.

At St. Francis Church in Newburgh, Service Officer Mike Lutz presented the award to Maria Garcia. He also presented a \$250 donation from the post to the Principal of the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy to support its summer program enabling five students to attend a cultural program in New York City.

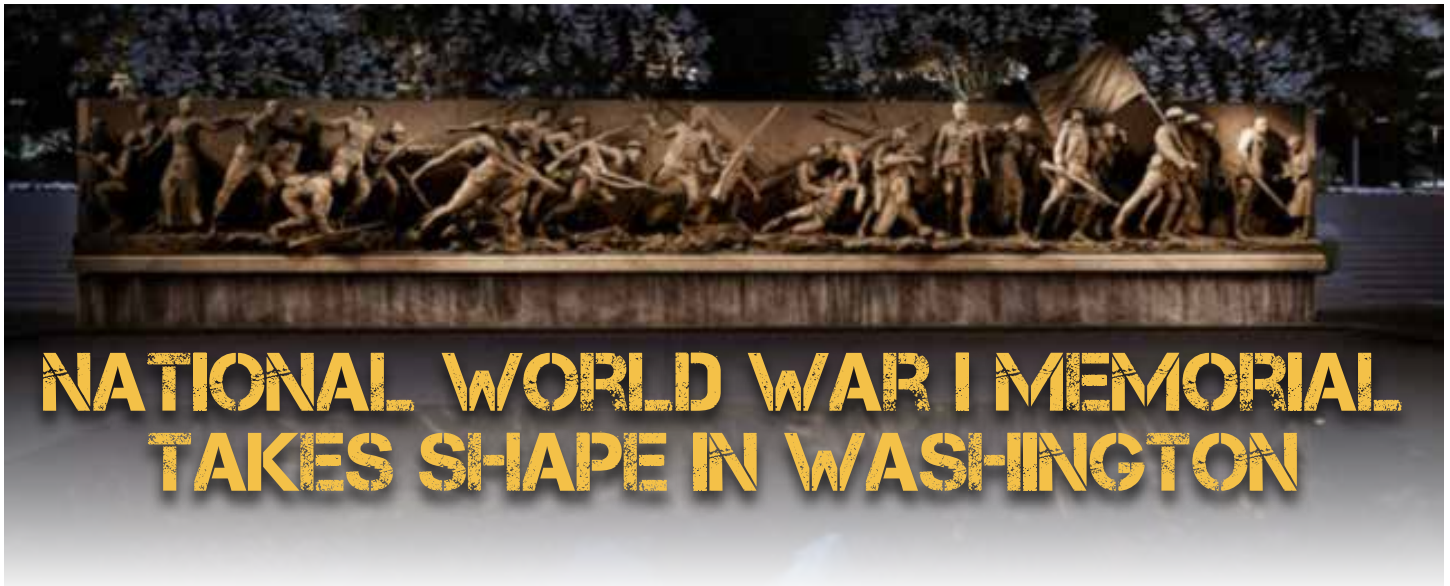
Doing the honors at Sacred Heart Church in Newburgh, Post Commander Robert Schiela, assisted by Treasurer Jack D'Angelo, presented cash awards to students Jake Marcone and Macaylan Migdal.



## Post 1897 Memorial Day Ceremony

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Post 1897 in Centereach, Long Island, New York, commanded by Richard Gallagher, participated in Memorial Day ceremonies at Bartlett Park in Coram, New York.

The Post's Color Guard provided a military Veteran presence and added pomp and circumstance to the solemn remembrance of comrades who were lost in wars.



## NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL TAKES SHAPE IN WASHINGTON

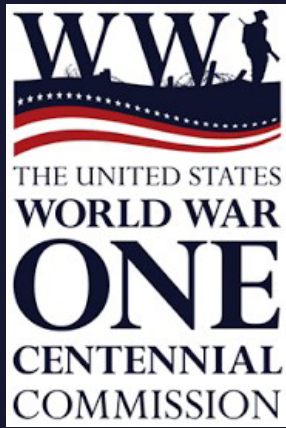
The National World War I Centennial Commission is rushing to have the National WWI Memorial completed by Victory in Europe Day 2020. It will be located in Pershing Park, a 1.76-acre landscape set along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. just steps away from the White House. Designed by sculptor Sabin Howard, “A Soldier’s Journey” is a massive 60-foot-long, 10-foot-high bronze figure sculpture which will be the centerpiece of the memorial.

The concept is to allow people to walk up close to the relief sculpture—a moment on the site that Howard was keen on highlighting. The story unfolds before the viewer’s eyes—a person of average height will see the knees of the figures straight on. “I want people to have a visceral reaction to this,” Howard said. “It reads like a film.”

Though the sculpture seems traditional, Howard utilized a contemporary process called photogrammetry to create it. He took images with his cell phone of actors portraying scenes from wartime and then combined the individual shots to find the pattern that would create the best flow for the visual story. It took him 12 versions, done over nine months, to determine the final relief. From there, he spent 700 hours over two months drawing a detailed mock-up of the piece.

“For this part, I wasn’t even sculpting,” Howard said. “I was creating a hierarchical construction, a system of design that we could break down to do the sculpture quickly.” This kind of commission, he said, is something that would have taken him 15 years to complete, but he’s been charged with doing it in four. He’ll be working with the Pangolin Editions sculpture foundry in England to assemble the figure molds.





# NEW YORK CITY NEIGHBORHOODS COMMEMORATE WORLD WAR I 100 YEARS LATER!

New York City parks are home to 102 World War I memorials. The NYC Parks Department cleaned, waxed and repaired many of them in anticipation of the Centennial. A trivia note: the Greenpoint, Brooklyn neighborhood, as a zip code, suffered the largest number of casualties and losses during the war.



Bronx Victory Memorial



Ridgewood, Queens War Memorial



Greenpoint, Brooklyn War Memorial



Washington Heights-Inwood, Manhattan Memorial



Glendale, Queens Memorial Square



Chelsea Park, Manhattan Doughboy Memorial



# PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2019

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 restores VA benefits to thousands of Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after arbitrary regulatory changes.

It benefits veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ with an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe various defoliants were tested to September 1, 1967, instead of April 1, 1968 -and expands benefits to children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand, coverage that already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans. The new law also requires the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia, which is important for future legislative efforts to create a list of presumptive conditions for veterans seeking VA health care and benefits. The legislation was passed unanimously by the House and had been the focus of advocates fighting to ensure nearly 90,000 veterans who served on ships around Vietnam are granted the same Veterans Affairs benefits status, given the lack of chemical monitoring on the ships at the time and the decades that have passed since the exposure.

## U.S. SUPREME COURT ISSUES RULINGS OF INTEREST



Our National Commander has brought to our attention some recent important decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A decision was made to ban Sharia Law and Islam from being taught in our public schools. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote: *"The government certainly has no business being involved in religion, but this isn't a government of a religious issue. This is about the judicial branch interpreting the laws as they apply to the teaching of religion. We shouldn't be teaching any religions in the public schools of this country."*

Also rejected was an atheist's case to remove "In God We Trust," our national motto, from all coins and currency issued by the Department of the Treasury. This is the same person who tried earlier to have "Under God" removed from our Pledge of Allegiance. This was also rejected.

A ruling was also issued in the case of a 40-foot World War I memorial cross on public land located in Bladensburg, Maryland. In a 7-2 vote, the justices affirmed that the cross could remain on public land. Justices Ginsburg and Sotomayor dissented.



## GRUMMAN EA-6B PROWLER

### Inducted into National Air and Space Museum

This venerable Grumman plane was recently inducted into Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. The Prowler was the first U.S. military aircraft specifically designed for tactical electronic warfare—jamming enemy radar and communications while escorting aircraft on strike and bombing missions. Electronic warfare is a nebulous thing. Unlike more traditional warfare (where things are shot down or blown up), it is not obvious when it works, and the results are fleeting. For nearly 50 years, the Prowler was a master of this type of warfare; the premier tactical jamming aircraft in the world, adapting to and often defining the nature of airborne electronic warfare.



## MEMORIAL PLANNED TO IMPORTANT COLD WAR FIGURE FRANCIS GARY POWERS ~ PILOT, SPY, HERO!

On May 1, 1960 the Soviets shot down his CIA U-2 spy plane. After three months of solitary confinement and interrogations, he was tried and sentenced to 10 years in a Soviet prison. Then he was traded for a Russian spy and went home to his family. Upon his return home he was cleared by the CIA and US Senate and shown to be "A fine young man performing well under dangerous circumstance."

Between 1963 and 1970 he worked as a Lockheed test pilot flying out of Burbank Airport. In 1970 he wrote his autobiography "Operation Overflight" before getting a job in 1972 with KGIL in the San Fernando Valley. He went on to fly helicopters for KNBC News here in Los Angeles. Then on August 1, 1977 after covering a fire in Santa Barbara, on his return trip to the Burbank Airport his aircraft ran out of fuel and crashed.

"Upon my father's return home, despite the CIA and Senate committee's clearance, despite the fact that he was awarded the CIA's highest honor—its Intelligence Star for valor—and the Air Force's Distinguished Flying Cross, my father, to borrow from John Le Carré, was still a spy left out in the cold, until May 1, 2000 and June 12, 2012. On those dates he was posthumously awarded the POW Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the CIA's Director's Medal for "extraordinary fidelity and essential service," and then the USAF Silver Star. The Powers family is very humbled and very honored that there is an initiative to erect a monument to keep my father's memory alive for future generations." ~ Francis Gary Powers Jr.



# BISHOP MCNICHOLAS POST 1916 PARTICIPATES IN THE ILLINOIS STATE FAIR & BENEFITS EXPO!



Rose Connolly & Commander Pat Noel manned the CWV information/recruitment table.



Dale Smith proudly carried the CWV Flag.



Post 1916 Honorees man the Grand Marshal float.

Commander Pat Noel was in the driver's seat with members of the Post in the CWV organizational car in the Veterans parade at the fair. Nicole Arkebauer joins him in the front seat. Chuck Jiardina and Don Werner man the back seat.





CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS  
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## WHAT REMAINED INTACT AT NOTRE DAME!

At this year's National Convention, the Catholic War Veterans approved a \$1,000 donation, and the Auxiliary a \$500 donation, toward the rebuilding of the landmark Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, France, following the damage from a catastrophic fire viewed worldwide in April 2019.

