



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FALL 2020

A MOMENT IN CWW HISTORY!



**85th National Convention
Is The First To Be Held Virtually**





NATIONAL OBSERVANCES PLANNED AS TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER MARKS CENTENNIAL IN 2021

The year 2021 will be momentous for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery as it observes its centennial (1921-2021). The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a powerful symbol of the sacrifices of those who answered the call of duty, fell in combat, and are known only to God.

The centennial project is called TUS100, which stands for Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 100 and refers to the establishment of the memorial in 1921. The celebration will come to a climax on Veterans Day weekend, the 9th to the 11th of November 2021. Activities are scheduled for launch in September of 2020. The year ahead will see a series of commemorations both at home and abroad, reflecting Congressional establishment of the monument in 1921, and the subsequent selection, transportation and interment of the World War I Unknown Soldier in 1921, the World War II and Korean War Unknown Soldiers in 1958, and the Vietnam War Soldier in 1984.

The TUS100 project was included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, was ultimately passed down to the Army, and from there to Arlington National Cemetery by the Secretary of Defense for implementation. However, the resources of Arlington National Cemetery are necessarily limited by budget and staffing constraints.

Activities intended to complement what Arlington Cemetery cannot do are being assumed by the Society of the Honor guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Society is comprised of former tomb guards of the U.S. Army Old Guard at Fort Myer, Virginia. Its President is Sergeant Major (Retired) Gavin McIlvenna, USA. He is heading a committee to arrange the various activities.

Some of the planned activities in development include the establishment of memorial gardens throughout the United States, memorial ceremonies enfolded into Veterans Day activities, along with other initiatives aimed at raising public awareness of the centennial to foster national patriotism and unity. Various Veteran organizations have been approached to solicit their participation as well.

The Catholic War Veterans plans to be actively involved. We begin with publishing this article so that each member is made aware of the project and its launch this September. New National Legislative Affairs Officer Dennis Burke has been asked by Commander Dave Crum to attend TUS100 committee meetings and coordinate CWV efforts. He will be working with CWV commanders at all echelons on projects culminating on Veterans Day 2021. Dennis believes “this noble project has tremendous potential and we all agree there is nothing more important than honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.”



The Society of the Honor Guard is a non-profit organization committed to protecting and enhancing the welfare and image of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the soldiers who stand guard, past and present. Membership of the Society is made up of former and current tomb guards. Members work tirelessly in their communities to bring attention the unknown soldiers and why the Tomb as a national monument is important.



National Legislative Affairs Officer Dennis Burke will coordinate CWV participation.

The sarcophagus is built above the tomb of the soldier who served in World War I. Three marble slabs identify the crypts of the soldiers from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It was constructed in 1931 out of seven large marble panels collectively weighing 79 tons. On one side is a relief of three Greek figures, each representing Peace, Valor and Victory. On the other side are sculpted six inverted wreaths, each representing a major campaign from WWI.

Of interest, in 1984, the final unknown soldier from the Vietnam War was laid to rest. However, because of advances in genetic science and DNA technology, the body was exhumed in 1998 and tested. The body was identified as that of 1st LT Michael Blassie, who was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam in 1972. It was decided that the crypt that contained the remains of the Vietnam Unknown will remain vacant. The crypt cover has been replaced with one that has the inscription, “Honoring and Keeping Faith with America’s Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975.”

FACTS ABOUT THE TOMB

- The guard takes 21 steps on his walk across the tomb, recalling the 21-gun salute, the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.
- He hesitates for 21 seconds before his return walk for the same reason.
- His gloves are moistened to prevent losing his grip on the rifle.
- The guard always carries his rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. He moves the rifle after each about face.
- Guards are changed every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

TOMB GUARD QUARTERS



THE SENTINEL'S CREED

MY DEDICATION TO THIS SACRED DUTY IS TOTAL AND WHOLE-HEARTED. IN THE RESPONSIBILITY BESTOWED ON ME NEVER WILL I FALTER. AND WITH DIGNITY AND PERSEVERANCE MY STANDARD WILL REMAIN PERFECTION THROUGH THE YEARS OF DILIGENCE AND PRAISE AND THE DISCOMFORT OF THE ELEMENTS. I WILL WALK MY TOUR IN HUMBLE REVERENCE TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. IT IS HE WHO COMMANDS THE RESPECT I PROTECT. HIS BRAVERY THAT MADE US SO PROUD. SURROUNDED BY WELL MEANING CROWDS BY DAY. ALONE IN THE THOUGHTFUL PEACE OF NIGHT. THIS SOLDIER WILL IN HONORED GLORY REST UNDER MY ETERNAL VIGILANCE.

- SIMON 1921

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW ADMINISTRATION



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
DAVID J. CRUM
National Commander



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS AUXILIARY
ANNA MCMASTER
National President

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS OFFICERS 2020-2021

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ADJUTANT

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

Dennis Burke (VA)

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2ND VICE COMMANDER

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DIRECTOR 1-Year (2)

JoAnne E. Cruz (FL)

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Scott Demers (NH)

DIRECTOR 3-YEAR (1)

Marvin Jeffcoat (NY)

DIRECTOR 3-YEAR (2)

Dennis C. Burke (VA)

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WELCOMED INTO THE HONOR LEGION OF THE ORDER OF ST. AGNES

Priscilla Gauthier
St. Marie's Auxiliary 1749
Manchester, New Hampshire

Priscilla Gauthier has been announced as the recipient of this year's Honor Legion of the Order of St. Agnes. She has been a member of the Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary since 1959, when she joined Saint Marie's Unit 1749 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Throughout her 61 years with her unit she has held numerous positions, most recently as President of her unit. She has sought to rejuvenate her Auxiliary by arranging membership drives, placing advertising in Church bulletins describing the Auxiliary's mission, and supporting various fundraisers to help support Veterans. She wears her uniform proudly to all civic events to promote the organization, especially parades.

For over 30 years, Priscilla has washed and ironed the linens, corporals and vestments for her parish Church. She has sung in the choir, served as a Eucharistic Minister, attended Bible studies and served on the parish advisory committee, among others within her parish. Priscilla has been described as a "shining example of the best of members of the Catholic War Veterans."



WELCOMED INTO THE HONOR LEGION OF THE ORDER OF ST. SEBASTIAN

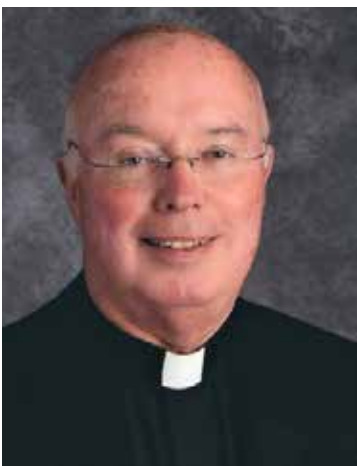
Nicholas M. Taylor
Norristown Post 1182, Norristown, Pennsylvania

Our National Adjutant, and former Department of Pennsylvania Commander, Nick Taylor has been selected for presentation of this year's St. Sebastian Award, the CWV Order's highest honor. He has held a number of offices on the Post, State, Chapter and National echelon levels. He has previously been awarded the Department Distinguished Service Medal and National Distinguished Service Medal.

Nick presided as Chairman over a successful 2018 National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. He has been a member of the National Awards Committee and Constitution and Bylaws Committee. He has been called upon as Master of Ceremonies for a number of state and national dinners and events. He introduced the idea of joint sessions of the Veterans and Auxiliary at National Board meetings. He is a member of the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission and Pennsylvania War Veterans Council. Lieutenant Colonel Nick Taylor, Infantry, US Army (Ret.) is currently a Supervisory Facility Operations Specialist at the HQ, 99th Readiness Division, Directorate of Public Works, Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst in New Jersey. He holds a BS Degree in Business Management from LaSalle College. He has earned a number of military decorations, to include the Legion of Merit, Iraqi Campaign Medal and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. He is a member of the Reserve Officers Association and Society of American Military Engineers, as well as the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels!

SPECIAL ST. SEBASTIAN AWARD

Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Coyle
National Chaplain



Msgr. Edward Coyle hails from Girardville, PA. He has three older brothers: Gerald (Army National Guard) and the late Thomas (Navy) and John (Army). He studied for the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia and Mary Immaculate Seminary, Northampton. He was ordained a priest 40 years ago by Bishop Joseph McShea and served at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena for 8 years. He received a Masters Degree in Liturgical Studies from the Catholic University of America. He served as Secretary to Bishop Thomas Welsh and was named a Monsignor in 1994.

Msgr. Coyle served in the PA Army National Guard for 22 years. He retired in 2014 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After the events of September 11th, he was activated to serve at the Pentagon to assist affected families. In 2005 he received the Legion of Honor Award from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. He was Pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bally for 19 years. He was named pastor of St. Ann, Emmaus in 2016. Since 2015, he has served as National Chaplain for the Catholic War Veterans of America. We thank him for his service and wish him well in his retirement!



A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COMMANDER DAVID CRUM

Now, Let's Roll Up Our Sleeves!

Thanks to all for your confidence in electing me your National Commander. I will do my best to justify your trust. Let me state at the outset that my administration will be focused on recruitment, retention and establishing new posts. New blood is the lifeblood and the measure of vitality of any organization. The fact of the matter is that, by and large, we are becoming an older organization. There is no reason for that to happen, because there are so many young, Catholic Veterans who have finished their tours in the various military services and are looking to get involved with a Veterans organization. Whether it be for assistance in processing VA claims, marking patriotic holidays and events, or performing community service in their hometowns. We have witnessed the pandemic and too many natural disasters in our country where there have been numerous opportunities to assist our neighbors.

We must be proactive and seek them out, in our parishes, on college campuses, other charitable organizations like the Knights of Columbus, or ethnic societies like the Sons of Italy. It's time to use our imagination and approach them where they are. They are not likely to make an effort to find us.

On a positive note, I am pleased to report that in the past year we have established new posts in Georgia, South Carolina, and Indiana, and an Auxiliary post in Maryland. National is currently in the process of establishing a new post in New York. I am announcing the formation of a National Recruitment Committee which will set out a plan with new initiatives and funding, and then follow up with local posts to mobilize our membership to grow the Catholic War Veterans. With more members, we can and we will, achieve so much more!

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT ANNA MCMASTER



"I Miss You All!"

It was a pleasure working with Past National Commander Frank Kowalski. I want to congratulate David Crum, the new National Commander and look forward to working with him as well.

I want to thank the Auxiliary for electing me for another year as CWVA National Auxiliary President, and congratulations to the past and present Auxiliary Officers and Appointments. It has been great working with and learning from each and every one of you. It is sad that we could not be together for the conventions this past year, but let's hope and pray that next year we'll all be well and able to get together and enjoy each other's company. I really want to thank the Auxiliary for the nice monetary gift I received this year. Also, I received some nice gifts from the Ohio Convention Committee and from some Auxiliary officers. And congratulations to the state of Ohio on their 75th Anniversary.

At the beginning of the year, who would have thought we would be in the middle of a pandemic and needing to stay away from family and friends. I pray that we all stay safe and well till this is over and till we meet again. God Bless You and God Bless America! Yours, in CWVA, ANNA McMASTER, National Auxiliary President

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you know."
A.A. Milne

DOING WHAT THE CWV DOES BEST!

KULKA BROTHERS POST 1957 IN STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT



Members of the Post assembled with City First Responders to conduct Flag Day ceremonies in Stamford on June 14th. In view of COVID-19, face masks were worn by all while also social distancing during the event. The Police Department Honor Guard conducted the Flag raising.



Kulka Brothers Post presented a \$500 scholarship to Cadet Burns of the Stamford Navy League in memory of its namesake aviator lost at sea. (From left) CAPT Alan Phelps, Navy League Commander, Cadet Burns, Cortland Mehl, Post Commander.

FROM TEXAS ROADHOUSE TO VETERANS' TABLES COURTESY OF TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CWV



Catholic War Veterans Post 1973 partnered with the Blount County (Tennessee) Community Action agency and Blount County Veterans Affairs Office to deliver food to 50 Veterans, fulfilling the Post's mission statement of "Veterans Helping Veterans."

The meals were provided by the Texas Roadhouse Restaurant through a grant from the United Way—"Food to Veterans who have served our country." The food baskets consisted of chicken, baked potatoes, salad, bread and vegetables (enough to feed a family of 4). Veterans also received a full bag of nonperishable items provided by the Smokey Mountain Meals on Wheels. Included in the bags were handwritten notes, thanking the Veterans for their service.

The Veterans of Post 1973 who delivered the meals were: Rod Boysen, Bruce Damrow, Frank Fichers, Jim McBride, Mike Peterson and Baron Johnson (pictured on the job above.)

Mike Peterson best captured the mood in Tennessee during COVID-19 stating, "I think the problem is people are so afraid to get out because they're stuck in their home. So we're making it easy for them to have food on the table and enjoy a nice meal—especially from Texas Roadhouse!"

VIVA THIS FRANCE!

Representing Army Veterans, he was invited by DOD in 1967 to inspect NORAD Hqtrs. in the Cheyenne Mountains and White Sands & McGregor Missile Test Ranges.

In 1958, Richard (Dick) France founded Catholic War Veterans Post 1812 at St. Monica Church in Garfield Heights, Ohio with 22 members. Today the Post 1812 boasts 250 members and an Auxiliary. Dick has been leading the S.E. Suburban Post 1812 for the past 60 years. He started as the Charter Commander, and came out of retirement to lead the Post as Commander at 92 years young for its 60th celebration.

He enlisted in the Army in 1948 and after basic training in Breckinridge KY and Army Transportation School in Camp Stoneman CA, he joined the 8th Army in Korea from 1948 to 1951 as Battalion Supply Sgt for the 14th Transportation Port Battalion. He made the Inchon landing at Womi-do with the Marines, and saw duty at the Pusan perimeter and Chosin Reservoir. Subsequently, he volunteered for service aboard ship during the Pacific Atomic Bomb testing at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands. After his service, Dick would go on to become a 50-year member of the Cleveland Tile Layers Local 36, serving both as an elected official and Instructor for tile apprentices.

His primary interest in Veteran Affairs was to keep returning Veterans informed of their benefits. He is also a member of the American Legion, VFW, AmVets, and the Korean War Veterans Assn. He was elected Cuyahoga County Chapter Commander of the CWV in 1964 and Department of Ohio Commander in 1968. During the period 1965-1981, he served as CWV National Department Chairman of the Catholic Action and Americanism Committees. He was selected as a member of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 1997. Dick has over 500 recorded hours over many years at various VA hospitals. He currently directs volunteers who decorate 17,000 graves at Calvary Cemetery on Memorial Day. He is credited with starting the original campaign to erect a Veterans Memorial in Garfield Heights.



CWV National Department Rep. George Jarbeck II makes a presentation to Commander Dick France, Post 1812!



The Charter Commander returned for the 60th Anniversary Celebration as Post Commander at age 92!

CWV Post 1976 LOOGOOTEE, INDIANA

Encourages Students With Scholarships

Bishop Simon Brute Post presented its annual Scholarship Awards of \$500 to two local high school students, Cassidy Esch of Loogootee High and Max Fischer of Shoals High School. Bruce Hawkins, Acting Adjutant, had the honor of making the presentations on behalf of the Post.





In Memoriam

Gerard "Gerry" Methot
Past National Director
Post 1749, New Hampshire

Gerry Methot was called to the Lord at age 92 after a short period of declining health. Born in Willimantic CT, the family moved to Manchester NH in 1945 where he remained a lifelong resident. Gerry was drafted into the Army during the Korean Conflict and served two years in Germany. On his return, he earned an associates degree in electronics from NH Technical College.

Sanders Associates (now BAE) offered employment to the top three people in the class, and he thus began a career as an engineering assistant for 33 years. He was an active member of St. Marie's Church as an altar boy and later, a Eucharistic Minister. He was the first President of the parish's newly formed Parish Council.

Gerry was a charter member of St. Marie CWV Post 1949 and held the offices of Post Commander, Department Officer of the Day and National Director. He was awarded the St. Sebastian Medal, the CWV's highest honor, in 2002. Gerry was a staple as the treasurer for the CWV Bingo every Wednesday. His service to his community included as Coach and Game Announcer for the West Side Little League and as a Red Cross Volunteer for 26 years.



Coronavirus Hits Home!

Both Bob Manning (far right in photo above), a member of St. Sebastian Post 870 in Woodside, New York and his Wife, Arlene, succumbed to the Covid-19 Virus. Arlene passed away in April and Bob passed in July.



Robert J. Abbott
Past Department Commander
Pennsylvania

Robert J. Abbott

Robert J. Abbott, a Life Member of Post 1438 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was 90 years old at his passing. He served his country as a Marine in the Korean War. He married the love of his life, Alice, in 1952. They had four children. Bob was also blessed with 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

He was an early entrepreneur and ran a small business specializing in designed and crafted ornamental iron. He was also a dedicated City of Pittsburgh Firefighter for 38 years, climbing to the rank of Fire Captain. He volunteered with the Fire Department as "Bobby Blaze," a clown, to raise money for children with special needs.

Bob and his wife Alice volunteered for nearly 60 years with the CWV. He served as Post and Chapter Commander, Department of Pennsylvania Commander and CWV representative on the Southwest Veterans Home Advisory Board. Bob was President of Sharing and Caring, an organization that helps injured and disabled Veterans.. He organized and ran their yearly golf outing and veteran boat ride for over 15 years.



National Legislative Affairs Officer Passes At Age 75

Marvin McFeaters Was Past National 1st Vice Commander

Marvin Clyde McFeaters, Jr., a retired insurance and investment broker, died suddenly on September 10th at his home in Falls Church, Virginia. He was a decorated Vietnam War Navy combat veteran who served with units of the U.S. River Patrol Force in the Mekong Delta.

He was born in Arlington, Virginia, but grew up in multiple locations due to his father's service with the U.S. Agency For International Development.. He graduated high school from the American Community School in Beirut, Lebanon. Enlisting in the Navy in 1967, he attained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class and was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal with silver star, Navy Unit Commendation Medal with bronze star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon. He was a life member of the Gamewardens of Vietnam, USN River Patrol Force Association, the oldest continuously operating Vietnam Veterans organization. He was also a life member of the Disabled American Veterans. After military service, he graduated from Columbia University and went into the life insurance business, working for several national firms before starting his own insurance brokerage firm in 1979. He was sole proprietor until his retirement in 2019.

Marvin served for almost 20 years in senior local and national level positions with the Catholic War Veterans. He received the Order of St. Sebastian Award in 2011. He was the founding Chairman of the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council, composed of posts of the CWV, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was an active Parishioner of St. James Parish, Falls Church. Mr. McFeaters is survived by his wife of 45 years, Evelyne, whom he met and married in Manila, Philippines. At the time of his death, he was chairing the CWV's participation in the Commemoration of the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery taking place in 2021.

HAS IT BEEN 50 YEARS?

Boeing 747 Aircraft "QUEEN OF THE SKIES"

Retiring Earlier Than Planned as Coronavirus Wreaks Havoc on Airline Industry!

Aircraft are quickly becoming casualties of coronavirus! As Boeing and Airbus roll out new aircraft, airlines have embarked on fleet renewal projects that will see aging aircraft retired in favor of more efficient birds. Iconic four-engine aircraft such as the Boeing 747 and Airbus A380 are being retired in favor of twin-engine aircraft.



Using the coronavirus-related downturn as a catalyst for aircraft retirement isn't new for the industry as airlines typically use periods of low demand to restructure their fleets as seen during the post-9/11 period that saw a similar reduction in air travel. U.S. airlines Delta and United retired their Boeing 747 fleets over the past three years. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines planned to say goodbye in January 2021, but moved the date up to March of this year. Qantas and British Airways will bid adieu within the next year. The Australian "Queen of the Skies," once a staple of transpacific travel between Australia and the U.S., ends a near 50-year run connecting Australia with the furthest reaches of the world easier than ever before at the time of its inauguration.



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**A man went to the Great Lakes Military Cemetery.
He took some pictures while reflecting on
what's going on in our country today.
Then he wrote this simple poem:**

*I don't see any color here, the headstones look the same,
No black, no brown, no white skin tone, there's no one here to blame.
These soldiers fought and died for you, their color you can't see,
Your rights are still protected, here's the place to take a knee.*

Thanks to Jack D'Angelo, Post 386

