



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
441 N. LEE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
703--549-3622
CWV.ORG



EST. 1935

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Spring 2017

Meet us in St. Louis!



**AT THE 2017
NATIONAL CONVENTION**



After years of waiting, Veterans who were exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to **Camp Lejeune** in North Carolina may now be able to receive a portion of government disability benefits. Contact National Service Office Jose Garcia, or check with your local VA for details.



THE NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CORNER
ARMINDA C. CRAWFORD

Happy Spring Veterans and Auxiliary Members,

It is hard to believe that summer is almost here. Where has the time gone?

I have attended several department conventions and would like to thank all those commanders who invited me to attend. It is always a pleasure visiting with the many veterans and auxiliary members and learning what the posts and departments are doing.

Keep working on recruitment. Face to face interaction is always the best way to recruit. Remember that the application form is online and you can print them yourself, if you have the capabilities to do so.

A special thank you to Marvin McFeaters for arranging for the Catholic War Veterans to participate in the Annual Memorial Mass at the National Shrine which was held on May 21st. I had the honor of presenting Msgr. Rossi, Rector of the Shrine, a check for \$1,000 from both the veterans and the auxiliary for the Trinity Dome project. You can find more information on the Dome on the following website: trinitydome.org. It will be a beautiful dome once completed. There is a picture of the presentation in this magazine.

The National Convention is shortly approaching. I strongly encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible. More information about the convention is included in this magazine. Please consider getting ads for the journal as they help defray the cost of the journal's publication.

Have a great summer and I will see you in St. Louis in August. Thank you for all you do for God, Country and Home. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in CWV,



THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
MONSIGNOR EDWARD J. COYLE

As Catholics, one of our greatest gifts is our reverence for the living and the dead. We are Pro-Life and see all life from conception to natural death as sacred. Even the way we honor the dead speaks of our reverence for our bodies as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Each year the Catholic War Veterans gather in Arlington National Cemetery on **Veterans Day** to honor our deceased Veterans. With our President, and all the federally recognized Veterans organizations, the Catholic War Veterans join in prayer and remembrance as we honor our fallen comrades. And each year one of the Veterans organizations hosts the event. **In 2019 the Catholic War Veterans will have the honor to host Veterans Day at Arlington Cemetery.** Consider coming to Veterans Day this year and every year. For Veterans, this special morning is memorable. Hosting the event in 2019 is an honor that comes only once every 27 years.

It's a sacrifice to come to Arlington on Veterans Day. Consider making the journey - make it a personal pilgrimage. Your presence there honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS & AUXILIARY RAFFLES

National 50/50 Raffle Drawing Tickets

Donation: Six (6) tickets for \$5.00

Drawing will be held at the 2017 National Convention in St. Louis

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Auxiliary Lotto Raffle Ticket

Donation: \$25.00 each

Ask an Auxiliary Member how to purchase tickets, or contact Renee Rygalski, CWVA National President at 419-346-4973 or renee3r@hotmail.com.

Drawings are held daily in even months of the year.



Giuseppe Pampena (Post #1957 (CT) was the recipient of this year's Stamford Senior Center Veterans Award. Shown with him are Post Commander Cortland Mehl (left) and Past Awardee, Post Secretary, James Dudley (right).

Happy Birthday!

June 14: Army Birthday

July 29: Anniversary of the Army Chaplains Corps

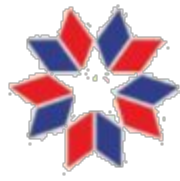
August 4: Coast Guard Birthday

August 29: Marine Forces Reserve Birthday

September 18: Air Force Birthday

October 13: Navy Birthday

November 10: Marine Corps Birthday



NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES VIETNAM WAR VETERAN RECOGNITION CAMPAIGN

The National Archives Foundation has launched “*A Grateful Nation Honors Veterans for their Service, Valor, & Sacrifice*,” a campaign to honor veterans of the Vietnam War in support of the National Archives’ new exhibition, *Remembering Vietnam: Twelve Critical Episodes in the Vietnam War*, opening November 10, 2017.

In the first major exhibition on the war in the Archives’ history, *Remembering Vietnam* uses original documents, artifacts, and film footage to explore the policies and decisions that initiated and then escalated American economic and military aid to South Vietnam. Interviews with veterans, journalists, members of the peace movement, Vietnamese civilians, and leading Vietnam War historians provide first-person testimony and analysis of the events.

As a proud Commemorative Partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration, the Foundation has launched “A Grateful Nation Honors Veterans for their Service, Valor, & Sacrifice,” to encourage service members and their families to become part of the exhibit. The nationwide campaign seeks to spotlight the more than nine million service members who served during the Vietnam War, and to honor their commitment and sacrifice.

Remembering Vietnam will be free and open to the public, and will be on display in the Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery of the National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, through January 6, 2019, and is composed of the main exhibition and a two-year traveling exhibition of Vietnam War photography, a virtual reality exhibition tour, public programs and document exhibits at Presidential Libraries around the country, honor flights for Vietnam Veterans to visit the Washington, DC exhibition, an online presence, and special events for veterans, military families and the public. More information is available at: <https://www.archivesfoundation.org/vietnam>.

THE ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE (AAFES) NOW OFFERS ITS ONLINE SHOPPING BENEFITS TO ALL HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS.



Extending online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans will directly improve family and support programs for soldiers, airmen and their families. Consistent with each exchange’s dividend policy, increased earnings as a result of the shopping benefit is expected to generate tens of millions of dollars in increased annual dividends to Quality-of-Life programs for the military community including contingency operations, Army Child Development Centers, Youth Services and fitness centers, Air Force Outdoor Recreation, combat uniforms, overseas school lunches and more. Including honorably discharged veterans will conservatively double exchanges’ online presence, improving the experience for all shoppers. <http://www.aafes.com/about-exchange/public-affairs/press-releases.htm>



THE VA 2018 BUDGET

Although President Trump's proposed 6 percent increase in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' fiscal year 2018 discretionary budget is appreciated, there is concern among the VSOs about the provision to cut Individual Unemployability (IU) benefits for seriously service connected disabled veterans aged 65 and older. As stated in a letter from AMVETS, “This would steal a large percentage of a wounded, injured or ill veteran's compensation.”

National Commander Crawford has written a letter to President Trump in support of the AMVETS position, and asking him to re-evaluate his position on this particular issue. You can read the Commander’s entire letter on the CWV website: cwg.org.

THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S CORNER RENEE RYGALSKI



Dear Members, I am writing for two reasons.

The first is that as members of the Catholic War Veterans, we have many reasons to be proud. And what better time to show your pride than summer time? We have Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and Independence Day, just to name a few. These days would not have any meaning without you, our military: past, present and, sorry to say, future. So show your pride; fly our flag. And as your wives, mothers, and sisters stay by your side though hell and high water, the Auxiliary can follow suit.

And secondly, to remind everyone about the National Convention. We will be in St. Louis, Missouri August 6 -12, 2017, and we are going to a baseball game - the Cardinals vs the Royals. That will be my first pro baseball game. Also we are going to the Arch, where you can go up and see a beautiful view. Now, you will have to take a picture for me to see it; I don't like heights! Then there are all of the great people you will meet or see again, and yes, we will have meetings, but they won't stop the fun. For more information, visit our website: cwg.org and click on the Convention icon.

To use an old movie title, *Meet me in St Louis!*

Renee



Attention all 2nd Vice Commanders!

It is your responsibility to keep the on-line roster for your Post up to date. That means updating changes of address, adding email addresses, changing membership status, etc. We use the on-line roster to create our mailing lists and a great deal of money is wasted on each mailing due to invalid, incomplete, and out of date information. Please take a few moments to review your on-line roster and make sure all of the information is there. If you have questions, please contact your Department’s 2nd Vice Commander, or the National 2nd Vice Commander.

This stained glass window is the 2nd Vice Commander window at the CWV Shrine Church in Astoria, New York. Photo by Wes Stone.

Convention Delegate Strength

Delegate strength is based on the membership numbers as of **June 1st**. The on-line roster for membership year 2017 will be closed on June 30th. Members for whom per capita is paid between June 1st and June 30th do NOT count in Convention Delegate strength for this year. Anyone joining between July 1st and September 30th should be marked as dues year **18** in the roster, and are considered paid through September of 2018. If you have any questions please contact National 2nd Vice Commander Marvin McFeaters: 703-893-1679 or MarvinMcFeaters@aol.com.

NATIONAL 3RD VICE COMMANDER’S REPORT

Valentine’s Day Coloring Contest Winners

- 1st Place: Maghan Tully, Post #500 (IL)
- 2nd Place: Amelia Conroy, Post #1959 (OH)
- 3rd Place: Nicholas Witkowski, Post #672 (WI)

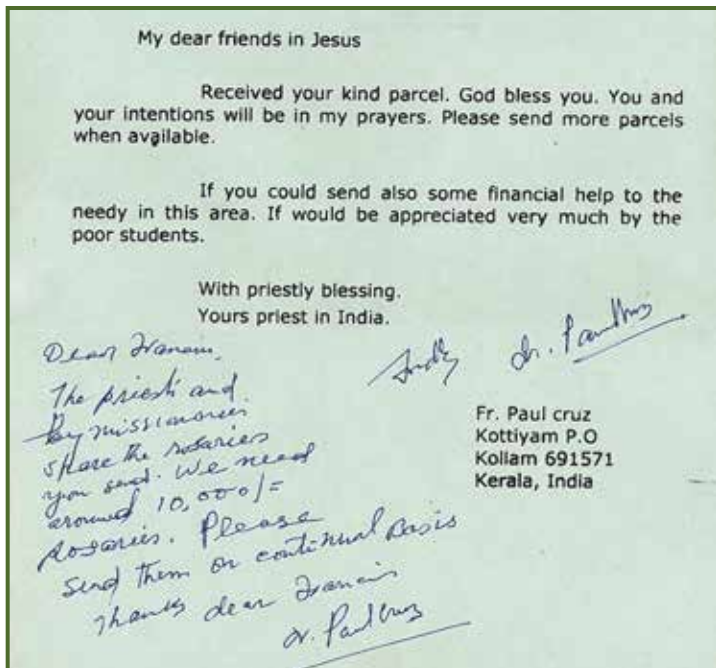
Easter Poster Contest Winners

- 1st Place: Kristen Bender, Post #500 (OH)
- 2nd Place: Orla Egan, Post #870 (NY)
- 3rd Place: Eleanor Rose Tezak, Post #672 (WI)

The Catholic War Veteran (ISSN 0886-1811) June - August 2017 Volume 75, No. II
The Catholic War Veteran is published by Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc., 441 N. Lee Street, Alexandria, VA.
Annual non-member subscription is \$20; single-copy price is \$7.
Subscriptions are included in membership dues.

**NATIONAL 1ST VICE COMMANDER REPORT:
Rosaries for India**

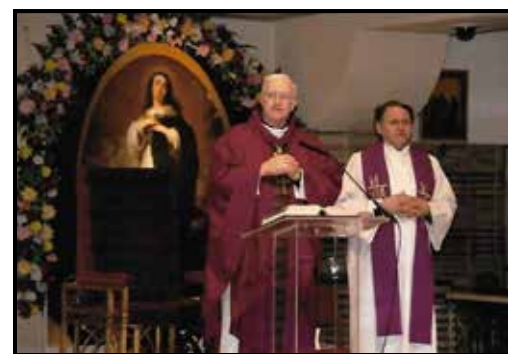
A request for rosaries was received from Fr. Paul Cruz in India, and the membership really came through! I am coordinating this effort, and sent the first shipment earlier this year. That shipment contained 1,905 rosaries, and the Dept. of CT is sending 1,000 more that they collected. The letter (to the right) was received in response to the first shipment. It contains a continuing plea for more so please continue to send any new or used rosaries that you would like to contribute to: Frank Kowalski, 5 Duncan Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08690-3107.



On Sunday May 21st a number of CWV members attended the Archdiocese of the Military Services 23rd annual Memorial Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC; Commander and George Crawford brought up the gifts. At the Memorial Mass, Archbishop Broglio officially closed the Archdiocesan Inquiry of the Cause for Beatification and Canonization of Father Capodanno, MM, missionary and Catholic Navy Chaplain, whose Cause for Canonization the Archdiocese promotes. The transcript is now sealed and will be considered by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican. The following day CWV presented a check to Msgr.

Rossi, in support of the **restoration of the Trinity Dome**. This is part of the National 1st VC's program. Shown (left) here are the Crawfords, Msgr. Rossi, and Bishop Higgins, with an artist's depiction of the restoration.

The March **National Board Meeting** was held in Astoria, NY, at CWV's National Shrine Church, which is home to Fr. McLaughlin (at right with Bishop Higgins). He will be serving as the National Chaplain for the Auxiliary again next year. The event was reported on by the local diocesan television station.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



The army didn't want **George Krakosky (Headquarters Post #4)** in 1941. The young man, like so many of his fellow Americans, tried to enlist just after the attack on Pearl Harbor. "But they said I was too short!" he said, during ceremonies in June marking Victory in Europe (VE) at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. "Alright then I just won't go," he thought, angry at not being able to get into the fighting. "But", he said, "I came back home and found my draft notice." And that is how George got into the war after all.

First assigned to an armored unit, during training a call went out for men who were good shots with the rifle. "I'd grown up in the woods, hunting and all that", so Pvt. Kraskosky put his name on a list and was given a marksmanship test, He passed so well that he was chosen as a specialist with the 29th Infantry Division and soon found himself in England as part of the first American unit sent to Europe. The division trained hard and for a specific mission - the cross-channel invasion of France, operation "Overlord" on June 6, 1944...D-Day.

George found himself at the front of perhaps the most dangerous operation of the war, and hit the beach with his comrades on a wide, sandy beach code named "Omaha." The 29th Division took high casualties and for a time the high command considered pulling the men back off of the beach. But George and his fellow infantry men persisted, and at the end of that "Longest Day" had established a slim, tenuous toe hold on the European continent. And then, they moved inland through the miserable, inch-by-inch fighting in the hedgerows of the Bocage that at last brought them before a small French city called St. Lo.

The battle began with massive bombing followed by heavy infantry fighting from July 9th through the 24th, 1944. In vicious house to house fighting Mr. Krakosky's division suffered and inflicted terrible casualties. Advancing on the city center they were stopped by a German machine gunner hiding in the tower of a church. Krakosky said "We threw everything, including hand grenades at him" and the enemy firing stopped. Later, when the fighting had slowed, George went back to the church. At the entrance he noticed something shining at his feet and picked it up. Brushing off the small brass medallion, he found it to be a religious medal - the same one he wears to this day (shown below). The young soldier went into the ruined church and to the altar, where he kneeled to say a prayer. Before he could finish, he felt a heavy hand on his shoulder. "It was one of the officers. He said, 'Come on son, there isn't time for that now.' And I left the church to go back to the fighting".

From the time the division landed in the first wave at Omaha Beach until it was relieved, after liberating St. Lo, the men of the 29th endured 48 straight days of combat, and Member George Krakosy was there. And he was there at the crossing of the Rhine, and the terrific fighting in the Hurtgen Forrest. And he was in ranks as the army fought its way through Germany. His war ended in Southern Germany, near Hitler's Berchtesgaden home.

George is an active member of St. Francis Parish in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and a member of CWV's National Headquarters Post #4. Story and Photos by Wes Stone.



Look for "Harmonica Pete's" story in the next issue (CWV Member from New York).

CWV Dates of Note

- August 6-12: CWV National Convention, St. Louis, MO. See important news and deadlines on cwv.org.
- September 6: Father Capodanno Memorial Mass with Archbishop Broglio, Washington, DC
- November 9-10: National Board Meeting, Alexandria, VA
- November 11: National Veterans Day Ceremony, Arlington National Cemetery; CWV wreath laying





THE NATIONAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington is coordinated and planned each year by the members of the National Veterans Day Committee and the Veterans Administration, under the leadership of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. CWV has a seat at the table as a full, voting member. This entitles us to many privileges, including helping plan the event, choosing the annual poster, having a seat on the platform with the President of the United States, having a representative attend the White House Breakfast, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, having a reserved box of 14 seats in the amphitheater, and serving as the host organization.

Our turn to serve as the host organization comes up in 2019! To help finance this, every Post has been asked to contribute \$2 per member per year, beginning in 2013. This comes to a total of \$10 per member over the course of five years. The cost for the host organization is between \$35,000 and \$50,000 depending on the specifics of the reception. **Very few Posts have contributed anything to date.**

Also, please plan on joining the National Commander and Board of Directors at Arlington this year. CWV has a box of 14 seats but also has access to an unlimited number of bench seats. Please let Headquarters know you plan to attend so a seat and a pin can be reserved for you.

FREE CONCERT FOR THOSE ATTENDING VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The National Symphony Orchestra will honor veterans for their extraordinary service to our nation at a **free concert** on Friday, November 10, 8pm, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

If you are planning on joining us at Arlington for Veterans Day, and would like to attend the concert, please let Headquarters know by calling 703-549-3622 or by sending an e-mail to kstone@cwv.org. The number of tickets is limited so act fast!

Rest in Peace

Fred Schwally
Past National Commander
March 23, 2017

John Dubay
National VAVS Officer
March 8, 2017

Gerald McGrade
Catholic Action Chair
March 26, 2017

Military Reunions



September 6-10, 2017
27th Reunion of the **U.S.S. John R. Craig** Association Nashville, TN.
www.ussjohncraig.com or jemail@ameritech.net.

September 18-22, 2017
11th Airborne Division Association and the **187th ARCT** Joint Reunion. Colorado Springs, CO.
jcdoshier@gmail.com

Every spring CWV provides **Youth Medals to ROTC and JROTC programs** around the country, through National and through some Posts. The students receive citations and medals.



Post #1943 (GA) presented medals to students in the JROTC Unit at Benedictine Military School. The awards are known as the Lt. Gen John McLaughlin Medals and this year's winners were Gold: Junior, SGM Matthew Stoeber; Silver: Sophomore, SSG Thomas McLean; Bronze: Freshman, CPL Joshua Hameed. **Joe Fraioli (Post #162 PA)** serves as the Instructor of the Frankford HS JROTC program in Philadelphia. He presented the Gold Award for Military Excellence to Cadet Command Sergeant Major Walter R



Pommer IV (right. **Post #1944 (FL)** presented eight JROTC awards this year. Shown above is **Post #1944** member **Larry Hernandez**, at Matanzas HS.



Post #1944 (FL) serves up coffee on a regular basis at the William V Chappell Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic and the Emory L Bennett Nursing Home, both in Daytona Beach.



Post #1959 (OH) Valentine's Day Coloring Contest Winners. Front Row (L to R): 1st place Brianna Smith, Honorable Mention Raphael Duran, 2nd place Gia Direnzo, 3rd place Amelia Conroy. Back Row (L to R) Mater Dei Academy Principal Loretta Pilla, Dept. Commander Mike Strainic, Post 3rd VC Jim Steele. Amelia also won 2nd place in the Department's contest.



Left: Members of **Post #382 (NY)** participated in Marlboro High School's Memorial Day Brunch for local veterans. This program provides an arena for interaction between students and veterans who were involved in both wartime and peacetime activities during various campaigns of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

For some veterans it is a means to keep alive the memories of their fallen and injured comrades, as well as being the source of living history. For the students it is a way of getting first-hand accountings of what they might have read during their social studies classes, as well as an opportunity to learn about what their own family members endured during these times.

Right: One-to-one discussion between Post #382 member, **Joe Farina** (WWII), and a Marlboro student. Photos by **Jim Pelosi**; reporting by **Jim Formato**.



THE ST. SEBASTIAN COLLECTION

Headquarters was recently contacted by Desmond Reid, an art historian who saw a photograph of the St. Sebastian statue at headquarters online (taken by Wes Stone), and wanted to know more about it (shown at right). Mr. Reid is currently compiling a database of images of Saint Sebastian, from all countries and periods. He has collected and indexed more than 27,000 images including paintings, sculpture, illuminated manuscripts, drawings, stained glass, prints, relics and mosaics. He is also preparing an index of documents relating to the saint from the earliest date of 340AD, with the aim of presenting the documents, in both their original languages and English, on a website. These will include vitae, passiones, sermons, novels, poetry, dramas, and music. Finally, he is compiling an annotated bibliography of about 3,000 items which he also plans to publish on a website. He hopes to have both sites up and running by the end of this year. In addition to the photos and information about the 3 statues, photos of the stained glass window at the **CWV shrine church in Astoria, NY** were shared with him, as was information about the **CWV relic**. In order to answer Mr. Reid's questions, a closer look was taken at the statues in the board room, and a search was made of the archives. The result is the story below.



Fifty years ago this month, an 8' tall statue of **St. Sebastian**, carved in white Carrara marble by Raffa Figli SNC (Arte Sacra & Monumentale in Pietrasanta, Italy), arrived in the United States, to be mounted outside of the CWV Headquarters building on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC. Before being installed in the yard of the headquarters building, an Act of congress needed to be passed (HR9808) allowing the installation of public art in the District. The design and plans needed to be (and were) approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission. This act was passed on May 9, 1967. The statue, which shows St. Sebastian as a centurion, with helmet, came with a 3' clay model. Both were shipped to New York on the *S.S. President Coolidge*. The same studio made the 3' marble statue of St. Agnes the following year (left). It too was accompanied by a clay model. Neither of the clay models have survived. The original marble St. Agnes statue is in the board room at headquarters, but the St. Sebastian statue there is neither clay nor marble...it is metal. There was no explanation for this found in the archives.



When Headquarters was relocated to Alexandria, there was no place for the large statue. The floors of the building could not support the weight (1984 pounds), and restrictions in the complex would not allow it to be placed outside so it was put into storage at Pagliaro Brothers Stone Co. in Baltimore, in June 1986. Efforts to sell it were unsuccessful, so it remained in storage - at a cost of \$100 per year - until 1995, when a new home was finally located. The **Department of Wisconsin** had hoped to obtain it, but could not find the funds to transport it from Baltimore. Instead, it was presented to the St. Sebastian parish in Middletown, Connecticut, home of **CWV Post #1116**. The parish was home to many immigrants from Melilli, Sicily, which claims St. Sebastian as its patron saint. The statue was moved into temporary storage at the St. Sebastian Cemetery in 1995, until the site at the church was prepared. The presentation ceremony took place during the church's 76th annual Feast of St. Sebastian, in May of 1997. Cardinal Salvatore Poppalardo, the former Cardinal of Palermo, and Bishop Daniel Hart blessed the statue during the procession of the faithful, which was led by members of CWV Post #1116. The statue is still there and is shown in the picture to the right.

If anyone has any additional information on any of these statues, please send it to headquarters: 441 N. Lee Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or admin@cwv.org.



Post #386 (NY) participated in two Memorial Day parades - one in New Windsor, NY and one in Newburgh, NY. In New Windsor they had an honor guard, a rifle squad, marchers, and a float. In Newburgh **Bruce Lubkeman, 1st VC Dept. of NY** served as the 1st Division Marshal, and was joined by a number of marchers from the post.



The weekend also included the Post's annual Memorial Day Service, during which the names of every deceased member of the post are read aloud, a bell is rung and an American Flag is placed in the holder before the Memorial Stone as each name is read. This year the number of flags placed exceeded 140.

And the Post also conducted its annual poppy distribution at Adams Fair Acre Market, Newburgh, NY over the weekend.

Photos by **Jim Formato**.



"We cannot repay, we cannot replace, but we can remember..."

President Donald Trump, Arlington National Cemetery, May 29, 2017

National Commander Armi Crawford and **National President Renee Rygalski** observed the Presidential wreath laying, and laid the CWV wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. **John Perka (Post #1652 VA)** and **George Crawford (Post #1936 OH)** served as the color guard. **National Adjutant Bill Wright, National Chaplain Msgr. Ed Coyle, Headquarters Administrator Karen Stone,** and Mrs. Sallie Perka also attended.



Chaplains in America's Darkest Hour

Chaplains in America's Darkest Hour is a painting by artist Benjamin Charles Steele. It hangs in the lobby of the headquarters building and was recently the subject of an inquiry by the artist's family, who had lost track of it many years ago. They "found" it again after an article ran about it in the CWV newsletter. A friend saw it and contacted the family, who in turn contacted headquarters with additional information about the history of the painting and the artist.

Steele was a member of the Army Air Corps, and served with the 7th Materiel Squadron, 19th Bomb Group. He went to the Philippine Islands in 1941, was part of the Bataan Death March, and was a prisoner of war until 1945.

According to the family, the painting owned by CWV is part of a collection of 96 war pieces, all reflecting Steele's first-hand experiences. It was done after the war - in the late 40's - while Steele was at the Cleveland Institute of Art, and was given to Father Duffy who planned to write a book of his experiences in the War, using Steele's paintings.

Members of **Post #1325 (OH)** enjoyed a 3-day trip to Washington, DC this spring. They visited many of the war memorials, laid a wreath at the CWV tree at Arlington National Cemetery where they had a tour, met with their local Congressman who gave them a tour of the Capitol, attended Mass and had a tour of the Basilica of the National Shrine. They also enjoyed many of the local restaurants. **Commander Gibbon of Post #1652 (VA)**

was able to join them for some of their visit.



Father Duffy was a chaplain in the Bilibid Prison in Manila when Ben was there. To pass the time, Steele drew. On the floor, on scraps of paper, on anything he could find. He left a number of completed drawings with Father Duffy when he was transferred to Cabanatuan Farm Camp and from there to Japan. Although Fr. Duffy survived, the drawings he had been entrusted with did not.



Fr. Duffy is the central figure in the painting, and was the original owner. He had the painting hanging in his church in New London, OH for many years, but when he died in the early 60's the family lost track of it. It is presumed that that is when it came into CWV's hands. Fr. Duffy served as the National Chaplain for the American Legion and came in contact with CWV while working in DC.

Steele passed away September 25, 2016 at the age of 98 years and 10 months. His WWII POW collection is owned by the Montana Museum of Art and Culture and consists of 11 paintings and 40 drawings. Over 30 of his sketchbooks are housed at the MacArthur Memorial Museum in Norfolk, Virginia.



VETERANS PRE NEED BURIAL ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new program, Veterans Pre Need Burial Eligibility Determination, that will greatly assist Veterans and their families, including younger Veterans. This program allows Veterans and their families to have peace of mind as to their future burial eligibility in a national cemetery, and saves Veteran's families valuable time after a Veteran has died.

Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, *Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery*, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

Once VA determines that an individual is eligible, they will be entitled to the same benefits they would receive were a determination made at the time of death. These include any or all of the following, at no cost to the family:

- Burial in any open VA national cemetery, including opening and closing of the grave
- Grave liner
- Perpetual care of the gravesite
- Government-furnished upright headstone, flat marker or niche cover
- Burial flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate

Spouses, and eligible dependents, can be buried with their Veteran at a VA national cemetery as well, even if they predecease the Veteran.

NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE SOLUTIONS FOR TBI AND PTSD

Amazon: Amazon is teaming up with VA to extend the use of digital devices to help improve the lives of Veterans with disabilities. Through this collaboration, Amazon will donate 100 Amazon Echo devices with Alexa Voice Service units to VA's Assistive Technology Labs. Amazon staff will also collaborate with VA experts to ensure Echo devices are programmed specifically to meet the needs of Veterans. Beyond the Echo donation, Amazon will also collaborate with VA staff to expand the accessibility of Kindle reading programs to Veterans and families staying at VA Fisher Houses.

Cohen Veterans Bioscience (CVB): VA is partnering with CVB to address the challenge of advancing diagnostics for PTSD and TBI by joining the **Research Alliance for PTSD/TBI Innovation and Discovery Diagnosis (RAPID-Dx)**. This public-private partnership alliance led by CVB will enable different institutions to coordinate efforts and integrate data across dozens of labs to facilitate breakthroughs. The goal is to fast-track discovery and development of biomarkers and diagnostics to advance precision medicine for trauma-related disorders.

Access and Quality
in VA Health Care
www.accesstocare.va.gov

Deciding when, where and how to receive medical care is often one of the most complex and challenging decisions of the entire health care process. Health care performance, access or quality of care data, is very complicated. To help, VA is launching a new website with an access and quality tool to help Veterans make more informed choices.

The new online tool allows Veterans, caregivers and the public to access the most transparent and easy-to-understand wait time and quality of care measures across the health care industry. That means Veterans can quickly and easily compare access and quality measures from their VA facility to other VA facilities, and make informed choices about where, when and how they receive their health care. Further, Veterans at some of VA's largest medical centers will now be able to compare the quality of VA care to local private-sector hospitals with more hospital comparisons being added soon.



2017 Convention

Urgent Reminder & News

Chairman Joe Raimo | Co-Chairman Michael Kasinskas | Auxiliary Representative Susan Ranno, PNP

Trips | Luncheon | Banquet Ticket Information

Deadline for ticket orders is Friday, July 7, 2016

No refunds after July 7th deadline

The Arch Bus Trip Wednesday, August 9 ___ Bus Seats x \$20.00 each = \$ _____

Baseball Game Thursday, August 10 ___ Adult(s) x \$33.50 each = \$ _____

National Commander's & Chaplain's Luncheon Thursday, August 10
___ Parmesan Panko Chicken x \$48 each = \$ _____
___ Sliced Pork Loin x \$48 each = \$ _____

National President's Luncheon Thursday, August 10
___ Parmesan Panko Chicken x \$48 each = \$ _____
___ Sliced Pork Loin x \$48 each = \$ _____

Convention Banquet Saturday, August 12
___ Seared Chicken Breast x \$73 each = \$ _____
___ Petite Filet Mignon x \$73 each = \$ _____
___ Grilled Atlantic Salmon x \$73 each = \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
C.W.V. Convention Corp.

Mail check and form to:
CWV Convention Corp | PO Box 103 | Ansonia, CT 06401-0103

Credit card orders & payment may be made at the CWV Store Site:
cwv-store.org/shop

The Convention Hotel is the Hilton, St. Louis Frontenac: 314-993-1100.
Reference the Catholic War Veterans when making your reservations.



Left & Below: Post #1943 (GA) repairs, replaces, and adds new white crosses to military graves at the local Catholic cemetery every year in time for Memorial Day. This year they fulfilled requests for more than 50 new crosses.

A Memorial Field Mass was held the following day, in conjunction with the local American Legion Post. The service was open to families of deceased veterans as well as the general public.



Right: Post #1976 (IN) held a CWV National Founder's Day Commemoration Ceremony which included many representatives of the local parish and the State General Assembly. In the words of **Post Commander Bud Erler**, *We have planted a seed for future posterity of the CWV in Indiana.* The event was well covered by the local newspaper.



At another ceremony, the Post's annual CWV Martin County \$1,000.00 Scholarship was presented to Graduating High School Senior, Abbie Williams.



Left: Many patriotic organizations came together in New Windsor, NY to honor deceased veterans by placing an American flag alongside their grave markers at three local cemeteries. Among those groups were members of **CWV Post #386 (NY)**, the Civil Air Patrol, BSA Troop #205, Girls Scouts, The American Legion, and The Disabled American Veterans. The CWV members were assigned to Mt. St. Francis Cemetery, where they assembled for a group photo. (Photo by **Jim Formato**)



When was the last time you visited the **CWV store**? Things have changed a bit! It is now easier to search for things, and new pictures are being added all the time. We've also added some items, You can even order your 2017 Convention Tickets there! Visit <http://cwv-store.org/shop/> today!