

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



CATHOLIC

WAR VETERANS & AUXILIARY

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



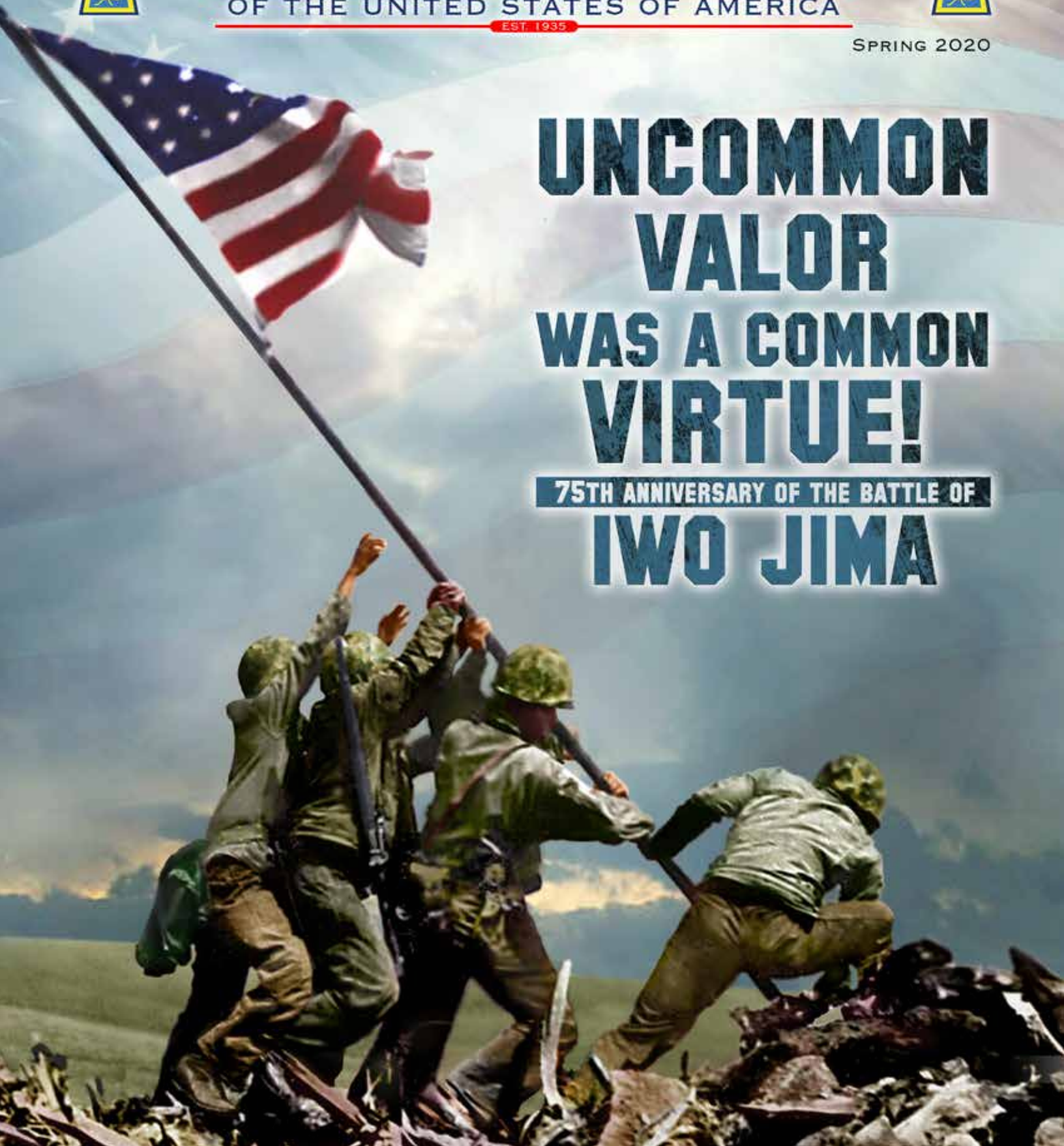
EST. 1935

SPRING 2020

UNCOMMON VALOR WAS A COMMON VIRTUE!

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF

IWO JIMA



YOU CAN BET OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER WAS WELCOMED ON A VISIT TO LAS VEGAS!

National Commander Frank Kowalski, accompanied by National Auxiliary Representative Louise Dechan, recently visited the North Las Vegas VA Medical Center, where they were welcomed by the Public Affairs Officer, David Martinez. They were then joined by the Hospital Director, William Caron, who provided a briefing on the hospital's operation and a tour of the facility and adjoining Fischer House (a comfort home where veterans' families can stay at no cost while their loved one is receiving treatment.) Ending the tour, they visited Post 1946's Veterans Service Office located on the first floor, where Post Commander Dan Kamanano briefed them on the history and functions of that office. Commander Kowalski then presented Director Caron with a plaque inscribed: "To the Staff and Members of the Las Vegas Medical Center. Thank You for Your Continued and Dedicated Service Caring For and Improving the Lives of Our Veterans."



POST 1947 & AUXILIARY 13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The setting was the ballroom of the Suncoast Hotel and Casino, with Commander Dan Kamanano as MC. The Pledge of Allegiance opened the party, followed by lighting the candle at the POW/ MIA table, and introduction of special guests, including National Commander Frank Kowalski, Louise Dechan of the Auxiliary; VA Chief of Voluntary Services Robert Johnson, and the new Chaplain of the VA Hospital and Post 1947, Fr. Tyson Wood.

Commander Kowalski presented Royal Air Force Wing Commander Welsh of the 39th Squadron with a Certificate of Appreciation for 9 years of volunteer work with Post 1947. CDR Welsh, in turn, presented Jim and Kathleen McCawley with a photo of the aircraft the RAF operate, from its first day to the present, for their support of the recent Remembrance Day ceremony. Fr. Tyson gave the invocation. During dinner, the Backstage Revue provided entertainment. Music was provided by Knight Sounds. Raffle tickets were drawn. Even Santa made a visit before guests continued to dance the night away.



Louise Dechan and Frank Kowalski present plaque to VA Hospital's William Caron.



Among the evening's special guests: National Commander Frank Kowalski and Louise Dechan of the CWV Auxiliary.



Our Lady of Peace Post 1947 Commander Dan Kamanano presents Life Membership card to Post Chaplain, Father Tyson Wood.

Never in the Service, He Devoted His Life and Fortune to Military Families!



Aboard USS INTREPID, Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher look out on New York City Fleet Week activities.

As part of his visit to Las Vegas, Commander Kowalski visited a “Fisher House.” These homes are donated by the Fisher family and Fisher House Foundation. They are “home away from home” for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. There are 86 Fisher Houses located on 25 military installations and 37 VA medical centers. Each house provides 8 to 21 suites and can accommodate 16 to 42 family members. They feature a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a dining room and living room and are handicap accessible. The program began in 1990, and has offered more than 8 million days of lodging to more than 350,000 families.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, he and his brothers established Fisher Brothers, one of the real estate industry’s premier residential

and commercial developers. Prevented from active service in World War II due to a leg injury, he drew on his building skills to assist the U.S. Coastal Service in the construction of coastal fortifications. His patronage of the armed forces became an ongoing concern from that time. In 1978, he founded the Intrepid Museum Foundation to save the historic and battle-scarred aircraft carrier from the scrap yard., which has since become the world’s largest naval museum. His philanthropy later extended to New York City first responders who died in the line of duty.

In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton in honor of his many and varied contributions to the U.S. Armed Forces. In December 1999, Public Law 106-161 conferred upon Zachary Fisher the status of an Honorary Veteran. Three words, etched in the marble of his tomb, speak to his legacy: Builder ... Philanthropist ... Patriot. Zachary Fisher, Founder, Fisher House Program, September 26, 1910--June 4, 1999.



JOSEPH R. FARINA MEMORIAL POST #386 PEARL HARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE

The event was co-sponsored by American Legion Post 1796 and Sons of Veterans. The Newburgh Free Academy HS Marching Band and AFJROTC participated in making the day a memorable one.



Two Gold Star Mothers Join Past Post 386 Commander James Peloso and New York State (and Past Post 386) 1st Vice Commander Bruce Lubkeman during ceremonies prior to tossing their flowers into the Hudson River.



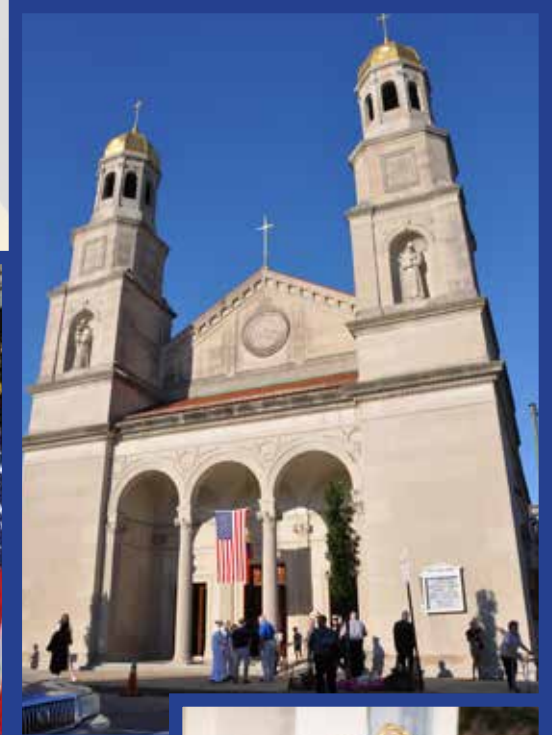
Post Chaplain, Deacon Tony Ferraloulo, offers the Invocation.



Post #386 Firing Squad awaits the command to fire three volleys in remembrance of all those lost on December 7th, 1941

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND ANNUAL BLUE MASS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

This year's Mass for uniformed First Responders lost in the line of duty was celebrated by Archbishop William E. Lori at St. Casimir Church in Baltimore.





IN MEMORIAM

LEO HALEY

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

1934-2020

Great as a person and member of this organization, pleasant to talk with, always with a smile and of course, my friend. He will be greatly missed. RIP.

Manuel Tanguma, PNC

Leo was a good veteran and my friend.

Marvin McFeaters

It is with a deep sense of sadness to lose such a man of extreme Catholic upbringing that brought our organization through a period of difficulty and made us better for it. Leo heeded the call of the Lord and the final chapter of Catholicism to enter into God's house, "heaven." Representing all the members of our CWV/CWVA within our state, may Leo rest in deep sleep as we remember this fine gentleman.

Gil Barker, Commander, MD

He was a friend, mentor, a successful Commander, and a man to be looked up to. Our organization is poorer for his loss.

Frank Kowalski, National Commander

I will miss Leo's warm smile and friendship.

Tom Moran

I am sorry to hear about the passing of PNC Leo Haley. Last year, at the National Convention, I was honored when Leo asked me to be his sponsor for the St. Sebastian Award. It was a pleasure to know Leo. I will always remember his smile. Thoughts and prayers for family and friends.

Denise DeBlois, Commander, NH

Leo was a great example for all of us to emulate. He was one of the first national officers that I got to know and admire. I join with all of the Ohio CWV to pray for him and his family.

Mike Blau, Commander, OH

SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL VETERANS COMMUNITY

FROM THE NUTMEG STATE

Kulka Brothers Post 1957 - Stamford Connecticut Participates in Various Local Events



SUPPORTING LOCAL VETS

Post Treasurer Joe Pampena and Commander Cortand Mehl present a certificate of appreciation to the manager of Beumax Beverages for the store's support of Veterans



HONORING ONE OF THEIR OWN

Stamford Mayor David Martin presents the Knights of Columbus Veteran of the Year Award to Mr. Kuslowski.



NAVY LEAGUE SEA CADETS

Post 1957 presented \$500 scholarship to Stamford's Navy League in honor of ENS Edmund Kulka, naval aviator lost at sea.



VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Commander Mehl congratulates post member Richard Kuslowski and wife Barbara prior to Veteran of the Year Award presentation.



FAREWELL WITH HONORS

Military Color Guard attends burial of Post Chaplain, Msgr/BGen Thaddeus Mallnowski at St. Joan's Cemetery.



Increased Social Security Benefits for Veterans!

You can possibly increase your social security benefits if you were on active duty between January 1957 through December 2001. (The program was eliminated on 1 January 2002.)

Up to \$1,200 per year of earnings credit can be credited at the time of application, which can make a substantial difference in your social security monthly payments upon your retirement.

You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for the benefit to receive it. The benefit is not automatic-you must ask for it! This program is not just for military retirees, but anyone who has served on active duty during the years specified above.

For more information, go to: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

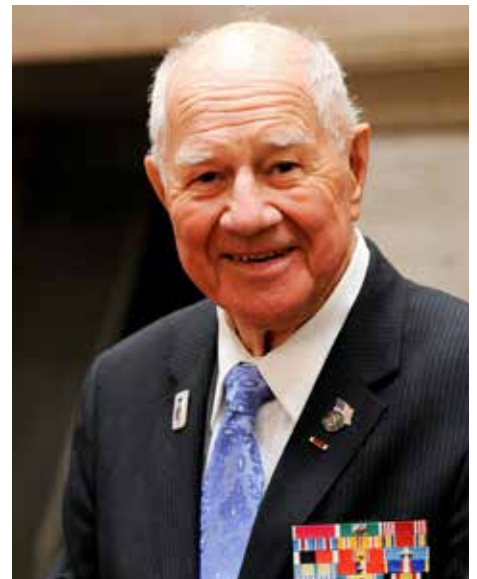
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR WILLIAM J. LARKIN, JR. CHARTER MEMBER OF POST 386 PASSES AT 91 YEARS OF AGE

The State of New York lost one of its treasures with the death of State Senator William J. Larkin, Jr., who served his country and community for 75 years. Born in Troy, New York in 1928, he volunteered for the draft and entered service in 1944 at the age of 16. He saw combat in New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II and served again in combat in the Korean War, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel upon his retirement in 1967. He received seven Battle Stars, one for WWII and six for Korea.

During his military career, he served as Army Project Officer for President John F. Kennedy during his trip to Berlin in 1963, and also provided security for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his historic march from Selma to Montgomery. Many years after his retirement, he received the Army's highest civilian award, the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service in recognition of his tireless service on behalf of Veterans. In addition, the New York State Senate awarded him the first New York State Senate Veterans Leadership Award for his work on behalf of New York's Veterans.

Following his retirement from active duty, Senator Larkin served for over 40 years in the New York State Legislature, having served in the Assembly from 1979-1990. He was first elected to the State Senate in November 1990. He was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh for his service to his community. He was a charter member of the Catholic War Veterans Post 386, Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans.

The Purple Heart, our nation's oldest military award, was the focus of what he considered two of his most important legacy accomplishments. He is a charter member of the four-man Genesis Group, which founded the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor located in New Windsor, New York. Senator Larkin also initiated the campaign to create the Purple Heart Forever Stamp.



VA Begins Accepting Claims for Offshore Blue Water Navy Veterans

On January 1st, 2020, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun deciding claims under the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The legislation extends benefits, based on the presumption of herbicide exposure that includes toxins such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.



CWV VET IS MET VIP FOR A DAY!

As this year's baseball season approaches, we offer you a glimpse from CWV's 2019 "yearbook." Our own Andrew Tollefsen, of Joyce Kilmer Post 1948 in Flushing, New York, was a Veteran honoree at a Mets baseball game at Citi Field last summer.

The photo left shows Andy receiving an encased U.S. Flag from Mets Pitcher (and subsequently two-time Cy Young Award Winner) Jacob DeGrom. Tollefsen was joined by family, friends and fellow CWV post members on his memorable day.

A U.S. Army Veteran, who saw service in Vietnam, Andy is an active member of his post and has held several officer titles. He supports post activities such as various fundraising efforts and coordinating an annual barbecue for Veterans at the St. Albans VA Hospital in Queens. The "gentle giant" certainly knows his way around Veterans Administration facilities, since he has been a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for many years, which was the basis for his honors by the Mets.

A retired New York City Transit Authority bus driver, Mr. Tollefsen has offices at the St. Albans hospital and the Brooklyn VA Hospital near Fort Hamilton. He also has an office to service clients at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) office building in Kew Gardens, Queens. He serves as the liaison between Post 1948 and the administration of St. Albans to schedule the yearly barbecue. The New York Mets honor one Veteran each month during the season. His lifelong friend in the post, Joe Trapani, noted that Andy's nomination for the honor was a "no brainer" and the Post Commander had plenty of information to substantiate the award. The Catholic War Veterans organization joins in congratulating Andy Tollefsen, VSO!





His Was A Wonderful Life



In usher "uniform" for a record 55 years!

CWV Post 1's own Luke Gasparre, a World War II Hero and later an Usher at two NY Mets ballparks, died at 95 years of age. He was drafted into the Army at age 18 and assigned to the 87th Infantry Division in Europe. He helped liberate (ironically), the French city of Metz and served in the Battle of the Bulge, earning seven medals, including a Purple Heart and Bronze Star after being shot in the hand. At one point, he was separated from his unit before being discovered by fellow American soldiers.



At home among Mets memorabilia.

He worked for the Post Office for 34 years. In 1964, he signed on as an usher at Shea Stadium, the newly opened home of the New York Mets. He would become a fixture at games for the next 55 years, working at that ballpark until moving with the team to Citi Field. Having been there from the beginning, he saw many historic Met moments, but always claimed his greatest moment was seeing the Pope at Shea Stadium. He proudly pinned his military medals to his usher uniform. He was one of seven children. He grew up on Manhattan's Upper East Side before settling his family in Astoria, Queens in 1937. Gasparre was a talented tap dancer. He befriended a gifted singer from the neighborhood. "I would tap and my friend Tony Bennett would sing."



In a Memorial Day parade.



His friend, Tony Bennett, only 2 years younger

FOR FASTER SERVICE, SHOP THE CWV STORE ON-LINE, AT HOME!

By simply going to your home computer, and signing on to CWVSTORE.ORG, you can order any of the authentic items from the Catholic War Veterans store. Just click on the type of product (i.e. apparel) at the top of the page, then click on the specific item (i.e. blue baseball cap). Enter the quantity desired, and you can either continue shopping or proceed to checkout. For items that require embroidery, a drop-down menu will ask you for specifics (i.e. state or national echelon, post number and name.) Prices include embroidery. Individual stock items are usually shipped within 24-48 hours. Anticipate a 2-3 week turn-around on embroidered items. Your credit card information is always securely protected. Please include a phone number or email address in case of a question about your order. We look forward to serving you!



CARDINAL DOLAN CELEBRATES HISTORIC MASS

Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, celebrated a Mass blessing the merger of the parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Francis of Assisi in Newburgh, NY into the newly formed parish named St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish, the first to be named after a newly canonized saint. The processional included members of the Knights of Columbus and the American and Papal Flags carried by members of Catholic War Veterans Joseph R. Farina Memorial Post #386 Color Guard. It also included two children dressed as Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II.

Thanks to James Formato, Post 386



DID YOU KNOW?

BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS, THEY SERVED ON THE FRONT LINES OF WORLD WAR II!

By Susan King, Gold Derby website, WWI Centennial Commission



The classic 1942 movie "Casablanca." Memorable lines include Claude Rains' "I'm shocked, I'm shocked!" And Bogey's "Here's looking at you, kid!"

HUMPHREY BOGART

Long before he uttered "Here's looking at you, kid" in 1942's "Casablanca," the Oscar-winning superstar was a teenager when he enlisted in the Navy in May of 1918 where he was assigned to the ship LEVIATHAN. And it was during this time, he suffered the injury that created the scar on the right corner of his upper lip. Though Hollywood lore has stated that he was hit by shrapnel, the official Bogart website bio maintains it was probably due to a Navy prisoner he was escorting. The man asked Bogey for a cigarette and when he reached for a match, the prisoner smacked Bogart across the mouth with his handcuffs and took off. Despite the fact that Bogart was bleeding from a severely tom lip, he ran after and tracked down the escapee.

CLAUDE RAINS

The multi-Oscar-nominated British actor best known as Captain Renault in the classic film, was a member of the London Scottish Regiment and ended up losing

90% of his sight after being gassed at Vimy Ridge in France in late 1916. The gas also affected his vocal chords giving Rains his distinctive husky tones. Though he couldn't return to combat, Rains continued to serve and ended the war as a Captain with the Bedfordshire Regiment.



WHEN THE INEVITABLE TIME COMES,
WILL YOU HAVE

ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED?

None of us like to talk about it, but let's face facts, none of us is getting out of here alive! They say some of us want to take it with us, and more often than not, too many of us do take vital information with us that our families will need to ensure we are laid to rest where we requested. The time to think about this is now! Yes, it's not a pleasant subject, but in all the grief and confusion at the time of our always untimely demise, our loved

ones need certain information to ensure that we receive the benefits coming to us as Veterans. Funeral directors call this pre-arrangements. Really, it is common sense. A lot of aggravation can be avoided by researching the information that is needed ahead of time. The Veterans Administration provides a form to determine one's eligibility for burial in a national cemetery.

It might be prudent to go to the VA or on-line and get the VA Form 2900-0784, (left) **"Application for PreNeed."** This way, you can assemble all the required information at your leisure, and determine pre-approval in the process. Talking to your local funeral director can also confirm and expedite any arrangements you might request.

Any payments made up front to the undertaker are held in escrow and are usually refundable to the point of your death.

OMB NUMBER: 2900-0784
EXPIRATION DATE: November 30, 2018
RESPONSE TIME BURDEN: 20 minutes

Department of Veterans Affairs		APPLICATION FOR PRE-NEED DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY	
NOTE: Please read information on reverse before completing this form. If additional space is required, attach a separate sheet of paper.		Submit Application and Supporting Documentation to VA by: Mail: to National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151; or Fax: to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (855) 840-8299	
IMPORTANT: Pre-Need means before death. Only complete this form if you are applying for a Pre-Need determination of eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. Time of Need means time of death. DO NOT complete this form if the individual is already deceased; instead, contact a local funeral home or the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117 to expedite processing.			
REQUIRED ITEMS: YOU MUST COMPLETE THOSE ITEMS IDENTIFIED WITH AN ASTERISK ()			
SECTION I - VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER <i>(Claims for eligibility for burial are based upon the Veteran/Servicemember's military service)</i>			
*1. VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER NAME <small>(Include Suffix (Last, First, Middle Name or Initial))</small>		*2. NAME USED DURING MILITARY SERVICE (Include Suffix) <small>(If different than item 1) (Last, First, Middle Name)</small>	
*4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		*6. VA CLAIM NUMBER (If known)	
*8. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)		*10. IS VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER DECEASED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	
*12. MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> SEPARATED <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED		*13. MILITARY STATUS USED TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION (Check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> A. VETERAN <input type="checkbox"/> B. RETIRED ACTIVE DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> C. DIED ON ACTIVE DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> D. RETIRED RESERVE <input type="checkbox"/> E. RETIRED NATIONAL GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> F. DEATH RELATED TO INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING <input type="checkbox"/> G. OTHER (See instructions)	
MILITARY SERVICE DATA			
*14. BRANCH OF SERVICE		*17. DISCHARGE - CHARACTER OF SERVICE (See instructions)	
*15. DATE OF ENTRY		*18. HIGHEST RANK ATTAINED (No pay grades)	
*16. DATE OF DISCHARGE		*19. STATE (Abbrev.) (National Guard Service Only)	
*20. IS THERE ANYONE CURRENTLY BURIED IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY UNDER THIS VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER'S ELIGIBILITY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES (Complete Item 21) <input type="checkbox"/> NO (Skip Item 21) <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW (Skip Item 21)		*21. NAME OF DECEDENT(S) AND VA NATIONAL CEMETERY WHERE BURIED	
*22. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ATTACHED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (See instructions for information on recommended documentation.)			
SECTION II - CLAIMANT INFORMATION <i>(Information about the individual for whom determination for eligibility for burial in a VA National Cemetery is requested)</i>			
*23. CLAIMANT (See instructions) (**Each Claimant requires a separate VA Form 40-10607)		*24. CLAIMANT'S MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, State, and Zip Code, P.O. Box, Rural Route, etc.) (If different from item 3)	
(Name) Last First Middle WHO IS (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> A. THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER NAMED IN ITEM 1 <input type="checkbox"/> B. THE SPOUSE/SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER IN ITEM 1 <input type="checkbox"/> C. AN UNMARRIED ADULT CHILD OF THE VETERAN/SERVICEMEMBER IN ITEM 1 <input type="checkbox"/> D. OTHER (Please specify)		*25. CLAIMANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) *26. CLAIMANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (If different from item 4) *27. CLAIMANT'S DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY) (If different from item 8) *28. CLAIMANT'S MAIDEN NAME (If applicable)	
*29. DESIRED VA NATIONAL CEMETERY (Optional - See instructions)		*30. EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional - See instructions)	
SECTION III - CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE			
CERTIFICATION: By signing below, I certify that I am the Claimant identified in item 23, or an individual signing for the Claimant identified in Item 34. All of the information entered on this form about the Claimant is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. A fraudulent statement that leads to burial in a national cemetery or receiving other benefits from the VA could result in disinterment from that national cemetery and other penalties in accordance with the law. I acknowledge that otherwise eligible individuals may be barred from burial for committing certain serious crimes, as provided under 38 U.S.C. § 2411. VA will therefore validate a previous determination of eligibility at the time of need to check for those bars in addition to law changes or Claimant status changes that may affect eligibility of the Claimant.			
*31. YOUR SIGNATURE		*32. DATE	
*34. NAME OF INDIVIDUAL FROM ITEM 33B COMPLETING FOR THE CLAIMANT (Last, First, Middle Name)		*35. MAILING ADDRESS OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLETING THIS FORM FOR THE CLAIMANT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code, P.O. Box, Rural Route, etc.)	
*36. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)		*37. EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional)	

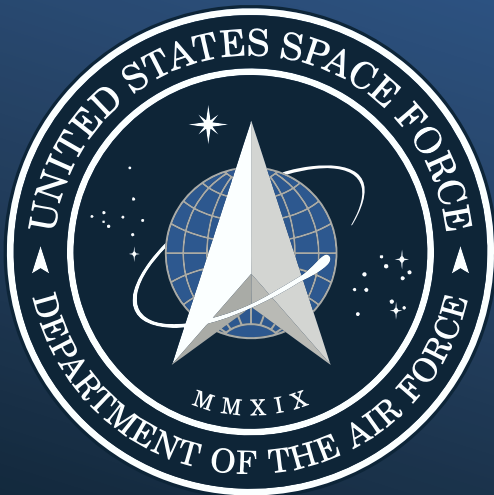




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WE WELCOME THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE!



On June 18th, 2018 President Donald Trump directed the Pentagon to begin planning for a Space Force, a sixth independent military service branch to undertake missions and operations in the rapidly evolving space domain. The U.S. Space Force would be the first new military service in more than 70 years, following the establishment of the U.S. Air Force in 1947. It would be a separate combatant command and an independent service overseen by a civilian secretary.

The United States Space Force was signed into law on December 20, 2019 as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. The final legislation specified a service that will fall under the Air Force in the same way as the Marine Corps falls under the Department of the Navy. It designated a new position of Undersecretary of the Air Force for Space, a civilian position that will answer to the Secretary of the Air Force. Officials estimate the creation of the new service will cost

\$2 billion over five years and require 15,000 personnel.

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett described it as “an agile, lean and technologically advanced force of talented professionals who will now focus singularly on space. The President and the Congress gave us a job to do and we are moving out!”

