

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

SUMMER 2020

SPECIAL EDITION  
**COVID-19**  
ONCE IN A LIFETIME



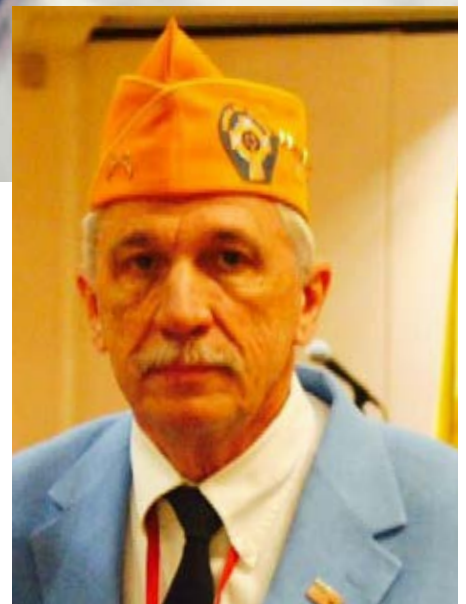
# A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COMMANDER FRANK KOWALSKI

My hope and prayer is that you are all doing well during this pandemic. Time seems to be going by very slowly these days. I'm sure everyone is anxious to get back to a normal lifestyle. Some states are starting to open up. New Jersey and New York are still shut down. I know we are the hardest hit by this pandemic and our Governors are slow in reopening our states. Our faith keeps us going and hopefully it will end soon. I am so glad to announce that our churches are now able to open their doors, even if it is only on a limited basis. They are our rock of stability and hope.

Just remember God's got this. Maybe we can still get in some summer vacation and travels. At National Headquarters we are continuing our business as usual. We have joined the Friends of the VA Medical Care and Health Research in the recommendation of \$860 million for VA research and an additional \$50 million for VA research for future COVID-19 effects on the Veteran population.

We have been asked to participate in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 100 Year Anniversary. I want to thank Marvin McFeaters for accepting the position as our representative on this committee. The celebration will be held on Veterans Day 2021. David Crum and I have been on conference calls with the Veterans Day National Committee as the planning continues for this year's Veterans Day ceremony.

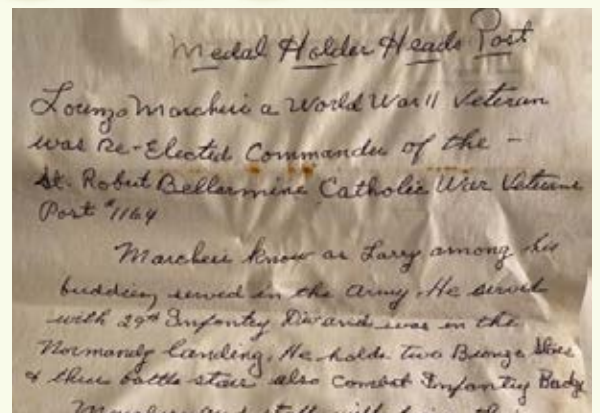
We will keep you informed on the status of our National Convention. The bottom line is the approval of the State of New York as to what may or may not be allowed concerning large gatherings. With everyone going through this pandemic, I'm glad to hear that our members, posts and departments are taking time to contribute in helping those in need. Everything you can do is appreciated. A personal thank you to all. May God bless you all and keep you safe.



# AS GOOD AS GOLD



Chester Grobschmidt of Post 672 in South Milwaukee, WI, is honored on his 100th Birthday by neighbors and by his daughter, Karen. The CWV, too, extends its Congratulations!!



Another Centenarian, World War II Veteran Lorenzo Marchesi, Post 1164, left this hand written note in an old typewriter, found by his granddaughter Samantha. Sadly, Lorenzo passed away in March at 100 years of age.



# START SPREADING THE NEWS



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 85th Catholic War Veterans convention will be its first-ever “Virtual Convention;” Delegates will meet via the GoToMeeting app, and the convention will follow an abbreviated format.

## 2020 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 5th: 7:00– 9:00P.M.

Thursday, August 5th: 7:00– 9:00P.M.: Business Meeting of Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary (Delegates) Election of National Officers

Friday, August 6th: 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Business Meeting of Catholic War Veterans (Delegates) Election of National Officers

Saturday, August 7th: 10:30-12:30P.M.

Joint Business Meeting, Veterans and Auxiliary  
Introduction of National Boards  
Announcement of St. Agnes and St. Sebastian Awards



The 86th National Convention Will Be Held In  
**NEW YORK CITY**  
August 2-7, 2021

### SIDE TRIPS INCLUDE



Side trips will include a visit to the USS INTREPID Sea-Air-Space Museum



A Harbor Lights Dinner Cruise



and a trip to Resorts World Casino in Queens

# THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL THAT HOLDS FUNERALS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

By MICHAEL KOTSOPOULOS, *America Magazine*

I am greeted by a wooden casket hoisted on the shoulders of eight high school basketball players as I enter the lobby of Catholic Memorial School in early January. An American flag covers the casket. At 8 a.m., I expect a tired expression across the face of each young man and wonder how they will navigate the halls to the narrow chapel.

But, stoic and calm, the boys looked at ease. They walked tall, proud and sure-footed. Their composure surprised me as they made their way into the school chapel. Following the procession, I scanned the room to find an open seat. But the school's theology classes packed every pew.

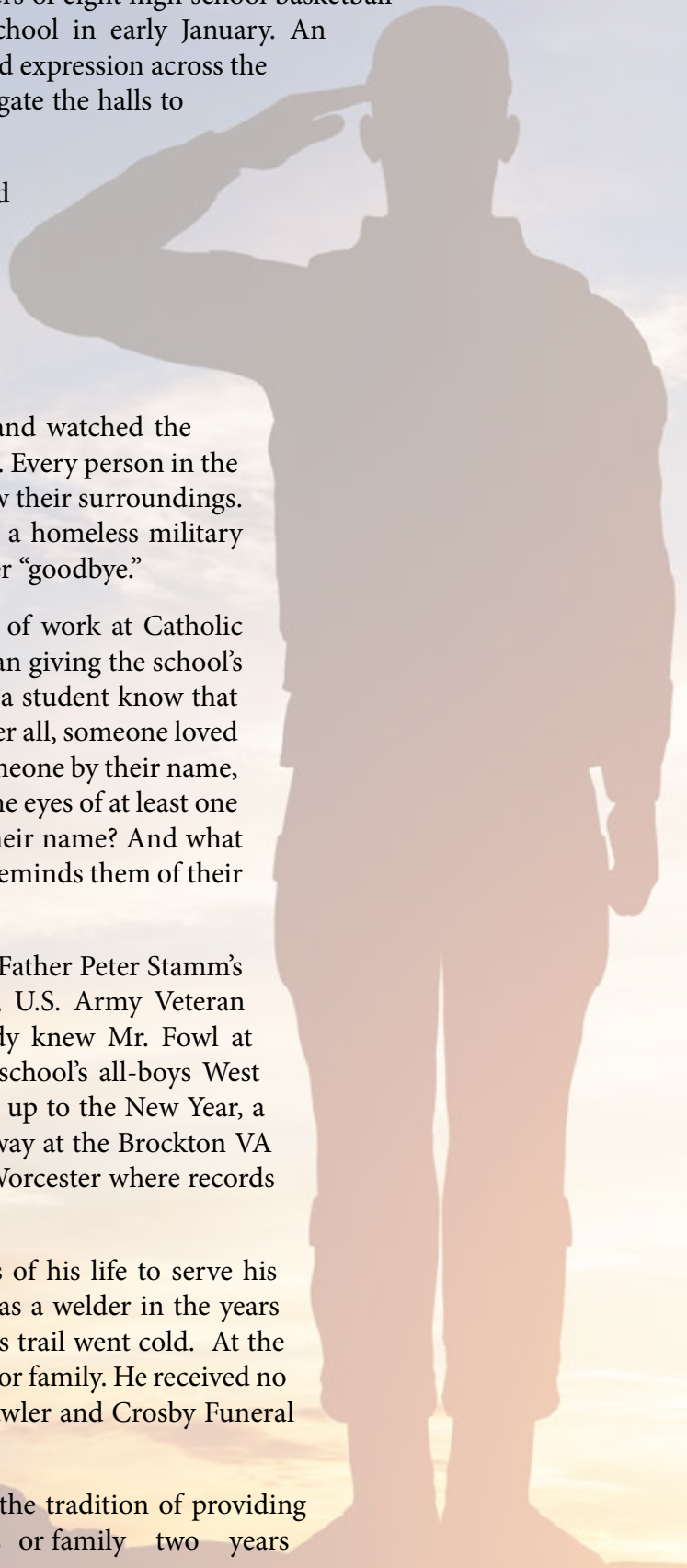
I stood in the back-left corner next to the tabernacle and watched the scene unfold. The mood felt different from most funerals. Every person in the room, faculty member and student alike, seemed to know their surroundings. If anything, it gave the school's fifth funeral service for a homeless military veteran more of a welcoming mood than that of a somber "goodbye."

A little unsettled, I kept thinking back to my first day of work at Catholic Memorial School. I remembered Vice Principal Tom Ryan giving the school's new faculty a sound piece of advice: "If you want to let a student know that they're loved, call them by their name," he said to us. "After all, someone loved them enough to give them one." When a person calls someone by their name, it shows the person that they matter—that they exist in the eyes of at least one other person. But what happens when nobody knows their name? And what happens when those who knew it no longer exist? Who reminds them of their own dignity then?

The questions began to flood my mind in the middle of Father Peter Stamm's opening prayer. At the sound of the deceased's name, U.S. Army Veteran Timothy Fowl, I remember thinking, "Who?" Nobody knew Mr. Fowl at Catholic Memorial School. Few people outside of the school's all-boys West Roxbury, Mass., campus did either. In the days leading up to the New Year, a homeless Army veteran named Timothy Fowl passed away at the Brockton VA Hospital—miles away from the Grove Street shelter in Worcester where records show he used to reside.

He deserved better, really. The man sacrificed six years of his life to serve his nation as a medical specialist in the 1980s. He worked as a welder in the years that followed before falling on hard times. Years later his trail went cold. At the time of his death, Mr. Fowl left behind no known friends or family. He received no heartfelt goodbyes. Still, Mr. Fowl's remains, given to Lawler and Crosby Funeral Home, needed a proper burial.

Kevin Durazo, the director of campus ministry, began the tradition of providing funerals for veterans with no known living friends or family two years



ago when the C.M. hockey team laid to rest veteran John Fitzmaurice. The school considers it a part of its mission to welcome those on the margins into their community—an active and engaging way for an adolescent to understand the concept of empathy. At C.M., serving means to walk with, not ahead of, another. Though students collectively complete over 15,000 hours of required service work each year, they do not receive hours for their participation in the funeral.

Whenever Mr. Durazo receives a phone call from Lawler and Crosby, he invites a different student group to host the service. At past funerals, the hockey and football teams volunteered to service as pallbearers. The school partners with Lawler and Crosby to coordinate the casket, hearse and transportation needed for the burial at the veterans' cemetery in Winchendon.

This time, Mr. Durazo asked eight members of the basketball team to collectively serve at the funeral for Mr. Fowl, a man who gave up a part of his life to serve others. Back in the chapel, I stood still and listened to our school president, Peter Folan, end the service with a eulogy. "Here at C.M., we're a family," he said. "A proud family. We're a community that welcomes people in and accepts them for where they are. We ask them to join us on our journey toward being more, doing more and caring for others. "Timothy Fowl, welcome to our family."

I thought back to Mr. Ryan's mantra. At the time of his death, few knew Mr. Fowl. But as Mr. Folan listed off his military service and the significance of his duty, a room full of young men began to understand what the name Timothy Fowl meant. To them, it meant sacrifice for one's country. It meant service. It meant bravery. With that, every student left school that day keeping Mr. Fowl's memory alive.

After a final blessing, the basketball team resumed its duties. In front of the altar, they hoisted the casket and escorted Mr. Fowl back to his hearse. An honor guard presented Mr. Fowl with full military rights before loading him into the vehicle. Then, with the flag at half-mast, the boys said their goodbyes to their new brother to the playing of taps.

Looking back on the day, it strikes me how this service leaves such a profound impression on the minds of our boys. As a Christian Brothers school, C.M. prioritizes Jesus' seven corporal works of mercy in its active service to others. These works instruct us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit prisoners, give alms to the poor and bury the dead. Each originates from Matthew 25, the Gospel chapter where Jesus tells his disciples to look for him in the least of their brothers.

The order's founder, Blessed Edmund Rice, dedicated his life to providing a value-centered education for marginalized boys. He hoped that, with this education, they grew up into men of character who passed on their gifts for the betterment of the world. During these funeral services in the chapel, our students learn what it means to welcome someone on the margins into their family. They give shelter, visit the sick and bury the dead. They learn how to empathize with the suffering of others and to see a stranger as their brother, and it starts with learning his name.



*High School students serve as pallbearers.*



*CWV Members at an Indigent Veteran wake call.*

## ST. SEBASTIAN POST #870 WOODSIDE, NEW YORK HONORS PATRIOTIC POSTER WINNERS!

Post 870 members presented Patriotic Poster award winners with a certificate and check at Saint Sebastian Academy in Queens. Shown in the photo are Third Vice Commander Gary Jacobson, Auxiliary Third Vice President Susan Haugh and the Auxiliary's Helen Olt. The winners were Mackenzie Unger, Justine Demafeliz and Aiden Vina (not pictured).



## Memorial Day Ceremony Honors Veterans Lost In War and Post 386 Members Lost to Covid Virus



In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Joseph R. Farina Memorial Post #386 gathered to place American Flags at the graves of deceased Veterans. This Memorial Day meant a great deal more than many of the past since three members of the Post passed during the past several weeks: Salvatore Foti, a WWII Veteran who participated in the D-Day invasion; Rocco Panella, another World War II Veteran; and Al Hill. Members of the Post saluted their deceased comrades in a scaled-down ceremony.

Also assisting the CWV Post was Charles Smith, Grand Knight of K of C Council #444 in Newburgh, NY., who was instrumental in memorializing local young men in the battle that broke the Hindenburg Line in World War I, bringing about the fall of the Kaiser and the end of the war. A separate ceremony honors these men each year on September 29th.

*The event was organized, and the contingent was led by 1st V/C Bob Murphy and 3rd V/C Michael Lutz. Also participating were Post Chaplain, Deacon Tony Ferraiuolo, Post Welfare Officer Joe Coyle, members George Riley, Primo Antonucci, Anthony Yozzo and Past Post Commander James Peloso, Sr.*

# HOW THE BLACK PLAGUE CHANGED THE “HAIL MARY” PRAYER

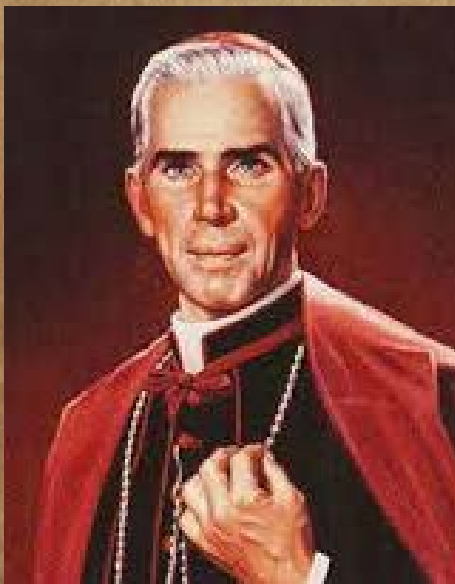


The “Hail Mary” prayer that Christians have been praying for centuries is composed of two main parts. The first part of the prayer is derived from the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel greeted Mary by saying, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28)

The next part of the prayer is taken from the Visitation, when Elizabeth greeted Mary with the words, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Luke 1:42)

At first, the prayer was known as the “Salutation of the Blessed Virgin,” and only consisted of the two verses joined together. However, during the Black Plague (also known as the “Black Death”), the prayer was further developed and a second part was added to it.

The second part, “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death” is believed by many to have been added during the plague to ask for the Blessed Mother’s protection from the fatal disease. Venerable Fulton J. Sheen explains this origin in his book *The World’s First Love*. An expert in Marian devotion, Fr. Donald H. Calloway, confirms this conclusion in his book, *Champions of the Rosary* and explains how “after the Black Death, the second half of the Hail Mary began to appear in the breviaries of religious communities. The people of the 14th century greatly needed the ‘hope-filled’ dimension of the second half of the Hail Mary prayer.”



The prayer took various forms during this bleak period in Europe, but was officially recognized after the publication of the Catechism of the Council of Trent and the full prayer was then included in the Roman Breviary of 1568. During times of great suffering, Christians have always turned to God in the hopes that he will bring relief to his people. During the Black Death, which wiped out one-third of the population of Europe, it seized upon two decisive moments of life: “now,” and “at the hour of our death,” with the faithful crying out to the Mother of Our Lord to protect them at a time when the present moment and death were almost one.

*Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*

**HOMEBOUND HUMOR!**

**How long is this social distancing supposed to last? My wife keeps trying to come in the house.**



**Just seen a burgler kickin his own door in. I asked him what are u doin? He said " workin from home" 😊**

**So me and my husband were sitting on our couch watching TV yesterday. Suddenly, I hear that I got a text on my phone that I left in the kitchen. I go to the kitchen to check it, and it's a text from my husband: "Please bring the chips on your way back"**

**Day 3 without sports. Found a lady sitting on my couch. Apparently she's my wife. She seems nice.**

**I've eaten 14 meals, taken 6 naps, and it's still today. Are you kidding me??**



**To those who are complaining about the quarantine period and curfews, just remember that your grandparents were called to war; you are being called to sit on the couch and watch Netflix. You can do this.**

**MY HUSBAND AND I DECIDED WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE CHILDREN. WE WILL BE TELLING THEM TONIGHT AT DINNER.**

**MY MOM ALWAYS TOLD ME I WOULDN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING BY LAYING IN THE BED ALL DAY BUT LOOK AT ME NOW I'M SAVING THE WORLD.**

**FIRST TIME IN HISTORY WE CAN SAVE THE HUMAN RACE BY LAYING IN FRONT OF THE T.V. AND DOING NOTHING LETS NOT SCREW THIS UP**

**Many parents are just about to discover the teacher was not the problem. 🏠😬😂**

**Day 3 without sports. Found a lady sitting on my couch. Apparently she's my wife. She seems nice.**





Our cleaning lady just called and told us she will be working from home and will send us instructions on what to do.

We need to change who is in charge of this crisis. Three phone calls, Radar could've had masks, gloves, ventilators, PPE, 12yr old Scotch, Rocky Road ice cream and grape flavored Nehi soda 😊



**Coronavirus throat spray**



Never in my whole life would I imagine my hands would consume more alcohol than my mouth!!



[www.allversurfaces.com](http://www.allversurfaces.com)

Social distancing baptism



It's like being 16 again  
Gas is cheap and I'm  
Grounded.



If the schools are closed for too long, the parents are gonna find a vaccine before the scientists...

We are about 3 weeks away from knowing everyone's true hair color



GOING VIRAL

# WHAT I DID DURING THE PANDEMIC OF 2020!



## SUSAN RANNO, PNP

To date, I have donated over 600 masks to Bridgeport Hospital, Griffin Hospital, the New Canaan Nursing Home, City of Derby town employees, and City of Ansonia essential employees and city hall workers. I am currently making more for the maternity floor of Griffin Hospital, as well as for friends and family. I am approaching almost 800 made.. It has kept me sane during this time and I feel I have helped in the fight!

## MARY QUILTER, PRESIDENT, FR. JOHN HICKEY AUX 731

I have contacted each member of my Auxiliary Unit via telephone or email to check up on them and see if they need any food or help. I announced the passing of two members. In response to the Red Cross, I donated my type O- blood, which is much in demand. Made donations to NYC charities and my parish church. Presented toys, books, chalk and puzzles to neighboring children. With the Post Commander, am planning an alternative Memorial Day service at Sacred Heart Church with no members in attendance.



VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY



## JULIAN MENDOZA, POST COMMANDER, POST 1805 AUSTIN, TX

Our Post has tried to rise to the occasion to support major fund-raising organizations, veterans and their dependents in the Austin and Travis County areas, impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. A \$200 donation was made to the United Way for Greater Austin; \$200 to the Central Texas Food Bank; \$100 to Caritas of Austin; \$100 to the Austin Salvation Army; \$50 to the Catholic Church SVDP Food Pantry; and \$50 to the Diocese of Austin, Texas Catholic Services Appeal. In addition, Veterans and dependents received \$100 in \$20 gift cards for miscellaneous expenses. The Post also assisted persons in need with a \$200 donation for rent and utilities. The donations totaled \$1,000.00.



## DAVE CRUM, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, POST 1, ASTORIA, NY

As all non-essential businesses in New York City were closed by the Governor, thus idling the National Office staff, Dave Crum took the opportunity to revisit a hobby. He commandeered the dining room table to lay the keel and build a scale model of the destroyer USS FLETCHER (DD-445). This was just the first of a fleet of ships, including the World War II aircraft carrier USS HORNET (CV-8)



# WHAT I DID DURING THE PANDEMIC OF 2020!



## POST 1947, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Post 1947 Auxiliary member Mandy Reed sewed masks for those in need and distributed them upon request

## LADY OF PEACE POST 1947

Commander Dan Kamao of our Lady of Peace Post 1947 presents a \$6,000 donation from the post to Chief of Voluntary Service Robert Johnson at the VA Medical Center to be used to aid Veterans and their families during COVID-19.



## LADY OF PEACE POST 1947

During the pandemic, Post 1947 Welfare Officer Jack Stevens and his team delivered food to 168 families and individuals in the Las Vegas community. Each delivery contained enough food for four weeks.

From the start of the quarantine, the Post 1947 Service Office assisted in processing disability claims and pension telephone interviews using non-contact IT resources. It was the only Veterans Service Office in Nevada supporting homeless veterans during the crisis.



## ST. PATRICK OF COLUMBUS POST 1963

This Veteran did not let the effects of the Corona Virus deter from the meaning of Memorial Day. With permission and while staying safe, Post 1963 Commander, Mary Ann Janning brought her grandsons, Boy Scout Jimmy and Cub Scout Brayden Dennett, to create a circle of Flags around the flagpole at St. Joseph Cemetery in Lockbourne, Ohio. They also said prayers and played Taps to continue the tradition of honoring the fallen.



# HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF!

## SCENES FROM THE PANDEMIC OF 1918



And the people stayed at home  
 And read books  
 And listened  
 And they rested  
 And did exercises  
 And made art and played  
 And learned new ways of being  
 And stopped and listened  
 More deeply  
 Someone meditated, someone prayed  
 Someone met their shadow  
 And people began to think differently  
 And people healed  
 And in the absence of people who lived in  
 ignorant ways  
 Dangerous, meaningless and heartless  
 The Earth also began to heal  
 And when the danger ended and People  
 found themselves  
 They grieved for the dead  
 And made new choices  
 And dreamed of new visions  
 And created new ways of living  
 And completely healed the earth  
 Just as they were healed.

Thursday, November 7th, 1918

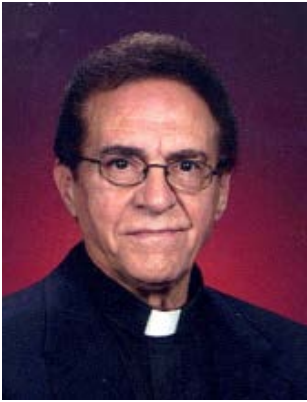
CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF KELOWNA  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that, in order to prevent the spread of Spanish Influenza, all Schools, public and private, Churches, Theatres, Moving Picture Halls, Pool Rooms and other places of amusement, and Lodge meetings, are to be closed until further notice.

All public gatherings consisting of ten or more are prohibited.

D. W. SUTHERLAND,  
 Kelowna, B.C., Mayor.  
 19th October, 1918.





## **FATHER DOMINICK MAMMARELLA**

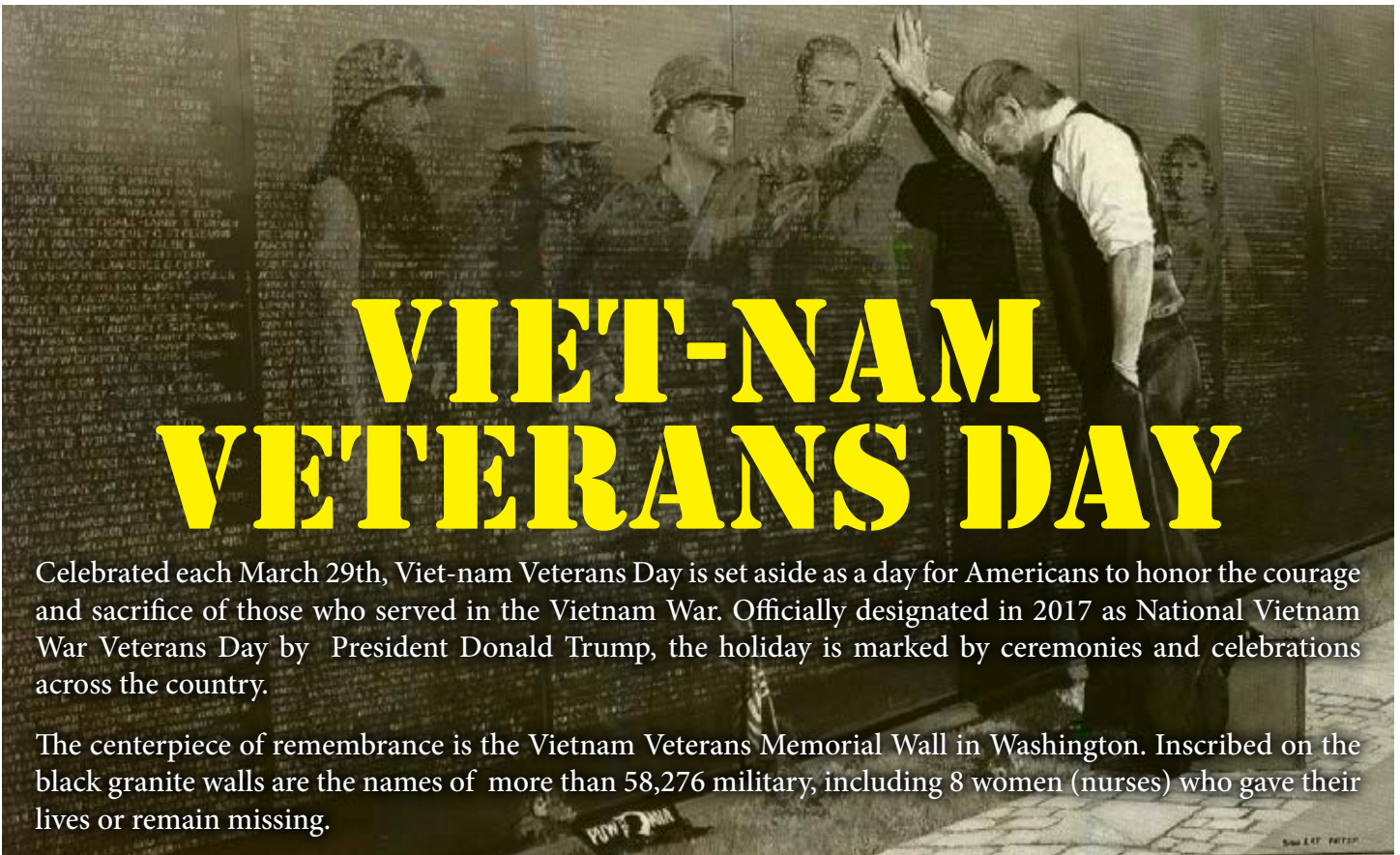
### **WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND PAST NATIONAL CHAPLAIN, PASSES AT AGE 95**

Past National and Department of Pennsylvania Chaplain, Rev. Dominick Mammarella of Berwick, PA, has passed away at age 95. Graduating high school in 1942, he traveled to Baltimore to work in an aircraft factory assembling wings for B-26 bombers. In 1943, he joined the Army Air Force, completing training as a radio-operator gunner on a B-24 bomber. He saw action in Northern Italy and throughout the Southern European Theater, completing 30 combat missions. He was awarded the Distinguished Air Medal three times.

Upon discharge, he began his seminary training at St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1945. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Harrisburg in 1953. He served a number of pastoral assignments at parishes throughout Pennsylvania. He served as Pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Berwick from 1977 until his retirement in 2000. During his tenure, he was instrumental in expanding the church grounds and parking lot, acquiring a pipe/electronic organ, and renovating the church with essential improvements such as new heating systems, air conditioning and handicapped accessibility.

Fr. Mammarella was an active member and Chaplain of Fr. Albanese CWV Post 1419 in Berwick, PA for over 40 years. He served as Pennsylvania State Chaplain of the Catholic War Veterans from 1980-1982, and was appointed as CWV National Chaplain by National Commander Joseph DiPasquale from 1997-1998.

In addition to his pastoral duties, he was active in the community through ecumenism with other churches and faiths. For many years, he served on the local Salvation Army Board and Beyond Violence Board for abused women and children. He was recognized as the Distinguished Citizen of the Year for the Columbia Montour Boy Scouts as well as Citizen of the Year by the Berwick Chamber of Commerce. The Catholic War Veterans nationwide are pleased to remember and keep Fr. Mammarella in our prayers.



Celebrated each March 29th, Viet-nam Veterans Day is set aside as a day for Americans to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who served in the Vietnam War. Officially designated in 2017 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day by President Donald Trump, the holiday is marked by ceremonies and celebrations across the country.

The centerpiece of remembrance is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington. Inscribed on the black granite walls are the names of more than 58,276 military, including 8 women (nurses) who gave their lives or remain missing.

# VA EXPANDS DIGITAL CAPABILITIES OF VETERANS LEGACY MEMORIAL

The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has enhanced and expanded capabilities on the Veterans Legacy Memorial

website: <https://www.va.gov.remember> for family, friends and visitors to leave “Tributes” or comments on a Veteran’s memorial page. The Veterans Legacy Memorial website is the nation’s first digital platform dedicated entirely to the preservation of the memory of the 3.7 million Veterans interred in national cemeteries.

“Online memorialization becomes more prominent these days, allowing people to remotely honor the service and sacrifice of our Veterans,” said Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves. “The increased capabilities of VLM are in place at a critical time to ensure “No Veteran Ever Dies” by telling their stories to a larger audience through an enhanced digital platform. In addition, VLM allows people to express their appreciation and gratitude for the dedicated service of our Nation’s heroes.

After creating an account on the website, visitors can leave a “Tribute” to a Veteran meaningful to them, pick from an auto-generated list at the bottom of the page, or conduct a simple search based on any of the following: name, service branch, war period or cemetery.

Once a “Tribute” is reviewed and posted, visitor’s can share their post to social media (Facebook, Twitter) by clicking one of the share buttons in the upper right of the Veteran’s page. Users can also “like” a comment or image by pressing a small heart-shaped button.

All “Tributes” are reviewed by Veterans Legacy Memorial administrators before being posted to the site to ensure decency consistent with the dignity and decorum of a VA National Cemetery.

The Veterans Administration operates 142 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers’ lots and monument sites in 41 states and Puerto Rico. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, the VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. Information on VA burial benefits is available from VA national cemetery offices, online at <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/> or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-100. To make burial arrangements at any open VA cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117.

**“TRIBUTES” CAN BE MADE IN THREE WAYS:**

1. AS A DIRECT ENTRY ON A VETERAN’S PAGE.
2. AS A REPLY TO SOMEONE ELSE’S TRIBUTE ON A VETERAN’S PAGE.
3. AS A DIRECT ENTRY TO A MEMENTO OR PHOTOS ON A VETERAN’S PAGE.



# I TALKED WITH A MAN TODAY!



I talked with a man today, an 80+-year-old man. I asked him if there was anything I can get him while this Coronavirus scare was gripping America. He simply smiled, looked away and said: "Let me tell you what I need! I need to believe, at some point, this country my generation fought for—I need to believe this nation we handed safely to our children and their children. I need to know this generation will quit being a bunch of sissies...that they respect what they've been given...that they've earned what others sacrificed for."

I wasn't sure where the conversation was going or if it was going anywhere at all. So, I sat there, quietly observing. "You know, I was a little boy during WWII. Those were scary days. We didn't know if we were going to be speaking English, German or Japanese at the end of the war. There was no certainty, no guarantees like Americans enjoy today. And no home went without sacrifice or loss. Every house, up and down every street, had someone in harm's way. Maybe their Daddy was a soldier, maybe their son was a sailor, maybe it was an uncle.

Sometimes it was the whole damn family...fathers, sons, uncles... Having someone, you love, sent off to war...it wasn't less frightening than it is today. It was scary as Hell. If anything, it was more frightening. We didn't have battlefield news. We didn't have email or cellphones. You sent them away and you hoped...you prayed. You may not hear from them for months, if ever. Sometimes a mother was getting her son's letters the same day Dad was comforting her over their child's death. And we sacrificed. You couldn't buy things. Everything was rationed. You were only allowed so much milk per month, only so much bread, toilet paper. EVERYTHING was restricted for the war effort. And what you weren't using, what you didn't need, things you threw away, they were saved and sorted for the war effort. My generation was the original recycling movement in America.



And we had viruses back then...serious viruses. Things like polio, measles, and such. It was nothing to walk to school and pass a house or two that was quarantined. We didn't shut down our schools. We didn't shut down our cities. We carried on, without masks, without hand sanitizer. And do you know what? We persevered. We overcame. We didn't attack our President, we came together. We rallied around the flag for the war. Thick or thin, we were in it to win. And we would lose more boys in an hour of combat than we lose in entire wars today." He slowly looked away. I saw a small tear in the corner of his eye. Then he continued:

"Today's kids don't know sacrifice. They think sacrifice is not having coverage on their phone while they freely drive across the country. Today's kids are selfish and spoiled. In my generation, we looked out for our elders. We helped out with single moms whose husbands were either at war or dead from war. Today's kids rush the store, buying everything they can...no concern for anyone but themselves. It's shameful the way Americans behave these days. None of them deserve the sacrifices their granddads made.

So, no I don't need anything. I appreciate your offer but I've been through worse things than this virus. Maybe I should be asking you, what can I do to help you? Do you have enough pop to get through this, enough steak? Will you be able to survive with 113 channels on your tv?" I smiled, fighting back a tear of my own...now humbled by a man in his 80's. All I could do was thank him for the history lesson, leave my number for emergency and leave with my ego firmly tucked in my rear. I talked to a man today. A real man. An American man from an era long gone and forgotten. We will never understand the sacrifices. We will never fully earn their sacrifices. But we should work harder to learn about them, learn from them...to respect them.

Thanx, and a tip of the hat to Jim Formato



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
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BELLEROSE, NY 11426  
703-549-3622  
WWW.CWV.ORG

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT NO. 4123

USNS COMFORT, a ship of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, arrives in New York Harbor at the epicenter of the COVID-19 virus, carrying 1,000 hospital beds, 80 ICU beds and 12 operating rooms. The 900-foot long ship, launched in 1976, also carries a medical lab, pharmacy and radiology suites. No stranger to New York, the ship responded after the attacks of 9/11 not as a medical facility, but a place for first responders to eat, sleep and take showers. The ship has since returned to its home port of Norfolk, Virginia with the gratitude of all New Yorkers!

