

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



EST. 1935

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WINTER 2019

Christmas
AT THE
WHITE HOUSE
~ 2019 ~

The "Spirit of America" is the Theme

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO OUR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES!



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY WAS A SUCCESS AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

As your National Commander, I was very humbled and honored to represent our organization at this year's Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. It was an honor and a privilege to be in the company of the Vice President of the United States, Michael Pence, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie.

I cannot thank you enough for allowing me the opportunity to speak on your behalf as the Catholic War Veterans of the USA.

I want to sincerely thank our members for all they did to put us up front as this year's host Veterans Service Organization. To everyone who traveled to attend the ceremony, who worked behind the scenes, especially my committee, and contributed in any way (you know who you are!) my sincere Thank You and Well Done to all!

~ FRANK KOWALSKI



A Christmas Message From The National Commander

Yes, it's that time of year again. Christmas shopping, cooking, decorating our homes, entertaining and making sure everything is perfect. The tree is perfect, the gifts are wrapped, everything is ready to go. Have a great time with your family and friends. Enjoy, celebrate, have that Christmas drink, and don't forget the in-laws.

But it is also Advent. Let us not forget what this day really means. Do we have that Advent Wreath? Are we spiritually getting ready for the birth of Jesus? Just remember to Keep Christ in Christmas. Also, say a prayer for all our service members who cannot be home and continue to serve our nation.

On behalf of myself and the National Department, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may God

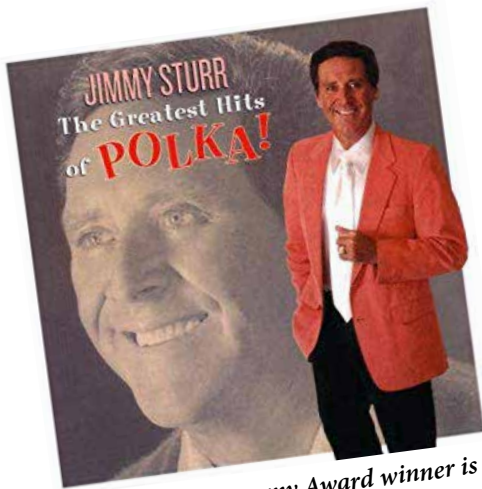


MERRY CHRISTMAS!

From Our National President

As National Auxiliary President, I wish to thank everyone for all of their help this past year. It has been quite an adventure, and I treasured every moment.

I wish everyone a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please stay healthy and happy through the holidays. See you in 2020. Can you believe it?



The 18 time Grammy Award winner is on the top ten list of all time Grammy Awardees. He resides in nearby Warwick, New York.

JIMMY STURR, "THE POLKA KING," RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Catholic War Veterans Joseph R. Farina Memorial Post #386 presented a plaque to nationally known entertainer Jimmy Sturr for his support of local Veteran causes. In accepting, the orchestra leader said: "I want the citizenry of the USA to never forget the Veterans because it was and is their sacrifices that allow us to be who and where we are today."



The presentation was made by James R. Formato, Post Public affairs Officer (seated in electric scooter), for the musician's continuous efforts on behalf of Hudson Valley Honor Flights and local Veterans and families.

REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE 50 YEARS AGO!

KNOWN AS HITLER'S LAST GAMBLE





CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS AND AUXILIARY HOST NATIONAL VETERANS DAY PARADE AT ARLINGTON



Vice President Pence delivers the keynote address. President Trump was the first President to join the National Veterans Day Parade in New York.



Past National Commander Jose Garcia renders honors.



Commander Kowalski and President Anna McMaster greet Vice President Mike Pence.



VA Secretary Wilkie presents remarks.



Vice President Pence places the wreath.



Vice President Pence is joined by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie.



The crowd is stilled as the bugler plays Taps.



CWV member shows patriotic spirit.



Led by its President, the CWV Auxiliary was well represented.



(From left), National Directors Scott Demers (NH), Mike Kasinkas (CT) and Ohio State Commander Mike Blau escort members from buses to the ceremony.



**WELCOME VICE PRESIDENT
MIKE PENCE AND
VA SECRETARY ROBERT WILKIE
THE CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS TOOK
CENTER STAGE AS THE SPONSORING
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION
(ONE OF 19 VSO'S) THIS YEAR.**



Commander Kowalski spoke on behalf of all Veterans of all wars.



Some 300 members attended to represent this year's host organization—the Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary. It will be 19 years until it is our turn to do it again!



National Director Mike Kasinkas applauds remarks.



Bishop Barber spoke as a retired military Chaplain

PILGRIMAGE FOR THE SEA SERVICES DRAWS HUNDREDS TO NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton welcomed more than 400 visitors for its annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services. St. Elizabeth is the Patroness of the Sea Services, which include the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Merchant Marine and Public Health Service. The pilgrimage is co-sponsored by the Seton Shrine and the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) to pray for those who both serve and have served.

The event commenced with a Mass in the Basilica in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Bishop Michael C. Barber, S.J. of Oakland, California, himself a retired Chaplain in the U.S. Naval Reserve, was the principal celebrant and homilist. Six priests, including two from the Military Archdiocese, concelebrated.



The Catholic War Veterans and the Auxiliary were well represented at the pilgrimage, joined by Gerri Graziano, President CWVA Post 766, and Gil Barker, Maryland Department Commander (far right, front row.)

The congregation included active duty and retired personnel, a group of Midshipmen from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (one serving as Lector). The Naval Academy Catholic Choir provided the music. In his homily, Bishop Barber observed that fear of death, the seafarer and military member's constant companion, can lead to spiritual awakening. "If today is your day to die, the only thing that can keep you from heaven is mortal sin. We have a remedy for sin, the sacrament of confession. You owe it to those under you to provide them the chance to be in the state of grace."



**Archdiocese
for the Military
Services, USA**

The Archdiocese for Military Services was established as an independent archdiocese by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1985, the only Catholic jurisdiction responsible for endorsing and granting faculties

for priests to serve as chaplains in the U.S. military and VA Medical Centers. AMS-endorsed priests serve at more than 220 U.S. military installations in 29 countries, making the AMS the nation's only global archdiocese. AMS-endorsed chaplains also serve at 153 VA Medical Centers throughout the U.S.

The AMS service population also includes American Catholic civilians working for the federal government in 134 countries, but currently, due to limited resources, the AMS cannot adequately serve this population. Worldwide, an estimated 1.8 million Catholics depend on the AMS to meet their spiritual and sacramental needs. For more information on the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, visit milarch.org



Chaplain and Medal of Honor recipient Fr. Vincent Capodanno's cause for sainthood proceeds at the Vatican.

JOSEPH R. FARINA MEMORIAL POST #386 HELPS RESTORE CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

A car drove into an existing Civil War monument in Newburgh, New York last year, damaging it beyond repair. Members of Joseph Farina CWV Post 386 committed to assist in raising funds for the replacement of the monument.

The Post was well represented at the dedication ceremony at which it was recognized for helping to raise the \$45,000 cost of the new memorial. Post Commander Robert Shiela placed a hand-made wreath "In honor of our Civil War Veterans who gave their lives during this pivotal period in our nation's history," the only wreath placed at the monument.



Pictured, from left: James McGuinness, Cmdr Robert Shiela, MSGT Mary Kay Messenger, post member and lead vocalist for the West Point Band, John Cassidy, Post Treasurer Jack D'Angelo, 3V/C Mike Lutz, and Past Post Commander James D. Pelos, Sr.

STAMFORD POST #1957 PARTICIPATES IN VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES



Post Commander Cortland Mehl meets with Gov. Ned Lamont of Connecticut at the dedication of Stamford Veterans Park.



Veterans Mass at St. Mary's Church, attended by Kulka Bros. Post 1957, American Legion Post 3, VFW Post 9617, Knights of Columbus Color Corps.

"A DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY" REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR 78 YEARS LATER ACROSS THE GLOBE WHILE SOME SURVIVORS ARE STILL WITH US!



At USS Intrepid, New York



At Naval Base, Pearl Harbor



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
237-20 92ND ROAD
BELLEROSE, NY 11426
703-549-3622
WWW.CWV.ORG

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WE WISH YOU
MANY BLESSINGS
IN THIS NEW YEAR

