



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WINTER 2022



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
CELEBRATING
PRESIDENTS
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ DAY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



The Catholic Record of World War I Service

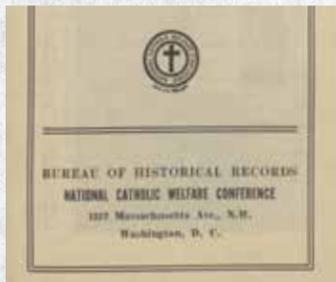
*With appreciation to Denise Deblois, New Hampshire State Commander,
whose research made this article possible.*

The National Catholic Welfare Conference was organized in September 1919. Its Bureau of Historical Records was the central depository for all data that would present the documentary account of Catholic participation and sacrifice during World War I. A publication of the NCWC reflects the social situation in our country at the time:

“The contribution of American Catholics to the glory of American arms throughout the annals of our country’s history is in itself a record of, and a standard in, the fulfillment of patriotic duty. This record is a treasured fact that gives no comfort to those who question the civic allegiance and devoted patriotism of Catholic citizens of the United States. Years after each war, however, Catholics have found, despite their unswerving loyalty, that belittling propaganda invariably springs up. Lack of foresight and neglect in maintaining specific sources of information have in the past prevented Catholics from presenting facts of actual performance to eliminate such slurs.



Tintype photograph of a section of the files in the “newly constructed” fireproof vault at NCWC Headquarters. The Historical Records Bureau contained some 800,000 records.



The NCWC would eventually evolve into the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Through the NCWC Bureau of Historical Records, the collection, arrangement and permanent preservation of the facts of Catholic sacrifice during World War I was made possible. The initiative was based on the premise that parishes, groups and individuals in the various dioceses of the country have sufficient interest, pride and gratitude to establish facts with regard to service performed by their fellow Catholics. The Government of the United States made no provision to record the religious affiliation of the military and naval personnel during the “Great War.” The Catholic record therefore depended on the local study and scouting of facts by interested Catholic citizens and forwarding such data to the NCWC archives. More than 800,000 records of Catholic soldiers, sailors and marines were compiled.

A total of 4,629,989 members served in the military during the war. Of those, 784,320 (or 16.9%) represented the Catholic population. Naval records list BM1 John Eopolucci, a Catholic from Washington, D.C. as the first enlisted man to lose his life in the war aboard the torpedoed USS AZTEC. His brother, William Eopolucci, made the supreme sacrifice in the Argonne Offensive.

Miss T.B. McFadden, a business woman of Bayonne, New Jersey, was the first to volunteer to collect Catholic war data for her city. She arranged for representatives of various parishes and parish groups to meet with her. Their review developed 2,872 residents of Bayonne had served in the war, with 66 Gold Star records and citations and honors. Such disparate groups as the Catholic Women’s Club of Janesville, Wisconsin and the AOH and Knights of Columbus of Pottsville, Pennsylvania joined the effort. The Post Historian records of veterans organizations were invaluable sources of information. Other references to develop data included civic memorials, public records, local directories, published histories, and local newspapers provided a wealth of information to this historic effort.

CONGRESSWOMAN ASKS NAVY TO NAME WARSHIP AFTER WW-I FILIPINO AMERICAN HERO



Representative Sara Jacobs (D-CA) has asked the Navy to name a new ship after Telesforo Trinidad, a Filipino American sailor who received the Medal of Honor in 1915. Trinidad, who saved his crewmembers after boiler explosions aboard the armored cruiser USS SAN DIEGO, is the only Filipino American sailor to receive the Medal of Honor. A future USS Telesforo Trinidad would be the first warship named after an American of Filipino descent.

“Fireman Second Class Telesforo Trinidad was a hero and a history-maker, and as we celebrate Asian-American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month, I am honored to lead the effort to encourage the Navy to name a ship after him,” said Jacobs, who is a member of the House Armed Services Committee. She said the naming of a warship after Trinidad would be a symbol of the Navy’s commitment to “diversity, equality, and inclusion during this time of national racial tensions and unwarranted violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.”

Jacobs was the lead signatory of a letter to the Acting Secretary of the Navy co-signed by ten other members of Congress, including Mike Levin, Scott Peters and Juan Vargas from the San Diego delegation. The letter recommended that Trinidad’s name be used for a future Navy surface combatant. While the specific type of warship was not mentioned, it could be one of the new Constellation-class guided missile frigates due to start construction this summer.



ST. MICHAEL'S POST AND AUXILIARY 1562 MAKE THEIR PRESENCE FELT IN DERBY, CT.

Thanks to Sue Ranno for the photos!



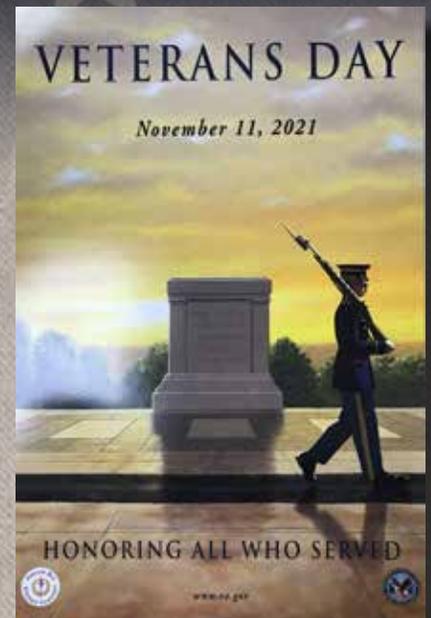
The post used the occasion of the Ansonia Harvest Festival to hold a successful recruitment drive. (From left) Auxiliary President Pauline Totaro, Rosemary Reynolds and PNP Susan Ranno, 2nd V/C of Auxiliary 1562.



The post also sponsored a well-received food drive for homeless Veterans in the Derby community.

VETERANS DAY

AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



The Catholic War Veterans were well represented at Veterans Day ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (on its 100th Anniversary.) From left to right: Bishop Protector Joseph Coffey; Michael Strainic, Sr. (Dept. of Ohio); Michael Collins (CWV Auxiliary); Legislative Affairs Officer Dennis Burke (VA) and Bishop Neal Buckon, Southeast Regional Commander (CA).



The Chairman of the Military Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Army General Mark Milley, acknowledged the presence of the Catholic War Veterans by greeting Mike Strainic and Bishops Coffey and Buckon following the ceremonies.

THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER! The U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs is flanked by Bishop Buckon and Catholic War Veterans Bishop Protector Coffey.



VETERANS DAY

IN STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT—A PARADE AND A DEDICATION!



Jim Dudley (left), Commander of Kulka Brothers Post 1957, was selected as Grand Marshal of the local Veterans Day Parade in Stamford, Connecticut. He was joined by Post Treasurer Giuseppe Pampena in front of a military vehicle that was featured in the parade.



Kulka Brothers Post 1957 was also invited to attend a ceremony dedicating a historic plaque honoring BGEN Tadeusz Kosciuszko, regarded as the founder of West Point. (From left): CWV Members Fred Morabito, Al Koproski, Giuseppe Pampena and Post Commander Jim Dudley.

AT POST 1, ASTORIA N.Y



Members of Post 1 and Auxiliary raise the Flag in prayer at the Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month in honor of all who have served in our nation's armed forces. (From left): Msgr Fernando Ferrarese, Pastor Immaculate Conception Church, National Auxiliary President Marylyn Crum, Unit 1 First VP Guillermo Morera, National Commander David Crum and Unit 1 President Mario Massa.

IN DERBY, CONNECTICUT



CWV members from St. Michael Post 1562 in Derby, CT participated in a ceremony hosted by the local American Legion post. City of Derby Mayor Richard Dziekan (Past CMDR, Post 1562); 2nd V/C Evelyn Conroy; Commander Thomas Voytek (Keynote Speaker); and Historian Stephen Stocmal.

VETERANS DAY

NEW WINDSOR, NEW YORK



OBSERVING VETERANS DAY! (From left to right): 3V/C Mike Lutz, George Riley, Post Commander Bob Murphy, Past Commander Bob Schiela, Frank Sommerlad and Steve Delgado.



Anthony D'Angelo replaced his brother Jack (Treasurer, Post 386, recuperating from a hospital stay), as Guest Speaker. He joins Chaplain DCN Tony Ferraiuolo.



The post was well represented at the ceremony. 90-year-old member Jim McGuinness stands proudly at attention during the National Anthem.



Honor Guard/Firing Squad Commander Ray Lopez barks commands to squadron members Frank Sommerlad, Mike Lutz, George Riley and Steve Delgado.



POPPY DRIVE! The Joseph Farina Memorial Post took advantage of an offer from local Devitt's Nursery and Landscaping to host a poppy drive during the holiday season. Post 386 Commander Robert Murphy (left) hands over a Donation Can to owners Eban York, Chris Fitch and Joe Gizzarelli.. On the far right is 3V/C Michael Lutz.



VETERANS DAY



Members of Post 1578 pose with Chaplain, Fr. Weber, after Mass. Anthony Scafidi, 95, who served in the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific in WWII, is a Post member.

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

- John F. Kennedy

“These words pay homage to those who served this country and continue to hold meaning as we observe Veterans Day. Catholics should use this occasion to recognize the intersections between faith and service. A person in the military is human like everybody else—they need the strength and benefits that only faith can bring,” said Fr. Matthew Weber, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish and Chaplain of CWV Immaculate Conception Memorial Post 1578 in Bridgeton, NJ at a Mass, as he says, on “this important occasion to recognize those who answered the call to duty.”

The only CWV post in the Diocese of Camden has been growing in number and age range - from a World War Vet II to a 24-year-old Marine Reservist. CDMR Pace says: “acknowledge our Vets and pray for them, and let us not forget our fallen brothers and sisters.”

BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY



Post Commander Sam Pace (left), and Jim Crilley bring up gifts at the Mass.

A PRESENTATION TO STUDENTS IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



Irving Porter, Judge Advocate, and Vicky Georgetti, 3rd V/P of St. Casimir CWV/CWVA, arranged a special luncheon/presentation about Veterans Day to 7th and 8th grade students of St. Casimir Catholic School. Colonel Zimmerman and SGT 1/C Dan Pyle of the Maryland Defense Force were the featured speakers about the role of the military in the defense of our country.

VETERANS DAY

CWV'S "HOME PARISH" CELEBRATES 1ST ANNUAL "FLAG MASS"



Parishioners proudly display burial flags of Veteran relatives and friends at the altar to be blessed.



CWV Auxiliary National President Marylyn Crum and National Commander Dave Crum process into the Mass behind Parish Pastor, Msgr. Ferrarese.

throughout the Astoria area, and all were welcomed to honor and pray for relatives or friends and all deceased Veterans. The Pastor of the parish, Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese enthusiastically supported the event.

Prior to Mass, Father Liju Augustine conducted the blessing of the Flags and other memorabilia. At the end of the Mass participants sang "God Bless America." After this successful event, the parish hopes to make it an annual celebration.

Thanks to Dennis Pope for text and photos!



A parish bulletin insert with a collage of photos highlighted the Mass to kick-start interest for next year's remembrance.

On the weekend between All Souls Day and Veterans Day, parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church in Astoria, NY, where Msgr. Edward Higgins founded the Catholic War Veterans in 1935, honored their beloved deceased Veterans by bringing their burial flags or other mementos of military service to the evening Mass for a special blessing.

The innovative event was co-sponsored by the Catholic War Veterans Post 1 and Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Council #11449, both headquartered in the parish. The event was publicized



WE NEED YOU! (FOR SUBMISSIONS)

Send us your pictures, articles, and etc. to:

Rick Kenney rkenney@cwv.org

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FROM CWV AUXILIARY UNIT 870



Members of St. Sebastian Post #870 Auxiliary prepare to ship 5,350 Christmas cards to Friends of Our Troops for distribution to the Military throughout the world.

7th and 8th grade students from St. Sebastian School assisted in collecting the cards. They are shown with the Pastor, Fr, Pat West, and teachers and Auxiliary members.

Photos submitted by Helen Olt

CWV AUXILIARY MOURNS ANNA MUZIKA PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Anna Rose Nepa Muzika was born in Lemont Furnace, PA and graduated from the Business School of Stenotype in Pittsburgh in 1949. She married Frank Muzika in 1950 and they had 10 children, 23 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. She was involved in school sports activities, particularly the Midget Football program, providing newspaper articles after each game. She was an active member of St. Cecilia Church in Lemont and St. Mary (Nativity) Church in Uniontown as a Eucharistic Minister and with the Ladies of Charity. She rose from President of the 20th Chapter of the CWV Auxiliary in Pittsburgh, to President of the Department of Pennsylvania, to National Auxiliary President. On Veterans Day 2009, she presented the ceremonial wreath at Arlington National Cemetery, and was a recipient of the St. Agnes Medal. She will be remembered for her welcoming personality, warmth and dedication to her Church and Country.



Actress Betty White, Who Passed At 99, Was A Patriot!

During World War II, actress Betty White, whose 80-year career would span the history of American television, served in the American Women's Voluntary Services, the largest active women's service organization during the war. These women provided support services such as message delivery, ambulance driving, selling war bonds, and as aircraft spotters and canteen workers.

It was in 1945 that she made her movie debut in *Time To Kill*, a short film produced to inform servicemen about military educational programs. The cast ironically included Jackie Cooper (later TV's *Hennessy*), George Reeves (TV's first *Superman*), DeForest Kelley (*Bones* on *Star Trek*) and Barry Nelson, later of *Airport* movie fame. She would star in the iconic shows, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and *Golden Girls*, among so many other memorable appearances.



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

Welcome

NEW BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

National Commander Dave Crum and Auxiliary President Marylyn Crum were invited to a reception to welcome Bishop Robert Brennan as the 8th Bishop of the Brooklyn/Queens Diocese. The Bishop is a native New Yorker from the Bronx, who previously served in Long Island's Rockville Center Diocese. He returns to New York after ministry in the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

CWV SUPPORTS THE PRESERVATION OF MILITARY HISTORY



The Catholic War Veterans will be permanently enshrined on a commemorative brick at the National Museum of the U.S. Army



The Catholic War Veterans were also awarded a Plankowner Certificate as an original supporter of the new Coast Guard museum.



Captain Amy Bauernschmidt, USN

FIRST WOMAN TO COMMAND A NUCLEAR CARRIER IN U.S. NAVY HISTORY

Former Executive Officer CAPT Amy Bauernschmidt assumed command of the nuclear carrier Lincoln as it deployed from San Diego to the Indo-Pacific region. She previously served as Commanding Officer of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 70 and the amphibious transport dock SAN DIEGO (LPD-22). She has completed more than 3,000 flight hours in her career. The first women to serve in the Navy were nurses in the early 20th century and the first large-scale enlistment of women came during World War II. The Navy designated the first woman as an aviator in 1974, and women were first assigned to a combat ship, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, in 1994. We wish her "Fair Winds!"

USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)



What Was Old



Is New Again!

In Merchant Marine circles, rumor has it that the U.S. Navy is still teaching Cadets to use a sextant to find home! Now, Elon Musk has permission for approximately 12,000 satellites and is seeking permission for another 30,000 more. Of course, not all will be live, some will be backups, but do you know which is which? Numerous firms are screaming “monopoly.” Does anyone really “own” space? Mutual cooperation has worked for decades, BUT

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a world-changing technology. It is also incredibly fragile, easily spoofable and consistently hackable. Twenty-five years ago, in 1995, the U.S. Air Force reached a milestone. Its satellite GPS system became fully operational. Today, GPS directs our world, from supertankers to pizza deliveries. But before the creation of this modern navigational marvel, humans looked to the heavens to find their way.

For centuries, using a tool called a sextant, a sailor could mark a ship’s location by making a few calculations to determine a star’s position relative to the horizon. Now a high-tech version of this maritime tradition is finding its way back into practice. GPS is indispensable, but it can be spoofed with a fake satellite signal, hacked by an adversary or simply destroyed. Spoofing, hacking or destroying the stars? Not happening!

The U.S. Navy became less reliant on the traditional sextant back in WWII with the advent of radio navigation tools. But the stars remained an important map for sailors and especially pilots. WWII bombers like the B-17 Flying Fortress had an “astrodome,” a transparent hemisphere that allowed the navigator to take star sightings. After the war and the birth of the rocket engine, scientists set about giving missiles the same kind of celestial smarts, via a mechanical-electrical device that weighed almost a ton.

Key components of a sextant are a miniature telescope, a half-silvered mirror (through which the telescope looks), and an index mirror on a moving arm. It may look daunting, but a sextant simply measures the angle between a heavenly body—star, planet, moon or sun—and the horizon. Looking at a celestial body through the telescope, you rotate the index mirror until it appears on the horizon. Measuring the angle from the heavenly body tells navigators they are somewhere on a circle on the earth’s surface known as the position circle. Plotting two such circles for two celestial objects gives two lines, and where they intersect on relevant charts is your location.

Modern celestial navigators put into the B-2 bomber and Trident missile are about the size of a microwave oven. GPS is accurate and cheap. Modern military GPS systems feature a range of electronic guards to prevent jamming, including directional antennas and a special M-code military satellite signal. But in 2018, Russian GPS jamming disrupted a NATO exercise in Scandinavia and Chinese GPS spoofing signals can cause ships in coastal areas to see false locations. The Navy’s Automated Celestial Navigation System (ACNS) would replace manual shipboard measurements with something more accurate.

The new systems use infrared rather than visible light for locating stars, allowing daytime navigation. The stars shine just as brightly in the daytime as they do at night, but their light is masked by sunlight scattered by the atmosphere. But glimpse that same sky with a filter that allows only infrared light, and the sky suddenly becomes dark—and filled with stars. ACNS will replace old brass sextants and provide data that can be fed into shipboard computers. Future ballistic missiles will also include ACNS. With a new handheld device being developed, even the humble foot soldier could be steering by the stars.

In 1980, the first portable Rockwell GPS receiver was a backpack unit that weighed 20 pounds. It took five minutes to get a fix and cost around \$30,000. Modern GPS receivers are chip-sized, give an almost instant readout, and cost less than \$50. In 40 years, who knows where the stars might take us. But just as with Morse Code and old-time telegraphy, don’t throw those old sextants away—just in case!



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“THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY!”**

