



# CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WINTER 2023

LARRY J. WULF  
National Commander





LET THERE BE  
PEACE ON EARTH



# WHO ARE THE PATRON SAINTS OF EACH MILITARY BRANCH?



## ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PATRON OF ALL THE MILITARY

Being an archangel, he is particularly honored by the Air Force and airborne divisions of ground troops. Army paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, NC compete every year in honor of their Patron saint.



## ST. SEBASTIAN PATRON OF THE ARMY

A Roman soldier, he became a captain in the Praetorium Guard, the emperor's personal bodyguard. When his faith was discovered, he was ordered to be pierced with arrows, but this didn't kill him. He returned to challenge the emperor for his cruelty to Christians, at which point he was beaten to death.



## ST. MAURICE PATRON OF THE ARMY INFANTRY

He was a Roman soldier from Egypt who eventually led the Theban Legion. He and his men were all Christians and were martyred together when they refused to worship the Roman gods. St. Maurice is particularly honored by infantry units.



## ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR PATRON OF THE NAVY

He was an Irish monk who traveled by sea to spread the faith in other lands. He is the hero of the early medieval legend, *The Voyage of St. Brendan*, in which he and his companions embark on an epic sea adventure to find a promised land of the saints.



## ST. BARBARA PATRON OF THE MARINE CORPS

She is the patron of both Army and Marine artillerymen. Her own father martyred her out of hatred for her Christian faith. Legend says lightning struck him as divine punishment - hence the connection to artillery.



## ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO PATRON OF THE AIR FORCE

St. Joseph is the patron saint of aviators because of his habit of levitating during prayer! *Our Lady of Loretto* is also patroness of aviators since it is said that the Holy House of Loretto - the Holy Family's home - was carried by angels to Italy.

## MORE RECENTLY



FR. EMIL KAPAUN



FR. CAPODANNO



Change of Command! Dave Crum (left) is relieved as National Commander by Larry Wulf of Ohio.



Photos courtesy of Richard Choma, CWV Auxiliary



Marylyn Crum, re-elected as Auxiliary National President, joins National Commander Larry Wulf.



Maryland Department Commander Bill Boulay addresses a plenary session of the Veterans.



Veterans and Auxiliary Members assemble for the convention closing Mass at Fort Wayne's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



National Award winners (from left) Ken Provost, Ed Gambichler, Julian Mendoza and Helen Olt were recognized.



A solemn moment at the convention's closing banquet as all in attendance pay tribute to our nation's POW's and MIAs.



One of the convention highlights: a visit to Fort Wayne's Veterans National Shrine and Museum.



Fort Wayne, Indiana Mayor Tom Henry presents a keepsake book to Fr. Bill McLaughlin and Marylyn and Dave Crum.



President Marylyn Crum presides at a general meeting of the CWV Auxiliary during the convention.



Members inspect a replica of the Vietnam Wall at the Museum.



CWV National Chaplain Fr. Tony Mensah assists Commander Crum in his final duty of swearing in newly elected officers.



Past National Auxiliary President Susan Ranno delivers the oath of office to the new Auxiliary officers for the coming year.



THEY'RE ALL IN! Each member insists they have the winning ticket for the Buick Car Raffle fundraiser. (Only \$20 each!)



Representing the State of CONNECTICUT!



Representing the State of TEXAS!



Representing the State of PENNSYLVANIA!



Representing the State of NEW YORK!



Representing the State of OHIO!

# Order of St. Sebastian, Awards 2023



ED GAMBICHLER

In the words of his nomination, Ed Gambichler is recommended for “exemplary service to the Catholic War Veterans.” He has held positions on the Department (Department of New York 2nd Vice Commander); Chapter (various positions from 1989 to 1994, including Queens Chapter Commander); and Post (again, various offices, including Post Commander.) He was educated in Catholic schools in Manhattan before moving to nearby Yorkville.

Ed was drafted in October, 1965. After spending the morning waiting to be inducted into the Army, he and five others were selected to be inducted into the Navy. That was the first and only month since the Korean Conflict that the Navy drafted! He was assigned to the Naval Training Center in San Diego in the radio repair shop. Ed would spend his 38-year career with the New York Telephone Company, now Verizon, as an installer/repairman until retirement in 2002. He served twenty years as a union delegate. He married his wife

Doreen, and they raised a son Edward and a Daughter Debbie. They have two grandsons, John and Ryan.

Ed joined St. Sebastian Post in 1971. Of the seven people sworn in that night, there would be four future Post Commanders, one Chapter Commander, and three Life Members. Ed has served over thirty continuous years on the Building Board of Directors. He has edited the post monthly newsletter since 1987. In 2015, while serving as Post Adjutant, he was elected to fill the unfinished term of the post commander, who passed away suddenly. On the National level, he has served on the Membership Committee. The Catholic War Veterans could not exist without such dedicated members.

Our St. Sebastian recipient served in the Republic of South Viet Nam with the 2nd Brigade, 101st Air-Borne Division, Military Police Company from December 1967-July 1968. Julian Mendoza became a member of San Jose, Texas CWV Post 1805 in May of 1969, and became a Life Member of the CWV in 1980. He has been elected or appointed to all Post offices except Treasurer. He has served as Post Commander for five different terms, spanning 1976 through 2023. He was instrumental in expanding the post building during his tour as Post Commander in 1977.

He has represented Post 1805 on the Travis County Veterans Parade Committee for sixteen years, serving as Parade Chairman from 1981 to 1986. He has chaired the Memorial Mass and flag-placing ceremony on Veterans graves at Assumption Cemetery in Austin for twenty years. He has represented Post 1805 on the Travis County Veterans Parade Committee for sixteen years, serving as Parade Chairman from 1981 to 1986. He has chaired the Memorial Mass and flag-placing ceremony on Veterans graves at Assumption Cemetery in Austin for twenty years. Julian was responsible for initiating the Homeless Veterans Program, and has remained a staunch supporter of the Post Scholarship Program, and supported the NJROTC Unit at Travis High School until it was disbanded in 2017. Julian assumed the duties of post custodian, ensuring upkeep, repair, painting and handicapped accessibility, and coordinating hall rentals. Mr. Mendoza coordinates and assembles the Honor Guard for ceremonies for deceased members and leads a team of members that read “Our Dead” and presents a Catholic bible to the next of kin. One of his duties in that position is the inventory and accounting for the rifles which are on loan from the U.S. Army.

On the Department level, he has served as Welfare Officer, Department Adjutant, Judge Advocate, each of the three Vice Commander positions, and Department of Texas Commander (2017-2019). During his tenure, the Department of Texas by-laws were amended and approved. Julian provides liaison with other local Veterans organizations and assures Catholic War Veterans representation at all public functions. He also volunteered at Hospice Austin for a year, was a VAVS volunteer at Central Texas VA Clinic for ten years, and with the Employers Support of the Guard and Reserves counseling military members on reemployment rights and other benefits upon their return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



JULIAN MENDOZA  
SAN JOSE POST 1805  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

# Order of St. Sebastian, Awards 2023

Ken Provost graduated from the Institute of Textiles and Technology in Massachusetts with a BS degree in Textile Chemistry. He would then make the Army a career from 1958-1978, as a service school instructor of chemical warfare to nuclear weapons. He received a direct commission to Reserve First Lieutenant after 5 years, and retired as a Major. He saw duty in Korea and Vietnam. He then went to work for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality from 1982-2007, retiring as supervisor of the Organic Chemistry Laboratory.

Ken became a charter member of the first Catholic War Veterans post in that state, Oklahoma Memorial Post 168. He assisted in recruiting members on the local cable channel. He served as Post Adjutant from the inception of the post in 2009-2015, and as Treasurer from 2016—Present. As a member of the pre-convention advisory panel, he was involved in initial planning and support for the CWV National Convention held in Oklahoma City in 2013.

As Treasurer, he set the tone for fiscal responsibility and accuracy in annual audits. He assumed an additional level of record keeping as contact person for the Wreaths Across America program for the past 13 years which has distributed over 3,500 wreaths at Sunny Lane Cemetery in Del City, OK. He continues to participate in supporting seasonal activities at St. Philip Neri Catholic School, to include Flag etiquette, spelling bees and poster and essay competitions. He also holds life memberships in the Disabled America Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars.



KENNETH J. PROVOST

# Honor Legion of the Order of St. Agnes 2023



HELEN OLT

In 1969, Helen married Gerald Olt, a veteran of the U.S. Navy. They had two children, Gerald Olt, Jr. and Lorraine McKenna. Helen worked for the prestigious New York Athletic Club in Manhattan and retired after 35 years of service in 2009.

Helen was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic War Veteran Auxiliary Post until it closed. She then joined St. Sebastian Post 870 in Woodside. In 2006, she was elected President of the Auxiliary of Post 870. She served in that position for 16 years. Her husband Gerry served as Commander of Post 870 for many years until his passing and together they formed a great partnership between the Post and Auxiliary, which exists to this day.

Under Helen's guidance, Post 870 initiated several new initiatives. For many years, Helen held weekly meetings with Auxiliary members to write Christmas cards for distribution to military personnel serving overseas. For 16 years, she consistently sent out 6,000 cards annually. Through local connections, she even managed to have the blank cards donated.

Realizing there was a real need for sundries for soldiers currently serving, she started a program for the Post to send out boxes of hygiene, entertainment and food products.. Letters of appreciation from recipients noted the packages brought a sense of home to them. Helen also organized visits to the St. Albans Veterans Home, to include preparing meals, organizing bingo games, donating books, distributing Christmas gifts and just socializing with the Veterans. She currently serves as 1st Vice President and is nurturing the younger members and officers to carry on her work.

The Pastor of St. Sebastian's Church noted her involvement in the Parish Academy, presenting awards for various essays and art projects. He noted "she has proven herself to be a person who represents Catholic values and Americanism at all times in both thought and action."

# NATIONAL THIRD VICE COMMANDER PROGRAM CONTEST AWARDS & RULES

## FOR POSTER CONTESTS

### VETERAN'S DAY PATRIOTIC POSTER CONTEST

(3rd through 5th Grade)

DEADLINE: December 18

1st Place	\$100 Check	Gold Medal	Citation to School
2nd Place	\$75 Check	Silver Medal	Citation to School
3rd Place	\$50 Check	Bronze Medal	Citation to School

### KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

(3rd through 5th Grade)

DEADLINE: January 15

1st Place	\$100 Check	Gold Medal	Citation to School
2nd Place	\$75 Check	Silver Medal	Citation to School
3rd Place	\$50 Check	Bronze Medal	Citation to School

### VALENTINE'S DAY COLORING CONTEST

(K through 2nd Grade)

DEADLINE: March 12

1st Place	\$100 Check	Gold Medal	Citation to School
2nd Place	\$75 Check	Silver Medal	Citation to School
3rd Place	\$50 Check	Bronze Medal	Citation to School

### EASTER POSTER CONTEST

(6th through 8th Grade)

DEADLINE: April 15

1st Place	\$100 Check	Gold Medal	Citation to School
2nd Place	\$75 Check	Silver Medal	Citation to School
3rd Place	\$50 Check	Bronze Medal	Citation to School

## RULES FOR CONTESTS

1. Grade eligibility listed for each contest.
2. Posters are to be standard size 8.5x11 inches only. Any type of cardboard or paperboard is OK.
3. Students in Contests "A", "B", and "D" may be more creative even attaching items to the poster.
4. Winning posters may be shipped, and students should avoid designs in which the effect may be lost if crushed during transit.



5. For Contest 'C', Grades K-2, The Student will use a theme of Valentine's Day. Students should choose a page from a coloring book that illustrates the theme and color it. These pages are to be submitted in the same way as the posters and will be judged in the same way as the posters.
6. **THE 3VC IDENTIFICATION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH ENTRY AND BE ATTACHED TO EACH ENTRY.**
7. Only three (3) Entries are to be submitted by each Department per contest.
8. Posts and Auxiliaries not under Department jurisdiction may **only submit one (1) entry per contest.**
9. All entries must be received at the National Headquarters at address listed below **BEFORE** the deadline date.
10. **Late entries will NOT be judged.**
11. The decision of the judges is final.
12. If you would like your entries returned from National, please include a note indicating this.

## FOR ESSAY CONTESTS

### PATRIOTIC ESSAY CONTEST (6th through 8th Grade) DEADLINE: May 7

1st Place	\$150 Check	Gold Medal	Citation to School
2nd Place	\$100 Check	Silver Medal	Citation to School
3rd Place	\$75 Check	Bronze Medal	Citation to School

## ESSAY CONTEST RULES

1. Essay topic is: *"What does the Pledge of Allegiance mean to you"*
2. National level judging will be based upon the Essay's overall patriotic impact as well as relative skillful technique. Length is limited to 2 typed pages (If two pages are used, one side per page, 12-point type). Typing is strongly recommended for readability. **Any evidence of plagiarism will disqualify the entry.**
3. Contest Rules (5 through 9) above will apply to Essay Contest.

## ESSAY CONTEST AWARDS

1st Place	\$150 Check	Gold Medal	Citation to School
2nd Place	\$100 Check	Silver Medal	Citation to School
3rd Place	\$75 Check	Bronze Medal	Citation to School

Entries from Posts and Auxiliaries, not under Department jurisdiction, and entries from Departments, should be mailed to:

**Catholic War Veterans**  
ATTN: Youth Activities  
237-20 92nd Rd  
Bellerose, NY 11426

# OHIO'S LARRY WULF

## ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER

At the August 2023 National Convention of the Catholic War Veterans in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the membership overwhelmingly elected Larry Wulf, of Toledo, Ohio to the prestigious office of National Commander of the Veteran Organization and its Auxiliary.

Raised in North Toledo, the fourth of eight children (five of whom are military service Veterans), Larry attended the former St. Vincent DePaul Grade School, thereafter Toledo Public High School.

Commander Wulf joined the U.S. Navy out of high school and served six years, including a deployment to Viet Nam, prior to his honorable discharge.

Larry found a career as a dock worker with the former Roadway Express Company for 33 years. He then drove a school bus for Toledo Public Schools for 15 years prior to his retirement in July 2023.

He joined, and has served the large St. Jude Thaddeus Post 1675 of the Catholic War Veterans, which boasts 162 Veterans and 156 Auxiliary members, for 53 years. He has held the position of Post Commander for 12 years, and was elected Ohio State Commander for 13 years, until 2022, supervising 29 posts across the state of Ohio.

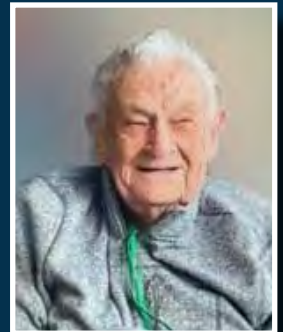
Larry has been married to wife Rita for 25 years. They have raised four children, three boys and a girl. They are active parishioners of St. Clement's RC Church in West Toledo.

## RIP: PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

# JOHN HAROLD WALSH

Past National Commander (1995-1997) John Harold Walsh of Eastpointe, Michigan has passed away in Detroit, Michigan at age 95. PNC Walsh was a dedicated Catholic with a strong faith and love for charitable giving. He was a parishioner at St. Gregory the Great Church for 70 years. He ran bingo games to raise money for the church and his beloved Catholic War Veterans. In May, he would volunteer to sell poppies for the American Legion. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus for 40 years.

He served as Grand Marshal of the Eastpointe Memorial Day Parade. John loved baseball, specifically Detroit Tigers Baseball. He even went to Florida for the Fantasy Camp at 80. He spent time on a farm in his early childhood and kept that part of his past alive with his own vegetable harvest, which he shared in the form of his famous pickled beets. He was the beloved husband of 66 years to the late Virginia. Together they raised 9 children, and enjoyed 21 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. He was laid to rest in Great Lakes National Cemetery.



## VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Celebrates Golden Jubilee

The National Cemetery Administration is charged with stewardship of the final resting places of almost five million men and women who protected and served our country. Since the time of the Civil War, the forerunner organization was called the National Cemetery System. U.S. participation in World War I led the first major expansion of the cemeteries. This was due to the number of war dead brought home for internment, and a huge increase in the number of Veterans eligible for internment as a result of their service in the war.

As a result of a survey of where Veterans lived, national cemeteries were built near major population centers. 50 years ago, the NCS took on the sacred obligation of incorporating 82 Department of Defense cemeteries and 22 burial grounds to form 103 national cemeteries. Since then, the now NCA has opened 50 more national cemeteries. Today, 94% of Veterans are within 75 miles of a national, state or tribal burial ground.





# THOMAS J. CUI TE & IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BURSE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION RULES

(Eligibility - High School Seniors who are Catholic)

## PURPOSE OF THE FOUNDATION

Our Scholarship Foundation has been established to perpetuate the aims and ideals of the Catholic War Veterans by rendering financial assistance and by encouraging the Catholic youth of our nation to seek greater achievement through higher education. Many ambitious and deserving boys and girls have benefited from our programs. Whatever your dreams of the future may be, whatever career you may decide to follow, we hope we can start you on your journey.

## ELIGIBILITY

Any high school senior who is a Catholic is eligible to apply for a scholarship if his/ her relative (Parent, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle or Sibling) is an active or deceased member of the Catholic War Veterans or Auxiliary in good standing.

## SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

Five recipients will receive a \$1,000 scholarship grant in the applicant's name paid directly to the applicant's accredited college or university upon receipt of proof of acceptance from that school.

## HOW TO APPLY

- Applications may be obtained by requesting one directly from C.W.V. National Headquarters or downloaded from the website: <https://wp2.cwv.org/our-national-programs/youth-activities>. The application must be completely filled out and signed by both the applicant and his/her parent or guardian. Poorly completed applications may jeopardize competitiveness.
- Prepared portfolio must contain the following items and returned to National Headquarters by **June 1**:
  - Application completed in full.
  - Applicant's High School Transcript in a sealed envelope.
  - Two Letters of recommendation (at least one of which must attest to the applicant's Catholic identity).
  - Applicant's self-described written response (see page 2 for details).
  - Sacramental records.

## SELECTION OF WINNERS

- The National Scholarship committee shall give careful consideration in selecting the best qualified candidates based on:
  - High academic records indicating a strong potential for success on the college level.
  - Service to your high school, church, or community demonstrated by initiative, leadership, and participation in other activities.
  - Evidence of the applicant's Catholic identity as stated in letter(s) of recommendation.
- The National Board of Officers will ratify the decision of the judges.
  - National Headquarters will notify the winners.
  - The decision of the National Board of Officers shall be final.

**PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS TO:**

**CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (703) 549-3622**

# THOMAS J. CUIE & IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BURSE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Career Objectives and / or Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant's relative who is an active or deceased member in good standing in a Catholic War Veterans Post or Auxiliary unit:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post # or Auxiliary unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE INCLUDE THIS FORM AND THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR APPLICATION

- Your High School transcript must be included in a sealed envelope with the portfolio.
- A brief description about how your Catholic identity has influenced your life experience and how you think it will influence your future. (Maximum one page typed, double spaced)
- Applicant's Sacramental Record.
  - Copy of Baptismal Certificate: Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Copy of Confirmation Certificate (*If Confirmed*): Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Two Letters of recommendation (at least one of which must attest to the applicant's Catholic identity).

✓ I certify that to the best of my present knowledge, all information given is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please check to ensure your application is completed properly and all required items are included in your portfolio package.**

Your portfolio package must be received at National Headquarters prior to the deadline date: **June 1.**

Mail your portfolio package to:

**NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A. INC.  
237-20 92ND ROAD  
BELLEROSE, NY 11426-1110**

# VETERANS DAY 2023

## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



TWO STEPS AWAY FROM THE PRESIDENCY! Catholic War Veterans National Commander Larry Wulf (center, gold cap) joins other dignitaries on the dais, including President Joe Biden, as the national anthem is played at services at Arlington National Cemetery.



Auxiliary member (and Civil War Reenactor) Mike Collins is privileged to meet the only living Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient since the Vietnam War, Salvatore Giunta, while representing the CWV.

## ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL NEW YORK CITY



Following the Mass, CWV and Auxiliary members assembled in the Sanctuary of the Grand Cathedral for a group photo.



Members of the Catholic War Veterans salute as the Bugler Anthony Cipriani plays Taps at a Memorial Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, celebrated by Timothy Cardinal Dolan. A wreath was presented by National 3rd V/C Marvin Jeffcoat and NY State Commander Bruce Lubkeman.

# VETERANS DAY 2023

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

6th, 7th and 8th graders at the Middle School at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York celebrated active-duty personnel and Veterans with patriotic music, songs, readings, slides and videos.



A student thanks CWV Post 386 Treasurer Jack D'Angelo.



Post #386 1st V/C and Historian Jim Formato poses with one of the school teachers, who happens to be his son, James A. Formato, and classroom co-teacher, Amanda.

## NEW WINDSOR NEW YORK

Not to be outdone, faculty, staff and students of New Windsor Elementary School also hosted a continental breakfast to celebrate Veterans. Members of Joseph R. Farina Memorial Post #386 were invited to address or read to individual classes.



Post member Jim McGuiness reads to a class.



"Teacher for a Day" Mike Lutz holds court as he addresses a class about history and the role played by Veterans.

## PASCAGOULA MISSISSIPPI



Local Veterans, including CWV Bishop Simon Brute Post 1976 Commander George (Bud) Erler enjoyed the festivities and a day away from the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Missouri.



Introducing the Victory Belles!

On Veterans Day, Pascagoula celebrated its designation as a World War II Heritage City (there is only one in each state.) Local military commanders, state and local representatives and the community assembled at the Coast Guard Station. Entertainment was provided by the Pascagoula High School Band and Andrews Sisters re-enactors, the Victory Belles, who mingled with Vets.

Photos & stories on these pages courtesy of DENISE DeBLOIS, (NH); MIKE COLLINS, (VA); JIM FORMATO, (NY); BUD ERLER,(MS); and FRANK SULLIVAN, (NJ).

# VETERANS DAY 2023

## SOUTH AMBOY NEW JERSEY



Sacred Heart Post #578 held Veterans Day services at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Commander Frank Sullivan joined Fr. Stanley Gromadzki (above) in conducting prayer services for all Veterans. As each parishioner's name and the war in which he was killed in action was read, a memorial bell was toll-ed. Following the playing of Taps, the Post laid a memorial wreath.



U.S. Navy Petty Officer and CWV Member Rich Kosmoski places the wreath on behalf of Sacred Heart Post #578.



Post member & Korean War Vet Alex Dobrinsky solemnly waits to toll the bell after each Veteran's name is recited.



At ceremony's end, PO Kosmoski renders a final salute.



Post 578 Members and Clergy assemble to honor those inscribed on Memorial stones.

# Department of Ohio at the Forefront of Local Veteran Activities!



Department Commander Joe Illencik speaks at a Veterans Benefit Concert hosted by Southeast Suburban Post 1812, Carmen Matteo, Post Commander.



Commander Matteo recognizes Joe Illencik with a plaque for speaking at the Veterans Concert in Broadview Heights, Ohio.



CWV joins the National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians at Ohio Veterans Memorial Park for blessing and dedication of an AOH Monument.



Past Commander Phil Markovitz of St. Stanislaus Post 1222 in Youngstown listens to Guest Speaker Rick Williams, Director of Veteran Affairs, Youngstown State University.



The Auxiliary Unit of Post 1222 joins Canfield, Ohio parade!



Post 1222 Color Guard proudly represents CWV on July 4th!



## Department of New Hampshire Presents **HALL OF FAME AWARD**

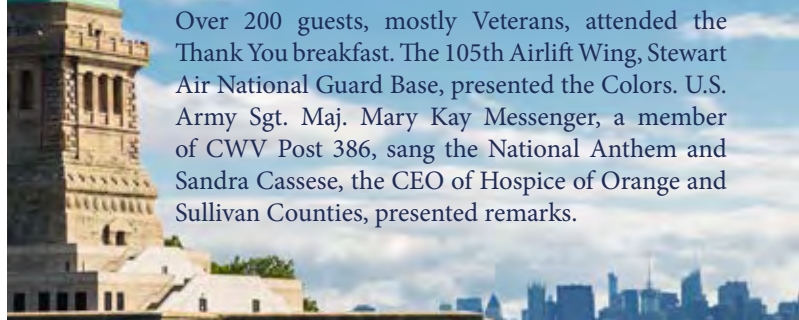


State Commander Scott Demers was presented with the Hall of Fame Award by Chairman Edouard Leclerc at the CWV Department meeting held at the Jutras Post in Manchester, New Hampshire. This is the highest Catholic War Veterans Award at the State level. All in attendance agreed it was well deserved.

## NY's Orange and Sullivan Counties Hospice Host A Veterans Celebration Breakfast



Over 200 guests, mostly Veterans, attended the Thank You breakfast. The 105th Airlift Wing, Stewart Air National Guard Base, presented the Colors. U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Mary Kay Messenger, a member of CWV Post 386, sang the National Anthem and Sandra Cassese, the CEO of Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, presented remarks.



## **NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCCER CAMP IS PITCH PERFECT!**

Sponsored by Post and Unit 1755, and Department of New Hampshire



## **AND THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER ANNUAL SCOUTING RETREAT**



80 Scouts, 20 Leaders and 30 Volunteers attended the Retreat. CDR Demers presented a \$1,000 check to the Diocesan sponsor Fr. "Ray" Ball (in full scout uniform).



Demers and Post 1755 CDR Maurice Cote present the "Real" check to Fr. Ray and Scout Retreat Chairman John Puliafico after the ceremony.



# SUNSHINE VETERAN OF THE YEAR!

Members of Father John Washington Post 1944 in Daytona Beach, Florida selected their Post Commander Joe DiBlasi, as 2023 Veteran of the Year!

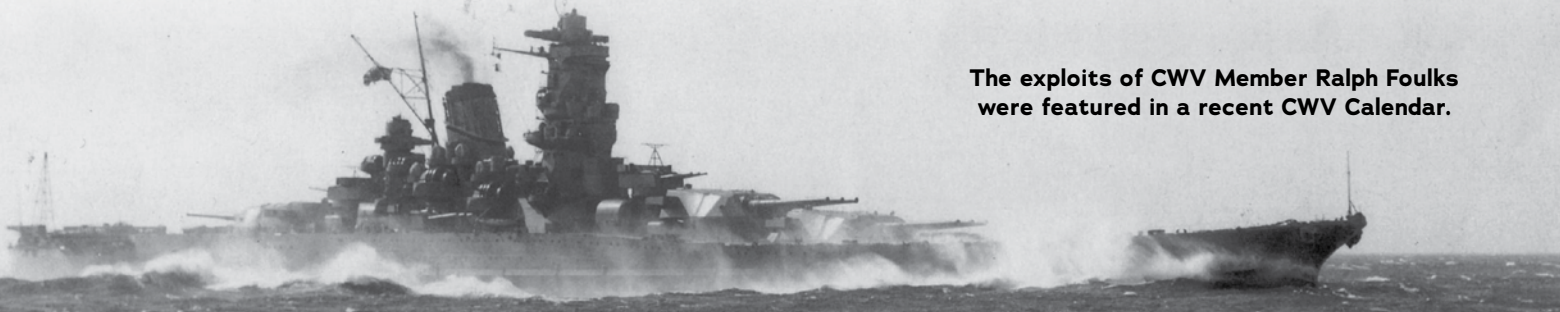
## WWII YAMATO Attack Gunner Passes in Florida

*Will be Missed by Students*

CWV mourns the passing of long-time member Ralph Foulks of Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin Post 1917 in Lakeland, Florida. A native of New Jersey, he was inducted into the U.S. Navy in 1943. After boot camp, he was assigned to Radioman and Gunnery schools in Florida. During a mission on April 7th, 1945, while attacking the Japanese battleship YAMATO, his plane was hit by enemy fire and his pilot crashed the aircraft into the Pacific. Fortunately, both the pilot and Ralph survived and were rescued. His exploits were noted in a recent CWV calendar. In later years, he would share his experiences speaking at schools in the Lakeland area, always downplaying his role during World War II.



The exploits of CWV Member Ralph Foulks were featured in a recent CWV Calendar.



## PARTY FOR WWII VETERAN CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Post 1944 in Ormond Beach, Florida honored Mary Ann Battten, a member of the U.S. Navy in WWII, on her 100th Birthday. A staff member presented a congratulatory letter from Congressman Michael Waltz.



Post Commander Joe DiBlasi presents a certificate from Dave Crum, the CWV National Commander.



Mayor Bill Partington also offered his appreciation.

# ★ ★ ★ AT YOUR SERVICE ★ ★ ★

Fr. Vincent Capodanno  
Memorial Post 1974 and  
CWV National Welfare  
Officer Reach Out to  
Veterans at Various  
Local Events



National Welfare Officer Ann Puck displays information from the Veterans Administration and Catholic War Veterans at St. James Church in Liberty, Missouri which hosts an annual Veterans Retreat for the Military Archdiocese.



Ann used the occasion of the retreat to present clothing items (underwear, socks, etc.) collected at the Post to several other participating Veterans Service Organizations. She is joined by (from left) Gary Husband and Chris Swan.



As part of its ministry to Veterans, the Military Archdiocese also arranges training sessions on Veteran benefits and interface with the Veterans Administration.



Information is power! Brochures specific to Viet-nam Veterans covered a table at the entrance to the Missouri Military Veteran Ministry celebration.



At another event, Ann reviews paperwork with Marine Corps Veteran William Schmitt.

# Admiral Breaks Gender Barrier As She Is Named Chief of Naval Operations

President Biden, in an historic step, has nominated the first woman to command a military service and become a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral Franchetti is a Surface Warfare Officer who is currently Vice chief of Naval Operations. She is widely respected and has 38 years of broad experience, including as Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea. She was only the second woman to achieve the rank of four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy. Last year, President Biden picked Admiral Linda Fagan as Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Senior military nominations must be approved by the U.S. Senate. But this announcement came during a block on all U.S. military nominations in Congress by Senator Tommy Tuberville, who is protesting a Defense Department policy that reimburses costs for service members who travel to get an abortion. Upon retirement of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Vice Commandant, General Eric M. Smith, has been named to the post, but his approval is also pending. General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., currently Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force has been nominated as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The President is concerned that the delay in confirmations may adversely impact military readiness and national security.



Admiral Lisa M. Franchetti



Sister Maris Stella  
Denver Sisters of Life

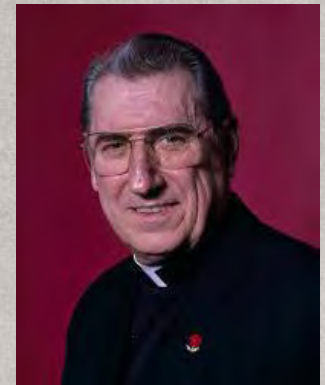
## From Gunnery Officer To God!

Sister Maris Stella once served her country. Now she's dedicating her life to serving God. Her military career began at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. After studying for four years, she served for five more. Her initial assignment was as gunnery officer on a destroyer off the coast of South America in pursuit of drug traffickers. Afterward, she served in Naples, Italy as a liaison officer.

"I served in the Navy and I tasted many of the good things that this world has to offer, but I knew my heart was made for something more." When I met the Sisters of Life, it was everything in my heart being lived out in a joyful way." Among other things, the sisters dedicate their lives to offering support and resources to pregnant women and mothers, hosting retreats, evangelizing, practicing outreach to college students, and helping women who suffer after abortion. Her experience at sea drew her closer to God.

"Sometimes we would be hundreds of miles from shore and you'd see stars at night, something just totally extraordinary, so beautiful." She was in awe that "God, who made all of this, also made me and He loves me and has placed His love in every human person that He's created." After a novena to Mary, she entered the Sisters of Life in 2006, and in 2015, she moved to Denver to start a new convent "because we know that women in college are very vulnerable to abortion while still having their whole lives before them."

The late John Cardinal O'Connor of New York, who was also, ironically, Rear Admiral John O'Connor when he served as Chief of Naval Chaplains prior to his retirement, founded the Sisters of Life in 1991. They are based in New York City, but have a presence in Denver, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Washington, D.C., and Ontario, Canada. The community of religious women profess four vows: poverty, chastity and obedience, and to "protect and enhance the sacredness of human life." Part of the Naval Academy experience is being formed in the virtues of sacrifice and service. We would go around in our uniforms and people would thank us for our service., but we really knew we were serving something greater than ourselves." Her words would be prophetic in more ways than one!



RADM John O'Connor



Medal of Honor recipient  
SGT William Henry Johnson

## Army Renames Base for Black WWI Medal of Honor Recipient

A U.S. Army Base in western Louisiana has been renamed to honor SGT William Henry Johnson, a Black hero of World War I who received the Medal of Honor nearly a century later. Fort Johnson had previously been named after a Confederate commander, Leonidas Polk. The renaming is part of the U.S. military's efforts to address historic racial injustice, including changing the names of nine Army posts that commemorated Confederate officers.

While serving on the front lines of France in 1918, Johnson fought off a German night raid near the Argonne Forest. Johnson was wounded 21 times while beating back the attacking forces. He also prevented a wounded Black comrade from being taken prisoner when, after running out of grenades and ammunition, he killed two German soldiers with his knife. ***“His frantic attacks broke the German morale and the enemy raiding party retreated,”*** the Army Museum's biography of Johnson says.

He survived the war and President Theodore Roosevelt named him one of the five bravest Americans to serve in the conflict. His actions were not recognized until nearly a century later when he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2015 by President Barack Obama ***“for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.”***

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Awards \$625 Million Contract For Cutting-Edge Research

The contract was awarded to Sea Marine Constructors to design and build two state-of-the-art research vessels, expected to be delivered in 2027 and 2028. The new ships will focus on mapping and nautical charting to help mariners navigate U.S. ports safely. They will also have the capabilities to assess and manage marine resources and collect data for oceanographic research and modeling.

The ships will be capable of coordinating, acquiring and processing large data sets, deploying crewed survey work boats and scientific equipment, and mapping the seafloor and characterizing marine habitats.

NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations operates, manages and maintains NOAA's largest fleet of federal research ships supporting fisheries surveys, nautical charting and ocean and climate studies.

“This is another milestone in NOAA's effort to recapitalize our aging fleet of ships,” said NOAA Corps RADM Nancy Hann, Director of Marine and Aviation and the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. The ships will be manned by NOAA Corps officers as well as civilian mariners and scientific staff. The contract includes an option to purchase two additional ships.



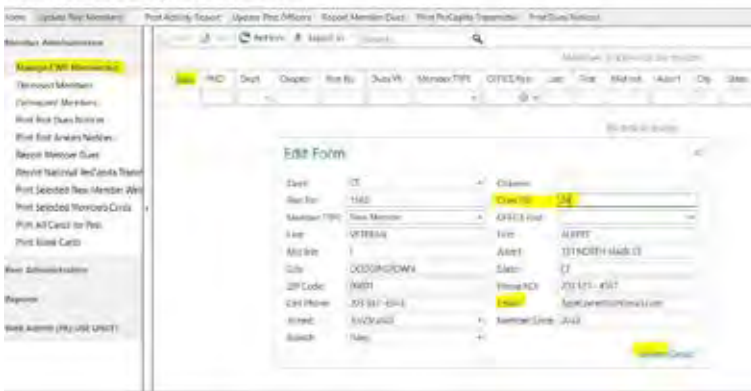
# Thanks for Asking...the Assistant National Executive Director

Today's question came from many of you who asked why National HQ does not know my Birth Date or who Sponsored me? I filled it out on my application!

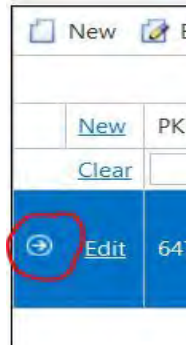
This is a good question and the simple answer is that many 2<sup>nd</sup> VC or their designee is not familiar with the CWV Post Admin site. Many members' birthdates and sponsors are not entered in the database. The following illustrations will walk one through the steps when adding a new member into your post admin site.

**Step 1:** After clicking "New" a pop-up Edit Form appears. It's important to be accurate. Be careful to review DEPT and POST number because if they are not correct, the new member will not be listed in your Post. Putting Post 1652 instead of Post 1562 will put the member in a Virginia post and not Connecticut even if the DEPT was correctly entered. DUES YEAR should be two digits. The field will take '2024' but if you filter your roster for paid members in '24' the member with "2024" will not be listed. Could cause some discrepancies in reporting numbers at all echelons.

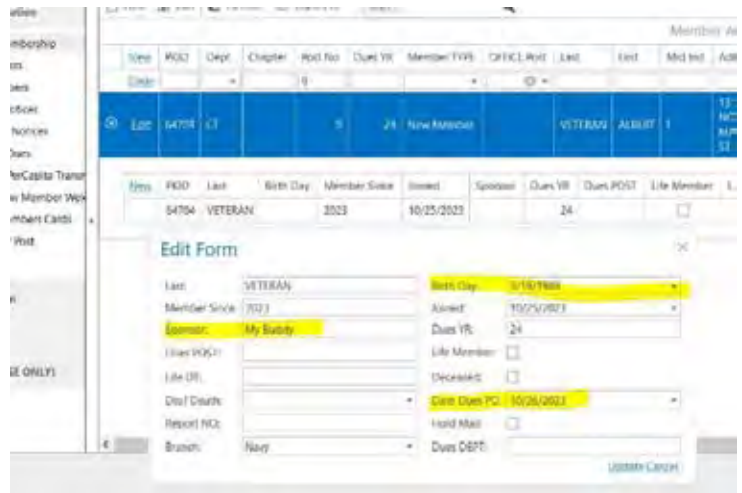
## Administrative Site For CWV Posts



## Step 2: Answers the question.



If Step 2 is not completed, National will not know your birth date or sponsor. Immediately after the 'New' member is Updated into the Post, the next step is to click on that small arrow in the circle to the left of the member's name. Clicking it expands the member's record so additional data can be entered. Clicking EDIT opens a new pop-up Edit Form where Birth Date and Sponsor, as well as other known information can be entered. Once completed, then Update!



All 2<sup>nd</sup> VC should review and update their members' data if missing or incorrect. Post Commanders needing access to their data base or assistance with navigating through it can contact me at National HQ by phone or email.

Thanks for asking. Hope my answer helps those on the admin site to navigate better, which in turn gives us more accurate data.

Michael J. Kasinskas

Assistant National Executive Director

*Catholic War Veteran Web Sites*

Main Web Site: [www.cwv.org](http://www.cwv.org)

Online Store: <https://cwvstore.org>

Post Admin: <https://cwvadmin.cwv.org>

National HQ : <https://cwwhq.cwv.org/>

# CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS 2024 CASH CALENDAR & CAR RAFFLE FUND RAISERS

**CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS  
CALENDAR 2024**

**\$22,220 TOTAL CASH PRIZES**

Daily Cash Prizes.  
Calendars are \$25.00 each.  
You can win more than once.  
There are 366 chances of winning a prize.  
Drawings will be made and prizes awarded on a monthly basis.  
Winning Numbers will also be posted to our website on a monthly basis.  
Website: [www.cwv.org](http://www.cwv.org) - click on event calendar for the winning numbers.  
Only 2,500 calendars are available to purchase.  
Prize money will be retained by CWV National Headquarters if the randomly drawn winning calendar number was not sold.  
Net profits to be used to benefit Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary of the USA.

New Years Day - \$500	Independence Day - \$500	US Navy Birthday - \$150	US Space Force Birthday - \$150
MOH Recipients Day - \$500	Coast Guard Birthday - \$150	US Marine Corps Birthday - \$150	Christmas Eve - \$500
Memorial Day - \$500	CWV Charter Day - \$500	Veteran's Day - \$500	Christmas Day - \$1000
US Army Birthday - \$150	US Air Force Birthday - \$150	Thanksgiving Day - \$500	Daily - \$25.00
			Saturdays & Sundays - \$100

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SOLD AT POST # / AUX # \_\_\_\_\_

SEND THIS PORTION AND PAYMENT TO: CWV NATIONAL HQ, 23720 92nd RD, BELLERSOSE, NY 11426

**2024 CASH CALENDAR**

New Years Day - \$500	CWV Charter - \$500	US Space Force Bday - \$150
MOH Day - \$500	USAF Bday - \$150	Christmas Day - \$1000
Memorial Day - \$500	US Navy Bday - \$150	Daily - \$25.00
US Army Bday - \$150	USMC Bday - \$150	Saturdays & Sundays - \$100
Independence Day - \$500	Veteran's Day - \$500	
Coast Guard Bday - \$150	Thanksgiving - \$500	

KEEP THIS PORTION

The Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A. is conducting their 2024 Cash Calendar program.

The "Spirit of American Patriotism" theme for the 2024 Cash Calendar features many Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Global Wars on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each month tells where the recipient was born, military branch, and their age, date and location of heroic action. The calendar is only \$25. Consider purchasing one or more for yourself, family members, friends and acquaintances—not only because there are 366 chances of winning, but more importantly, to take a moment to read about the MOH recipients and their "Spirit of American Patriotism." Post and Auxiliary units should contact their respective

Commander / President for the details and calendars because a percentage of the proceeds is given back to the Seller. National Headquarters also has a limited supply of calendars if needed. Thank you for the continuous support of our Cash Calendar over the years!

Catholic War Veterans  
of The United States of America

Win a 2024 Buick Enclave  
Courtesy of  
**COLANDREA**

**BUICK GMC** \$20.00 per ticket  
or \$20,000 Cash

Drawing to be held on Mar. 31, 2024  
Need not be present to win.  
Winner pays sales tax.

3,000 tickets must be sold to award car.  
1,500 tickets must be sold to award cash.

On March 31, 2024 you could be the winner of a new 2024 BUICK ENCLAVE automobile or \$20,000 Cash..

Raffle tickets for this fundraiser are only \$20. This is an opportunity for local units to benefit from this fundraiser. Posts and Auxiliary units should contact their respective Commander and President for details because a percentage of the proceeds is given back to the Seller.

The Buick Enclave is courtesy of Colandrea Buick in New York which will arrange with the winner to pick up their new automobile at a dealership near their home.

National Headquarters also has raffle tickets if needed. Thank You for helping to purchase / sell.

**ARE YOU A MEMBER YET? JOIN US!**  
FOR GOD - FOR COUNTRY - FOR HOME

ALL BRANCHES WELCOME  
CATHOLIC ACTION • AMERICANISM • VETERANS WELFARE • CAMARADERIE

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT  
**CWV.ORG**

Our Newest Recruiting Banner & Poster Design.  
Now available from the CWV Online Store.



C.W.V.A. 75th Anniversary Items  
in the CWV Online Store.

Shown here are a Key Chain and Insulated Cooler.  
More items in store.



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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BELLEROSE, NY 11426

703-549-3622

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Jumbotron TV at Notre Dame Stadium spotlights Alumnus Jack Benchik, Catholic War Veterans founding commander of Fr. William Corby, C.S.C. Post 1842 on the University of Notre Dame campus in South Bend, Indiana, as he prepares to carry the American Flag on to the field prior to a recent Fighting Irish football game. The distinct honor was accorded the graduate of 60+ years who still supervises the Philatelic Center on campus. (Photo courtesy of Jack Benchik)