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The Voice for Chaplaincy - Chartered by Congress - Serving Since 1925

Weekly Newsgram - June 22nd, 2016

Tragedy Strikes and a Chaplain Responds

When two South Carolina National Guard F-16s crashed following a midair collision on June 7th, all gave thanks that the pilots were able to eject and return safely to their home base. However, the air frames needed to be recovered and examined to provide invaluable information in the investigation to potentially keep such an accident from happening again.

Chaplain Brian Bohlman, MCA Life Member, was mobilized to provide ministry to the members of the Wing as they assisted in the recovery. The planes went down in a heavily forested area of north Georgia leading to hot and harsh conditions for all involved.

Ministry is not something which can always be scheduled. We give thanks for all of our members who are ready and willing to be called to action on a moment's notice. Thanks Brian and to all who stand ready to go.



From [DVIDS](#)

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Bohlman, a chaplain with the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National

Guard Base, S.C., prays with U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers from the South Carolina Army National Guard in Louisville, Ga. June 15, 2016. The soldiers responded to help with debris search and recovery efforts after two F-16s from the South Carolina Air National Guard collided mid-air during routine night flying training in the Jefferson County area, June 7, 2016. Both pilots ejected safely. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Caycee Watson)

Lyman Smith
Executive Director



Welcome Life Member

Chaplain Willis H. Moore
LtCol, CAP
United Methodist Church
Joined June 2014
Life Member June 16, 2016
Tucker, GA

Welcome Annual Members

Captain Laurence Malone, USN, Retired
United Methodist Church
Joined June 15, 2016
Rockledge, FL

Chaplain Michael Milton
LTC, USA
Presbyterian Church in America
Joined June 16, 2016
Matthews, NC

Chaplain Sid A. Taylor
LTC, USA
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
Joined June 20, 2016
North Augusta, SC

Keeping the Promise: What's Next for the VA?

The Roosevelt Institute and the Union Veterans Council of the AFL-CIO hosted a forum on the above topic on Tuesday, the 21st of June. As your Executive Director, I had the privilege of attending.

The Keynote Speaker was the Honorable Dr. David J. Shulkin, VA Under Secretary for Health. Many others contributed through the morning with observations on the VA since the crisis of 2014 and the challenges which lie ahead. Overall, a very good discussion.

Of interest was the timing of the symposium. Earlier this month, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, [released](#) a draft version of her [Caring for our Heroes in the 21st Century Act](#). This act, if formally introduced and eventually passed, would dramatically change the VA health care system. It would divide VA's provider and payor functions by creating a new federal health insurance program for veterans - with thousands of pages of new federal regulations - resulting in less coordinated care for millions of veterans who would have no choice but to split their care between one or more health systems. The MCA has signed on to a [letter](#) opposing this potential legislation.

The VA and its health system have made major strides in addressing the issues which were uncovered in 2014. A recent poll by a major Veteran Service Organization found 80% of its members want to continue to receive their care from the VA. Several other polls have found veterans opposed to any attempt to privatize their health care system through an insurance program.

As you have opportunity, please encourage friends, colleagues, and acquaintances not to think of veterans as political props but as contributing heroes. Our nation made a promise to them; now they desire we honor that promise.

Lyman Smith

MCA National Institute and Annual Meeting 2016 *The Ethical Challenges of Chaplaincy*

October 25 - 27, 2016

Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 S Omre Street,
Arlington VA



October 25th -

MOAA Annual Meeting - 0900 - 1100

Optional MCA Seminars - 1300 - 1700

Awards Banquet 1800 - 2100

October 26th -

MCA National Institute - 0800 - 1500 - Three presentations with Q&A

Emerson Luncheon - 1200

MCA Annual Meeting - 1530

MCA Memorial Service - 1630

October 27th - 0900 - 1400

Seminar on Chaplaincy - designed for actively serving chaplains - CEUs awarded for attendance

Registration, speakers, and other information coming soon

Visit our [website](#). There you will be able to [update your contact information](#), [join or pay your dues](#), [make donations](#), [file ministry reports](#), contact our supporters, read *The Military Chaplain* magazine and otherwise connect to resources.

If you missed the June 15th edition of the Newsgram [click here](#).

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