



National Chaplain Event Planned for May 2020

Rev. Peter R. Hook, State Chaplain

For fifty years the members of VFW Post 1865, and the citizens of Kenosha, Wisconsin, honored the VFW National Chaplain and other VFW Chaplains for the service they provide. This was a special event not duplicated anywhere else in the world.

Unfortunately, a few years ago, the tradition stopped when Post leadership changed. Past National Chaplain, Rev. Ted Bowers, presented the idea of bringing this event to Pennsylvania to his home Post (Richard J. Gross VFW Post 8896) in East Berlin, PA. The East Berlin Post decided to take on the responsibility of honoring the VFW National Chaplain and the work of Chaplains. They held their first event in 2017 when I served as National Chaplain. Since that time, we have honored Rev. James Gray from Decatur, GA (2018), and Charlene Cobb from Darien, Wisconsin (2019). This year our VFW National Chaplain is Jim Jenkins from Bonner Springs Kansas. Jim and his wife, Eva, are looking forward to coming to Gettysburg for the National Chaplain Event, which will take place May 15-17, 2020.

This is a retreat weekend for Post, District, and State Chaplains and their spouses. We will check in on Friday evening and have dinner together. Here is a preview of our schedule on Saturday, Armed Forces Day:

9:15 am - Meet at the Gettysburg Museum & Visitors Center,

9:30 am - See movie / Cyclorama

10:30 am - Visit Museum / Gift Shop / Snack in cafeteria

11:15 pm - Board Bus for Tour

A special guided tour of the Gettysburg battlefield by Chaplain John Wega, an expert, not only in Civil War history, but in the role chaplains and faith played in the Civil War.

2:15 pm - Return to Visitor's Center - Revisit museum / Gift Shop

3:15 pm - Return to Hotels / Bed & Breakfast

6:00 pm - Banquet at East Berlin VFW Post 8896

Following Dinner and Program there will be a time of informal fellowship at East Berlin VFW

We have reserved rooms at the Altland House (<http://altlandhouse.com/inn-suites/>) 1 Center Square in nearby Abbottstown, PA 17301 (717) 259-9535. These rooms are for guests who will check in on Friday, May 15, 2020 for 2 nights (departing the morning of Sunday, May 17, 2020). Those planning to attend the National Chaplain Event who desire to stay at the Altland House,

should call the Altland House individually on a first-come, first-served basis to review room features and nightly rates.

Chaplains, and anyone else who would like to attend, should put this on the calendar now and contact Chaplain Hook at 267-229-7722 or PeterHook@verizon.net to fill out a reservation form.

Blessings as you serve,

Rev. Peter R. Hook

Past National Chaplain

Eastern Conference Chaplain

PA State Chaplain

Veterans of Foreign Wars

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