



Transmitter

The Official Newsletter of the Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps
Winter 2021



A MESSAGE

**From the Chief of the
CAP Chaplain Corps**

Chaplain (Colonel) John Murdoch

Welcome to 2021!

This has been quite the end of one year and beginning to a new year: COVID, a contentious election, quarantines, and adjusting to new methods of work, school, and CAP meetings. To say the least it has been challenging!

As I reflect on all that has been happening, I want to take a few moments to remind us and challenge us for the days ahead. Though these challenges are different and perhaps even alarming to us, challenges are not new. We have faced them before and will continue to face them in the future. The difference is we don't know what the challenges will look like or where they will come from. However, we do know where our strength to face the challenges comes from. We are people of Faith. Our Faith Traditions are what make us resilient in times of trials. Our chaplain corps represents the Faith Traditions of America. We now have the opportunity to reflect to those we lead how our Faith sustains us and helps us minister to others.

My Faith is firmly formed in the Judeo-Christian truths found in the Bible. I am reminded of God's faithfulness from the Patriarchs to the Apostles. The Psalmist reminds us God is on His Throne (Ps 11). Daniel reminds us of Gods ability to deliver

(Continued on page 2)

(A Message from the Chief of Chaplains is continued from page 1)

His people from death defying odds (Daniel 3 & 6). The Apostle Paul through his writings to the early Church gives us truths to sustain us as we live out our Faith (Eph 3:14-19). My challenge to us today is to rely on our Faith. I trust your Faith meets your needs as mine does me. Let it sustain you and encourage you as tests and trials come our way, and then encourage others. Praise God He is still on the Throne.

As we look into 2021, there are new opportunities coming our way. I would encourage you to participate in the Chief's Roundtable. Here you will on a monthly basis get up to the minute information that you will be able to use, as well as having an opportunity to ask me any questions you may have. I look forward to interacting with you.

One of the significant challenges of this pandemic has been the isolation that everyone has had to deal with. Prior to the pandemic, CAP was concerned with the influence of suicide and its impact on our youth. That concern is still a priority! I want to remind you that isolation is a key factor in the lives of those who commit suicide. Please be aware of this and be extra sensitive to the needs of those in your squadrons and sphere of influence. You will find links for some helpful material below in this issue of the Transmitter. Please use these tools to help meet the needs of our membership.

As I conclude this column, I want you to be assured of my prayers for you. You are on the front lines and you are making a difference. Thank you for being there!

Chaplain (Colonel) John B. Murdoch, CAP
Chief of Chaplains

***Find resources on
Suicide Prevention
and Resilience at***

capchaplains.com

*Link provided by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy
Miner, Special Assistant to the Chief of
Chaplains for Social Media*

*“There is an ethical framework
within Civil Air Patrol that we hold all
of our members to. By understanding
and embracing these core values, it
helps us to work at a level of
excellence and professionalism that
we can be proud of, and our partners
can be proud of as well.”*

*CAP National Commander
Major General Mark Smith*

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REGION CHAPLAINS

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) MATTHEW WISELL – Northeast Region

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CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) GARY ENO – Great Lakes Region

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CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) DON MIKITA – North Central Region

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) NANCY SMALLEY – Southwest Region

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) DAVID KNIGHT – Rocky Mountain Region

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) RICHARD NELSON – Pacific Coast Region

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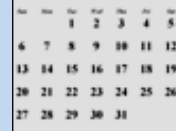
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Chief of Chaplains
Col. John Murdoch

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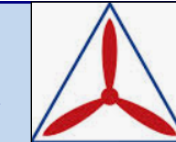
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photo by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Ward (ret.)



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CAP-USAF Commander
Col. Mark Wootan

National Chief of CAP Chaplain Corps
Chaplain (Col.) John Murdoch

Chaplain Corps Administrator
Kenya Bogans

CIVIL AIR PATROL CHAPLAIN CORPS

OUR IDENTITY....

- We are representatives of America's religious community.
- We are CAP senior members.
- We are committed to the well-being of people within the missions of CAP

OUR VISION....

The CAP Chaplain Corps will become the model of excellence and effectiveness for the rest of Civil Air Patrol.

OUR MISSION....

The CAP Chaplain Corps will promote the role of CAP core values in all CAP activities through education, presence and advice.

OUR CORE VALUES....

- Integrity
- Volunteer Service
- Excellence
- Respect



THE TRANSMITTER

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The Transmitter is the official presentation of the CAP Chaplain Corps office, NHQ. Published quarterly, it provides a forum for Chaplain Corps leadership to share matters of current interest. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the USAF or the Civil Air Patrol Corporation.

2021 EVENTS

EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING

ONLINE, ZOOM GENERATED CAP SUPPORT ChESS COURSES
are offered for CAP Chaplains and Chaplain Support Specialists

Classes are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings

2021 Classes will resume with February 22- March 18 session (closed)

Look for announcements for future sessions

Course Directors: mtaylor@hc.cap.gov/lpugsley@hc.cap.gov/vwilliams@hc.cap.gov

Course Prerequisites:

- Complete GES – General Emergency Services training
- ICUT – Introductory Communications User Training
- Completion of the Current CAP Chaplains Course (221-A) (CHAPLAINS ONLY)
- CAPT 117 Parts 1,2,3

Familiarization and Preparatory Training

- IS100 – Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
- IS200 – ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS700 – Introduction to National Incident Management System (NIMS)

See the article reviewing the Alpha CAP Support Class ChESS Course by
Maj. Jonathan Luysterborghs in the Summer 2020 issue of the Transmitter, p. 17.

https://capchaplain.com/downloads/Transmitter_Summer_2020.pdf

2021 ON-LINE TRAINING LEADERS OF CADETS (TLC)

January 16, April 17, and October 16, 2021

Course is offered quarterly by the Chaplain Corps.

Registration opens some weeks before: <http://caphclib.us>.

LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHIEF'S ROUNDTABLE

Chief of Chaplains (Colonel) John Murdoch

Holds Monthly Roundtable Sessions on the State of the Corps

To review the Chief's January 14th Session: <https://youtu.be/ZAqRKKjhUFM>

Also see a summary on Chief's Roundtable on page 9 of this issue.

Look for emails from our Administrator for Social Media Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Miner
for links to future roundtable sessions!

CHAPLAIN CORPS MOURNS THE PASSING OF FORMER CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS (COL.) JAMES H. MELANCON



Former Civil Air Patrol Chief of Chaplains Colonel James Henry Melancon died on November 14, 2020, at age 94. He was laid to rest on November 23, 2020 in Huntsville, Alabama.¹ Chaplain Melancon is the second of the Chaplain Corps' former chiefs to pass away in the Fall of 2020, the first being Former Chief of Chaplains D. Delano Ellis on September 26.²

On retiring as Chaplain Corps Chief of Chaplains in 2004, Melancon left us this legacy remark: "My journey as your National Chief has been epic and historic. I leave the office with a profound sense of appreciation for the confidence Major General Richard L. Bowling invested in me. By God's grace, I endeavored to be a caring and faithful steward in his charge. An old African proverb says, 'The house of the heart is never full.' Though my time to step down has come, there remains plenty of room in the house of my heart to continue my service as a chaplain in CAP. "Semper Vigilans"³

Chaplain Corps Represented at the Funeral and Burial Services for Former Chief of Chaplains James Melancon Reported by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marcus Taylor

On Monday, November 23, 2020, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marcus L Taylor and Chaplain, (1st Lt.) Jason McCracken had the honor of representing the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and the CAP Chaplain Corps at the funeral and burial services for our former Chief of the Chaplain Corps (Col.) James H Melancon. Chaplains Taylor and McCracken (photo below) served as part of the Honor Guard at both the funeral and the graveside services. Chaplain Melancon had the distinction of being the first African American to hold the position of Chief of Chaplains. He joined the CAP in 1985, serving as the Chaplain for the Huntsville Composite Squadron, and progressed through the ranks and levels of the Chaplain Corps, eventually becoming the National Chief. He was well known, loved and respected throughout the CAP and the Chaplain Corps.



Funeral Service

On Sunday evening, November 23, 2020, a Family and Friends ZOOM Memorial featured various speakers, including our current Chief of Chaplains (Col.) John Murdoch; former Chief of Chaplains (Col.) James Hughes; and Chaplain Taylor. Taylor was appointed a CAP Chaplain under Melancon's tenure as Chief and was also a Greek student of Melancon at Oakwood University. Chaplain Melancon served as a professor in the Religion and Theology Department of Oakwood for many

years and as a chaplain for the FBI until his death. Melancon served his country on active duty during WW II in the United States Navy as an Aviation Machinist Mate Third Class. Honorably discharged from active service on March 16, 1946, he re-enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve and served until June 29, 1951. When Chaplain Melancon spent time at sea aboard the USS Nimitz CVN 68 in 2004. Nimitz



Honor Guard: / to r Chaplains (1st Lt.) Jason McCracken (MSWG); (Lt. Col.) Marcus Taylor; and (Capt.) Washington Johnson, USNR.³

Commander designated him its "Honorary Chaplain of the USS Nimitz". On Saturday, the Sabbath Day, November 14, 2020, Chaplain (Col.) James Henry Melancon answered the final call and entered his final rest from duty. Therefore, we render our final salute to him, sounded TAPS, and bid him "fair weather and calm seas!"



Graveside service: / to r Chaplains Johnson (back to camera); Taylor, and McCracken (facing casket)

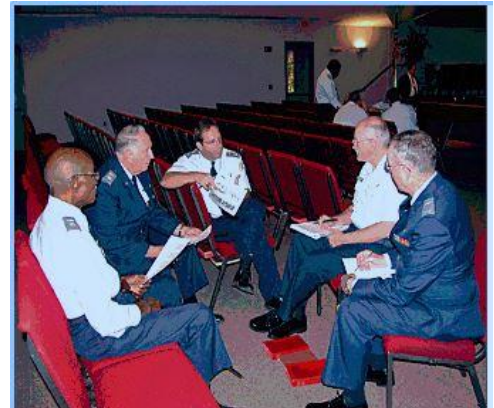
Taking a Look Back . . .

An old African proverb says, 'The house of the heart is never full.' Though my time to step down has come, there remains plenty of room in the house of my heart to continue my service as a chaplain in CAP. "Semper Vigilans" ... Chaplain James Melancon, 2004



Left: (l to r) Future Chiefs of Chaplains Charles Sharp and James Hughes, Chief of Chaplains James Melancon, Former and Future Chief of Chaplains John Murdoch, and Chaplain Kenneth Van Loon attending the Chaplain Service Advisory Council at Kessler AFB in November 2003.⁴

Right: Chief Emeritus Melancon attending the 2004 Southeast Region Chaplain Staff College in Leesburg, FL.⁵



¹ <https://www.royalfh.com/obituary/james-melancon>

² Article on the funeral of Former Chief of Chaplains J. Delano Ellis, in the Fall 2020 issue of the Transmitter.

³ Chaplain Washington, the Southeast Regional Director for Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry, presented the flag to the family.

⁴ Photo and legacy remarks from the Fall 2004 issue of the Transmitter.

⁵ https://www.al.com/living/2013/05/oakwood_groundbreakers.html

CHAPLAIN CORPS NEWS

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Eno Elected to Military Chaplains Association Board of Directors



The Military Chaplains Association (MCA) elected CAP Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Eno to its Board of Directors at the MCA annual meeting held on 13 October 2020 at Columbia International University in Columbia, South Carolina. A member of the Board's Class of 2023, Eno replaces Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Linda Pugsley as CAP's representative on the BOD. The Board of Directors expressed its gratitude to Chaplain Pugsley for her service to the MCA.

Eno serves CAP's Chaplain Corps as the Great Lakes Region Chaplain and a member of the Chaplain Corps Executive Council.

NEW ASSIGNMENT

Congratulations

on the following recent appointment:

Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Massey
Illinois Wing Chaplain

2020 ChESS Training Declared a Success!

In an After Action Report addressed to Chief of Chaplains (Col.) John Murdoch, (Lt. Col.) Marcus Taylor reported significant success in 2020 in its training for CAP Chaplains and Chaplain Support Specialists (CSS). Chaplain Taylor serves as Director of the Chaplain Emergency Service School (ChESS) and Project Officer for Mission Chaplain Programs and Emergency Service Training. After NESAC canceled CAP training early in 2020, Taylor and his team adapted the NESAC-based CAP Basic Chaplain Emergency Service School (ChESS) to a virtual format.

The ChESS Basic VTC training sessions for the 2020 activity year ended on 19 November 2020 with a total of 108 Chaplain Corps personnel trained in the ChESS Basic VTC with Mission Chaplain (MC-CS) or Chaplain Support Specialist (CSS-CS) CAP Support Ratings. The statistical data is as follows:

Overall

Chaplains completing MC CAP Support – 55
Chaplain Support Specialists completing CSS
CAP Support – 53

By Regions

NER	Chaplains – 15	CSS – 12
MAR	Chaplains – 8	CSS – 5
SER	Chaplains – 10	CSS – 12
GLR	Chaplains – 4	CSS – 5
NCR	Chaplains – 3	CSS – 1
RMR	Chaplains – 4	CSS – 4
SWR	Chaplains – 4	CSS – 8
PCR	Chaplains – 7	CSS – 6

By Training Groups

Alpha	Chaplains – 15	CSS – 14
Bravo	Chaplains – 10	CSS – 10
Charlie	Chaplains – 10	CSS – 10
Delta	Chaplains – 20	CSS – 19

The ChESS team is incorporating recommendations, chiefly administrative, from the After Action Report into planning for its 2021 sessions.

AN UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS' ROUNDTABLE

At his 14 January Virtual Roundtable,¹ Chief of Chaplains (Col.) John Murdoch provided information on new Chaplain Corps requirements and chaplain/CSS education opportunities.² For further details, please review the YouTube video of the Chief Murdoch's Roundtable found at <https://youtu.be/ZAqRKKjhUFM>.²

- **New Requirements for Chaplain Corps Appointments**

As of 4 August 2020, Form 35 applications for Chaplain must also show completion of Level II (part 1) training. (See CAPR 40-1, Attachment 4). Additional requirements include:

- Roles and Responsibilities of the Chaplain
- Military Customs and Courtesies in CAP
- Specific requirements for military chaplains

- **Air Force Auxiliary (AFA) Chaplain Corps Training**

The Auxiliary Chaplain Course will provide USAF training for AFAM support for Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) missions. Course instructors will be CAP chaplains, either retired or active-duty military. CAP Lt. Col. John Tillery, retired USAF, serves as course director.

The course will begin this winter as a three-part offering covering 1) funerals, 2) pluralism and diversity, and 3) confidentiality. In time, this AFA training will expand to cover 24 classes of 1 hour each plus practicums.

Look for a call for applications in late January. Responses must follow the correct letter format included in the call and have a wing commander's endorsement.

- **Center for Religious Excellence and Ethical Leadership (CREEL)**

CREEL will serve as a think tank for ideas and develop curriculum for Cadet Character Development Lessons, Senior Core Development Training, Resilience, and Five-Pillar Support. The Center will parallel USAFA's "Center for Leadership and Character Development."

- **Flight Chaplain Course.**

The program is available to chaplains who are a part of the flight crew. The course curriculum is being developed and will provide training for a ministry of presence for all CAP flight operations. We have secured affiliation with the Association of Professional Flight Chaplains.

- **Region Chaplain/CSS Staff College Curriculum.**

The new curriculum will replace the current Chaplain Corps Region Staff College (CCRSC) Curriculum. Having no time requirement will allow more field time to explore USAF or other venues. Professional training will be covered through Volunteer University, using certified instructors; teams from HC-NHQ can provide tabletop/NESA training. Curriculum priorities remain to hone character development techniques and strengthen member bonds through fellowship.

¹ Virtual arrangements and YouTube link provided by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Miner, Special Advisor to the Chief of Chaplains for Social Media.

² Information here provided from Chief Murdoch's PowerPoint presentation.

SENIOR MEMBER CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Nancy Smalley, Southwest Region Chaplain



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Nancy Smalley now serves as the Southwest Region Chaplain and as the Chaplain for the Texas Wing Red Oak Cadet Squadron. Previous assignments include Texas Wing Chaplain and Region CISM Director. Smalley joined CAP as an aerospace education officer and served as a Mission Chaplain during the 2003 Columbia Shuttle recovery. Previous assignments include Texas Wing Chaplain and region CISM Officer. Smalley has received the Gill Rob Wilson Award, 11 Commander's Commendations, 4 Meritorious Service Awards, an Exceptional Service Award and the 2019 Senior Chaplain of the Year Award.

During October 2020, Civil Air Patrol asked members to participate in the Wingman Day, which included a presentation to the Senior members of the new CAPP 80-3 "Character and Leadership: Applying Core Values." This program was built upon the four Core Values of Civil Air Patrol and meant to help commanders engage their members in a meaningful learning experience.

Civil Air Patrol's core values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect were first instituted in 1999 and meant to reflect how we choose to act as an organization and how we choose to treat our fellow members.

The Civil Air Patrol culture is formed around its core values and uses a *three-pronged strategy for implementing core values*. The *first step* is to educate all members to understand core values and how these values support the mission. *Secondly*, commanders and supervisors will serve as the primary advocates in encouraging the implementation of core values as a part of daily routines. And *lastly*, the members will adopt and internalize core values.

The Chaplain Corps developed this publication to assist in implementing the third prong: engaging senior members in a meaningful learning experience through the use of case studies to apply the core values of Civil Air Patrol to both their personal and professional lives. The process uses real event case studies, analyzed using the "Six Steps to Ethical Decision-Making" and the "PLUS" filter.

These materials are designed to allow senior members to examine their own ethical standards and values in a guided discussion framework. The senior members are encouraged to relate these standards and values to all phases of their Civil Air Patrol experience. These briefings can be facilitated by a commander, chaplain, or CDI. There is no set time required for conducting the core values briefing, and the squadron commander is given flexibility as to when and what time allotment to provide for a core values briefing. Applying Core Values for Senior Members will equip members with the tools they need to have a lifelong impact on the values of our members and those they serve.

The program uses a *Six Step Ethical Decision-making process*:

- Step 1 - Define the problem;
- Step 2 - Identify available alternative solutions to the problem;
- Step 3 - Evaluate the identified alternatives;
- Step 4 - Make the decision;
- Step 5 - Implement the decision; and
- Step 6 - Evaluate the decision.

This decision model is similar to those taught in every business school and management training program. Here, the concern is not only decision-making but is the decision-making ethical? The ethical component of the decision-making process takes the form of a set of "filters." At key steps in the process the decisionmaker can stop and run her/his considerations through these filters, thereby separating the ethical inclinations from the remainder of the decision.

These ethics filters CAP has adopted use the mnemonic PLUS.

P = Policies - Is it consistent with CAP policies, procedures, and guidelines?

L = Legal - Is it acceptable under the applicable laws and regulations?

U = Universal - Does the action conform to the universal principles and values adopted by CAP?

S = Self - Does it satisfy my definition of what is right, good, and fair?

The PLUS filters presume effective communication with all members, so there is a common understanding of the organization's policies and procedures as they apply to the situation, the applicable laws and regulations, the agreed-upon set of "universal" values—in this case, Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect and the individual's sense of right, fair, and good, springing from their personal values.

The feedback from those who have already presented this program at least once has been very favorable. The key to solving problems is to keep it at the lowest level of command and to have a process to make ethical decisions as an important tool.

For more detailed information about using this program and a list of case studies, please refer to the CAPP 80-3.

CHARACTER MATTERS
Integrity

"Courage is the enforcing virtue, the one that makes possible all the other virtues common to exceptional leaders: honesty, integrity, confidence, compassion and humility."

Senator John McCain



From the Chaplain Corps Facebook page, 9 January 2021 <https://www.facebook.com/CAPchaplains>

WING COMMANDERS' RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHAPLAINS

By Colonel James Ridley, Sr., Commander, CTWG



Col James A. Ridley, Sr. is the Commander of the Connecticut Wing, serving prior as the Wing Chief of Staff. He has served at the squadron, group, wing and region levels in such capacities as cadet programs officer, public affairs officer, deputy commander, commander, region plans and programs officer. Col Ridley has directed two Region Staff Colleges and a Region Cadet Leadership School for the Northeast Region. He has lectured at five Northeast Region Chaplain Colleges, the last two being held at Camp Nett in Niantic, CT.

Col. Ridley's previous articles in *The Transmitter*, "Servant Leadership", appeared in the Winter 2020 issue, "The Value of Chaplains and CDIs at Cadet Encampment," appeared in the Winter 2017 issue, "Commanders Preach the Core Values – Good Commanders Live by Them," appeared in the Winter 2018 issue, "Mentorship" appeared in the Spring 2019 issue, and "Servant Leadership", appeared in the Winter 2020 issue.

I remember it like it was yesterday. It was Tuesday, November 30, 2010. I had been asked by the Group Commander to take command of a squadron I had never been a member of after its commander resigned. The squadron was in trouble, with morale problems, loss of both senior and cadet membership, and now someone from a different squadron was selected to take command. The evening meeting began with a quick change of command ceremony. Then I proceeded to 'make the rounds' and greet every single senior officer present that evening and introduce myself.

As I made my way to the basement office at the VA hospital the unit called home, one of the



Commander Ridley with Chaplain Hart

seniors, a six-foot plus tall Captain came up to me and said, "Welcome, is there anything I can do for you?" I replied, "not at the moment, but Chaplain is there anything I can do for you?". My response caught Chaplain (Capt.) Andrew Hart by surprise. What began with an initial conversation turned into an invaluable friendship between the two of us. I truly considered myself the luckiest commander in the Group, certainly not because I had the biggest challenge at that time among my peers, but I was the lone commander who had my own chaplain!

Over the next few months Chaplain Hart and I spoke often. We worked on plans for the squadron and some new ways in which Hart could work with the cadets and seniors alike. He and I set a schedule to speak several times a week and meet for lunch at least once a month. As a result, the unit members and I turned the squadron around to increase membership across the board over the next four years. The squadron, beginning with the second year of my command, earned the Group's Squadron of the Year Award three years in a row. Chaplain Hart was not along for the ride. He was an integral part of the transformation. The relationship was just as rewarding for him as it was for me. It began with an introduction, led to trust and loyalty, and then a friendship.

By the end of the first year of my command, Chaplin Hart began to express an interest in becoming more involved in CAP outside the squadron. Now he was asking for my advice after me seeking his as we resurrected the unit. I told him two things I believed he would benefit from (as would others) – attending a cadet encampment as a chaplain and serving ADY to the Group as a chaplain.



which he did not do once but twice one summer with two different wings, and serving ADY to the Group as its Chaplain, which he did most enthusiastically. For his efforts Chaplain Hart earned both a squadron award and the Group and Wing's Squadron Chaplain of the Year honors. While Andy is no longer in CAP and has since moved his ministry duties to another state, I will never forget his friendship, support, and

the impact he left on our squadron, its members, and me personally. It also set the stage for what was yet to come for me in my CAP career.

My luck in having my own squadron chaplain was not my first experience with CAP chaplains. Before assuming my first command, I encountered chaplains and moral leadership officers, as they were called back then, at the annual wing encampment. My experiences with this group proved invaluable when in 2013 I assumed command of the CT Wing Encampment. During the first encampment workshop I met the encampment and wing chaplain, Chaplain (Lt Col.) Adma Ross. I recall asking for time to speak with her regarding the need for chaplains and character development officers at the encampment, “the more, the better” I told her. I also asked her to research the various religious observances and spiritual needs of the encampment cadets and staff by making religious services available to those who wanted them. I shall never forget the look on her face, a look of disbelief as no encampment commander before ever asked for such services. She happily agreed to “make it happen.”

As I have said many times, good relationships are a two-way street, with each person gaining value from one another. Everyone thinks that it's the chaplains who provide the counseling, but chaplains are people too and occasionally need counseling themselves. There were many times I counseled Chaplain Hart, once I did so without uttering a word. The chaplain had switched parishes. He confided in me how nervous he was moving to a new town and new parishioners. He even mentioned his nervousness giving his first sermon and his initial service in front of “a new flock I have to lead,” I told him I understood and that everything would be OK. On the Sunday of his first service in his new parish, Andy walked out to the altar, looked out amongst the congregation, and smiled. What Andy saw was me sitting in the third pew, at the end waving back at him and giving him a thumbs up. He later asked me why I was there, and I told him, “because you needed me to be.” He told me afterward, the nervousness ended at that moment, and he felt like he was home. Sometimes the commander needs to reassure the chaplain, rather than the other way around.

I remember one other occasion I took on this role. Encampment Chaplains are often referred to as the event's CCO or Chief Counseling Officer. Homesickness and other issues that cadets and seniors alike seek out chaplains to discuss never seem to end, and our encampment chaplains led by Chaplain Ross were no exception. Towards the end of the 2014 encampment, I was heading off base for about an hour when I received a call from my deputy commander asking me not to leave just yet. When I asked, “why not?” I was told that one of the seniors needed my counsel. I replied, “please ask the chaplain to do it.” It was then I was told, “Sir, it is the chaplain.” You see, we sometimes forget that even the chaplains are human, and they, too, need

counseling and reassurance. Counseling and advisement work both ways, a lesson I learned all too well at that moment.

Just as with Chaplain Hart (Andy, I called him privately), Chaplain Ross and I became fast friends. I kept in close communication with Adma. She commented in August of 2013 that “this was the most satisfying and enjoyable encampment I have ever been involved in, thank you.” I assured her that it would not be her last, and it wasn’t. Soon after the encampment ended, I was named the Wing Chief of Staff, and four years later the Wing Commander. Over that time Chaplain Ross and I have had many conversations, worked together, and benefited from each other’s insights and counsel. My relationship with the wing’s chaplains did not begin and end with Adma. I cultivated a relationship with other Chaplains in the wing and encouraged their involvement in emergency services as mission chaplains. I was also asked to lecture at the region chaplain’s college, hosting it twice in CT while wing commander, speaking on several different topics.

Dalai Lama XIV was quoted as saying “tragedy should be utilized as a source of strength. No matter what sort of difficulties, how painful experience is, if we lose our hope, that’s our real disaster.” In August of 2019, a freak accident cost the life of our wing encampment chaplain, Chaplain (Capt.) Lawrence Johnson. On Labor Day we gathered in the church in which Larry



Chaplains, CDIs and friends, gather with the wing commander for the final salute to Chaplain (Capt.) Lawrence Johnson.

worshiped. I and several other officers acted as his pall bearers, a role that unfortunately I had to perform again for a former wing commander later that year. While the viewing went on upstairs, I and the rest of the wing’s chaplains and CDIs present sat around a table in the basement drinking some coffee and conversing. I innocently stated that “the last time we got together like this was during the region chaplain college” and that it was shame we didn’t meet more often. A

light bulb went off in our heads, and an idea emerged – we as a wing would start conducting routine chaplain retreats where we would gather, discuss topics of the day, brainstorm on ideas to improve our value to the wing, and enjoy one another’s company. We have met twice now and are planning our third meeting, even meeting once virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. On both occasions, the National Chief of Chaplains joined us via telephone. It was an amazing experience that brought forth new ideas and built up morale in our wing chaplain corps.

As I prepare for the remaining months left in my command, I sit back and reflect on all that has been accomplished. I consider myself very lucky: lucky in all the good things we have done together as a team and lucky in the relationships I have developed with my chaplains. First Chaplain Hart, then Chaplain Ross, and now with my new Wing Chaplain, Chaplain (Maj.) James Law, as well as with countless others I have come to meet and became my friends. Benefits that come from a good partnership between commander and chaplain cannot be described in numbers. Benefits come, rather, from the impact it has on both the members we serve and us. A good commander – chaplain relationship benefits all of us and the organization. This fact can never be understated. God Bless our Chaplain Corps and THANK YOU!

THE MILITARY CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION

Who Ae We? What Do We Do?



Submitted by Fr. Razz Waff, DMin, BCC
Major General, US Army (Retired)
Executive Director
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Fr. Waff attended the Virginia Military Institute and the University of Mississippi, graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree. In 1983, he received a Master in Divinity degree from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and was ordained as a priest on 9 May 1984 at Trinity Cathedral in Columbia, DC. In 1997, Waff earned his doctorate in medical ethics through the Graduate Theological Foundation and Georgetown University. In 2001, he received a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the US Army War

College, Carlisle, PA, and in 2015 an honorary Master of Military Arts and Science degree from the US Army War College, Carlisle, PA. In 2015 he received an honorary Master of Military Arts and Science Degree from the US Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

Commissioned in the Regular Army as an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate in 1976, he began a military career that spanned over 39 years. General Waff joined the United States Army Reserve as a Captain in October 1980 and served increasing positions of responsibility in administration, logistics, and facilities support. After serving 2002-2005 as the Chief of Staff of the 88th Regional Readiness Command, Fort Snelling, MN, Waff was selected for promotion to Brigadier General to serve as the Deputy Commanding General of the 99th Regional Readiness Command in Coraopolis, Pa. On 22 December 2010, he was promoted to Major General, serving as the Commanding General of the 99th TRC at Ft. Dix, NJ, and then as the Army G1, the Pentagon, and simultaneously as the Chairman of the Army's Reserve Forces Policy Committee (ARFPC) until his retirement in October, 2016.

Since retiring, Waff was selected as the Executive Director of the Military Chaplains Association in February 2017.

Many Civil Air Patrol chaplains have heard of The Military Chaplains Association. Many are members. I have been asked to provide something of a "primer" on MCA as to what MCA is and does, where it has been previously, where it is today and where it would like to be by its 100th birthday in 2025.

MCA was founded in 1925 in the aftermath of the Great War. Chaplains of the Army and Navy decided to form a professional organization to promote the continued support of military chaplaincy, which for the first time had continued to exist after the war, which had not been the case after the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Civil War or the Spanish-American War. In some ways, MCA was an early "joint" organization that provided a sense of professionalism and camaraderie. MCA continued through WWII and after the war expanded to include the new Air Force Chaplains, and eventually the VA chaplains, and after the reorganization of the Civil Air Patrol, to include your predecessors as well. That was where things stood until the MCA, at its Annual Meeting in 2018 in Columbia, SC, extended membership to all federal chaplains and state defense forces/state militias whose chaplains otherwise meet the same standards for

endorsement as CAP chaplains. At the same time, the Coast Guard created a Chaplains Auxiliary Support (CAS) team to backfill active and reserve Navy chaplains to support active and reserve Coast Guardsmen and their families. Additionally, in 1952 MCA was chartered by Congress to be "the Voice of Chaplaincy," a charter still in effect today.

Since becoming the Executive Director of MCA in February 2017, I have adopted the acronym **ACE** to describe what we do. Spelled out, these are:

Advocacy: Which we do most publicly with our MSO/VSO partners in **The Military Coalition (TMC)**, which is the largest military/veterans coalition in the US, consisting of 35 organizations representing 5.5 million current service members, veterans, and their families. This group does significant work with members of Congress and their staffers, and in the process, provides critical subject matter expertise on crafting legislation that has a direct impact on defense and veterans issues.

Additionally, MCA has gone out either solo or with one or two other strategic partners. The most recent case was in 2018 when we worked with the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) to reverse the decision to reduce the Navy's Chief of Chaplains from a 2 Star Admiral to a 1 Star Admiral, a decision that was made by the Navy's Personnel Director, a 3 Star Admiral. When the Chief of Naval Operations and Secretary of the Navy declined to respond to our letter outlining the responsibilities that the Chief of Chaplains had, we went to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) to talk with the Chairman and the committee's professional staff. The 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) had a clause in it adopted by the Senate Armed Service Committee (SASC) that states that each uniformed service's Chief of Chaplains would be at least a 2 Star officer. As other topics arise, we address them head-on.

Communication: The most obvious and well-used form of communication we use is the weekly *Newsgram*, under the Editorship of my predecessor as Executive Director, Captain Lyman Smith, Chaplain Corps, US Navy (Retired), which is one of the most well-curated weekly newsletter that I have ever come across (and was the catalyst with reconnecting me with MCA!). It is one of the very few e-publications that I actually look forward to and savor, thanks to Lyman's remarkable work. For a number of years we also published the *MCA Journal*, a professional quarterly journal. However, we have not published this remarkable work for the past four years due to our strategic planning and budgeting limitations. The first thing on the list is to be funded if we can get us back to where it was before the 2008 Great Recession, and more on funding later.

Education: The most visible sign of our support for education is the MCA Chaplaincy Candidate Scholarships. Each year, we support chaplain candidates attending an Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accredited seminary or divinity school. In 2017 we funded four \$1,000 scholarships. Each year since, we have been able to increase the number of scholarships to seven, thanks to funds from the Emerson Foundation and a grant to MCA to establish the Stocks Scholarship Fund, which supplements the Emerson Foundation's support for scholarships.

On a day to day basis, MCA supports a number of specific initiatives and programs which extends our goals are as follows:

Veteran Military Friendly Congregations (VMFC): This initiative, which is supported by our two strategic partners, Tennessee Vet to Vet, and the Episcopal Church's Brotherhood of St. Andrews (BSA), works with local congregations- Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other

traditions– which are often (though not always) located next to military installations to help them identify how they can reach out to serving military and their families as well as veterans and their families with intentionality.

Other initiatives that MCA has taken on its own are:

+ Approaching and working with the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) to create a new **Advanced Practice Chaplain**, Military Chaplain, in 2017. The driving force behind this was Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel Jan McCormack, BCC, DMin, who is both a board certified chaplain thru the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) and a certified chaplaincy educator by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE).

+ **Mentoring** young chaplains as they start their careers. In this model, the young chaplain has a retired chaplain from both a different faith tradition and different service branches, which minimizes any possible conflict of interest from either the faith tradition or the service. Young chaplains who have completed this program have given it rave reviews. This program's champion has been Captain Mike Langston, Chaplain Corps, US Navy (Retired).

+ As part of our revamped membership categories, we now have an **International Membership** category. While this has a number of "the usual suspects" such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, it also includes members from what our friends in the National Guard would call their Partnership for Peace countries such as Ukraine and Poland. We have had chaplains and chaplain endorsers attend our National Institute/Annual Conference meetings in the past to learn more about the American way of "doing" military chaplaincy.

We have named a Distinguished Chaplain for each military branch and component, including CAP and the VA, for many years. Our 2020 CAP MCA Distinguished Chaplain was Chaplain, (Major) Eric Cooter. (*See Chaplain Cooter's article and photo, also in this issue.*). Starting in 2021, we are adding a new category, that of Distinguished Religious Affairs Specialist/Religious Programs Noncommissioned Officers, named the **Calvin P. Titus Award**, in honor of the only Chaplains Assistant to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

We are also looking at expanding our strategic partnership with like-minded organizations. We have been exploring ways to work closely with the **US Army Chaplain Corps Regimental Association** (USARRCA) and the **Four Chaplains Foundation**.

BREAKING NEWS!

We are addressing ways to foster collaboration after conversations with Major General Mark Smith and Chaplain, Colonel John Murdoch. This August, we will be doing a beta test to have our MCA National Institute/Annual Meeting simultaneous with the Civil Air Patrol Annual Conference in Bellvue, Washington, in August, pandemic permitting. This is "breaking news," and we are still working out the details. However, all workshops and events we will be doing will be open to CAP chaplains, and we invite all of you to attend our sessions and Awards Luncheon on Friday from the MCA side of things. The MCA workshops will synch with the CAP workshops, and we will work to deconflict those to the greatest extent possible. There will be more information as we move along. However, as Chaplain Murdoch and I have discussed, both MCA and CAP have a great deal of synergy in having co-located simultaneous meetings. More to follow!

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLIDAY OF PASSOVER



**by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Atkins
New Hampshire Wing Chaplain**

Passover is the holiday observed more than any other holiday by the Jewish community. As such, it is worthwhile to take some time to learn about the holiday, its meanings, and its history. The many connections to Easter make it of interest to the larger community as well.

Passover, or *Pesach* (PEH-sach) in Hebrew, remembers the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt and their ultimate exodus to freedom. This story of redemption from slavery is the “master-story” of the Jewish People – a story that has shaped Jewish consciousness and values. It is just as relevant today as it was 3,400 years ago.

The story of Passover, as taught in the book of Exodus, relates the struggle between God, who demands freedom for the Israelites, and Pharaoh, who symbolizes the hard-hearted forces of self-aggrandizement, tyranny, and enslavement. God breaks Pharaoh’s spirit by inflicting Egypt with ten plagues. During the night of the final plague, God “passed over” and protected the houses of the Israelites, giving the festival its name. Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and, with the Egyptian army chasing after them, split the Reed (not Red) Sea waters, allowing the Israelites to cross the sea and escape. Since they escaped Egypt in a hurry, they did not have time to have their bread leaven and rise, giving Passover its most famous symbol – matzah – Hebrew for “unleavened bread.”

During the eight days of Passover (liberal Jews observe seven days), it is customary not to eat, or even possess, any food that may contain leaven (*Cha-MAYTZ* in Hebrew). Leaven is a food or beverage that contains any grain product (wheat, barley, oats, spelt, and rye) that has been fermented in water.

The central ritual of *Pesach* is the Seder (*SAY-der*), a carefully choreographed ritual meal that takes place on the eve of Passover at home with family and friends or with the community. It is both a meal as well as an educational experience for children and adults alike. The Seder begins by reading the Hagaddah (*Ha-ga-DAH*), a 2000-year-old book that retells the Exodus story from Egypt.

An essential part of the Seder is eating ritual foods symbolic of the journey from slavery to freedom:

- Four cups of wine: symbols of joy
- Bitter herbs: reminding us of the suffering of slavery
- Green leafy vegetables: representing rebirth
- Matzah: which is both the poor bread of slaves and the symbol of our freedom.

The story of the Israelites’ exodus from slavery is the foundation of Jewish ethics. As we experienced slavery and suffering, the Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures) insists that we are obligated to protect the powerless.

The Torah reminds us that “you were strangers in the land of Egypt,” and contains over 50 references to the resident alien (someone who is not a citizen). These include charges to provide the stranger with economic security, basic food, and clothing, as well as equality before the law.

Thus, we are duty-bound to create societies established on principles of justice, righteousness, and compassion. Throughout generations, the story of the Exodus has encouraged secular and religious Jews alike to commit to bringing more justice into the world. This commitment includes both welcoming the stranger into our communities as well as fighting the ugliness of xenophobia.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Submitted by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric Cooter
Southwest Region Deputy Wing Chaplain



Chaplain Major Eric Cooter joined CAP as a cadet in Tennessee and served from 1980 to 1986. He held all squadron cadet leadership positions and also served at wing level as Cadet Advisory Council Chair, Encampment Cadet Commander, and Wing Cadet Program Officer. After a break in service, Chaplain Cooter rejoined CAP as a senior member in 1999. A mission pilot and flight trainer, he served as Florida Wing and then Southeast Region Chaplain. In his ministry role, Chaplain Cooter served in Florida as Rector of St. Monica's Episcopal Church in Naples, FL and on the staff of the Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida. On July 1, Cooter was selected as Canon to the Ordinary of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma.

The History and Tradition of Lent

Throughout the Christian tradition, observances of liturgical seasons are key to the prayer, worship, and formation life of a congregation. The various liturgical seasons serve as a time when Christians focus on specific periods of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Lent, the approaching season in the Christian calendar, is a solemn religious observance that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later on Palm Sunday, followed by Holy Week and the Feast of the Resurrection (Easter).

Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, Presbyterian, Oriental Orthodox, Reformed, and Roman Catholic Churches observe Lent. Some Anabaptist and Evangelical churches also observe the Lenten season. Lent prepares the observer for a time of commemoration of the events that led to the crucifixion of Jesus. The season finally culminates on Easter Sunday, celebrating Christian hope in the Feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. As all church seasons, Lent is grounded in scripture and the stories of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Lent is reminiscent of the story found in the Gospels of Jesus' "40-day" wilderness journey in which Satan tempted Jesus. During Lent, observers can (like Jesus) face their own frailties, personal temptations, and culture's distractions. Lent reminds observers, as Barbara Brown Taylor describes, "what it is like to live by the grace of God alone and not by what we can supply for ourselves." (1)

Spiritual and Liturgical Practices

Lent for some is tantamount to participating in a *Spiritual Ultimate Survival Challenge* because it is a time of spiritual discipline; a time of "Giving up" or "Taking on." By "giving up," Lent can be a season of self-denial. Many Christians commit to fasting and giving up certain luxuries to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days. By "taking on," many Christians add Lenten disciplines to their spiritual walk.

Some people add the reading of a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, or adding some other commitment of service, which draws them nearer to God.

Lent also offers observers not only an opportunity for a personal re-commitment to spiritual practices; it also can include changes to worship in the church. These changes often include seasonally appropriate colors in liturgical garments (Lent = Purple) and sometimes include seasonal hymns and specific scripture readings. Some churches observe special liturgies throughout the week like the *Stations of the Cross*, which is a common Lenten commemoration of Christ's journey from his "Trial to the Cross." During Lent, many Roman Catholic and some Protestant churches also remove flowers from their altars and veil in violet fabrics, crosses/crucifixes, religious statues, and other elaborate religious symbols as a part of the solemn observance.

Observing a Holy Lent

Spiritual practices alone, though, do not a wilderness journey of spiritual growth make. Lent is only transformative if the observer commits to a rugged spiritual mission of allowing God to transform one's mind and heart. Prayer and devotion to God are key to this time of transformation and spiritual resiliency for the Lenten observer. We invite God to go with us into the deep valleys of our need for grace, growth, and renewal. I want to offer to the reader some ways that you might consider observing a *Holy Lent*.

(1) Commit to a practice of daily scripture reading. Maybe you can poke around in the psalms or Old Testament, take a hike in one of the gospels, or wander around in one of Paul's letters. (2) Take a leisurely stroll with God in prayer by committing to a few minutes a day to quiet your spirit with God. (3) Be silent each day for at least a few minutes and invite God's Spirit into your present moment and seek God's movement in your life. (4) Share these amazing experiences with someone else.

If you do decide to be intentional about entering the desert places of life with God, you must remember that God is more than merely your guide. God is your survival partner from whom you obtain strength, sustenance, and wisdom in your weakened and vulnerable places. In God, we find out who we truly are because we release the illusions of our own self-reliance with God beside us.

I have to warn you, though, as you embark on this sojourn in the deserts of the soul. It will be tempting as the days of Lent wander on to cast it all aside for an easier path. You may want to grab the remote control and turn off the Lenten survival show and choose the much easier and less treacherous practice of watching a more relaxing movie on the Hallmark Channel. Please, for this Lent, stay in the desert awhile.

Even though it may not be comfortable, and even be treacherous, if you truly choose to rely on God to lead you, and if you let go of the illusion that you can do it all alone, then I promise you this: You will survive Lent and maybe survive the temptations of life as well. Remember, the Psalmist promises, "You will live in the shelter of the Most High, and abide in the shadow of the Almighty, and you will say to the Lord, "(you are) My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." Trust God, and during this Season of Lent, take a walk in the desert with God.

¹Taylor, Barbara Brown. "Settling For Less." *Christian Century* 115.5 (1998): 169-318. ATLASerials, Religion Collection. Web. 14 Feb. 2013.

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER AS WE BEGIN THE NEW YEAR

by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Atkins, New Hampshire Wing Chaplain

As the holiday period recedes in the calendar, we face a New Year with hopeful optimism, but weighed down with the ongoing tragedy of the pandemic. The figures are daunting, and we know that our hospital system/medical staffs are being challenged to save as many lives as possible.

Personally, many of us are limiting our social lives, living in our own “bubble,” as the expression goes... and for safety’s sake, this is a good thing. I have received requests for prayers for individuals suffering with COVID. I have a personal prayer list, my synagogue has its prayer list, and, as I have written before, the chaplains of CAP have their prayer list (*to add a name simply write Chapel@capchaplain.org with the relevant information*). I do this because I believe that saying prayers is a good thing to be done. At the worst it can’t hurt, and quite possibly, for there are many, many things beyond our knowledge, it might make a difference. After praying, I always feel fulfilled that I have prayed... and that is, in itself, a good thing.

As with many of you, increased home-time has meant more TV-time, including “binge” watching, and one of the programs my wife and I have been streaming is the series “The West Wing” from a generation ago. One need not agree with the politics to enjoy the episodes. But I mention this because, in a recently-watched episode (either Season 3 or 4), a senator asked for a ridiculously small figure (\$115,000) to fund a NIH study of “intercessory prayer.” This is when people pray for someone they do not know; the person’s name and the simple fact of prayer somehow make a difference.... whether in healing the person or at least “directing God’s favor towards him/her.” This is part of every religion (1 Timothy Ch 2 in the New Testament and, in the Jewish tradition, the “Mee Shebayrach” prayer). There was some black humor in the West Wing circle thinking the requested amount was \$115 million and laughing at the actual tiny amount,... but, for ideological reasons, the senior advisors could not agree to support it. Although personally I thought that was a poor decision, I wasn’t asked. *But it did make me ask myself about what I was really doing, and how could I really feel that my praying could make a difference.*

Well, I answer that question (at least for now) by a reliance on faith, but then I researched and found that there have actually been a good number of scientific studies... double blind/etc., testing this concept... and I read that a number of them said there was a positive result to prayer re patient health, while others said there was not. And there was always the question of whether the study parameters were sufficiently rigid or correct. So, it’s nice to know that at least some studies said there was some “proof,” but I’ll stick with faith as the fundamental basis for my praying.

This conundrum reminds me of a story from one of my Seminary professors, a few generations ago. He shared that he had a compulsion to join museums. (This was in New York City and there were a lot of them!) He then said he knew that he could go to a psychiatrist and try to deal with this compulsion... But that it was cheaper and more satisfying to join the museums!

And this is how I feel re the question of prayer. My mindset (maybe yours) is that I CANNOT know all the answers re God and prayer, and, although it’s been a fundamental part of my life for over 50 years, it’s much more meaningful to pray and to believe(!) that it makes a difference re those individuals for whom the prayers are said. I know it makes a difference to me.

So, blessings and prayers for a safe and healthy year, and for our leaders to make wise decisions as they face the many challenges that 2021 brings.

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

February 2021 – May 2021

February 2021

- 3 **Four Chaplains Sunday** – Interfaith
- 12 **Lunar New Year** – Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist
- 15 **Nirvana Day** – Jain, Buddhist
- 15 **Mahayana Buddhist** – Buddhist
- 16 **Shrove Tuesday** – Christian
- 16 **Vacant Panchami** – Hindu
- 17 **Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins** – Christian
- 24-28 **Intercalary Days** – Baha'i
- 26 **Purim** – Jewish*

April 2021

- 1 **Maundy Thursday** – Christian
- 2 **Good Friday** – Christian
- 4 **Passover (Pesach) ends** – Jewish* ***
- 4 **Easter** – Christian
- 12 **Ramadan begins (in evening of)** – Islam
- 12 **Hindu New Year** – Hindu
- 20 **First Day of Ridvan** – Baha'i
- 25 **Mahavir Janyanti** – Jain
- 27 **Theravadin New Year** – Buddhist
- 29 **Holy Thursday** – Eastern Orthodox
- 30 **Holy Friday** – Eastern Orthodox Christian

March 2021

- 11 **Lailat al Miraj** – Islam
- 15 **Clean Monday, Great Lent begins** – Orthodox Christian
- 17 **St Patrick's Day** – Christian
- 20 **Naw Ruz** – Baha'i; **Nowooz** – Zoroastrian
- 25 **Feast of the Annunciation** – Christian
- 28 **Passover (Pesach) begins** – Jewish* ***
- 28 **Palm Sunday** – Christian
- 29 **Lailat al Bara'ah** – Islam

May 2021

- 1 **Ridvan ends** – Baha'i
- 2 **Easter** – Christian
- 6 **Feast of St. George** – Christian
- 6 **National Day of Prayer** – US Federal
- 9 **Lailat al Qadr** – Islam
- 12 **Eid al Fidr; Ramadan ends** – Islam
- 13 **Ascension of the Lord** – Christian
- 15 **Armed Forces Day** – US Federal
- 17 **Shavuot (2 days)** – Jewish* ***
- 22 **Declaration of the Bab** – Baha'i
- 23 **Pentecost** – Christian; Orthodox
- 28 **Ascension of the Bada'u'llah** – Baha'i

See articles in past issues of the Transmitter

- **Shavuot** on page 19 of the Spring 2020 issue by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Atkins, https://capchaplain.com/downloads/Transmitter_Spring_2020.pdf
- **Minor Jewish Holidays**, by Lt Col Karen Semple (CDI) and
- **Messiah in the Passover** by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mark Shulman, http://capchaplain.com/downloads/Transmitter_Winter_2018.pdf:

* Holy days always begin the previous sundown

*** Those observing these holidays refrain from participation in non-religious activities or travel. In Judaism this also applies from twilight Friday through nighttime Saturday (Shabbat)

This list is intended to be a general guide drawn from the following sources and is not intended as an inclusive list of special holy days recognized by all religious bodies:

Harvard Divinity School: <http://hds.harvard.edu/life-at-hds/religious-and-spiritual-life/multifaith-calendar>. Useful description of holidays.

Hebcal: <https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/>. Useful description and listing of major and modern Jewish holidays.

SOME USEFUL ITEMS FOR THE CHAPLAIN CORPS “TOOL BOX”

The Chaplain Corps National HQ Site <https://capchaplain.com/>
CD lessons, past Transmitter issues, and other resources

Chaplain Corps Blog <https://capchaplain.com/blog/>

The Chaplain Corps on Twitter <https://www.twitter.com/CAPChaplains>

Chaplain Corps Internal Facebook Page (Closed Group)
<https://www.facebook.com/CAPchaplains>

CAP Chaplain Corps Library <http://caphclib.us/wordpress/>
Chaplain Corps resources, event registration

Chaplain Corps Prayer Team supporting every CAP member & their family
Email requests to chapel@capchaplain.org

The Transmitter Newsletter Issues
<https://capchaplain.com/transmitter-newsletter/>

CAP Mission Chaplain Training Program
<https://capchaplain.com/mission-chaplain-program/>

CAPP 80-3 The New Senior Member Character Development Curriculum 7 Nov 2019
https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP080_003_7_October_2019_Core_Va_0D2A2FF3A1D38.pdf
<https://www.capnhq.gov/CAP.LMS.Web/Default.aspx>

Link to new Values for Living 2.0 Lessons. Go to the link below for instructions to enter the Axis Learning Management system. Access to copyrighted videos is now limited to chaplains, CDIs, and commanders.
<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/library/character>

Values for Living 2.0 Facilitator Training Course <https://www.capnhq.gov/CAP.LMS.Web/Default.aspx>

CAPP 80-4 Wellness and Resilience: Handbook for the Five Pillars of Wellness and Resilience
https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP_804_58A6566D3AF9D.pdf

CAP Chaplain Corps Spiritual Resiliency <https://capchaplain.com/resiliency>

CAP CISM Wellness and Resilience Training <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/emergency-services/critical-incident-stress-management-cism--resiliency>

CAPP 221 Chaplain Specialty Track https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P221_F28D3A31A9924.pdf

CAPP 221A Technician Level https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P221A_5FC4131B0F475.pdf

CAPP 221B Senior Level https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P221B_C5812A0221682.pdf

CAPP 221C Master Level https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P221C_4F00E2E614797.pdf

CAPP 225 CDI Specialty Track February 2016
https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P225_3E1B2C993E723.pdf

CAPR 265-1 The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps 5 April 2015
https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/R265_001_538BD6B239386.pdf

CAP Picture Sharing (Flickr has been acquired by SmugMug)
<https://civilairpatrol.smugmug.com/>

CAP Chaplain Corps and Air Force Chaplain Corps Book of Prayer
https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/BookOfPrayers_093F10A091CAE.pdf

Armed Forces Chaplain Board (AFCB) List of Ecclesiastical Endorsers
Ecclesiastical endorsers meeting requirements for chaplain appointment under CAPR 265-1 § B.6.b
<http://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/MPP/AFCB/Endorsements/>

U.S. Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs
A starting point in evaluating programs and credentials
<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>

