

# National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces

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## **Arlington National Cemetery and Congress Urged to Approve Additional 26 Names of Chaplains Who Died in Service to Existing Chaplains Hill Monument**

New York, November 11, 2020 - The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) is calling on Arlington National Cemetery officials, the Department of the Army, and Congress to update the existing Protestant Chaplains Monument with a new plaque that will honor the service of 25 Chaplains affiliated with Protestant denominations, who died in service during the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Cold War Period, and in post 9-11 Conflicts.

The request also seeks to add to the Catholic Chaplains Monument the name of (Col.) Sidney J. Marceaux, killed during post 9-11 service. The NCMAF proposal would also replace the deteriorating concrete structure of the Protestant Chaplains Memorial with a new granite monument. The list of the 25 Protestant Chaplains to be honored follows below.

NCMAF member organizations are a cross-section of religious life in America each who recruit and certify chaplains for service in the Armed Forces. The NCMAF is the successor to the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel, the group which originally placed the existing Protestant monument.

The NCMAF has the funding and material to update the monument at no cost to the Government or Arlington Cemetery. The new granite monument would be financed through the donation of the Dignity Memorial Company.

“Our Military Chaplains go into harm’s way with only faith as their armor,” said The Right Reverend Derek Jones, Bishop of the Armed Forces & Chaplaincy and Chair of the NCMAF Board of Directors. “They suffer the same deprivations as all our military, take the same risks and sadly on occasion make the same full sacrifice, all in support of our warriors. All we ask is that their sacrifice be honored on Chaplains Hill at Arlington along with those who fell before them. We owe their memory and the grief of those who knew and loved them no less.”

“The existing Protestant Chaplain's Monument has not been updated to honor chaplains who died in service after World War II and is presented by an aging concrete upright that is not consistent with the three other granite monuments, said Rear Admiral Rabbi Harold Robinson, past president of NCMAF. “The concrete Protestant Cenotaph, which requires ongoing maintenance, needs to be replaced with granite, matching the others on Chaplains Hill.”

The Chaplains monument is located in Section Two of Arlington Cemetery. If approved, the existing Protestant Chaplains Monument plaques for World War I and II would be transferred onto the

granite monument above the new plaque and the new monument would be installed in the original space on Chaplains Hill.

In 1981, Arlington National Cemetery designated space in Section 2 now known as Chaplains Hill and authorized the placement of two monuments: one that honored WWI Chaplains who died in service as well as a monument and plaque honoring WWII Protestant Chaplains who died in service.

In 1989, Arlington supported the donation and dedication of a Catholic Chaplains Monument.

In 2011, both Houses of Congress, led by efforts of Rep. Jeff Miller, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and others, unanimously approved the installation of the Jewish Chaplains Monument to honor 14 heroes from WWII to the Cold War.

Many veterans interest and advocacy groups beyond the NCMAF support the movement to update the monument. They include Departments of the American Legion, the Association of the U.S. Army, and the Navy Chaplains Foundation. They also have the support of bipartisan Congressional leadership who are actively considering proposing legislation to address this impasse.

The project requires approval from the Virginia Historical Association, The Washington DC Fine Arts Commission, the United States Congress, and the Department of the Army.

To move forward, the NCMAF is requesting an exemption from Congress to honor, in this update, the six chaplains who have died in Post 9-11 service.

A July 28th public hearing held virtually at Arlington National Cemetery, which approved monuments honoring the Apollo 1 astronauts and OSS personnel who died in WWII service, deferred on the proposal submitted by the NCMAF in July 2019, citing conflict with a regulation that requires an honoree must be deceased 25 years prior to being honored at an ANC Memorial.

"The six chaplains who died in Iraq and Afghanistan are heroes to America's young veterans," said Ken Kraetzer of the Sons of the American Legion located in White Plains, NY. "Their families deserve this small act of closure from a grateful nation."

NCMAF is also proposing a means to honor future casualties from the Military Chaplains Corp. who fall outside the current Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faith groups.

**The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF)** is the umbrella organization for 95 U.S. faith groups and the professional clergy representatives who endorse Military and V.A. chaplains. It has erected several monuments on Chaplains Hill in Arlington National Cemetery honoring chaplains who have perished while in our Nation's service. During the last 75 years, monuments were placed to honor Roman Catholic and Jewish chaplains reflecting the ongoing sacrifice of these warriors of faith. More information about the [NCMAF](http://NCMAF.net) (NCMAF.net) and this project is available on [Facebook@ChaplainsHillANC](https://www.facebook.com/ChaplainsHillANC).

## List of the Protestant Chaplains Following WW II

	Name	War	Service	Rank	Denomination	Born	Died
1	Burdue, Wayne H.	Korea	Army	MAJ	Disciples of Christ	03/25/05	07/31/51
2	Byrd, Wendell Forrest	Korea	Army	CAPT	Church of God	12/12/10	10/27/51
3	Conner, James W.	Korea	Army	CAPT	Episcopalian	11/16/16	12/01/50
4	Crane, Robert Milton	Korea	Army	CAPT	Episcopalian	06/06/16	03/11/52
5	Hyslop, Kenneth C.	Korea	Army	CAPT	Baptist	04/01/16	12/12/50
6	Lee, Byron Dale	Korea	Army	CAPT	Nazarene	02/08/17	07/25/50
7	Roberts, James W.	Korea	Air Force	MAJ	Methodist	11/14/14	07/28/54
8	Simpson, Samuel R.	Korea	Army	CAPT	Methodist	03/20/05	11/30/50
9	Wilson, Kenneth C.	Korea	Army	MAJ	Episcopalian	10/27/05	01/23/53
10	Beasley, Albert E.	Cold War	Air Force	CAPT	Baptist	04/21/02	01/04/49
11	Cagle, Evered D.	Cold War	Air Force	CAPT	Baptist	04/27/21	12/22/58
12	Carter, Troy G.	Cold War	Army	MAJ	First Assembly of God	07/07/44	12/12/85
13	Ledbetter, Robert Lee	Cold War	Navy	LT	Baptist	06/13/47	10/15/85
14	Bartley, Don L.	Vietnam	Army	LTC	Presbyterian	07/27/32	06/08/69
15	Brown, Merle Dewayne	Vietnam	Army	CAPT	Lutheran, Missouri Synod	10/01/38	04/11/71
16	Feaster, William N.	Vietnam	Army	CAPT	Congregational	05/14/38	10/26/66
17	Granda, Ambrosio S.	Vietnam	Army	MAJ	Methodist	08/22/32	06/13/67
18	Heinz, Roger William	Vietnam	Army	MAJ	Lutheran, Missouri Synod	03/11/36	12/09/69
19	Johnson, James J.L.	Vietnam	Army	CAPT	Baptist	06/05/33	03/10/67
20	Nichols, Phillip A.	Vietnam	Army	CAPT	Assemblies of God	10/25/40	10/13/70
21	Goetz, Dale A.	War on Terror	Army	CAPT	Baptist	02/24/67	08/30/10
22	Jack, Edward Eugene	War on Terror	Navy	LCDR	Lutheran	02/05/53	01/29/05
23	Moore, Joseph A.	War on Terror	Air Force	LTC	Baptist	01/11/54	05/20/08
24	Oglesby, Gordon E. Jr.	War on Terror	Army	LTC	Baptist	09/19/49	11/25/06
25	Thornton, Steven W.	War on Terror	Army	MAJ	Nazarene	01/09/59	04/18/05