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Monthly Newsletter

July 2025



“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

It was Thursday, July 4, 1776. After years of unjust acts by Britain, the Colonies declared their independence. So begins the story of the United States of America and for the past 243 years, the story of our country has been marked by incredible success, significant loss, and an undying spirit.

I truly believe in America the Beautiful, but I also believe that we have lost our way. While I am not of the opinion that the Founding Fathers were all born-again Christians, it is evident that there was a shared reliance upon God from

the very foundation of our Nation. These phrases from the Declaration of Independence indicate that this indeed was the case.

“...to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them...”

“...endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...”

“...appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions...”

“...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence...”

There is a need for us to return to beginning; to the time when it was realized that it would take more than man's wisdom to create a country, more than man's strength to secure a nation, more than man's insight for America to be beautiful. We would need to rely upon our Creator, the Supreme Judge, divine Providence. We would need to rely on God.

I don't believe everyone understood or approached God the same way at the beginning of our country. However, there was a consistent, generally accepted reliance upon and adherence to the Judeo-Christian worldview. This worldview, based on God's Word, provides guidance on how America can be beautiful. Proverbs 14:34 says, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.” For America to be beautiful, we need to return to righteousness; right living, right choices, right ways. And right is defined as it has always been defined, by absolute truth; God's truth.

The interesting thing about beauty is that it truly is in the eye of the beholder. Many would choose to look at our country today and see anything but beauty. And while we indeed have many flaws, faults, and scars as a Nation, I choose to see in America a Nation that God has blessed and a Nation that God has called to be beautiful for the sake of the world.

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

As we consider America the Beautiful, let's not forget the closing words of the Declaration of Independence. “And for the support of this Declaration, with a

firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

--Chaplain Joe LaCognata

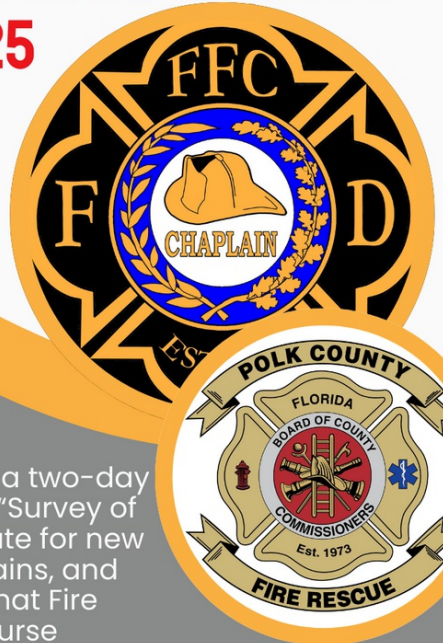
ESSENTIALS OF FIRE CHAPLAINCY

AUGUST 19TH AND 20TH, 2025

8:00-5:00

POLK COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

Polk County Fire Rescue
Training Facility
2740 Clower Lane
Bartow, FL 33830



- Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy is a two-day course designed to serve as a “Survey of Fire Chaplaincy”. It is appropriate for new Chaplains, experienced Chaplains, and those who just want to learn what Fire Chaplaincy is all about. The course includes classes in ministry to Firefighters, Ministry to People in Crisis, Managing Stress, Fire Departmentt Funerals, Fire Chaplain Operations, and many others.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Chaplaincy Foundations
- Ministry to Firefighters, Ministry to people in Crisis
- FD Funerals
- Fire Department Chaplain Operations
- Helping Firefighters manage stress & more!

REGISTER NOW

[HTTPS://FFC.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/EVENT-6175652](https://ffc.wildapricot.org/event-6175652)

\$250

LEAD INSTRUCTOR:
CHAPLAIN MILTON SMITH

📞 727-798-5718



HUMAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE **SIDE**

I AM THEIR BROTHERS & SISTERS **KEEPER**

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

These words from Genesis are found surrounding the earliest of relationships. Today, the question remains - "Am I my brother's keeper?"

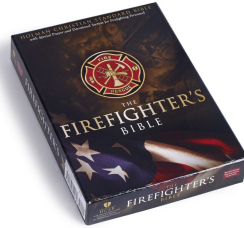
I believe the answer must be a strong "YES!" I believe we have an opportunity and responsibility to one another. This is especially true in the fire service.

The amount of time spent together gives us the opportunity to get to know one another well. We get glimpses into each others lives - the good, the bad, and the ugly. The intensity of the work we do gives us the responsibility to keep each other safe. And this is more than keeping each other from getting hurt on scene.

But here's what I've found - the brotherhood is everything until it is nothing. We are amazing at being there for each other, but also I'm amazed at how quickly we can turn some away.

"Am I my brother's keeper?"

It's a question as old as time. We must answer it with a strong "YES!"



Click image for more information

Faith in the Fire

Chaplain Joe LaCognata shares about some of the unique challenges faced while trying to live out faith in the fire service.



Each month, in an effort to continue to promote the conversation about critical incident stress management, we'll discuss a topic relative to crisis intervention. This will be helpful as a refresher to those who have already been trained, as well as something to create interest among those who have not.

Compassion Fatigue

You might not think of it this way, but there is a price we pay because we care about the people around us. And while we show concern for all those we serve, there are times we are impacted more deeply.

Compassion fatigue is the weight we may feel due to situations we respond to

every day. While not every call has an emotional impact on us, compassion fatigue can be more prevalent when we have a strong connection to trauma survivor. This can be the case when we see someone we know in the eyes of our patient or when we have been in situations like the call we are on.

While the fact that we hurt because we care is a reminder that we are very human, compassion fatigue is something we must pay close attention to. It is a form of stress that we must learn to manage and not allow to pile up on us.

[Click here](#) to see the impact that caring for others can have on us.



Upcoming CISM Training

July 22-24, 2025
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

September 23-25, 2025
Palm Bay, FL

Contact us to host training at your agency

[**Click here for more information and to register**](#)



Stress Management Information

Click the logo for information on how to better manage your stress.



In Remembrance

The following firefighters died in the line of duty during the month of June

6/5 - Firefighter Jake Bridges - Hickory, NC

6/14 - Firefighter Violet Caramella - Asheville, NC

38 firefighters have died in the line of duty in 2025



Our Vision

Imagine an organization committed to one task – supporting fire rescue personnel. From their work in the field to their lives at home, picture an organization working to equip these first responders to be more successful on the job and in life. Envision an organization that extends the support of those serving in fire rescue by offering care and comfort to the people they serve. Finally, picture an organization that would impact emergency services workers all across the country. That organization is Fire Rescue Support – supporting fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call.



Donate Today

As a non-profit organization, Fire Rescue Support operates thanks to the generosity of individuals, churches and other organizations. You can give online by clicking the PayPal logo.



**FIRE RESCUE
SUPPORT INC**



Support your favorite local charity every time you shop.

Donate your change by automatically rounding up your orders to the nearest dollar at checkout.

Round Up at Walmart

You can help Fire Rescue Support every time you shop at Walmart. Choose our organization and round up your purchase.



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