



National Chaplain Event

May 17-19, 2024

**Honoring
VFW National Chaplain
2023-2024**

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 provided. This was a special event not duplicated anywhere else in the world.

Unfortunately, a few years ago, the tradition had stopped when Post leadership changed. Past National Chaplain, 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 Rev. Peter R. Hook from Department of PA served as National Chaplain. The second "National Chaplain Event" took place May 18-20, 2018, and VFW National Chaplain, Rev. James Gray from Department of GA was honored. VFW National Chaplain, Charlene Cobb, from Wisconsin was honored May 17-19, 2019. In May 2020-2022 the events honoring Rev. Jim Jenkins from Kansas, Father Joseph Gallick from Massachusetts, and Harold Sayles from Virginia had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The tradition continued in May 19-21, 2023, when Debb Halter from Missouri was honored. This year, May 17-19, 2024, we look forward to honoring David Frei from Idaho.

Check-in is Friday evening, May 17, 2024, and we will be having dinner together at the East Berlin Post at 6:00 pm. On Saturday, Armed Forces Day, a special guided tour of the Gettysburg battlefield by Chaplain John Wega has been planned. Chaplain Wega is an expert, not only in Civil War history, but in the role Chaplains and faith played in the Civil War. Then, on Saturday evening there will be a dinner and program honoring our special guest, our VFW National Chaplain.

This event is open to Chaplains, spouses, and anyone else who would like to attend. Contact Department of PA State Chaplain Rev. Peter R. Hook. (Cell: 267-229-7722 or Email: PeterHook@verizon.net)



VFW NATIONAL CHAPLAIN'S EVENT

Richard J. Gross Post 8896

107 Locust Street

East Berlin, PA 17316

(717) 259-0124

Friday, May 17, 2024

Arrival at Hotels / Bed & Breakfast

6:00 pm - Dinner at East Berlin VFW Post 8896: 107 Locust Street, East Berlin, PA 17316 (717) 259-0124

Presentation of Gift to Spouses/significant Other

Civil War Presentation by Don & Becky Becker

Presentation of NECCO Wafers and Explanation

8:00 pm - Informal gathering at VFW Post 8896

Saturday, May 18, 2024

TOUR OF GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD

9:15 am - Meet at the Gettysburg Museum & Visitors Center, 1195 Baltimore St., Gettysburg

9:30 am - See movie / Cyclorama

11:00 am - Visit Museum / Gift Shop / Lunch in cafeteria

12:00 pm - Board Bus for Tour

(Monuments and other sites we plan to see)

Pennsylvania Monument

Various other State Monuments (Arkansas)

Peace Light

Site where Catholic Priest prayed for and encouraged troops

Devil's Den

Little Round Top (high ground) occupied by Union troops

Picket's Charge near PA monument & from Southern side

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

6:00 pm - Dinner at - VFW Post 8896

107 Locust Street East Berlin, PA 17316 (717) 259-0124

Following Dinner and Program: Informal fellowship at East Berlin VFW

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Breakfast and depart for home