



Catholic War Veterans of the USA  
Father Vincent Capodanno Memorial Post  
*To Heal, Serve, Love, Listen*

Forty-seventh Edition

est. 11/24/2015

January 2020



Father Vincent Robert Capodanno, M.M.

**MEETING NOTICE**  
**NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY**  
**February 5th AT 7:00 PM**  
**At Our Lady of Mercy Country**  
**Home**  
**2115 Maturana Dr.**  
**Liberty MO 64068**

**DUES**

For Catholic War Veterans, our membership year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30. So for, this membership year shows that we are nine members who have not renewed. If you are one of the nine, I urge you to please renew as soon as possible. If you cannot pay, for whatever reason, let me know, and arrangements will be made. Just make your check or money order for \$30.00 out to CWV Post 1974 and sent it to CWV Post 1974 at the address above. Thank You

**LET'S LOOK BACK**

They say that life is like a roll of toilet paper, the closer you get to the end the faster it goes by, and this year really went by fast.

Since there was no meeting this month, I thought I would sum up what went on throughout the past year.

In January, Pope Frances announce the ordination of two new bishops to assist the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Bishop William (Bill) Muhm, besides serving in various parishes in the New York area also served as a Navy Reserve Chaplain with Fleet Hospital 22 from 1996 to 1998. In 1998, Father Muhm returned to active duty as a navy chaplain, and served until he retired from active duty in 2018. He replaces replace Bishop Coyle, who was transferred last year as an Auxiliary to the diocese of Rockville Centre, NY.

Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, while still in seminary, Father Coffey was given permission by Cardinal Bevilacqua to enter the U.S. Navy Chaplain Candidate Program in May of 1992 with the rank of Ensign. He stayed in the Navy Reserve for the next nine years. After five years in parish ministry, he was given permission by Cardinal Bevilacqua for full-time active duty as a Navy Chaplain in September of 2001. When Bishop Coffey was ordained as bishop, he was still on active duty. Ann Puck and I had the honor of visiting with him during the National Convention this past August in San Antonio Texas. He replaces Bishop Higgins, who is retiring.



**Ann Puck, Bishop Coffey, John Kopp**

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On Tuesday evening, March 26th, our post along with St. James Military Outreach Ministry presented the movie "The Weight of Honor", a documentary dealing with the role of caregivers for our wounded military after they come home and the struggles and trials their families must deal with.

While the attendance was small, I think those who did attend learned a lot about care givers and what it really takes.

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On Saturday morning, May 18, 2019, Ann Marie Roberts, our service officer and welfare officer, and Gary Puck, before a large crowd, exchanged their solemn vows and became husband and wife. In a beautiful ceremony at St. James Parish in Liberty, MO. the couple was blessed by Father Michael Roach. We wish them all the happiness that our loving God can give them as they begin their new life together.



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In the June edition of our newsletter I reported the following:

Early in the year, three area residents and the District of Columbia-based American Humanist Association, which includes atheists and agnostics file suit in federal court stating that the Bladensburg Cross, a WWI Memorial erected to honor the citizens of Bladensburg, MD. Who gave their lives during WWI should not be on public land and should be moved to private property. The lower court agreed with American Humanist Ass. and stated that the cross be removed from public land.

Major General Patrick Brady and several veterans groups joined together and appealed to the Supreme Court. The Alliance Defending Freedom submitted the brief to the Supreme Court.

The participants in this action are as follows:

Major General Patrick H. Brady, (United States Army, Retired), American Legion Posts 173 (Hays Kansas), American Legion Post 291 (Newport Beach, Ca.), The Society of 40 Men and 8 Horses Voiture 1543 (Hays, Kansas, Marine Corps League Detachment 740 (Hays, Kansas), Patriot Outreach, Father Vincent Capodanno, MM Memorial Post 1974, Catholic War

Veterans of the USA (Liberty, MO), and Combat Veterans for Congress PAC.

Due to the efforts of the above mentioned people and groups, the Supreme Court overturned the lower court's ruling.

What this means is that past monuments will not have to be removed because they "offend someone", monuments like the thousands of crosses in our national cemeteries and other public places. It also means that future monuments, such as the Hays Kansas and Parkville Memorial can actually contain quotes from the Bible and various other religious symbols.

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In August, Ann Puck, Tony Monaco and I attended the CWV national convention in San Antonio Texas. Ann was selected as National Service Officer. After a lot of pleading, I was finally allowed to give a very brief talk about the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Bladensburg Cross.

I also had the honor of going to dinner where Tony Monaco and a couple of others were planning a relatively new project. Doctor Bradley Beckel has started a program called Smiling Vets. Doctor Beckel is a dentist in San Antonio and his program has to do with serving veterans with a real need for dental services, like reconstruction, implants, etc. free for the vet. His plan is to have Smiling Vets go nationwide.



**Left to right, Commander Kopp, General Brady, Doctor Beckel, Tony Monaco**

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On Sunday evening, September 22nd our own Ann Marie Puck presented a program on suicide prevention. The presentation was held at the VFW post 1000 in Independence MO. Ann, our own service officer, received her training and materials through the DAV Chapter ten.

We can, and should be, very proud of Ann. I can't even begin telling how much she has done for our post and veterans through the various organizations with which she belongs.



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Again this year we were blessed to be able to have our annual Father Vincent Capodanno memorial Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home in Liberty. We were honored to have Fr. Michael Volkmer CppS as celebrant.

Being the feast of St. Mathew the apostle was very fitting. The Gospel of the day mentioned how Jesus came to save sinners with out regard to their race, color, or creed. This is just what Father Capodanno did in Vietnam. He didn't care anything about the people he served except that they were all children of God.

Also, our thanks and prayers go out to the wonderful Sisters at Our Lady of Mercy for everything they do for us. They all are truly a blessing from God to everyone they meet.

After the Mass, Ann Puck presented the first ever Saint Oscar Romero award to Hermann Schmit for all he does for everyone in our post, in his parish, and everywhere he goes.

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In the evening of September 11th, several of the members of our post ventured to Mount Olivet, a Catholic Cemetery in Kansas City to participate in the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. It was a very moving event, and as you can see from the pictures below, quite a few organizations were represented, including several Veterans Organizations.

With us were the boy scouts from the troop from St. James Parish in Liberty, Mo. They assisted in greeting the people as they arrived and handing out the programs.

Along with the tribute to all the first responders, Police, Firemen, other First responders, there was also a wonderful tribute and thanks to all veterans. We were asked to stand up and were thanked.

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On November 4th, once again we ventured to Kansas City, Kansas for the annual Heart of America StandDown.

Every time I attend a stand down it really breaks my heart to so many of our fellow veterans in such desperate need. I just wonder how all those selfserving polititions who stand around collecting our taxes and spending them on their

pet projects all the while ranting and raving just how much they support our veterans.

The doors opened around 7 A.M. and the above pictures were taken around noon. Look at the line, It makes your heart break. In our country events like the Stand Downs should never be necessary.



The tables you see are the various organizations in the area that provide services for veterans from housing to financial help, to funeral arrangements, etc., even reentry assistance for veterans previously incarcerated.

We had our table set up and our fabulous service officer, Ann Puck, was able to assist several of the veterans who came buy our table. There are two Stand Downs in the Kansas City area. In the spring one is held at the St. Michael's Veterans Center located by the VA Hospital. In the fall it is held at the Memorial Hall in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Salvation Army and the Red Cross have their vans there serving hot drinks and doughnuts and biscuits and gravey until around noon when the Stand Down provides a hot lunch.

To give you some idea of the significance of the StandDowns, here are the statistics from this year's event:

Following are the statistics from Nov 8. 2019 Stand Down in KCK:

537 people attended with: 91% (489) identifying as Veterans, 2.4% (13) family of Veterans and 6.5% (35) visitors to Stand Down.

Demographics of the Veterans attending:

7% (34) were Female

93% (455) were Male

Validity of ethnicity data is unreliable so not included this year.

6% (29) of the Veterans attending were OEF/OIF/OND era, with 21% (6) reporting chronically homeless, 27% (8) reporting non-chronic homeless and 52% (15) reporting non-homeless.

Age:

1% (5) identified as age 20 -29,

5% (25) identified as age 30-39,

6% (30) identified as age 40-49,

29% (144) identified as age 50-59,

44% (216) identified as age 60-69,

12% (57) identified as age 70-79,

2.4% (12) identified as age 80 and above.

Housing status for Veterans in attendance:

25% (124) of the Veterans in attendance reported homelessness, with 18% (89) reporting chronic homelessness of which 2% (2) were female (2) and 98% (87) male.

Of the non-chronic homeless Veterans 7% (35) in attendance, 95% (33) were male and 5% (2) female

Of the homeless: 40% (50) reported Living on street/car/vacant bldgs..

59% (73) reported residing in a Shelter.

18% (88) of the Veterans attending reported residing with Friends/family and 57% (278) reported residing in their own home.

Veteran Verification:

2% (10) of the attendees reporting Veteran status at registration were unable to be verified due to no history with VHA and no ability to conduct a record search during this stand down.

I believe by "attendees" they mean everyone involved with the StandDown such as CWV, DAV, Catholic Charities, etc., and the homeless and needy veterans.

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VETERANS DAY

This year, Col. Tony Monaco (founder and CEO of Patriot Outreach), Jack Le Roy, and I were invited to participate in the Veterans Day Celebration which was held at the Moberly Correctional Center in Moberly Missouri.

The ceremony was very moving. After the posting of the colors, our National Anthem was beautifully sung, correctly, by one of the veterans. Then the ceremony consisted of a person sharing his experience, thoughts, or other related subject followed by music. The music was either one or two people playing and singing, or, like the last one, a solo. The last musical was called "The 21 Gun Salute." It was a drum

piece and the musician reminded me of Gene Kurpa playing "Let There Be Drums". And he was that good.

After all of this, three veterans received medals from the Governor. Then Col. Monaco, Chaplain Le Roy, and I were call to the podium. We were presened with hand drawn pictures, noted below.

After the ceremony and we had several minutes to visit with the veterans and other guests. Then it was off for a tour of the Veterans Wing. This wing consists, presently, of around 65 incarcerated veterans. These gentlemen earn entrance into this wing and are bound to follow rules that somewhat differ from the general population. But, it comes with several perks. They had a wide screen TV, a computer, a microwave, an area for games, artwork, etc.

The entire experience was extremely humbling. It was such an honor to have been asked and to have been included in the ceremony. The security, staff, and inmates could not have been kinder, more curious, I'm running out of adjectives.

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So, you can see from the above that our post has been active over the past year, and we will continue to do whatever we can for our veterans, active duty, guard personnal, families and our youth.

I would venture to say that most, if not all, of our members are members of other veteran service organizations, such as VFW, American Legion, DAV, Etc. So, you know the importance of reporting any activity that is performed. You may or may not realize that what you do from one organization, you are doing that same function for all of the organizations to which you belong.

Our post also reports, twice a year, on the activities (hours, travel miles, fiancial assistance, etc.). Since the members of our post are spread out over the entire country, we need for everyone to send us some sort of report of any activity. Below are the areas on which we report. If you perform any of the activities or assist or travel pertaining, or spend (donate) money of them, please send in a report. You can either snail mail it to:

CWV Post 1974  
2115 Maturana Dr.  
Liberty MO.

Email to: [post1974@cwv.org](mailto:post1974@cwv.org)

Americanism -  
Patriotism  
Honor our Flag  
Elections  
Community Activities  
Secularism – Fight Pornography  
Secularism – Substance Abuse  
Support Our Troops

Catholic Action  
Support of Vocations  
Spiritual Bouquet for the Holy Father  
Cause for Fr. Emil J. Kapaun  
Cause for Fr. Vincent R. Capodanno  
Keep Christ in Christmas Program  
The Rosary Program  
Rosary Decade-a-Day  
Pro-Life Activities  
Charitable Donations – AM or CA

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Youth Activities  
Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest  
What Does the Pledge of Allegiance Mean to Me  
Essay Contest  
Patriotic School of the Year

VOLUNTEER & ASSISTANCE  
VAVS – VA Medical Center  
VAVS – VA Outpatient Clinic  
VA Parties for patients, residents  
Care Packages  
Greeting / Sympathy Cards  
Vet Fairs, Stand Downs, Homeless  
Referrals to Service Officer

SPIRITUAL & HONORS  
Parish Veteran Ministry  
Hospice, nursing home, sick visit  
Assist Chaplain  
Honor Guard  
Blue/Gold Ceremony  
Decorate Graves

OTHER WELFARE ACTIVITIES  
Family/Military Support Groups  
Support for needy families  
Community Service

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