



ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Prayer, Study, and Service

SEPTEMBER 2025 **The Episcopal and Anglican Newsletter of Men's Ministry**



VETERANS MINISTRY

WAYS TO SERVE, SHARE, INVITE, AND ENGAGE

**WE ARE THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW, A LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL MEN'S
EPISCOPAL AND ANGLICAN MINISTRY.**

**OUR AREAS OF MISSION FOCUS: DISCIPLESHIP AND MENTORING, PRISON MINISTRIES, RACIAL RECONCILIATION, RECOVERY,
SOCIAL JUSTICE, VETERANS MINISTRIES, YOUTH AND SCOUTING.**

BROTHERSANDREW.NET



WIN FOR YOURSELF, WIN FOR OUR
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW VETERAN'S
MINISTRIES

THE SWEEPSTAKES FOR VETERAN MINISTRIES

By Jeff Butcher, Brotherhood of St. Andrew Stewardship and Generosity Commission Chair

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has been actively involved in promoting and supporting ministry with veterans and their families since World War I. Sixty-six Brotherhood member Episcopal congregations have signed up to be a part of the Veteran-Military Friendly Congregations (VMFC), a program coordinated by the Military Chaplains Association (MCA). There are currently 234 VMFC organizations in the United States. One of our goals is to increase the total number of Brotherhood VMFC congregations by at least 10%. The mission of VMFC is to bring our service men and women closer to God and highlight the healing power of God.



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew "Year of the Veteran" grant giveaway goal is to raise not less than \$25,000. \$2,500 of the funds raised will go to five \$500 sweepstakes winners and the balance of the funds will go to the Brotherhood "Year of the Veteran Grant Fund." The fund will provide competitive grants for congregations that have applied to expand or develop a ministry designed to support active-duty military, guard, reservists or

military veterans. Additionally, these grants may be used to support Gold Star and Blue Star family members and veterans or service members experiencing conditions of disability.

Giveaway ticket sales opened to any individual or congregation beginning September 15 via email at info@brothersandrew.net.

Tickets for the sweepstakes sell for \$10 per ticket or 10 tickets for \$100. Five winners will be computer-selected and announced on Veterans Day 2025, November 11. The remainder of the funds raised will go into the "Year of the Veteran Grant Fund" managed by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Any congregation may apply for one of the anticipated nine \$2,500 competitive grants to be awarded by March of 2026. The number of grants awarded will, of course, depend on the number of sweepstakes tickets sold. To apply for a grant, please send a summary of your project to info@brothersandrew.net with "Veteran Grant Fund Application" in your email subject line.

Questions? Contact the Brotherhood Service Center, using any of the methods listed on the back page of this magazine.



ARIZONA VETERAN'S MINISTRY WITH BROTHERHOOD LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW AND "SERVE THOSE WHO SERVED"

Of all the places Brothers are making a real difference for veterans, no place sets a higher bar than the Diocese of Arizona.



It all began in the Spring of 2014 when the Outreach Committee at All Saints of the Desert in Sun City sponsored the remodeling of one of 134 motel rooms at the newly-opened US VETS Center at 35th and Grand Avenue in Phoenix.



Since then, with strong leadership from members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, five Episcopal congregations have stepped up to fulfill yet another need—hot meals for veterans. Currently, these congregations are providing 75 to 100 hot meals every Friday to veterans residing in the US Vets Grand Village in Phoenix. Since those 2014 beginnings, these five Episcopal congregations have provided more than 36,640 meals. Each parish outreach budget has provided the funds to



support this ministry. Initially, this ministry was serving

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Veteran's Day Is Coming November 11

THREE THINGS YOUR CHAPTER OR MEN'S MINISTRY CAN DO

1. **Connect with others** in your community who are already planning veterans-recognition activities. Find out what your group can do to participate and support these events.
2. **Recognize and appreciate vets** in your own parish, using strategies such as note cards, certificates, invitations to share their story, or a reception in their honor.
3. **Invite vets** to come to your next Chapter or men's ministry meeting. Assure them you want to learn more about them and their experiences defending our country.

WHAT ARE DIOCESE OF ARIZONA BROTHERHOOD GROUPS AND PARISHES DOING?

The All Saints Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter and parish Outreach Committee in Phoenix provides a monthly hot meal to the residents of the Grand Avenue facility. While the facility provides safe affordable housing for the veterans, it is a motel with only hot plates, a microwave, and refrigerator for the vets to prepare food.

All Saints of the Desert became the first congregation to become a Veteran-Friendly Congregation, and since that time has also been providing a monthly hot meal program to 75- 100 Vets at the US VETS Grand Avenue facility (on the 2nd Friday of each month).

Brotherhood members at St. Andrew's in Glendale in 2015 began providing a hot meal on the 3rd Friday of every month at the US Vets Center. They have since recruited a core of volunteers and their ministry is continuing on a monthly basis.

In January of 2016, members of the Veteran's Ministry of St. John the Baptist in Glendale made a decision to add a Veterans feeding ministry to their outreach efforts and began serving on the 1st Friday of each month. St. John's has had an active Veteran's Ministry for a number of years and continues to actively support the Honor Flight program, as well as holding established activities on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Armed Forces Day.

In October 2016, St. Peter's in Litchfield Park made a commitment to join in assisting veterans and scheduled their feeding program on the 4th Friday of each month. St. Peter's also has an active Prison Ministry program as well as many other community outreach projects.

In March 2017, Church of the Advent, Sun City West, began serving on the 5th Friday, which is usually four times a year. With this addition, the US VETS center receives a hot meal every Friday from one of these five Episcopal congregations in the Diocese of Arizona.

Even during COVID restrictions, these parishes kept their veterans feeding services going. Meals were served in takeout containers. The vets picked up their meals from behind a window and went back to their rooms, still reliably receiving weekly meals.

Each congregation appoints a coordinator, and a small committee of volunteers works to plan the meals, purchase the food, and secure plates and needed supplies. On their feeding day, volunteers from the congregation arrive at the church in the morning to prepare and package the meal for transport to the US VETS Center. A small group of volunteers transports the food to the Center and begins serving the vets at noon.

CONFESSIONS OF A COUPLE OF GULF WAR ERA VETS: "WHAT WOULD CAUSE ME TO JOIN YOUR BROTHERHOOD CHAPTER OR MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP?"

They're Gulf War era vets. Self-identified men of faith. Professionals with a family. We asked a couple of them confidentially. What would cause you or your veteran friends to join a Brotherhood Chapter or men's ministry group?

"I've got a lot of other stuff going on in my life. I have to sort of be sold on the idea that it is something attractive enough that I would really want to carve out that time, make it a priority."

POTENTIAL LEARNING: What type of positive, invitational language are you using to describe the value of becoming a part of your Brotherhood Chapter or men's ministry? Far too many of us still tend to speak in terms of what we "used to be" or what we perceive we are lacking (i.e. members, money, volunteers who are willing and able to work or lead, younger men—add your own time-worn expression of lack). What is good about your group RIGHT NOW that would compel someone to join?! Focus on crafting your invitations around that. Practice with others in your group some effective ways to talk about what's good and how to invite in a way that is exciting and positive.

"My vet friends basically just hang out at the American Legion or VFW. We talk, maybe have a beer, watch a game. That's our community."

POTENTIAL LEARNING: So, we want vets to come to us. Here's a radical idea. What if we held our men's ministry gathering and Bible study at our local vets club once or twice? What if we just met some vets there, got to know them a little, and gave them a chance to get to know us? What if we went out on a limb and decided to get out of the church conference room and take our meetings someplace like that even more permanently? Is that something we could see ourselves doing in the name of growth and greater service?

"A lot of people, frankly, don't really understand vets like me. I'm not sure I'm the type of person a group would really want to welcome in with my PTSD, physical limitations, failed relationships, and such. I can be moody and I'm not always the easiest person to be around. I saw some bad things in wartime situations. Things that changed me as a person, probably for always. I'm not sure a

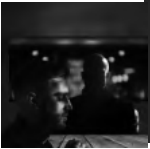


group would ultimately understand or want me around."

POTENTIAL LEARNING: We want to include vets and serve in partnership with them. How much grace are we prepared to extend? How much difference are we determined to embrace in whoever we are seeking to welcome? And how will we always embody that continual hospitality in the ways we hold our meetings and share our ministry projects?

"My experience of men's church groups these days is that they often just aren't that high quality. Not to sound like a snob, but they tend to sort of be stuck in the past, doing the same old things over and over. If I'm going to do Bible study, I want to do a really well-led, challenging, quality Bible study. And I want to do ministry projects that are creative and address old problems in innovative and effective new ways. I'm not interested in doing the same old things year after year just because a group has always done it that way."

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CONFESSIONS

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There—I said it. If I join, I want it to be something really high quality, exciting, and something that I can feel proud of."

POTENTIAL LEARNING: What can your group do, in general, to enhance the quality of your Bible study and mission work? Are you perhaps stuck in a rut, doing the same thing on automatic pilot? How long has it been since you have self-evaluated your program and operations? Potential newcomers are likely watching.

"In the church groups I've experienced before, the closeness of their members has always felt a little bit like a liability. I can see that closeness is great for them but I always feel like kind of an outsider when I'm around people who have already been close friends for 20 or 30 years. I feel like I can't ever catch up and don't exactly fit in. Not sure what to do about that, though."

POTENTIAL LEARNING: Establishing a couple of effective hospitality standards for your long-time members may be in order. For example, what if those of you who have known each other for many years make it your policy to first talk to one person in the room you know much less well for at least the first five minutes you enter a room? Comfortable, deep, long-time friendships are a major strength of the Brotherhood. But, examining how newcomers may fit into that dynamic could be an important conversation to have.

"Anytime I've ever joined a church group I'm always immediately pressured into leading something, taking on some responsibility usually related to something in my professional work life, when what I really want for a while is just to ease into things and just BE. I end up feeling guilty that I'm disappointing people and just sort of gradually back away and disappear."

POTENTIAL LEARNING: It can be tempting to see a newcomer among us and immediately entertain visions of "new committee chair" or "head of finance." How well is your Brotherhood or men's ministry group doing at just listening, letting newcomers ease into things, and just "be" for a

while?

"I'm not sure how to say this diplomatically but a lot of church groups just immediately telegraph their desperation to get me to join. I don't want to join in with a group that seems too desperate! It just isn't a good look for any kind of group!"

POTENTIAL LEARNING: Are you, individually or collectively, unintentionally communicating desperation to potential members? While you certainly may be concerned about issues around decline or rebuilding, no one is attracted to desperation. Continually examine your behaviors and how you talk about your group with others. Hold each other accountable for negative group talk. Focus on your abundance and the group value you want to share with others.

"All I need from a men's group—any kind of group—right now is to have fun. That may sound selfish or self-serving. But my life right now is a pressure cooker! I just want to do something fun in what little free time I can manage to get."

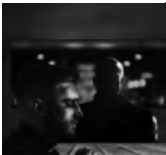
POTENTIAL LEARNING: Is your Brotherhood Chapter or men's ministry group having fun? If not, why not?! What can you do to inject more fun into your time together?

"I'm far from perfect and I've got a lot of issues I'm not ready to talk about yet. I'm conversely dealing with the need for some accountability in certain areas of my life related to some bad habits I developed around my military service. I know these church men's groups have times for deep discussion and the offering of prayers. I'm not ready to be that vulnerable, honestly. A big part of me knows I need community but another part of me lives for isolation. I don't want to feel pressure. It feels hard to think about trying to fit in."

POTENTIAL LEARNING: Men come at intimate discussion and prayer group sharing experiences from many different places in life. Is your group actively working to help all men feel comfortable, accepted, and included, no matter where they are in their journey? Are you able to accept that not everyone can immediately embrace the level of

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Have you talked to Veterans in your congregation or area to see what would bring them to your men's ministry or Brotherhood Chapter?



CONFESSIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

sharing you have come to appreciate and expect from your group? This may be something you want to talk about in your group as you work to grow and incorporate new persons in your midst.

"What do I really want as a vet in a church men's group? I guess what I most want, even if it sounds a little selfish, is just to be accepted and appreciated without the pressure of a lot of expectations."

POTENTIAL LEARNING: How are you doing at appreciating vets in your men's ministry and your church? Everyone longs for acceptance and appreciation. For vets, those needs can sometimes feel even more acute. What can you do, as a group, to build greater recognition among your group and among the vets in your church and community? It doesn't take a lot. Listening... a cup of coffee... a birthday card... an invitation for golf or maybe a ticket to a spectator sport... a compliment... a certificate of appreciation. With Veteran's Day coming up in November, opportunities especially abound. The point is to ease them into your group with appreciation, recognition, and acceptance, allowing them to grow into your group and move into leadership and commitment as they feel ready. Remember—relationship building is a journey, not just a destination.

SOME RESOURCES FOR YOUR CHAPTER OR MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP TO CONNECT AND GET STARTED ON YOUR OWN VETERAN'S MINISTRIES INITIATIVES

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Veteran's Ministries Vice-President

Jack Hanstein

Email: jack.hanstein@brothersandrew.net

Phone: 623-512-7608

Veteran / Military Ministry

Episcopal Diocese of Arizona

114 W. Roosevelt St.

Phoenix, AZ 85003

Web: azdiocese.org/veterans-ministry

Email: vetmilministryazdiocese@gmail.com

**JOIN US FOR OUR BROTHERHOOD OF ST.
ANDREW MIDDAY PRAYER**

WEDNESDAYS

AT 1 P.M. EASTERN TIME VIA ZOOM

ZOOM MEETING ID 893 4148 8609

PASSCODE: 0723



MONTHLY WEBINAR

FIRST WEDNESDAY WEBINARS

Our monthly webinars are always on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m./Eastern.

HERE'S THE LINK:

[BROTHERHOOD OF SAINT ANDREW MONTHLY WEBINAR](#)

MEETING ID: 851 3889 2685

PASSCODE: 0723



SERVE THOSE WHO SERVED

(Continued from page 3)

WHAT SERVICES MIGHT VETERANS IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEED?

1. **Food**—hot meals or groceries.
2. **Assistance** with housing and/or utilities.
3. **Transportation** for medical appointments, church and church activities, family visits, and other life enrichment opportunities.
4. **Mental health services**, especially for those experiencing PTSD.
5. **Companionship**—a listening ear, someone to spend time with them and just watch TV, play a game, or attend a sports activity or other fun event.
6. **Pets and support/food** for their pets.
7. **Recognition** and appreciation.
8. **Clothing** appropriate to the changing seasons.
9. **Someone** to ensure they are remembered and included on holidays and special occasions such as their birthday.
10. **Support** to help them negotiate the benefits they are entitled to as veterans.

Can you think of anything else? What could your Chapter or men's ministry do?

Another idea—contact a military chaplain in your local community for some conversation. You can reach a chaplain through your local military recruiting office, hospital, or community Internet bulletin board services.



65-70 meals each week. As the number of Veterans served continued to increase, assistance was requested from the Diocese of Arizona outreach fund. In November of 2023, the diocese awarded this ministry an \$8,000 grant to augment the parish funding needed to provide these meals. And all of this ramped up with the enthusiastic, dedicated leadership of Brothers in these congregations and the diocese.

In 2022, St. John the Baptist, Glendale, inaugurated a charity Golf Tournament to raise funds for "Paws for Vets," an organization that trains service dogs for vets

experiencing conditions of disability. Over the past three years, this ministry has been able to provide funding to train five service dogs to assist disabled Veterans

In October 2021, Bishop Reddall of the Diocese of Arizona, appointed The Rev. Laura Adelia as the coordinator of Veteran's Ministry for the Diocese. Its mission: To honor, serve, and support veterans, military service members, and their families in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona.

Why was this ministry established and given such leadership by the diocese, in addition to the Brotherhood of St. Andrew?

In Arizona, there are...

- Over a half a million veterans.
- 20,000+ active duty & 14,000+ National Guard and reservists.
- Thousands of military family members, Gold Star families, Retirees, Department of Defense employees and other agencies that serve with the military.

The purpose of this the diocesan Veteran's Ministry is to assist, guide, and partner with churches, organizations, and the people in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona who are engaged in ways of best serving their veteran and military members. The diocesan Veteran's Ministry team includes four current or past members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.



Veteran Ministry Marks 10th Anniversary

In January 2014, Brother Robert Certain, USAF Colonel Retired and clergy, posted a story in **THE CROSS OF ST. ANDREW** entitled “*The Burden of a Peace Dividend*.” Father Certain made a plea to “help veterans adjust to changed circumstances” for those men and women who had been deployed in harm’s way.

The Brotherhood added Veterans Affairs as a separate ministry on Veterans Day November 11, 2014. President Robert Dennis made the announcement to the general membership effective immediately. President Dennis said, “The suicide rate, broken families, and unemployment among families is inconceivable to all of us.”

Father Certain went on to say, “Here are some probabilities our young warriors will face. Many of our people (veterans and civilians) will be out of work at a time of very restricted job markets. Military members who retire below age 62 will have their pensions reduced because of the Bipartisan Budget Act, limiting their options further as they seek to transition into the civilian world.”



Brother Robert Certain, USAF
Colonel Retired

These comments were, of course, precursory to the massive Veteran homeless crisis we face today in America.

A Prayer for Veterans Day

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

-from the **Book of Common Prayer**

Father Certain was the rector for St. Peter and St. Paul Episcopal Church in Marietta, GA (until 2012). He was also a Vietnam POW. Everything he said came from the heart of his personal experience. He was the Military Chaplains Association (MCA) Executive Director at the time the 2014 article was published. ([More about Brother Curtain](#))

He wrote, “So, what does that mean for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and our respective parishes? In the coming few years, the Church, and especially the Brotherhood, will have increased opportunities to welcome veterans and to assist them in adjusting to civilian life, changed circumstances and social and spiritual disorientation.”

Further, “Brothers need to have an active outreach to these men and women to invite them into fellowship and leadership in the Church. We need to get to know them, their joys and their sorrows, their hopes and disappointment, and to share the love of Christ with them.”



Under his leadership a new program was launched in Atlanta. It was called “Care for the Troops.” Two Brotherhood members, Colonel John Patton and Everett Price, from St. Peter and St. Paul, were volunteers in those early days. They produced a guidebook to assist congregations designated as Veteran Friendly Congregations (VFC). This military ministry program had four primary purposes:

- Help the congregation maintain an awareness of the existence and needs of those sacrificing their time and effort to support our country, including those in their congregations who are Veterans and sacrificed in the past.
- Create an environment of acceptance for extended family members of Veterans who worship at, or visit, the congregation.

Continued on next page.

- Accept the physical, material, and spiritual needs of military members, Veterans, and their families.
- Provide an open hand to assist in their struggles.

These military ministry programs were intended to be simple and straight-forward, low cost, adaptable within any faith context, and customizable to fit the profile and demographics of any congregation within any faith.



The relationship with the Military Chaplains Association continued to evolve after Colonel Certain stepped down as the Executive Director. "The program was known as Veteran

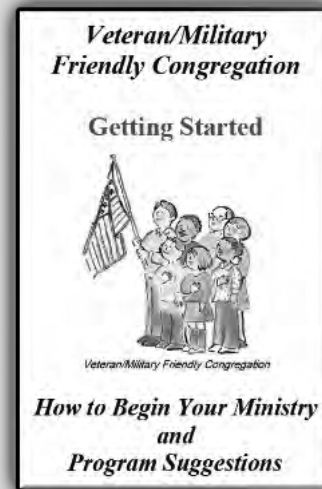
Friendly Congregation Initiative (VFCI) before being changed to the Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation (VMFC)," said Brotherhood of St. Andrew Vice-President for Veterans Everett Price. Other partners included the Episcopal Veterans Fellowship, Austin TX and Vet2Vet, Knoxville, TN.

The VMFC was conceived to promote a sense of community, acceptance and support for Veterans and their families, according to the VMFC web page. (vmfc-usa.org) Launched by Faith-Based Communities, it has become an integral part of the Faith-Based Initiative. The mission is to mobilize an army of Veterans through diverse congregational groups who will support and assist those attending Veterans with special needs relative to their service.

Sgt. Major Stephen Stott, Military Chaplains Association (MCA) stipulated, "A key aspect of our Veteran Friendly Congregation program is building a support structure for military members, veterans, and their family members in every community. We currently have 228 congregations in 22 states. The latest state addition is Michigan. The Anglican Episcopal parishes total 66 (or 29%)."

"Congregations and congregation-based programs are essential to getting this accomplished. Building military ministries in each congregation is our goal. The outreach goal is possible with your support. Almost 50% of our military, Veterans and their families live outside rural communities where limited services are available."

Veteran Military Friendly Congregations (VMFC) is a program that promotes community, acceptance, and support for Veterans and their families. Faith is a proven and fundamental component to healing, recovery, and the mental health well-being of Veterans. As such, the mission of VMFC is to bring our servicemen and women



DOWNLOAD THE GETTING STARTED MANUAL

[Click Here](#)

[Go to the Enrollment Form](#)

closer to God and highlight the healing power of God. By becoming a VMFC, your congregation can provide crucial support and love to Veterans and their family members. Veterans are often reluctant to seek help through traditional avenues and resources, especially concerning mental health issues. However, Veterans are usually more comfortable approaching a clergy person. By becoming a VMFC, you and your congregation can be prepared and equipped to help and counsel Veterans seeking help and resources.

Why your organization should consider being a Veteran Military Friendly Congregation

- Veterans are ten times more likely to approach a clergy person when seeking aid
- VMFC finds, honors, and recognizes Veterans for their service
- Ensures Veterans receive the benefits they need and want
- Provides a higher quality of life for Veterans and their families through information and resources
- Teaches, informs, and increases awareness to Veteran resources
- Finds hurting Veterans and begins to facilitate the help that they need

Benefits of being a Veteran Military Friendly Congregation

- Brings Veterans and their family members back into the congregation
- Brings Veterans closer to God, and highlights the healing power of God
- Provides a wonderful opportunity for community outreach
- Potential for growing and strengthening the congregation
- Builds relationships with the congregation
- Little to no financial impact on congregations

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MCA'S VMFC BOOT CAMP NEXT MONTH

The Military Chaplains Association will conduct a virtual Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation (VMFC) Boot Camp via Zoom on October 16, 2025, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (EDT). The Boot Camp is hosted by MCA's Administration Officer Sgt. Major Stephen Stott.

This is an opportunity to meet some of the MCA VMFC team members and the newly enrolled VMFCs. The Boot Camp is also open to

special guests and interested individuals/ congregations who want to learn more about the VMFC mission.

[Boot Camp Registration Form](#)



FOR ALL BROTHERHOOD VETERAN'S MINISTRY INFORMATION & COORDINATION

Brother Everett Price can be reached at veterans@brothersandrew.com or text 770-634-6880 for more information including Boot Camp registration information.



MILITARY HOLIDAYS YOUR CHAPTER/ CONGREGATION CAN OBSERVE TO HONOR VETS AND ACTIVE SERVICE MILITARY

- **February 3** – Four Chaplains Day – A day to remember the four U.S. Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice when the USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.
- **February 19** – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- **March 3** – Navy Reserve Birthday
- **March 13** – K-9 Veterans Day – Official birthday of the U.S. K-9 Corps. The Army founded the K-9 Corps in 1942 during WWII to train dogs to help troops.
- **March 25** – Medal of Honor Day – A holiday to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States.
- **March 29** – Vietnam Veterans Day – A national holiday to recognize and honor Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War. Learn more about Vietnam Veterans Day here.
- **April 5** – Gold Star Spouses Day – A day that honors spouses who lost their military significant other in the line of duty or because of their military service.
- **April 23** – Army Reserve Birthday
- **May 1** – Silver Star Banner Day – A day to recognize those who have been awarded the Silver Star Medal and the sacrifices of injured and ill servicemembers.
- **May 9** – Military Spouse Appreciation Day – This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.
- **May 13** – Children of Fallen Patriots Day – A day to honor the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom.
- **May 17** – Armed Forces Day – Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **The last Monday in May** Memorial Day – A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military. Learn more about Memorial Day here.
- **June 6** – Anniversary of the World War II Allied invasion in Normandy, France, now known as D-Day.
- **June 14** – Flag Day – A day to celebrate the adoption of the U.S. flag.
- **June 14** – Army Birthday
- **June 23** – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- **June 27** – National PTSD Awareness Day – A day to raise awareness about issues related to PTSD. Find resources for PTSD here.
- **July 4** – Independence Day
- **July 27** – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- **August 4** – Coast Guard Birthday
- **August 7** – Purple Heart Day – A time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were injured in combat or paid the ultimate sacrifice. Learn more about the Purple Heart.
- **August 29** – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday
- **September 11** – Patriot Day – Patriot Day is a solemn observance in the United States, held annually on September 11th to honor the memory of the nearly 3,000 victims who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
- **September 18** – Air Force Birthday
- **September 19** – POW/MIA Recognition Day
- **September 29** – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day – A day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers.
- **October 13** – Navy Birthday
- **October 26** – National Day of the Deployed
- **November 10** – Marine Corps Birthday
- **November 11** – Veterans Day – T Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with holidays in several countries, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which also occur on the anniversary of the end of World War.
- **December 7** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – The anniversary of the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, signaling the United States' entrance into World War II. Learn more about Pearl Harbor Day.
- **December 13** – National Guard Birthday
- **December 20** – Space Force birthday
- **December 20** – National Wreaths Across America Day

[See here for updated list](#)



“Thanks for the letter!!”

-Brother William Funk,

Ventura County, California

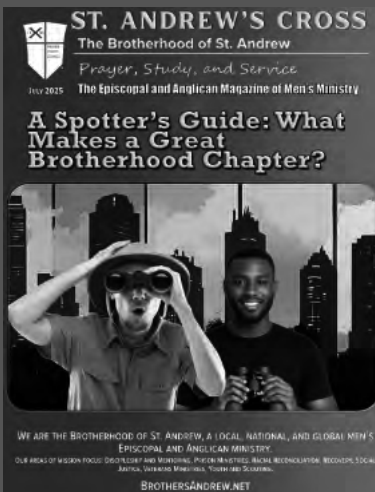
By Tom Welch, Executive Director, Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Not long ago the Brotherhood Service Center snail-mailed a significant number of Life Members for whom we had no email address on file. That process continues on a large scale with Brothers who have become “opt outs,” most of whom were not aware of that status.

In the last few days, we received an email from Brother William Funk in the Diocese of Los Angeles. His email asked that someone call him, so I did. To those of you who know me personally, I am forever connecting the dots. My former Bishop, Brian Seage, was a member of Brother William’s church as he took off for seminary decades ago, later moving to Mississippi to continue his pastoral career after attending Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. Brother William and I had a great conversation. New friendships were made.

We are finding there continues to be a hunger for connection throughout the church regardless of age and other defining factors. If you know of someone who says, “I haven’t heard from or read anything from the Brotherhood office in a long time,” ask them to call us: 502-450-5640. We will respond and update their file with us.

Better yet, if you haven’t seen or heard from a Brother in a long time, call them. It could be the best part of their day.



Proposed Changes to be Considered at Brotherhood of St. Andrew National Council Meeting, December 6

MAKE SURE YOU READ THE JULY 2025 ISSUE OF THE ST. ANDREW'S CROSS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 6, 2025. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS AND BYLAW CHANGES ARE TO BE CONSIDERED.

HOW HAS THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW HELPED YOU DEVELOP AN IMPORTANT FRIENDSHIP OR FRIENDSHIPS?

An abundance of research tells us that loneliness is an ever-increasing problem in our society, particularly among men. Yet, we know men across the church are building and sustaining life-giving friendships through their Brotherhood Chapter or men's ministry.

How has your involvement in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew helped you, personally, build or nurture a friendship or friendships? What are some things your Chapter or men's ministry does to help your group build friendships among one another? Tell us about it and send your reflections to editor@brothersandrew.net. Your personal story may touch others who are longing to make new friends or deepen existing friendships and reach those who may consider becoming a Brotherhood of St. Andrew member themselves.

LAST REMINDER FOR OCTOBER ISSUE.



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS loves to share photos and news from you or your Brotherhood group. Send them along anytime. Here are a few basic ideas to help you.

We welcome...

- General stories and photos about your Chapter or men's ministry activities.
- Stories and photos about your Province meetings or activities.
- Reflections about how you solved a common Brotherhood challenge, such as building attendance or increasing involvement in your project or ministry.
- Points of pride about your Chapter milestones.
- Personal spiritual or biblical reflections.
- Ideas related to the Brotherhood seven areas of mission focus.
- Stories about how you helped mobilize partnerships in your community.
- Practical tips/helps related to common Brotherhood activities out of your own expertise or experience.
- Photos of Brothers you have encountered in other places. For example—at a church you attended during your summer vacation.

Send your contributions in standard MSWord 12 point type with no formatting.

- Attach photos—don't embed them in your story.
- Attach a separate Word document with photo ID's, from left to right, that correspond to your photos. Don't forget to double check the spelling of any names you include. If it isn't obvious, describe what we are seeing in your photo/s and where/when they were taken.
- Email your material to editor@brothersandrew.net. If you have questions or just want to brainstorm an idea, call Kathy at 502-345-6406.

For all you do to make ST. ANDREW'S CROSS fun and informative to read, thank you!

STAY IN THE CONVERSATION

Stay Connected with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew



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PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MAILING ADDRESS

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