

VETERANS AFFAIRS
Massachusetts Knights of Columbus

Both the State Deputy and the Master Fourth Degree support Veteran Affairs. They encourage Grand Knights, Navigators, Officers and everyone to become involved.

Knights of Columbus members have a history of supporting our U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans. This has been done in varied methods.

Request each Grand Knight annually appoint a Veterans Affairs Chairman. Notify the State Chairman Veteran Affairs as to the name, address, telephone number, Council name and number once the council chairman is appointed.

The chairman does not have to be a veteran. Activities and volunteers are not limited to Knights of Columbus members. Family members can be involved. When volunteering at a veteran facility remind our personnel they need to inform the facility volunteer coordinator that they are associated with the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus identification number is 156.

Provided for your current consideration and adoption are a few suggestions as to how you can become involved in supporting our Veterans and active duty personnel. This support and involvement is not limited to the Fourth degree. It includes all members, family and friends of the Knights of Columbus (see attached).

These suggestions are in addition to other Knights of Columbus programs such as Wreaths Across America, Fisher House, Flag Day, etc.

In Massachusetts the Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service program has been expanded to include the U.S. Veterans Affairs Massachusetts National Cemetery located in Bourne, MA. Volunteers are needed Monday thru Friday during cemetery operating hours. Volunteers are needed to be in the reception center to assist visitors in obtaining a named veteran gravesite number and providing a cemetery road map to proceed to a gravesite. In addition volunteers are needed outdoor to assist and augment cemetery staff in the coordination and placement of many funeral processions upon their arrival. You can volunteer for a few hours, one day or multiple days. Each volunteer usage is pre-planned.

Enclosure one is a listing of facilities and point of contact. Some suggestions are contained in the second enclosure. Please encourage personnel in the area to consider an assignment.

If a council has insufficient resources, consideration should be given to have a joint venture with local veteran groups.

Should you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact the State Chairman Veteran Affairs, Deacon Joseph Baniukiewicz

Veteran Facilities and Contacts

Veterans Affairs Medical Hospitals

Bedford—781-687-2352

200 Spring Street, Bedford, MA

Acting Chief V.A. Volunteer Services: Deborah Murchie

K of C Point of Contact

Primary—James Burke 508-478-9813

Brockton—508-583-4500 ext. 61135

940 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA

Chief V.A. Volunteer Services: Mary Girard 774-826-1133

K of C Point of Contact

Primary—Mark Linnane 617-799-4018

Assistant—Paul Bergeron 781-784-6583

Jamaica Plain—857-864-5071

150 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA

Call Chief V.A. Volunteer Services: Mary Peak

K of C Point of Contact

Need K of C member

Northampton—413-582-3042

421 North Main St., Leeds, MA

Chief V.A. Volunteer Services: Anne Murray

K of C Point of Contact

Primary—Robert Williams, Sr. 413-527-0655

West Roxbury—857-203-5135

Chief V.A. Volunteer: Jana Otis 857-203-4135

K of C Point of Contact

Primary—John Amico 617-325-8049

Massachusetts Soldier Homes

Chelsea, MA

K of C Point of Contact

Need K of C members

Holyoke, MA

K of C Point of Contact

Tom Barry 413-323-6700, Archbishop

Dick Fulton 413-533-9312, Fairview

Assembly

Dan O'Connell 413-543-3837, Doyle

Assembly

Massachusetts National Cemetery
Bourne, MA Connery Ave. 508-563-7114
K of C Point of Contact
Primary—Gary Moore 508-759-7655

Veteran Affairs Suggested Activities

Patient facility—After coordination with K of C Point of Contact

- Escort patients to Mass
- Assist mobile patients to reach activities within the facility
- Aid staff based on need and skill of volunteer
- Conduct a recreational event in the facility or council dependent on agreement with facility volunteer representative
- Collect and donate recreational and or personnel need items for patients
- Supplement Chaplain needs at facility
- Consider seasonal decoration of Chapel
- Visit patients
- Provide reading and writing materials
- Each V.A. facility has varied needs

Active Duty personnel

- Work with veteran groups and Veteran Agent to assure community has current name, address of active duty personnel and family point of contact
- Consider sponsoring a Mass for recognition of active duty members and invite family members to Mass.
- Consider holding a social to recognize active duty members and family members.
- Offer assistance to family member while spouse is deployed: i.e., handy man
- Provide family member with prepaid telephone calling card for use by deployed service member.
- Anyone can send AAFES gift card or an AT&T Calling Card to military members. Log on to AAFES.com

Awards

- Council**—Armed Forces Recognition certificate 1471 for presentation to Brother Knight on active duty.
Consider sending to member's unit Commander a letter requesting the Command make a presentation at appropriate formation. Also include on transmittal letter Knights of Columbus appreciation and compliment to all serving in the unit.

- Assembly**—Patriotic Service Award #839 for presentation to Knights of Columbus member as well as non-member for patriotic support.
Multi Purpose Award #2898 normally presented to non-member