

TO HEREBY DECLARE NOVEMBER ‘VETERAN’S MONTH’

WHEREAS, in 1941 Lt. Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur was an Army Air Corps chaplain. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops voted June 17 to advance the cause of canonization for 1st Lt. Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur, a World War II military chaplain, prisoner of war and a Knight of Columbus whose courageous witness in the Pacific theater of the war brought many souls to Christ.

WHEREAS, stationed in the Philippines, Father Lafleur was offered a chance to escape when the Japanese invaded in 1941. When he found out his unit, the 19th Bombardment Group, would not be leaving too, he replied firmly, “Then I shall stay here. My place is with the men.”

WHEREAS, Even more important, Father Lafleur continued to be a spiritual leader. He personally constructed a chapel out of bamboo and wood named The Chapel of St. Peter in Chains and celebrated Mass each morning before the men headed out to work. One soldier recalled that Father Lafleur conserved the wine for consecration by using a medicine dropper.

WHEREAS, For more than 135 years, from the founding members of the Knights who were [Civil War Veterans](#) to the current Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage, the Knights of Columbus has stood in support of the men and women of the armed forces of the countries in which it exists. Since before World War I, the Knights have provided for the spiritual and temporal well-being of our military personnel, and that work has continued too today.

WHEREAS many of our Brother Knights, along with thousands of other servicemen and women, are presently deployed in hostile and unstable regions around the world in efforts to combat terrorism, maintain order, and promote peace.

WHEREAS many of these men and women have heroically given their lives or sustained serious or debilitating injury while deployed in the service of their country; and

WHEREAS Knights of Columbus support for the armed forces dates to World War I and the establishment of more than 100 Knights of Columbus morale centers supporting the welfare of Allied troops under the banner, “Everybody Welcome, Everything Free:”

WHEREAS we are committed to the spiritual welfare of the armed forces through our ongoing support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, which is critical to the formation of new military chaplains.

WHEREAS, by the wearing of the ‘Uniform’ of the Fourth Degree, the Degree of Patriotism, by wearing the Baldric we recognize our bond with our Country and the American Flag, red, white, and blue.

WHEREAS the definition of ‘Patriotism’, Nathanson (1997) claims that patriotism consist of 4 main components which are, a special affection towards one's country; defining himself or herself through his or her country; being interested in country's welfare; and sacrificing for the sake of country's welfare.

WHEREAS the principal of Patriotism is a Cornerstone of our Order. Charity, Unity and Fraternity are valued morals for a Catholic Gentleman, and a Knight of Columbus, however, they would never have existed without Patriotism and our Veterans.

WHEREAS FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will never waver in our commitment to recognize the contributions of every service member on active duty, in the Guard, in the Reserves, and all veterans and retired service members.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we prayerfully support and encourage the families of those servicemen and women who are deployed overseas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to pray for the mission success and the safe return of all military personnel throughout the world, especially those deployed to combat zones.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we now pay tribute to those men and women who have served, especially those who have suffered serious combat injuries, and we pray for the souls of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the service of their country.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus recognize all Veterans for the Month of November.

FURTHER RESOLVED, we ask the Supreme Council to declare the Month of November ‘Veterans Month’.

ATTESTED:

Faithful Navigator

Faithful Scribe

District Master

Vice Supreme Master