



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

Tenth Edition

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December 2016



Father Vincent Robert Capodanno, M.M.

MEETING NOTICE

NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY
January 4th AT 7:00 PM
At Our Lady of Mercy Country Home
2115 Maturana Dr.
Liberty MO

WHAT'S HAPPENING

We have been somewhat busy the past several weeks. We finally got the entire Christmas Poster Coloring contest letters mailed out to all the parishes in our diocese. We are now in the process of sending Christmas cards to all the present and former Chaplains in our diocese and all of the military men and women who are members of St. James parish, the only list to which we have access.

On December 3rd, Ann Roberts and I assisted Love INC conduct their annual Christmas shopping with sever children, followed by a pizza lunch, decorating cookies and a visit from Santa Claus. It was a very enjoyable day.

On Monday, December 5th, we ventured over to Overland Park and assisted our friends at Post 605 of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA in filling bags with several items that the post will be giving to veterans at the VA Hospitals in Leavenworth, Kansas City, and St. Michaels Veteran Center.



A child is born! He is the Son of God

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Now we are in the process of assisting in decorating our post home, Our Lady of Mercy Country Home in preparation for the celebrating the birth of Our Lord.

Top 10 Reasons Veterans Don't Pursue Benefits

1. I don't trust the Government.

Many veterans have indicated that they don't trust their Government in matters of confidentiality and privacy, and therefore, have no interest in pursuing benefits. Veterans from the Vietnam era are particularly sensitive regarding their distrust of the Government. Many veterans from that era have indicated that they had a very bad experience while in uniform, and felt as though the Government is not really inclined to assist or help them. One veteran said, "The Government did me wrong while I was in Vietnam, and I am sure they'll do me wrong again."

2. I didn't know I was eligible.

Far too many veterans are unaware of their eligibility status. Many veterans assume that since they aren't registered to use VA services, they are automatically ineligible for benefits. One veteran said, "I never retired from the military so I always believed I was ineligible for benefits."

3. I am not eligible.

Military discharge status plays in big role in determining if a veteran is potentially eligible for benefits. Honorably discharged veterans are 100% eligible for benefits if they meet the criteria. Veterans with a Bad Conduct Discharge are not eligible for benefits. However, some veterans fall some place between an Honorable Discharge and a Bad Conduct Discharge. For instance, a veteran with a General Discharge is oftentimes eligible for benefits. Best to visit with a Veterans Service Officer to find out if you qualify. One veteran said, "My discharge papers show that I was forced out of the military due to the needs of the Government and my bad foot. I have a General Discharge with medical stipulations. I always thought that made me ineligible for future benefits."

4. I don't want to go through the "red tape."

Many veterans are of the belief that pursuing benefits from the VA is a matter of navigating a very complex and confusing system that involves mounds of documentation. While it may be true that there is a lot of paperwork, most, if not all is handled by a competent VSO and not the veteran. The VSO is trained to work with the bureaucracy, not the veteran, and takes much the complexity away from the veteran. One veteran said, "It's just too confusing to get started."

5. I don't know how.

While there are many veterans service organizations in existence, many veterans do not understand how those organizations can truly help them apply for benefits. Also, many veterans don't know where to begin. One veteran said, "I always thought a VFW was a bar for veterans, and they sit around and swap war stories. I never knew they had staff on board that could help me apply for benefits."

6. I make too much money.

There are many veterans who make over one hundred thousand dollars annually, and are receiving compensation for a service-connected disability. A veterans' disability is independent from their income from other sources, and is not a factor to determine eligibility. There are a few millionaire politicians who are service-connected and receive monthly compensation from a service-connected disability. One veteran said, "I never applied for benefits because I always believed I made too much money to be eligible for compensation."

7. I was denied after the war.

Sure, many veterans are denied after first applying for benefits, whether a few months after serving in a war zone or years later. Bottom line, sometimes it takes a few tries to get it right. One veteran said, "I applied for compensation after being diagnosed with PTSD and was quickly denied. I decided it wasn't worth my time to try again."

8. Don't know what to apply for.

Some veterans have many post war ailments and aren't sure which ones to submit for service-connected compensation, while other veterans appear healthy, except for a few nagging conditions, and aren't sure if their condition would be considered for compensation. Discussing your issue with a respected and competent VSO is very important. They often know what is potentially eligible for compensation and what is not and most importantly, how to get your benefits package started. One veteran said, "I have so many things wrong with me I don't know where to start. If I submit claims for all of my conditions the VA will reject them all thinking I am not telling the truth."

9. I can't prove my health problems are related to my time in the military.

Finding a good VSO is very important in securing disability compensation for a service-connected condition. The VSO will help you connect the dots. Some VSOs are very innovative in helping veterans find the appropriate proof needed for their claims. While other VSOs have great "inside connections" that may be able to locate documents needed to show proof for a veteran. One veteran said, "The VA can't find my medical records so I can't prove I was injured in Vietnam."

10. Other veterans are more deserving.

Too many veterans take this stance to keep themselves from attempting to apply for benefits they may be eligible to receive. The forces and influences that kept many soldiers alive by watching each other's' back live with them forever. One veteran said, "It took guys in my group one year to convince me that I should apply for compensation. I did, and six months later I was 80% service-connected for PTSD, depression, and diabetes. I never would have put in for benefits if they didn't talk me into it."

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“Fast Facts” about the CWV

FACT #1

Specific “war-time” service is not a requirement to become a member. Any baptized Catholic with a discharge under honorable conditions from any component of the U.S. Armed Forces and served on Active Duty for a period of 90 days or longer (includes training time for Reserves and National Guard) is eligible for membership in the Catholic War Veterans (CWV).

FACT #2

The CWV is one of only 45 Veterans Service Organizations ever in our nation’s history to be granted an Official Charter by the U.S. Congress. Click [HERE](#) to read our Charter.

FACT #3

The CWV is one of only 3 Veterans Service Organizations chartered by Congress whose membership is decidedly religious.

FACT #4

The CWV is the only Catholic organization in our nation that has been granted this significant honor.

FACT #5

The CWV was started in 1935 by a WWI Army Chaplain named Fr. Edward J. Higgins in Astoria, New York. We have been supporting our nation’s military veterans for over 80 years, and as such, we are one of the oldest Veterans Service Organizations in the nation.

FACT #6

The CWV received the Apostolic Blessing of Pope Pius XI at the Vatican upon the organization’s formation in 1935.

FACT #7

The CWV is a private, not-for-profit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under 501(c)(4).

FACT #8

Although our members, Posts and Units are involved with and volunteer with other ministries in their parishes, the CWV is not a part of, nor controlled by, the Catholic Church. As such, our Posts and Units are not “parish organizations” in a strict sense. Catholic Action is one of our main programs that ensures we serve the Church. Our organization is made up of military veterans and citizens of the United States who adhere to the Catholic faith.

FACT #9

The CWV is the only Catholic based organization whose membership is solely made up of military veterans and who’s main focus is to help other veterans in need. The CWV is not “another religious charity”. There are many honorable Catholic (and non-Catholic) religious-based charity organizations in our country. They do a great job and provide a wide range of programs and services that are very much needed in our society. The CWV, while providing charitable programs and services within our communities, is focused on promoting the social welfare of all military veterans and their families without discrimination. This sets us apart, and positions

us directly in the service-gap between secular-based veterans organizations and general religious charities.

FACT #10

Members of the CWV are true patriots. We are sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and to preserve for our posterity those rights and privileges contained within. We are leaders in the promotion of Democracy and citizen guardians of our Republic. The Preamble to the Catholic War Veterans constitution sums it up best:

“We American Citizens, members of the Catholic Church, under the spiritual authority of our Holy Father, the Pope, Bishop of Rome, and who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, in order that we may be bound by a greater spirit of faith and patriotism, and that we may be of greater service to God, Country, and to one another, and in order to perpetuate our ideals and ideas, establish a permanent organization.”

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Health Update

Here is an update on our member and good friend John Parton. First of all, thank you all for all of your prayers. John came through the surgery pretty good, with only one complication, which was corrected fast. He is home now beginning to recuperate and regain his strength. As always he has that big smile on his face and his usual outstanding positive attitude. Please continue to keep him and his family in your prayers for his complete recovery.

Also, if anyone is in need of prayers and would like to be placed on a prayer list, we will start placing those requests in our monthly newsletter. Just let me know. post1974@cwv.org

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VA Phone Number

VA is introducing 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311) as a go-to source for Veterans and their families who don’t know what number to call. This new national toll-free number will help eliminate the feeling of frustration and confusion that Veterans and their families have expressed when navigating the 1000-plus phone numbers that currently exist.

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I have included an application for membership. If you know of eligible veteran who would like to join our post, feel free to copy the following page and hand it to him or her. Remember dues are still \$30.00. Be sure they mail the application and dues to our post and not to the national office.



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS & AUXILIARY

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

Father Vincent Capodanno, MM Memorial Post 1974

2115 Maturana Dr. # 208c

Liberty, MO 54068

PHONE: 816-699-8719
post1974@cwv.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the **Catholic War Veterans** or **Auxiliary**

 For CWV Membership (Veterans) - I am an American citizen, a practicing Catholic and have served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, or Reserve / National Guard component or Merchant Marine for at least 90 days Active Duty or served less than 90 days because of a disability incurred in the line of duty, and possess a discharge under Honorable conditions, and/or am now on Active Duty.

 For CWV Auxiliary Membership (family members)- I certify that I am a Catholic, a citizen of the United States, and my membership eligibility is based on being related within two degrees to a veteran or a currently serving member of the US Armed Forces.

Applicant's Name _____ **Date of Birth** _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Name of Church where you were baptized _____

City _____ State _____

For CWV Membership: Branch of Service _____ Date Entered Service _____

Type of Discharge _____ Date Discharged _____

For CWV Auxiliary Membership: Name of Veteran you are related to _____

Relationship to veteran named above _____

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Check membership type desired:

 Membership in the CWV National Headquarters Post or Auxiliary Unit (Member-at-large)
Check this option if you do not have a local Post in your area. Annual Dues are currently \$30.00 per year.

 Membership in the local CWV Post nearest to my home -- If this option is checked, this application will be forwarded to the Post nearest to your home address. Upon receipt of the application, you will be contacted by that local Post for payment of dues. When your membership is approved and your dues payment, has been processed, your membership card will be given to, or sent to, you by that Post.
Mail application with check for \$30.00 to CWV Post 1974, 2115 Maturana Dr. #208C, Liberty MO 64068



May this Christmas be the greatest for all the members of the Father Vincent Capodanno, MM Memorial Post and their families. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may the Holy Family continue to watch over each and every one.

Post Officers

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