

## **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, Paul Bergeron

266 Massapoag Avenue  
Sharon, MA 02067  
Tel. 781-784-6583.

## 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