

Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations



To partner with a
Veteran/Military Friendly
Congregation in your
community and to see a
complete list of all
Veteran/Military Friendly
Congregations globally go
to www.vmfc-usa.org

No faith must emulate another faith...no
congregation must act or have a ministry like
any other congregation. This is your ministry



For Our Troops, Their Families, and Our Country

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Psalm 91 describes the security of the one who trusts in the Lord. Not only was it prayed by the psalmist thousands of years ago, but by countless men and women throughout history. For example, during World War I, the 91st Brigade of the Army prayed Psalm 91 together every day. Although they were engaged in three of the bloodiest battles in the war, these soldiers had no combat-related casualties.

Each Congregation Can Create a Veteran Friendly Program

VMFC is your ministry. Use our guidelines but make it your own.

VMFC is a bottom up, lay led effort. The larger organization is here to help you.

VMFC is customizable to your specific location and for your people. It must reflect your faith to be genuine.

VMFC is your loving outreach to meet the needs of your own members as well as of those in need of love in your community.

Veteran/Military Friendly
Congregation (VMFC)
is to initiate and provide
Hope and Resiliency for Veterans



Veteran Friendly Congregation

P.O. Box 7056
Arlington, VA 2207

www.mca-usa.org
chaplains@mca-usa.org

Fr. Razz Waff, DMin, BCC
Executive Director
703-533-5890

What is the Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation (VMFC)

The VMFC's purpose is twofold. First, to provide a visible sign to those that visit the congregation that they understand and are sympathetic to the needs of veterans and their families. Second, to provide acknowledgement to the congregation and their leaders of their sincere and earnest efforts to support veterans and their families.

Why are Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations Needed Today?

Research consistently shows that clergy and congregation leaders, not psychologist or mental health experts, are where people first seek assistance in times of distress. Eventually they then seek therapy from professional clinicians often with the help of their community of faith.

What is the purpose for having programs and ministries initiated by Congregations?

Each congregation can choose to implement programs/ministries that will qualify your congregation as a VMFC. The purpose of these programs is to keep congregation members AWARE of the military and their needs, and to use the programs to create an atmosphere of Acceptance and Recognition throughout congregations.

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan.” Abraham Lincoln



The Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation involvement includes three (3) commitments.

The congregation agrees to:

- 1) adopt or implement one or more Military Ministry Programs.
- 2) advertise the existence of the Military Ministry Program(s) in one or more of our congregation publications (service bulletins, newsletters, etc.) so that their existence is easily visible to visitors, members, and leadership of the congregation.
- 3) provide permission to the Military Chaplains Association and their affiliates to list our congregation information on their website.

www.vfmc-usa.org

Next Steps

- 1) The Pastor should introduce the program to the congregational leadership for the Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation Ministry.
- 2) Recruit and assign (ask for a volunteer) a Lay Leader if leadership agrees to become a VMFC.
- 3) Enroll as a VMFC at <http://vmfc-usa.org/enroll-now-2/>
703-533-5890
- 4) The Lay Leader then recruits a “team”, “group”, or “ministry” to begin the training process.
- 5) The team decides which program(s) to begin and/or enhance.
- 6) Consider being a Lead Congregation and work with the VMFC leadership



