



USARCENT Chaplain Connection



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Care for the Caregiver Written by CH (COL) Khallid Shabazz, Command Chaplain

Ask any command team what a Chaplain does and a myriad of answers surface. Paramount among what Chaplains do is give care; pastoral nurture is the common denominator. Such Chaplain opportunities inevitably affect the one giving care.

The Chaplain is a first-responder, taking on the tasks of triaging and facilitation.

It is difficult to be vulnerable, but the Giver of giftedness is worthy of one's very best. Isolation is a choice that only breeds loneliness, self-centeredness, and inevitable heartache. The juxtaposition must not be missed— taking care of Chaplains is taking care of Soldiers and Families. Chaplains must allow others to assist in honest evaluation, proper motivation, and healthy integration. Accordingly, any discussion of caring for caregivers must include Chaplains. Let Patton's Own Say Amen!



One Nation, Many Perspectives Written by SGM Sean Fitzwilliam, Chief Religious Affairs NCO

I was invited to speak at last November's Native American Heritage month celebration held at Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar. The theme for this event was 'Many Nations, One Fight!,' and I believe there is much to be gleaned from that theme beyond the diversity of cultural, racial, and ideological make-up. In reflecting on the roles that many Native Americans continue to play in strengthening our Nation's fabric, it is important to note that in spite of differences in background (tribal or otherwise), all share in the responsibility of ensuring that our republic is strengthened and upheld as an indivisible nation.

Admittedly, as a nation we have not had a perfect track record in treating all with dignity and respect. However, we are indeed a diverse Nation despite our imperfections. An idea of unity is what Native Americans know as "tribal unity" or "united community." I believe that this unity's essence is best illustrated within the context of Native American culture, especially when examining the spirit of the fighting Warrior. It is the Warrior's fighting spirit, which many Native Americans consider part of their ancient tradition, that is a vital expression of their tribal unity. Having the Spirit of a Warrior is about more than just fighting. It is about service to the tribe, community, and a way of life – our homeland. This emphasizes the centrality of community over the individual. While it is important to recognize and appreciate the richness of our differences, we must be careful not to let those differences become roadblocks to overall "tribal unity" or community. To quote the famous philosopher Aristotle, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." To expound on his wise words: our community united is greater than our individual and diverse parts divided– be proud of your heritage and differences, but be careful not to prioritize those parts above the whole of our American community.

I think these thoughts can be appropriately summarized by the aforementioned theme: Many Nations, One Fight! In light of the discord that we have experienced and are currently experiencing as a Nation, I would encourage you to ponder a greater lesson that we ALL can learn from Native Americans. The Lesson being the importance of building a sense of tribal unity and community in the midst of our diversity. Specifically, we as Americans must never stop working towards that ideal expressed within the United States Constitution, that all 'people' (men and women) are created equal. As such, we must treat all with dignity and respect – stop fighting with each other over differences, and start fighting for a more unified community. Many nations have become one, and now together we must fight to stay whole.



Preference Written by CH (MAJ) Josh White, USARCENT FWD Operations Chaplain

This morning I was looking at 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, which is a passage on which I will be preaching in a few weeks. It got me thinking about giving preference to others. What does that mean?

It's holding the door for the person behind you. It's acknowledging the person who stops so you can cross the street. It's returning your shopping cart to the corral rather than leaving it in the parking lot...and returning a few more while you're at it. It's putting the item you picked up and decided you didn't need in the grocery store back where it belongs rather than just leaving it where you stand. It's those things and a thousand more little things.

It's being aware of the needs of others and putting their needs first. We are so focused on our rights. Maybe we also need to be focused on our responsibilities. Maybe care for our neighbors is something else we need to do. Maybe we need to "Ask not what our country can do for us, but what we can do for our country."

Maybe in that way we can heal some of our wounds and become, again, "One nation, indivisible."

Patton's Own - Third Always First



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USARCENT Main Command Post



Local Pastor Smith with CH (LTC) Willie Mashack and CH (COL) Khallid Shabazz discussing ways to build community relations.



SFC Griffis, Ms. Croom, Mr. Golias, Mr. Masin, Mr. Corvin, and CH (LTC) Ken Honken in dialogue regarding intersection of moral leadership among other topics during a Laugh, Lunch, and Learn.

USARCENT Forward Command Post



Camp Arifjan Soldiers join the Unit Ministry Team for Worship Service.



Religious Affairs Specialist celebrate with MSG Kelly Pallo's at her promotion ceremony.



595th TRANS BDE Religious Affairs Specialist, SPC Kyra Shoemaker, delivers care packages to Soldiers.



Camp Arifjan Zone 6 Contemporary Worship Service.