

Florida Legion Riders

Chaplain Training*

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Loren King, Chaplain

(407) 222-6625

Quiet_knights@yahoo.com

*adapted from AMERICAN LEGION "Chaplain's How to..." Manual



Qualifications

✓ **Qualifications** (from the American Legion Chaplain's how-to manual edited for riders)

➤ How is the Chaplain selected?

- Chapter Chaplains are elected in keeping with the specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

➤ Must the Chaplain be ordained?

- No, most are not.

➤ What other characteristics should the Chaplain possess?

- He/she should be a caring person.
- There should be a desire to help others.



Qualifications

➤ A Positive Attitude Towards:

- Yourself
- Spiritual matters
- The unit served
- The American Legion Riders
- Willing to serve where there is a need.
- The ability to keep things confidential
- Neutral when helping settle disputes
- Helpful, but not necessary to be a public speaker



Ok, I'm the Chaplain. Now what?

Duties and responsibilities of the Rider's Chaplain

- Provide spiritual guidance to the Director and the Chapter
- Provide opening and closing prayer at all Riders' meetings and before all rides
- Provide back-up to Post/AUX/SAL Chaplain when needed



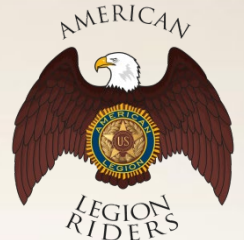
1. Spiritual Guidance

- ✓ The Chaplain is the **Spiritual** Leader of the Chapter
 - Not a Religious Leader
 - Faith is an integral part of the Legion, Religion is not
 - Non-Denominational or Cultural emphasis



2. Provide Prayer

- ✓ Opening and closing prayers for meetings are part of the ceremonial aspect of the Legion
- ✓ Prayers should be as basic as possible for the situation at hand without regard to denominational bias
- ✓ Prayers:
 - Chaplain gives the invocation (opening Prayer) and benediction (closing Prayer) at meetings.
 - What prayers should be given?
 - Should they be limited to the written ones found in our manuals? No



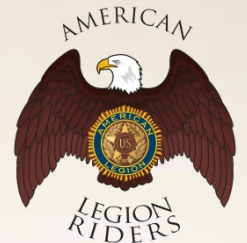
3. Provide Back-up

- ✓ Regardless of your affiliation, Assist where needed
 - Be present at as many Legion events as possible.
 - Be willing to fill in as needed.
 - Serve and minister where there is a need
 - Be available to help the Post/AUX/SAL Chaplain in performing their duties.



Additional Information

- ✓ This information should go to the Commander as they prepare the annual CPR. – Due May 1st, 2023
 - ✓ letters/cards sent
 - ✓ telephone calls made
 - ✓ miles traveled as a Chaplain
 - ✓ hours spent on Chaplain activities
 - ✓ money spent
- ✓ Be aware of the resources available in Your community. (Handout)



Additional Information cont.

- ✓ The Chaplain should participate in as many of the following events as possible:
 - Four Chaplain Days and Religious Emphasis Weeks
 - Memorial Day
 - Independence Day events
 - Veterans Day Memorials
 - Installations
 - Initiations
 - Funeral and memorials when requested
 - Visit the ill, bereaved, shut-ins, disabled, and prospective members
 - Provide spiritual leadership through the Legion's "Service to God and Country" program



Chaplain's Calendar*

✓ The chaplain will find it helpful to be aware of upcoming events around which he/she can plan his/her work. Prayers and service can be built around special occasions during the year. The chaplain's calendar below should prove most helpful in anticipating service responsibilities.

- ✓ JANUARY.....NEW YEAR'S DAY; VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE - JANUARY 27, 1973
- ✓ FEBRUARY.....AMERICANISM MONTH; FIRST SUNDAY - FOUR CHAPLAINS SUNDAY; RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK; PRESIDENT'S DAY; VALENTINE DAY
- ✓ MARCH.....AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY
- ✓ APRIL.....HOLY SEASONS; CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH
- ✓ MAY.....MOTHER'S DAY; ARMED FORCES DAY; POPPY DAY; MEMORIAL DAY
- ✓ JUNE.....D-DAY - JUNE 6, 1944; FLAG DAY; FATHER'S DAY
- ✓ JULY.....INDEPENDENCE DAY; KOREAN WAR ENDED - JULY 27, 1953
- ✓ AUGUST.....NATIONAL CONVENTION
- ✓ SEPTEMBER.....V-J DAY - SEPTEMBER 2, 1945; LABOR DAY; CITIZENSHIP DAY; REGIONAL CONFERENCES
- ✓ OCTOBER.....COLUMBUS DAY
- ✓ NOVEMBER.....ELECTION DAY; VETERANS DAY - ARMISTICE - NOVEMBER 11, 1918; THANKSGIVING DAY; FAMILY WEEK
- ✓ DECEMBER.....PEARL HARBOR DAY - DECEMBER 7, 1941; FESTIVAL OF HANUKKAH & CHRISTMAS

*SOURCE THE "SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY" CHAPLAIN'S HANDBOOK. (HANDOUT)

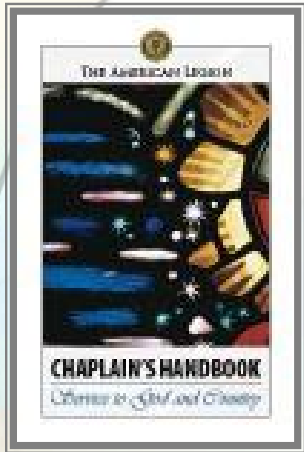


Conclusion

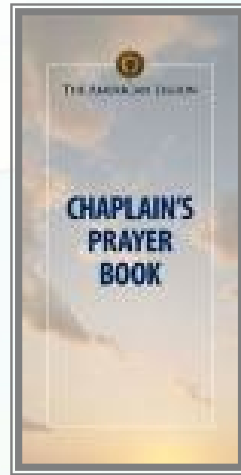
- ✓ The Chaplaincy is essential to the work of The American Legion.
- ✓ A Chaplain's presence is needed for all events.
- ✓ The Chaplaincy is more than reading prayers.
- ✓ One final statement:
 - ✓ **Look like a Chaplain**
 - ✓ **Act like a Chaplain**
 - ✓ **Be a Chaplain!**



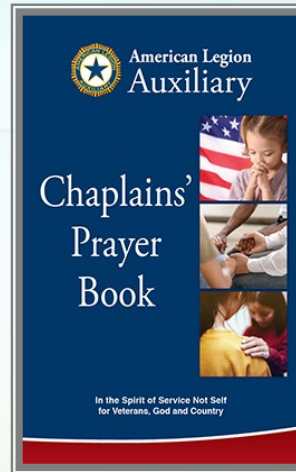
Available resources



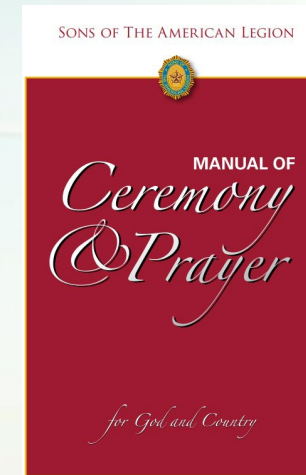
*"Service to God and Country"
Chaplains Handbook*



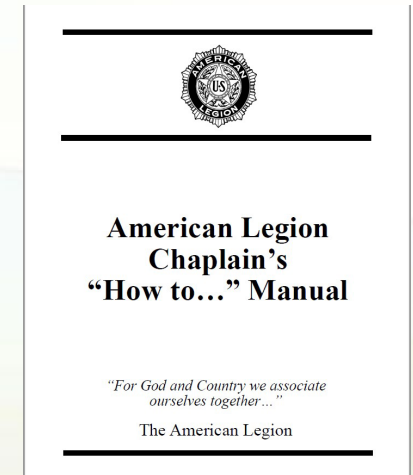
The Chaplain's Prayer Manual



Auxiliary Chaplains' Prayer book



*SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
CHAPLAINS' "MANUAL OF CEREMONY AND PRAYER"*



*AMERICAN LEGION
CHAPLAIN'S "HOW TO..."
MANUAL*

And if you must have something to read from, GOOGLE it!



Questions?

