

Florida Legion Riders

Chaplain Training*

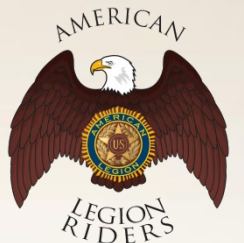
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Loren King, Chaplain

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*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:

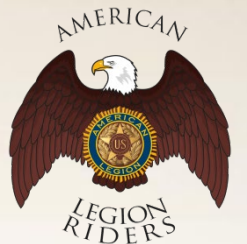
- Yourself
- Spiritual matters
- The unit served
- The American Legion Riders
- Willing to serve where there is a need.
- The ability to keep things confidential
- Neutral when helping settle disputes
- Helpful, but not necessary to be a public speaker



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



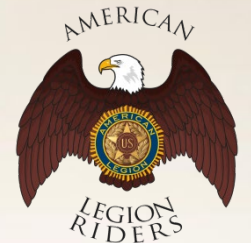
3. Provide Back-up

- ✓ 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, 2025
 - ✓ 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)



Blessing of the Bikes



BLESSING OF THE BIKES

- **Who can Perform Bike Blessings?**

- Pastors, Priests, Rabis
- American Legion Chaplains, Ministers, Etc.

- **Who can Receive a Blessing?**

- Biker Brothers & Sisters from any club, group, or association
- Truck drivers, auto drivers, anyone that would like a blessing

- **What is the Purpose of Performing a Bike Blessing?**

- Biker Blessings give our Chaplains a multitude of opportunities to Pray with our Bikers for
 - SAFETY during the rider season – Here in Florida, that is year round
 - Any NEEDS that he/she may have



BLESSING OF THE BIKES

- **What Materials are Needed to Perform the Blessing?**
 - A SERVANT'S HEART to show Bikers you truly Care and have compassion for those you serve. Be sensitive and listen.
 - Be prepared and examine yourself and Pray.
 - Bike Blessing Sticker – The sticker is given at the end of the Blessing. Never put a sticker on anyone's motorcycle.
 - Religious Material – Can be read aloud during the time of prayer or given to the individual or group to be read by them later.



Classified - Confidential

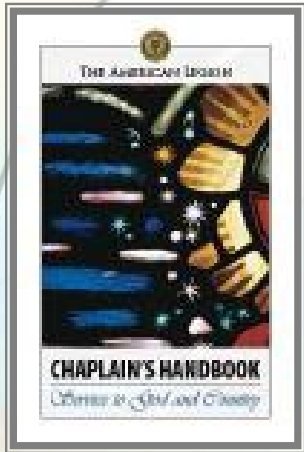


CONCLUSION

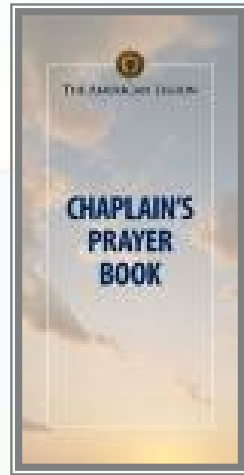
- ✓ The Chaplaincy is essential to the work of The American Legion.
- ✓ A Chaplain's presence is needed for all events.
- ✓ The Chaplaincy is more than reading prayers.
- ✓ One final statement:
 - ✓ **Look like a Chaplain**
 - ✓ **Act like a Chaplain**
 - ✓ **Be a Chaplain!**



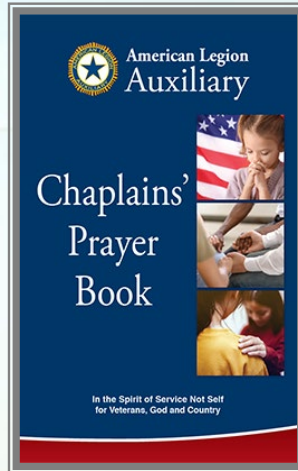
Available resources



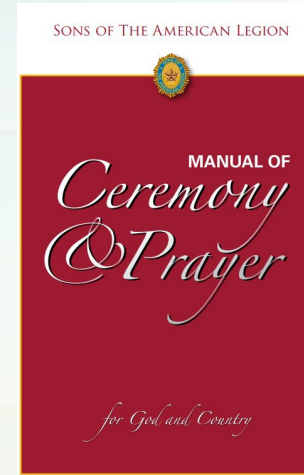
"Service to God and Country" Chaplains Handbook



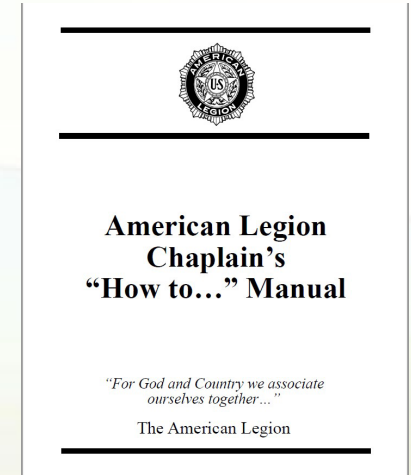
The Chaplain's Prayer Manual



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?

