

# 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



# ALR SOP, ARTICLE 5,SECTION 7 DUTIES, #5

## Chaplain:

- a. Offer the invocation at the beginning and the benediction at the end of all meetings and Chapter functions.
- Visit sick and distressed members, their immediate family, and fellow veterans, reporting to the membership their status and needs.
- Report the death of any Chapter members to the Director, the District, and the Department

# 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

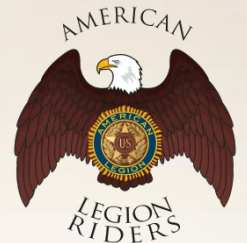
- ✓ Regardless of your affiliation, Assist where needed
  - Be present at as many Legion events as possible.
  - Be willing to fill in as needed.
  - Serve and minister where there is a need
  - Be available to help the Post/AUX/SAL Chaplain in performing their duties.





# Additional Information

- ✓ This information should go to the Commander as they prepare the annual CPR. – Due May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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



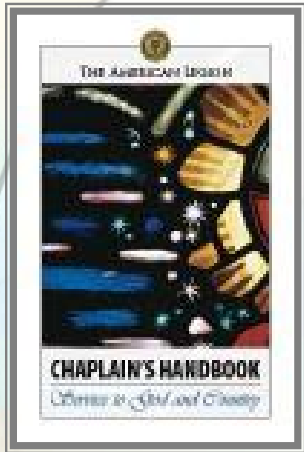


# CONCLUSION

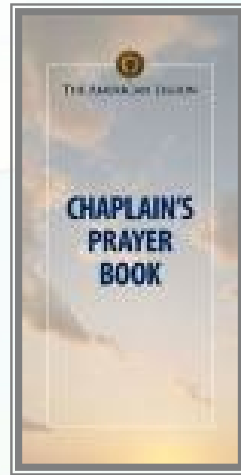
- ✓ The Chaplaincy is essential to the work of The American Legion.
- ✓ A Chaplain's presence is needed for all events.
- ✓ The Chaplaincy is more than reading prayers.
- ✓ One final statement:
  - ✓ **Look like a Chaplain**
  - ✓ **Act like a Chaplain**
  - ✓ **Be a Chaplain!**



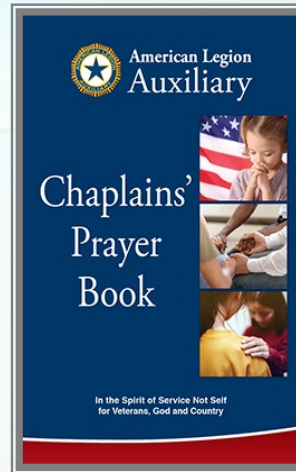
# Available resources



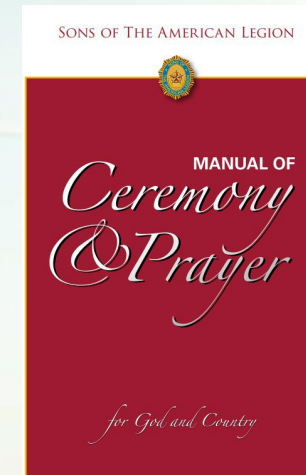
*"Service to God and Country"  
Chaplains Handbook*



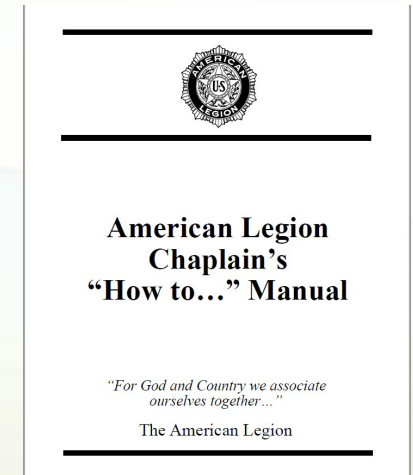
*The Chaplain's  
Prayer Manual*



*Auxiliary  
Chaplains'  
Prayer book*



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



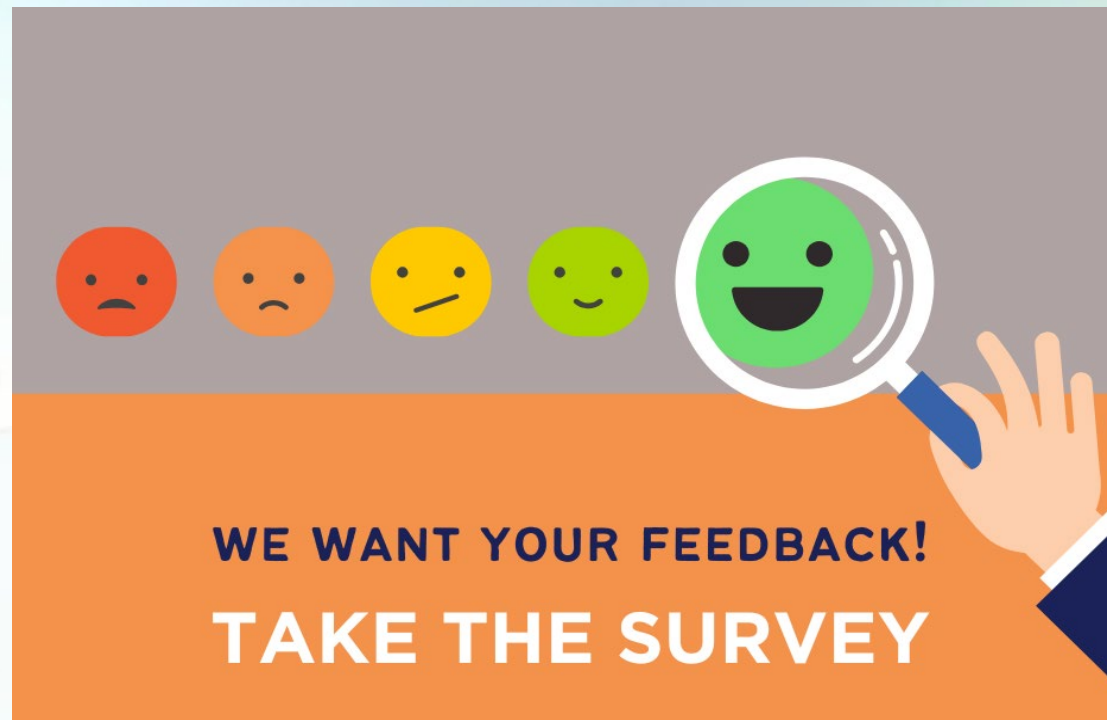
*AMERICAN LEGION  
CHAPLAIN'S "HOW TO..."  
MANUAL*

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



# Questions?





<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DJTQ87L>

