



Chaplain of the Year Awarded to Lloyd Drake

Rev. Peter R. Hook, State Chaplain

At the Council of Administration meeting held in January 2011, approval was given to present a Chaplain of the Year Award. The award will be given annually at the Department Convention. It recognizes a District or Post Chaplain who demonstrates a commitment to the ministry and duties of a Chaplain and who exhibits exemplary performance above and beyond normal expectations.

The first recipient of the Chaplain of the Year Award went to Lloyd Drake. Lloyd has served as Chaplain of the John J. Michaels Post 5207 in Daleville, PA for the past five years. He has also served as District 10 Chaplain for nine years. Chaplain Drake has shown an unbelievable dedication to his two chaplain positions. He visits ill and hospitalized comrades from his Post and regularly visits comrades at the Gino Merli Veterans Center and the Wilkes-Barre VA Hospital. He has attended and performed funeral and memorial services for all departed Post and District Comrades. In addition, on a monthly basis, he visits Mrs. Nellie Michaels, the Gold Star Mother whose son, John, died while serving in Vietnam and for whom Post 5207 is named.

Chaplain Drake was recommended for the award by former Commander and long-time Post Adjutant, Joseph Zurcher. Joseph wrote: "In my years of service I have not come across any individual who deserves this honored award more than Lloyd Drake. His absolute devotion to his duties and his true sense of caring for all veterans whether sick, healthy, or serving overseas is absolutely second to none. While accompanying Lloyd on many of the above services, I have been able to witness his sense of passion and willingness to aid and comfort those in need of his services. And, his loyalty to the Veterans of Foreign Wars shows the sense of pride and dedication he has in serving his comrades."

It was truly an honor for me to present this award to Lloyd, a true servant and model for those of us who are called to serve those who served.

On the Department Website <http://www.vfwpahq.org> you will find my Chaplain's Page which has information concerning the award, the Monthly Chaplain's Report, and various resources to help comrades.

Blessings as you serve.

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