



Relating to Everyone is Key

Rev. Peter R. Hook, State Chaplain

PeterHook@verizon.net

As a VFW Post Chaplain, I attend the monthly local ministerial meeting. This keeps me in touch with the local ministers in our area and also allows me to keep them informed on issues pertaining to veterans in their congregations. Our post is not a church, but we are a vital part of the community.

The particular group of ministers that I meet with is quite diverse. We have representatives from Quakers, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Episcopal, and Catholic. Not only are different faith persuasions represented, but we have people from different ethnicities. It is quite a diverse group of ministers.

What impresses me is how this group which is so diverse, can care for one another and work together on common projects in a harmonious manner. There is a healthy respect for one another.

Our job as chaplains requires us to work with all different types of veterans. In my post, we not only have people of different faiths (including Wiccan), but we have people who are agnostic and atheist. Comrades are also different ethnically, socially, and economically. And, as the post chaplain, I try to relate and minister to each one. This is not easy for everyone to do.

There are several churches and ministers in my ministerial area that choose not to participate in the local ministerial meetings. They feel to do so would be compromising their belief system. Unfortunately, their ministry is confined primarily to people who believe like they do, and they have very little impact in the community.

I have been told by some comrades that they do not attend post meetings and seldom, if ever, frequent the post because their beliefs and practices differ from other post members. How unfortunate this is.

Bottom Line is this:

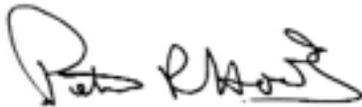
There can be no impact without contact!

Remember, our ministry as Chaplains involves relating to all of our comrades and their families--not just to a few of them. This means we should be interacting and hanging out from time to time with everyone in our post, not just those who believe and act like we do.

Resources for Chaplains: Check out my Chaplain's Page at the PA Department Web Site - vfwpahq.org. Just look under District/Post Tools and you will see Chaplain's Guide. I have posted a number of items you may find helpful as you continue to serve those who serve. There you can also find the Monthly Chaplain's Report which should be sent directly to me - - not to VFW State Headquarters.

Remember, I am here to help if needed.

Blessings as you serve.



Rev. Peter R. Hook
PA State Chaplain
Veterans of Foreign Wars
534 Parkvale Ave.
Langhorne, PA 19047
267-229-7722
PeterHook@verizon.net

