



Chaplain of the Year Awarded to John Grillo

Rev. Peter R. Hook, State Chaplain

Add picture of John receiving award

At the Council of Administration meeting held in January 2011, approval was given to present a Chaplain of the Year Award. The award is 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 recipient of the Chaplain of the Year Award for 2015 is Mr. John Grillo. John serves as Chaplain of VFW Post 92 in Lower Burrell, PA. Four years ago Paul Smallwood, who had been the Post Chaplain for a number of years, asked John to consider taking his place and becoming Post Chaplain. John says, "It was a bit scary at first, but soon I felt truly honored to follow such a wonderful man and great chaplain as Paul, and to serve those who served. It is a privilege to join with our funeral detail and pay final respects to our departed comrades."

John was nominated for the award by District 27 Commander, Robert L. Body. Commander Body stated that John Grillo is not an ordained minister but, he has been blessed by God with a caring and giving heart and is very dedicated to his duties as a Chaplain. He visits ill and hospitalized comrades from his Post. He has attended and performed funeral and memorial services for departed Post Comrades and family members of comrades. This past year, John has faithfully ministered and been there for a family in his Post who lost a daughter and son-in-law unexpectedly due to a violent crime.

In addition to his duties as Post Chaplain, John is in charge of their Tuesday night Bingo. "He is really appreciated by our community and those who regularly attend bingo. He announces birthdays and prays for people who are ill or have had a death in their family," says Commander Body.

John is a Vietnam veteran who served in the Army with the 11 Air Cavalry Division in 1965-1966. He has been married to his wife JoLinda for 47 years, and they have two children and eight grandchildren.

It was truly an honor for me to present this award to John, a true servant and model for those of us who are called to serve those who served. The Chaplain of the Year receives a certificate, a VFW watch and gains possession of a framed picture to be displayed at his Post for the coming year.

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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