



Report from Chaplain (LT. Cmdr) Mike McKinney NHQ USV-JSC Chaplain Service



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It Take One to Make a Difference—by Chaplain Mike McKinney, USNVR President of Promise Christian University

We often think of the soldier as one who trains and is equipped to fight battles at the command of the President, the Pentagon, or at the command of his own first sergeant. Today's soldier proudly proclaims their new slogan that he is a part of *the Army of one.*



Chaplain McKinney assisting Chaplain Anderson at RNC

It only takes one to make a difference.

In II Chronicles, Chapter 20, we see the nation of Israel surrounded by hostile forces. In the natural, the odds were hopelessly against their survival. Perhaps the easy thing to do would be surrender or pack up and escape to safer territory. A lesser leader would have compromised and suggested a peace plan, but we see King Jehoshaphat doing neither. When the negative report of invading armies arrived at his palace, he immediately set himself to seek the Lord and he proclaimed a fast throughout the land. Although his father, Asa was an ungodly King who died prematurely, Jehoshaphat followed in the steps of his "father" David.

God was pleased with Jehoshaphat and it is amazing that when Jehoshaphat called out to the Lord, God heard his cry and answered. In II Chron: 20:15, the Lord said, "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's but God's." Later God again assured King Jehoshaphat in verse 17, to "Stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you." As you know the story, the King had the people sing and praise early in the morning as they surrounded the camp of the invading army. Half sleeping and half awake, the enemy's army thought they were being attacked and began to attack each other. Without the loss of one life, this Army of One sustained one of the world's greatest victories that day.

King Jehoshaphat's strategy for secret attack was replicated many times in Pre- and post-modern warfare.

Now, let us fast forward 2000 years into the future. The date is 1753.

Another godly leader is being raised, not as a king but as a future president over history's greatest miracle story in modern times the *birth of a nation*. At 21 years of age, young George Washington was commissioned to be a "bearer of dispatches," to the French commander at St. Pierre, Virginia. A devout Christian at an early age, his beloved mother, sent him off in tears and with her love saying, "My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer."

As she waved goodbye, she admonished him to, "remember that God only is our sure trust. To Him I commend you.

Imagine being called to serve a country that had no sure lines of communication, a

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The Chaplain's Corner

nation that was in its infancy as far as government and community were concerned, a nation still getting to know and understand the inhabitants of the land, the native Indians, whose culture and traditions were far different from the customs and ceremonies of the English or French. A country who was constantly facing wars within and without.

Yet, God called this young man to leadership to serve as a “Christian” soldier. When stationed at Fort Necessity, young Washington started the custom of having prayer at the camp. Because of Washington’s great leadership capability, he rose in rank to the position of commander and eventually rose to the rank of Colonel in no less than 2 years. Others noticed Washington’s faith as a relative wrote to him saying, “I will not doubt your having public prayers in the camp.” Apparently his reputation had preceded him.

At every opportunity, Washington slipped into church. This was a dangerous time in our history and at the age of 24 in 1755, General Braddock offered him an important command. His mother was distraught and feared for his life. But young Washington comforted his mother by saying, “The God to whom you commended me, madam, when I set out upon a more perilous errand defended me from all harm, and I trust he will do so now. Do not you.?”

Shortly thereafter, General Braddock was mortally wounded in battle and died on July 13, 1755. Rather than chasing the enemy, Washington stopped, **and took the time to bury his general with all military honors.** The chaplain was also wounded, so Washington read the funeral service over the remains of his fallen comrade. This custom continues on to this day.

We see how the battle raged. Rumors abounded. George wrote his brother John Washington, these words, “As I have heard, since my arrival at this place (Fort Cumberland), a circumstantial account of my death and dying speech, I take this early opportunity of contradicting the first, and of assuring you, that I have not as yet composed the latter. But by the all powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me.”



God was performing miracles on George Washington’s behalf. Through divine intervention many times, not a single injury was sustained by this man of prayer.

Although Chaplains were found in the army, their presence was purely on a voluntary basis. Washington knew the value of the chaplains. He believed that the “presence” of God within the standing army was as important to moral of the men serving as were the weapons and the training. Washington knew that without the values, integrity, honor and respect, this company of men could never become an army of one, and could not hope to achieve the victories in battle nor win the wars that they were engaged in.

In 1756, He wrote to Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia, “I have always so far as was in my power, endeavored to discourage gambling in camp and always shall while I have the honor to preside there.”

He implemented fairness within his army, and strict discipline. “Any commissioned officer who stands by and sees irregularities committed, and does not endeavor to quell them, shall be immediately put under arrest. Any non-commissioned officer present, who does not interpose, shall be immediately reduced, and receive corporal punishment. ...Any soldier found drunk shall receive one hundred lashes without benefit of a court-martial.”

This rag-tag group of men who composed the beginnings of the great new army in Colonel Washington’s estimation were “profane and reprobate.” Colonel Washington observed this army was in dire need of

godly influence and this is when he began to push for the establishment of the Chaplaincy Service that would have rank and pay and would be an integral part of our nation's armed forces. In September 1756, Colonel Washington writes, 'The want of a chaplain, I humbly conceive, reflects dishonor on the regiment, as all other officers are allowed. The gentlemen of the corps are sensible of this and proposed to support one at their private expense, but I think it would have a more graceful appearance where he is appointed as others are.' Later Washington wrote, "As to a chaplain, if the government will grant a subsistence, we can readily get a person of merit to accept the place, without giving the commissary any trouble on that point."

After back and forth urging and correspondence, finally, on April 17, 1768, Colonel Washington got what he wanted, a paid Chaplain to serve their regiment. "On this subject I had often without any success applied to Governor Dinwiddie. I now flatter myself, that your honor will be pleased to appoint a sober, serious man for this duty. Common decency, Sir, in a camp calls for the services of a divine, which ought not to be dispensed with, although, the world should be so uncharitable as to think as void of religion and incapable of good instructions."

The Army of One is a man or woman who is willing to lay down their lives and reputation and stand for biblical principles in the face of all odds. This is what made George Washington a great leader, a great commander and a great President. The Army of One is God's soldier, God's Chaplain, God's Christian leader, God's man or woman whose life and whose heart searches after godliness and righteousness and who knows Divine Providence is the ultimate judge and jury of our lives.

II Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

In closing I would share with you President George Washington's prayer for the United States of America,



"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; and Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today's Chaplain Service may be comprised of many faiths, including non-Christian faiths, but all have one thing in common, a love for this nation and the comfort and encouragement of the soldiers they serve.

(Historical quotes from, "George Washington, the Christian," by William J. Johnson, 1989, Accelerated Christian Education and King James Version Bible)



**United States Volunteers – Joint Services
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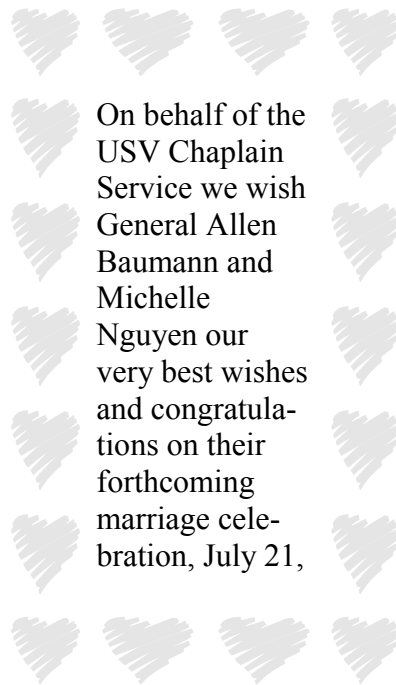
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Boots on Graves

*Honoring the service men
and women of this nation*



On behalf of the
USV Chaplain
Service we wish
General Allen
Baumann and
Michelle
Nguyen our
very best wishes
and congratula-
tions on their
forthcoming
marriage cele-
bration, July 21,



Pictured above: Chaplain Lynn
Anderson, Michelle Nguyen,
General Baumann and Chaplain
Kirtley.

Report from the Chaplains Service June...

Ch. (Commander) Lynn Anderson appointed key Chaplains to start building up the 201 files of active USV Chaplains by calling and connecting with all chaplains in Region 4,6, and 9. On June 14, Chaplain (Col) Steve Kirtley completed and passed his training for military honors and will be receiving a ribbon. He also was on hand to train Ch. (Capt) Mike Kearin, USAVR and a potential new chaplain Ron Butler at the Riverside National Cemetery.

Ch. Kirtley is also announcing that Chaplains Training I—Level 3 will be conducted again on September 8, 15, and 29th. Chaplains Training II-Level 4 will be held on November 3,10 and 17th. Training II-Level 4 will include First Aid, CPR and Emergency Services. These classes will be held at Promise Christian University. For more information contact Chaplain Kirtley at stephen.kirtley@usv-jsc.com

Looking for USV Chaplains...

We are requesting the all chaplains please look for their records and send a copies to the Chaplain Service so that your files will be up to date. We need a copy of your USV application, Chaplains application, diplomas, transcripts, ministerial endorsements, military endorsement, records of honors and awards, a copy of your appointment letter and a recent picture. Please send your material to: Chaplain (Commander) Lynn Anderson c/o 1559 E. Howard St. L-6, Pasadena, CA 91104.