

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 5-6, 2021
Virtual**

**Resolution No. 17: Updates to Chaplains Hill Monuments at Arlington National Cemetery
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2795 (VA) 2020 Department Convention
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission**

WHEREAS, The principles of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion are dedicated to “God and Country”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion annually honors the heroism and selflessness of the “Four Chaplains” who died in a torpedo attack on the troop transport ship U.S.A.T. Dorchester in February 1943, with Four Chaplains Sunday Memorial Services across the nation; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, Arlington National Cemetery designated space in Section 2, now known as “Chaplains Hill,” authorizing the placement of two monuments, one honoring WWI chaplains who died in service, and a second monument and plaque honoring WWII Protestant chaplains who died in service; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, Arlington National Cemetery accepted the donation and dedication of a Catholic Chaplains Monument; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, the Sons of The American Legion and other veterans service organizations contributed funds leading to the dedication of a Jewish Chaplains Monument on Chaplains Hill; and

WHEREAS, The existing Protestant Chaplain’s Monument has not been updated to honor chaplains who died in service after WWII, and its plaque is affixed to an aging upright concrete monument inconsistent with its sister granite monuments; and

WHEREAS, The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF), the successor to the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel, the group who originally placed the existing monument, continues to be a mutually supportive and diverse group of American religious organizations, proposed to Arlington National Cemetery officials that they update the existing Protestant Chaplains Monument with an additional plaque that will honor the service of 25 chaplains affiliated with Protestant denominations, and add one name to the Catholic Chaplains Monument, those names of chaplains who died in service during the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Cold War period, and in Post-9/11 conflicts; and

WHEREAS, The NCMAF also proposed to Arlington National Cemetery officials that a new granite monument be provided to replace the concrete one, courtesy of the Dignity Memorial Company, and that the existing chaplains plaque be transferred to that new monument; and

WHEREAS, Our armed forces chaplains represent the diversity of American religious creeds, including faith groups not currently memorialized on Chaplains Hill; and

WHEREAS, Projects at Arlington National Cemetery require approval from the Virginia Historical Association, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the United States Congress and the Department of the Army; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion supports the project led by the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces to update the

Chaplains Monument at Chaplains Hill with an additional plaque honoring 25 Protestant chaplains who died in military service in Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War and Post-9/11 conflicts, and provide a new granite monument consistent with those placed beside it; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That one additional name be added to the Catholic Chaplains Monument; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any future names be added, if needed, to the appropriate monument; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That when necessity arises, at no cost to the United States government, there be designed, developed, and placed, a new monument on Chaplains Hill for chaplains of any faith who died while in active service.