



Members of Charleston (Ark.) Council 12875 work to construct a workshop at the home of Brian King, a council member currently serving with the U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq. King began work on the building before his deployment and hoped to finish it upon his return. Aware of the unfinished structure, council members completed the workshop before King arrived home.

## For Veterans

Mary Immaculate Council 12769 in Secaucus, N.J., donated \$500 to the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home. The funds were used to purchase new slippers, socks and batteries for use by home residents.

## Mourning A Loss

Members of Father Paul J. F. Wattson Council 8919 in Windsor, Ont., participated in the funeral for Cpl. Andrew Grenon, a local man who was killed in Afghanistan. Knights served as ushers and volunteers during a Mass that saw more than 1,000 attendees. Grenon served in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

## Senior Home Visit

Members of Twenty-Six Martyrs Council 12970 at the Atsugi Naval Air Facility in Japan and the Camp Zama Round Table in Sagami-hara volunteered at the Parangsae Senior Citizen Center in Busan, South Korea during the USS *George Washington's* scheduled port visit there. Knights interacted with residents and provided cleaning services to the facility. The USS *George Washington* is currently deployed in the Western Pacific Ocean and is providing strategic deterrence in the region.

## New SEAL

Coleman Mac Donough of St. Thomas Becket Council 13337 in St. Augustine, Fla., received his "Trident" after graduating from Navy SEAL training. The Navy SEALs remains one of the most exclusive military units in the world, with the ability to conduct operations beyond the capability of conventional military forces.

## Honored for Service

New York State Senator Kemp Hannon honored Paul Caruso of Our Lady of the Island Council 6911 in Massapequa Park, N.Y., for his service in the U.S. Air Force. Caruso received two medals and two citations for his "dedication to country and service."

## Thoughts from Home

Blessed Joseph Allamano Council 11359 in New Westminster, B.C., donated \$500 to the Regimental Association of The Royal Westminster Regiment to send care packages to 29 soldiers serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The care packages contain such items as snacks, granola bars and food vouchers.

Send your "Military Knights in Action" news to Columbia Associate Editor Patrick Scalisi at [patrick.scalisi@kofc.org](mailto:patrick.scalisi@kofc.org)

## STAR-SPANGLED KNIGHTS



[Top] Cmdr. Paul Younes (right) presents Father Randolph Chew of St. Barnabas Church with a U.S. flag that was flown over Baghdad. The flag was given in appreciation for the 187 boxes of care items that were donated by parishioners of two area churches for distribution to the needy in Iraq. The boxes were shipped by Father Christopher S. Rooney Council 3618 in Portsmouth, R.I. Cmdr. Younes was a member of the Baghdad International Zone Round Table while stationed in Iraq and is now a member of Council 3618. [Bottom] Members of Frank J. Parater Circle 5069 in Richmond, Va., stand with Lt. R. Brian Alexander (third from left), who presented the circle with a U.S. flag and a certificate of appreciation. Both items were presented after the Squires shipped 14 boxes of care items to U.S. soldiers stationed at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait.



Walter Quigley (far left) and Grand Knight Frank Hunt (far right) of Chesapeake (Va.) Council 8240 present U.S. Navy Chaplain Cmdr. Patrick Finn and Ann Morris of the Naval Station Norfolk USO with 200 rosaries. Knights donated at total of 2,000 rosaries after learning of a shortage for soldiers serving abroad.

# Strength in the Midst of Chaos

*A Chaplain Candidate relates his work with wounded veterans*

The feeling was like as when a man sees his father cry for the first time, of seeing weakness in the one who has been the standard bearer for your life. For me this feeling was present upon entering the Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. I was seeing our toughest men and women in uniform on crutches and in wheelchairs.

But this was in appearance only. As I learned, the hearts and minds of these soldiers were undeterred.

Since I joined the U.S. Army two years ago, I have served each summer as a commissioned officer. This opportunity affords me time to work alongside active soldiers, to come to know them and to minister to their needs. The Brooke Army Medical Center is a 450-bed facility that provides care for soldiers and their dependents, and emergency care for the San Antonio community at large. On the hospital grounds is



1st Lt. Jarod Hogan

look introspectively as to whether or not God is truly calling him to the life of a priest. Many times, the seminarian will find himself doubting this call or will see it challenged.

I had been struggling with my own call to the priesthood, even up to the point when I began working at the hospital. One day, I entered the room of an injured soldier recently returned from Afghanistan. This soldier brought much to my spiritual life, even though he probably never knew it.

After trading fire with insurgents in Afghanistan, the soldier's Humvee was damaged and his comrades were injured. While reaching for more ammunition, a rocket-propelled grenade hit the truck, and the soldier's leg was badly hurt. All the men in the Humvee were evacuated, while a medic worked to save the soldier's life.

Until this point, I had been ministering to two types of patients: those who want to see a chaplain, and those who strongly oppose your visit. This soldier, though, was sitting in an isolation room with the blinds shut and an intimidating quip ready for anyone who entered.

I was not scared off so easily.

After breaking the ice, I discovered a man with a smile and a caring nature, a man concerned for his family and children. But what was most inspiring to me was his inquisitiveness about the Catholic Church. I had not yet found a patient as eager to learn about something that had formed much of my life. After visiting with him for an hour, I did something I had never done during my time at the hospital: I went to the chapel and thanked God for this soldier, who reminded me why I was going through the trials to become a priest.

As I visited more often, I brought the soldier information and books, many of which he devoured practically overnight. Many of the materials I provided came



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jarod Hogan (far left) stands with some of his fellow Clinical Pastoral Education classmates outside the Brooke Army Medical Center. Also pictured (from left) is: 1st Lt. Lucas Reese, 2nd Lt. Kristen Swenson, 1st Lt. Lee Osborn and 2nd Lt. Kim Willis.

*'Soldiers share a bond that runs as deep as blood.'*

the Center for the Intrepid, a state-of-the-art rehabilitation complex, and the Institute for Surgical Research, a specialized burn unit and trauma facility.

I began my work at the Brooke Army Medical Center as part of a seminary formation program called Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). CPE gives students a chance to work in the hospital among professionals and patients, ministering to their needs spiritually and emotionally. I found myself working with soldiers coming back from Iraq or Afghanistan; with staff juggling their own families and lives; and with retired commanders consigned to intensive care.

I entered into this situation as a young man still trying to find his place in society and the Church. When a seminarian enters formation, he begins to

from the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information Service. Several times, he posed questions that I did not have a ready answer for. In the end, I taught him about the faith, and he helped me to understand things about the military that I am still trying to grasp today.

The opportunity to be a Chaplain Candidate is often eclipsed by the fact that we are brought into the military and do not understand the day-to-day trials of being a soldier. But soldiers share a bond that runs as deep as blood. I was able to witness the needs and desires of the men and women who serve our country. Many do not realize the caring nature and strength of faith, but I am thankful to God that I had this opportunity to witness with them. ■

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