

**God's Work. Our Hearts and Hands...**  
**Memorial for Military Personnel, Veterans, and their Families**

**Whereas** 1.2 million Americans are currently serving in the various branches of the US Armed Forces, and about 21.2 million American men and woman are veterans of military service, and

**Whereas** hundreds of thousands of military personnel have been injured over the years and returned home with wounded bodies, minds, and hearts, and

**Whereas** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is highly committed to ministry among those in military uniform and those who have faithfully and often sacrificially served this nation, therefore

**Be it resolved** that the Southern Ohio Synod memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to encourage congregations of the ELCA to offer their gratitude and support for all military personnel, veterans, and their family and friends with tangible expressions of care and encouragement in one or more of the following ways:

- Express our gratitude often and remain especially attentive to those serving in the Armed Forces, as well as veterans, including the military and federal chaplains.
- Present copies of the *Prayer Book for the Armed Services*, (Augsburg Fortress), a companion to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* designed for those serving in uniform, veterans, and their families, to military personnel and their families and donate additional copies of the prayer book to military chaplains.
- Regularly lift up in prayer those who are serving and those who have served, and pray especially with and for members of the military and the families of those who have been wounded or killed in the line of duty.
- Give ongoing support and hold in constant prayer the military chaplains who bring the Means of Grace in the name of Christ Jesus on our behalf, to the 1.2 million women and men in the Armed Forces, as well as to those in Veterans Hospitals, and wherever else they are called to serve.
- Explore and facilitate congregational, conference, and/or synodical events that equip individuals and congregations to offer needed care and support for returning veterans such as the ELCA "Care for Returning Veterans," the Wounded Warrior Programs, Rural Clergy Training Program, Point Man Ministries, Partners in Care, and other efforts to receive those returning home with open hearts and arms.
- Lift up the vocational call of those who serve in the Armed Forces and raise up the need in our congregations for those who may hear the call of the Spirit of God and the church to serve as ordained military and federal chaplains of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- Designate one Sunday each year to especially remember those in military uniform, the veterans who have served, the wounded and their families in their recovery and in their coping, and the families of those who have lost their lives in service who live with pain and loss.
- Remembering that injuries of the mind, spirit, and relationships do not show as clearly as physical injuries, offer rituals of healing and reconciliation for active duty members, reservists, and members of the National Guard upon their return from deployment or

special duty, and periodically thereafter.”

- Realizing that not all honorably discharged veterans transition well and some find themselves incarcerated, congregations which already have prison ministry are encouraged to make a special effort to seek out incarcerated veterans and thank them for their service and help them access their veterans benefits that they might have a more successful transition upon their release.

Submitted by

The Rev. Joe Schrock