



## National Chaplain Event Planned for May 2023

Rev. Peter R. Hook, State Chaplain

For fifty years the members of VFW Post 1865, and the citizens of Kenosha, Wisconsin, honored the VFW National Chaplain and other VFW Chaplains for the service they provided. This was a special event not duplicated anywhere else in the world.

Unfortunately, a few years ago, the tradition stopped when Post leadership changed. Past National Chaplain, Ted Bowers, presented the idea of bringing this event to Pennsylvania to his home Post (Richard J. Gross VFW Post 8896) in East Berlin, PA. The East Berlin Post decided to take on the responsibility of honoring the VFW National Chaplain and the work of Chaplains. They held their first event in 2017 when I served as National Chaplain. The second "National Chaplain Event" took place May 18-20, 2018, and VFW National Chaplain, Rev. James Gray from Department of GA was honored. VFW National Chaplain, Charlene Cobb, from Wisconsin was honored May 17-19, 2019. From May 2020-2022 the events honoring Rev. Jim Jenkins from Kansas, Father Joseph Gallick from Massachusetts, and Harold Sayles from Virginia had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. This year, May 19-21, 2023, we look forward to honoring Debb Halter from Missouri.

This is a retreat weekend for Post, District, and State Chaplains and their spouses, and it is open to anyone who would like to attend. We will check in on Friday evening and have dinner together. Here is a preview of our schedule on Friday and Saturday, Armed Forces Day:

### Friday, May 19, 2023, Arrival at Hotels / Bed & Breakfast

6:30 pm - Dinner at local restaurant

8:00 pm - Informal gathering at VFW Post 8896

### Saturday, May 20, 2023

9:15 am - Meet at the Gettysburg Museum & Visitors Center

9:30 am - See movie / Cyclorama

11:00 am - Visit Museum / Gift Shop / Snack/Lunch in cafeteria

12:00 pm - Board Bus for Tour (A special guided tour of the Gettysburg battlefield by Chaplain John Wega, an expert, not only in Civil War history, but in the role chaplains and faith played in the Civil War).

3:15 pm - Return to Hotels / Bed & Breakfast

6:00 pm - Banquet at East Berlin VFW Post 8896

Following Dinner and Program, there will be a time of informal fellowship at East Berlin VFW.

We have reserved rooms at the Altland House (<http://altlandhouse.com/inn-suites/>) 1 Center Square in nearby Abbottstown, PA 17301 (717) 259-9535. These rooms are for guests who will check in on Friday, May 19, 2023, for 2 nights (departing Sunday morning, May 21, 2023).

Those planning to attend the National Chaplain Event who desire to stay at the Altland House, should call the Altland House individually on a first-come, first-served basis to review room features and nightly rates.

Chaplains, and anyone else who would like to attend, should put this on the calendar now and contact Chaplain Hook at 267-229-7722 or [PeterHook@verizon.net](mailto:PeterHook@verizon.net) to fill out a reservation form.

Blessings as you serve,

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

Past National Chaplain  
Eastern Conference Chaplain  
PA State Chaplain  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
534 Parkvale Ave.  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
267-229-7722  
Fax 215-750-1511  
PeterHook@verizon.net

