



Sons of the American Revolution

Ohio Society

Organized April 22, 1889

State Chaplain's Activity Report Fall Board of Management

October 17, 2020

Dr. R. Edgar Bonniwell
Ohio SAR Cincinnati Chapter
And State Chaplain

1. In the last 5 weeks I made two trips to Mt. Gilead where I had the privilege of ministering to the Rev. Patrick Kelly. Fifty-two-year Pastoral veteran, a fully ordained, seminary trained, Lutheran Pastor, and thirty-year Chaplain of the Mt. Vernon Chapter.

On my first visit we got acquainted, I read scripture and we had Holy Communion. Three weeks later I returned, conducted a ceremony, presenting him with a medal for his contributions with the rank of Colonel being bestowed upon him. It was followed by prayer. Rev. Pat Kelly lay in bed with his uniform on and the entire event was recorded on video. Without question this is one of the most moving of my SAR experiences.

His funeral will be held Monday morning October 5th. Colorguards from our Chapter and others have been organized. I have developed the service at the direction and order of President Wilkerson, and the family has asked me to do the inurnment, which will lead right into the SAR memorial tribute. It's been a privilege to have a relationship with this family, they are some of the finest people I've ever known. His daughter Karen is indeed an extraordinary lady, and it has been a complete joy to work with her as this ministry has unfolded.

Much thanks to my deputy and Assistant State Chaplain Matt Hardman, who made Pastoral visits also. I am so glad for this help, given the size of this State. Matt brings very distinctive and competent skills to the Pastoral office.

2. The Chaplain's Telephone Conferencing Program continues to go forward. Our recent guest, several weeks ago, was The Rev. Dr. Steve Brown, national radio host of Key Life Radio Broadcast, and noted author. Our next guest in November is The Rev. David Phelps, our National SAR Chaplain.

3. Matt Hardman and I continue to write letters of condolences, reaching out to families in distress or in need of Pastoral care.
4. I am now enjoying emails that are flowing between the Governor and myself, and I am thankful that he has been so kind and responsive to my concerns; and has legitimized them. We are now trying to establish a date for him to be a part of the Chaplain's program.
5. I continue to encourage my Chaplains to develop adequate study programs, developing their skills as counselors, and to pursue theological education with a view to ordination and certification by the State to solemnize marriages etc.
6. At some point in the future, Matt Hardman will be speaking at HillSide, and his wife will be performing. He will be preaching his first official sermon following his ordination; it will be a service of reaffirmation of his ordination vows, and we are inviting the entire Cincinnati Chapter.
7. Since assuming office as State Chaplain in May of 2019, approximately 55 fellow compatriots have now departed this life; no memorial service has been held due to Covid19. President Lee Wilkerson is aware of this and it appears now that this service will take place at our May State meeting. The service has been officially prepared and we are ready to go forward.
8. Assistant State Chaplain Matt Hardman and I have identified a serious problem that we know exists at the National level. We do not have anything that approximates some comprehensive biography on our members. We have developed a mechanism to ensure that the history of the contributions of our fellow compatriots will be preserved; and I will shortly bring that to our local BOM meeting and State BOM meeting.

This concludes the Chaplain's report. My contributions as Outreach Director have been given to the Youth Chairman Bob Bowers.