

THE CATHEDRAL VETERANS PROGRAM

1. Mission Statement

The Cathedral Veterans Program seeks to recognize and keep alive the memory of the 840 Cathedral veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces from WWI to the present.

2. The Cathedral Veterans Program first year

The Cathedral Veterans Program began in 2005 with a letter from Archbishop Demetrios encouraging all Greek churches to sponsor a U.S. Military Veterans Program. In starting the program, Dr. Christopher G. Gussis, Chris Dracopoulos and Harry Triantos met with Watertown's Taxiarchae Church Veterans Group headed by Dianne Proctor, Ann Marie Allsion and Bob Erickson, Watertown's Veterans Agent, who had formed their veterans program.

From information provided by the Taxiarchae Church Veterans Group, the Cathedral Veterans Program was organized. Since its inception in 2005, sixteen veterans programs were held to honor their veterans. Program highlights included a memorial service for the deceased veterans, a wreath presentation, a descriptive flag folding, "Taps," patriotic musical selections by the Cathedral choir, a memorabilia display of all wars, photos of living and deceased veterans and tributes to the many sacrifices and heroic bravery by the Cathedral veterans in defense of our freedom.

Participating in the service were flag bearers and a color guard from the USS Constitution and Fort Devens, the George K. Menichios Post 324 American Legion, branches of the Armed Forces and Evzones from the Hellenic American Societies of New England.

To keep their memory alive, 3 plaques and an Album were made indicating the photos and service information of each veteran. Included are special features of the 27 Killed in Action, 63 Purple Hearts 3 POW's and 1 MIA. Programs are currently held every Memorial and Veterans Day.

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3. The Committees

Dr. Christopher G. Gussis, Chair	George Kotros
Damon Bakos	James P. Lemonias
Chet Block +	Alex Mavradis
Nicholas Chigaris +	Arthur Papas
John C. Dimitrakis +	Paul Stamatou +
Chris Dracopoulos	Harry Triantos +
George H. Gennis, Esq. +	Theodore P. Vallas +
Charles Georgenes	John C. Yanakis
Harris P. Jameson +	Nicholas J. Zevitas
Christos Kotros +	+ deceased

Sub Committee

**John Booras, Georgia Haramis, Ann Jeas, Evelyn Nearhos
Irene Cockinos, Mary Hatsis, Helen Johnson, Mary Protopappas
Ellen Marie Demeter, Julie Geannakakis, Poppy Koshivos
Bassie Samiotes, Asemena T. Dodge, Kay Jarvis, Mary Mellen
Dr. James Toyias**

4. Composite Totals of Cathedral Veterans

<u>a. Participation</u>		<u>Service Totals</u>	
World War I	66	Army	495
World War II	525	Navy	149
Korea	76	Air Force	118
Vietnam	26	Marines	36
Iraq	4	Coast Guard ...	16
Peacetime	131	Merchant Mar..	10
Incomplete Info	<u>12</u>	National Gd....	4
	840	Incomplete	<u>12</u>
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