



Celebrate Veterans Day by Supporting a Ministry

By Rodney Pitzer, CFE

There are a couple formal designations in November to honor veterans and their families. This time set aside is appropriate given the numerous sacrifices made by the personnel that make up the United States Armed Forces and their families. One by product of their sacrifices is the freedom for charities to minister and donors privilege in giving in the United States. One way to show your gratitude in a very tangible and appropriate display would be to support a charity that ministers directly to the Armed Forces and their families.

November is military family month sponsored by the Armed Services YMCA and endorsed by the President of the United States. This annual observance demonstrates the nation's support for, and commitment to, the families of military personnel.

In addition, November 11, is Veterans Day. The origin of this day goes back to a U.S. legal holiday to honor Armistice Day - the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. The Legislature in 1938 indicated November 11 as "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'"


In 1954, the 83rd U.S. Congress amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.



In 1968, the Uniforms Holiday Bill promoted the celebrating of four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the last Monday of October.

Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971.

President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which formalized the annual observance of Veterans Day to the original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on November 11.

Recognizing the sacrifices that veterans and military families make every day has never been more important. Let us make a special effort this November to honor their bravery and resolve, and encourage them to stand firm. 

MinistryWatch.com is a donor-supported service of Wall Watchers. Help Wall Watchers maintain a voice and momentum as a Donor Advocate. Your financial support will be used as a type of multiplier effect by providing confidence in the charitable sector. Improving donor representation and empowering donors can ignite a renewed interest in giving. It would also cause current giving to be targeted more effectively and strategically. Thank you for your interest to pass on wisdom, understanding and discernment to others.

Sampling of Christian Military Ministries

By Rodney Pitzer, CFE

The following are just a few Christian ministries serving people in the military and their families and are worthy in considering to support.

(1) Cadence International

[Transparency Grade of an 'A' and a 4 Star Financial Efficiency Rating]

Cadence International began with ministering to American military families more than 50 years ago. Cadence serves all branches of the U.S. military in American and overseas locations. Since 1992 they have also been looking for opportunities for ministry to other nations as well. They

have about 200 missionaries who work in more than 50 locations worldwide.

Contact details: PO Box 1268, Englewood, CO 80150 / (800) 396-6680 / info@cadence.org.

(2) Campus Crusade For Christ Military Ministry

[Transparency Grade of an 'A' and a 4 Star Financial Efficiency Rating]

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

They assist chaplains and commanders with caring for the spiritual well-being of troops and their families. They do so in many ways, but all focus on the gospel. They seek to help every troop, every leader, every family member hear and receive the life saving message about Jesus.

- Campus Crusade Military Ministry was established in 1964 at the direct request of Crusade founder Bill Bright, who recognized the military as a special audience for evangelistic outreach.
- Their Executive Director is Major General (Retired) Robert F. Dees. General Dees is a graduate of West Point (1972), where he was disciplined by a Military Ministry associate staff couple and where he committed to serve God as a missionary in the military. He served with distinction as an Army infantry commander and staff officer until his retirement in 2003. Immediately prior to assuming leadership of Military Ministry, General Dees served as Executive Director, Defense Strategies at Microsoft Corp.
- Military Ministry has more 350 full and part-time staff and hundreds of volunteers across the US and in Europe.

The Six Pillars of Military Ministry

The following are six strategic objectives of Campus Crusade for Christ Military Ministry:

- Pillar 1 - Evangelize and disciple enlisted U.S. military members throughout their military careers.
- Pillar 2 - Build Christian military leaders and influence our nation for Christ as a result.
- Pillar 3 - Stop the unraveling of the military family and provide Christ-centered solutions for those suffering from the destructive effects of combat trauma, and especially PTSD.
- Pillar 4 - Arm troops in harm's way with spiritual resources. Provide Bibles and devotional materials to chaplains and directly to troops.
- Pillar 5 - Wage Christian outreach, discipleship and training on the Internet to military members across the world.
- Pillar 6 - Change continents for Christ. Train, equip and support indigenous military leaders as they build Christian ministries in their own nations.

Contact: PO BOX 120124; Newport News, Virginia 23612-0124
General email: info@milmin.org, Toll free: (800) 444-6006

(3) Christian Military Fellowship (CMF)

[Transparency Grade of an 'A' and a 4 Star Financial Efficiency Rating]

CMF supports United States military personnel and their families, worldwide, with prayer, Bible studies, local fellowships, conferences, referrals, free literature, correspondence, hospitality, and Christian resources.

Contact: PO Box 1207, Englewood, CO 81050-1207 / (800) 798-7875 / Admin@CMFHQ.org.

(4) Military Community Youth Ministries (MCYM)

[Transparency Grade of an 'A' and a 5 Star Financial Efficiency Rating]

"Club Beyond" is the name used by MCYM to identify it's ministry with military teens worldwide. More than 65 full-time staff along with hundreds of volunteers work in more than 40 major locations, including Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Iceland, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, and the United States. MCYM ministers annually to more than 14,000 teenagers.

Contact: P.O. Box 2486, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901 / (800) 832-9098 / information@mcym.org.

(5) Navigators Military Ministry

[Transparency Grade of an 'A' and a 3 Star Financial Efficiency Rating]

Working alongside military chaplains and counselors, Navigators help to meet spiritual needs of military personnel and their families. Navigators began doing so in 1933 when Dawson Trotman helped spiritually hungry sailors. During WWII, those sailors were grounded in spiritual truths and shared these truths with their friends. Today, Navigators still do what those first sailors did: share Christ with others, show how God's Word is relevant to their lives, and encourage new followers to do the same with their friends and acquaintances. At every ministry location, Navigators bring Christ's light to military people by helping them see how the Scriptures apply to the urgent challenges and everyday situations of life: job pressures, loneliness, materialism, fatigue, immorality, relationships, boredom, separation, insecurity, danger even death.

Staff

- 347 in the United States
- 26 in Europe
- 5 in the Pacific Rim
- 6 in additional foreign locations

Contact: PO Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934; (866) 568-7827

(6) Officers' Christian Fellowship (OCF)

[Transparency Grade of an 'B' and a 2 Star Financial Efficiency Rating]

OCF desires to serve those who serve their country. They have numerous resources to help military members and their families grow together in their relationship with God and others. OCF considers its Core Competencies as, (A) Prayer, (B) Small Group Fellowship and Outreach, (C) Leadership, (D) Conference Centers, and (E) Publishing. OCF serves, active duty officers, enlisted personnel, guard and reserve members, academy and ROTC cadets/midshipmen, international military personnel, civilian employees of the military, retirees, widows, and their families.

Contact: 3784 South Inca, Englewood, CO 80110-3405 / (800) 424-1984 / ocfdenver@ocfhq.org.

Even what you may consider a small one time gift will be well used by these ministries. Perhaps what you may consider a "sacrificial gift" may not look so sacrificial compared to those in the Armed Forces and what they are willing to give up. ☺

MinistryWatch *Direct* aims to spur donors to examine ministries and make discerning giving decisions. MinistryWatch.com is a donor-supported service of Wall Watchers. Help Wall Watchers maintain a voice and momentum as a Donor Advocate. Your financial support will be used as a type of multiplier effect by providing confidence in the charitable sector. Improving donor representation and empowering donors can ignite a renewed interest in giving. It would also cause current giving to be targeted more effectively and strategically. Thank you for your interest to pass on wisdom, understanding and discernment to others.

Write a check made out to Wall Watchers and mail it to 2514 Plantation Center Drive, Matthews, NC 28105.
1 (866) 364-9980

www.MinistryWatch.com
www.wallwatchers.org