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Fort Leonard Wood chaplains to celebrate 238 years of service

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Fort Leonard Wood plans to observe the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps anniversary beginning with a service at 9:30 a.m. July 26 in the World War II Museum Chapel, located in the Memorial Grove World War II Museum Chapel, Building 1310, on Nebraska Avenue.

The celebration is designed to commemorate the rich heritage and 238-year history of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps.

According to Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Sharpe, 1st Engineer Brigade chaplain, and this year's event organizer, immediately following the chapel service, Unit Ministry Teams, their families, and command groups, will have a chance to view exhibits featuring the history of the Chaplain Corps during World War II and the Korean War.

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A display, highlighting members of the corps who have received the Medal of Honor, including Army chaplain and Medal of Honor recipient, Capt. Emil J. Kapaun, who was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon, April 12, 2013, is also planned, Sharpe said.

The event will conclude with a catered lunch in the World War II Museum Mess Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., he said.

Even though the event requires advance registration and is open primarily to Unit Ministry Teams and their families, Sharpe said that anyone may stop by from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to view the exhibits on the Memorial Grove and in the chapel.

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps provides religious support to America's Army while assisting commanders in ensuring the right of free exercise of religion for all Soldiers. In short, chaplains nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the fallen.

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About the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is a profession of religious and spiritual Soldiers and leaders who build the spiritual and moral resiliency of the Army family now and for the future. Chaplains, with the support of Chaplain Assistants, provide religious and emotional support to America's Army while assisting commanders in ensuring the right of free exercise of religion for all Soldiers.

Since July 29, 1775, approximately 25,000 Army Chaplains have served as religious and spiritual leaders for 25 million Soldiers and their Families. From military installations to deployed combat units and from service schools to military hospitals, Army Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants have performed their ministries in the most religiously diverse organization in the world. Always present with their Soldiers in war and in peace, Army Chaplains have served in more than 270 major wars and combat engagements. Nearly 300 Army Chaplains have laid down their lives in battle. Six have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Currently, over 2,900 Chaplains are serving the Total Army representing over 130 different religious organizations. Source: <http://www.army.mil/chaplaincorps/>

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.

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