

The Western WATCH



From the HC...

A few weeks a dear friend and brother in the Lord, Rob Byrn (pictured above) passed away. Though he was not a CAP Chaplain or a member of CAP, while I was reflecting the past few days there were a couple of noteworthy items that the life of Rob Bryn could bear on the PCR Chaplain Corps and the manner in which we conduct ourselves.

Rob and I had been friends for over 25 years. Our lives inter-connected through our involvement in Law Enforcement (he was a sworn officer and I as a volunteer LE Chaplain), Central Coast Promise Keepers, occasional meetings at various business and eating establishments, and then for the last 6 years co-workers at the Sheriff's Office. Since we worked together, I saw Rob practically every business day in his role as a Crime Prevention Specialist and Public Affairs Officer for the Sheriff's Office. In addition to his day job, Rob was very active in the Republican Party and worked on several campaigns for candidates running for county, state and federal offices. Though Rob had all sorts of connections and relationships in the political arena, in church work, with the media and around the workplace, everyone who met Rob felt like he was their friend. In our office, we knew that Rob was in the building because you could hear him greeting people as he worked his way through the hallway of the Admin building. His laugh was noticeable as well as the laughter that followed him. If you were walking across the parking lot, he would stop and engage you in conversation. Rob's unexpected death on March 1st hit our agency and community very hard.



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From HC cont'd...

Based on the items just shared about Rob, let's see if I can share how his impact on others applies to the members of the Chaplain Corps:

1) Treatment of others - Though Rob was the "voice" of the Sheriff to the public/media and was friends with more politicians than you could "shake a stick at", there was this sense of humility. He never acted "bigger" than anyone or treated them lesser. He respected and honored your role/responsibility...but more than that, he valued you as a person. You were important to him. Members of the Chaplain Corps serve as members of the Commander's Staff at all levels of CAP -- pretty heady stuff. While we have a role/responsibility/relationship with the Commander, we also have a role/responsibility to all members of the unit from the Commander to the newest Cadet or Senior Member in the unit.

2) Perception by others - Rob lived a philosophy of "Take your job but not yourself seriously". He was professional but yet personable. When Rob showed up anywhere, the energy level increased a bit :) Why? Simply because people enjoyed his presence...whether he was an observer or an active participant. Granted that not all of us are extroverted, but the question we should be addressing is that when we show up for an activity or event, are people glad to see us or do they groan under their breath? Somewhere we need to strike a balance between being a "party animal" and a "party pooper" ☺

3) Passion - This statement was written in Rob's obituary: "*Rob had five main loves of his life: his daughters Jennifer Kathleen King and Deanna Michelle Rowland, his many granddoggies, his church, the Sheriff's Office and the Republican Party.*" He was passionate about these and everyone around him knew it. If you met Rob for the first time, you would pick up on a couple of those right away and on the next meeting, you would pick up on the rest. What are we passionate about? What is it that we share with others? Do others sense and pick up on our passion?

4) Conviction and principles - The reason Rob was passionate about some matters was that he held to some unwavering convictions and principles. He knew what he believed. He knew what he believed in. Though others might not have agreed with him, they could respect him for what he held true. In a world where changes and uncertainty occur, we in the Chaplain Corps are often looked to as a source of stability. That requires that we possess unwavering convictions and principles.

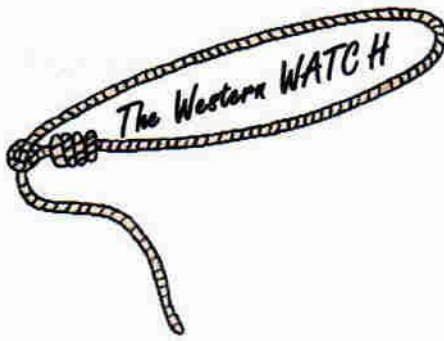
5) Patriotism/Service - Rob served his county in the military as a proud member of the United States Navy and as a member of the Navy League. He viewed his work in Law Enforcement (sworn and later non-sworn), in church (a lay leader), in the community (Rotary, Board of Directors of Alpha Academy, Republican Party) as simply honoring God for blessing him and this nation. The motto of the PCR Chaplain Corps is based on the motto of the Civil Air Patrol, with an additional phrase: *Semper Vigilans Ad Dei Gloriam* ("Always Vigilant -- for the Glory of God"). I have often used this phrase in offering the benediction at a CAP event, "*Continue to bless our efforts as we serve You by serving others*". All that we do in life -- whether it is CAP, work, family, leisure -- is ultimately for God's glory.

In these short paragraphs just a few of the many contributions that my friend and colleague, Rob Bryn, made in his life have been noted. As he inspired me in my service, I trust that in sharing a bit about my friend, Rob will be a source of inspiration for you.

In Service Together,

Paul

Ch, Lt Col Paul Ward, CAP



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Congratulations to Ch, Maj Dave Franklin (WAWG) for attaining the Gill Robb Wilson Award. This award is presented to senior members in the Civil Air Patrol who have completed all five levels of the Senior Member Professional Development Training Program. The CAP first gave this award in 1964 to honor the late Gill Robb Wilson. He is regarded as the founder of Civil Air Patrol, and served as CAP's first executive officer. It is estimated that only 5% of the senior members of CAP attain this award. Each recipient of the Gill Robb Wilson award receives a numbered certificate. Chaplain Franklin's certificate number is #2920.



FINAL SALUTE

Ch, Lt Col Richard Taba – HIWG
Chaplain Taba was a former HIWG HC
and a 50 year member
of the Civil Air Patrol

PACIFIC REGION, CAP

Col Larry F. Myrick
Commander

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Notice To Readers:
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The Highest Flight Academy - Spiritual Flight Training

On February 19-20, 2012 using cadets' and seniors' excitement and interest in space exploration, Chaplain, Capt Michael Morison conducted a 24 hour overnight retreat at the Redwood Empire Composite Squadron 157 HQ, Santa Rosa, CA. Members of squadrons 157 and 23 **attended The Highest Flight Academy - Spiritual Flight Training.**

Chaplain Morison holds a CAP master's rating in aerospace education and was the first education supervisor at the U.S. Space Camp & Academy in Huntsville, AL. As a high school religion teacher, Morison met Jim Irwin, lunar module pilot of Apollo 15. Irwin's greatest experience of God's presence in his life came during his walk on the moon. After his flight, Colonel Irwin founded the High Flight Foundation ministry to share "the 'Good News' of Jesus Christ in a space way." He said, "...I wish to share the greatest of all discoveries with you: a new life in Christ! You can be more than an earthling!"

With Irwin's encouragement and using his materials, Morison developed a retreat program for youth. Irwin suggested that Morison intellectually knew the material and that he might obtain more experiential knowledge of spaceflight. Morison's experience at Space Camp afforded him many opportunities to do that. Over the next thirty years Morison continued to research the faith experiences and activities of the astronauts. All this was the basis for developing **The Highest Flight Academy** for our Civil Air patrol cadets and seniors. Morison would like to provide every CAP chaplain with an orientation on how they, too, can leverage the excitement of space exploration with the exploration of faith.

The Highest Flight Academy - Spiritual Flight Training has three levels - basic, intermediate, and advanced. The basic level of **The Highest Flight Academy** uses the excitement of the Apollo lunar exploration program to challenge the participants to see that a number of astronauts were men of faith and brought this faith with them in their missions.

The retreat promotion challenged cadets with the reality of Jim Irwin's statement that "decisions determine destination." During the retreat, participants were introduced to Irwin's insight that each of us is navigating our "flight through life."

The basic program uses the space program and the Apollo 15 mission to challenge participants to think about the role and place of God in their lives. To provide them with the opportunity that, even being on the cutting edge of space exploration and technology, there is a place for God in grounding one's life. It also challenges participants to explore where they are in their "flight through life." During the retreat, cadets saw films on the Apollo moon flights, Jim Irwin's witness, and Buzz Aldrin receiving communion on the moon.

Retreat activities included:

- preflight checklist on arrival
- NASA Survival Exercise
- prayer times
- developing a spiritual checklist for living
- designing a personal mission patch
- eating a MRE
- being introduced to how one life involves a living ministry



Cadets received a Good News Bible and a retreat notebook. Morison's personal collection of artifacts, memorabilia, and artwork (sharing the human stories of the lunar explorers) by Alan Bean (Apollo12 moonwalker, CMDR Skylab III) were available to provide an appropriate environment for the retreat.

Assisting Chaplain Morison were Maj Trisha Lay, SQD 157's CDI, and Maj Anthony Hamill, Deputy Commander for Cadets for SQD. 157. How can we measure the impact of this retreat experience? It is best measured by the cadets' response. At the conclusion of the academy, all the cadets were asking if the intermediate level would be held before the end of school year.





Chaplain (Maj) Richard Nelson, CAWG HC

In January, Col Jon Stokes (CAWG CC) appointed Chaplain, Maj Richard Nelson to serve as the CAWG HC. He succeeds Chaplain, Lt Col George Dawson who stepped down at the change of command so that the new Wing Commander could begin his term with a new Wing Chaplain. Chaplain Dawson will continue to serve on wing staff as the Deputy Wing Chaplain.

Chaplain Nelson is a native Californian with his ancestors coming from Sweden to California in 1849. Growing up on 300 acres, he attended Yuba City High School, College of San Mateo, The University of the Pacific and most recently Liberty University finishing a M.A. of Theological Studies in May of 2012. He joined the California National Guard in 1956 and during the next 10 years advanced to the rank of Sergeant First Class holding the position of Division Operations Sgt. for the 49th Division Artillery in Stockton, CA.

Being influenced by several uncles in ministry, Chaplain Nelson began his service in 1970 holding positions in Sunday School, Jr. High, Music, Christian Drug Center Director, Youth Prison Ministry, Singles Pastor, Prayer Minister, and Teacher. In 2002 he felt the call to minister among men and women in uniform. By August of 2005 he had joined Squadron 47 at Camp Pendleton and received his Chaplain's appointment in October of the same year. Among the members he enjoys being addressed by the less formal title of "Chaps."

Chaplain Nelson has completed all CAP's Senior Level training, attaining the Gil Robb Wilson Award (#2730) and holds a Master's rating in the Chaplain specialty track. He also holds a Technician rating in Communications, Senior rating in Cadet Programs, and has received the Yeager Award. Other awards include: CAWG Chaplain of the Year (2008, 2011); Group 7 Chaplain of the Year (2007, 2010); Commander's Commendations, and The Chaplain Sammy Campos Ministry of Presence Award (a CAWG Chaplain Corps award).

Chaplain Nelson has completed both Basic and Peer Critical Incident Stress Management courses and the Pastoral Care CISM course. He served as the CAWG CISO from 2007-2011. He is qualified as a Mission Chaplain, Mission Radio Operator, MSA and holds an Amateur Radio Operator (N7RAN) General rating volunteering with the San Marcos Fire Department CERT Team.

Chaplain Nelson enjoys working most with the Cadets and Emergency Services and attends as many ILPs and SAREXs as possible. While still working with seniors and other agencies, he feels his most important assignment is being with CAP cadets.

Chaplain Nelson has served as an OES Disaster Chaplain in San Diego for seven years, works with the Red Cross and the Armed Forces YMCA, but still finds time to work on his 5th Dan Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. He is married to Nancy, has five children and nine grandchildren.



CHAPLAIN CORPS PRESENCE AT THE CAWG CADET PROGRAMS CONFERENCE

Capt Michael Lynch (CDI) and Chaplain, Lt Col Paul Ward (pictured) served together at the recent Cadet Programs Conference for the California Wing this past February 17-20. Each year over 300 cadets and senior members meet at Camp San Luis Obispo for a week-end of workshops, networking, and fun activities. There were over 50 workshops in 9 blocks on Saturday and Sunday. Capt Lynch and Chaplain Ward escorted 13 cadets to Protestant services at Grace Church. Capts Michael Blackey and Todd Rasmussen escorted 11 cadets to Catholic services at the Old Mission. Capt Lynch served as the Medical Officer and Chaplain Ward was the staff Chaplain and led two workshops. Cadets checked in on Friday evening and went home on Monday morning. The highlight of the event was the formal banquet at the Embassy Suites where various awards were presented. The keynote speaker was Capt Joshua Assayag (USAF and a former CAWG Cadet). Josh's words to the cadets were truly inspirational. Here is a link to a video of the 2012 CPC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgVFL0SwMlg>.



ON-LINE REPORTING FOR FORM 34s

The screenshot shows the Civil Air Patrol eServices interface. The user is logged in as Lt Col Paul L. Ward. The page features several main sections: CAP Utilities, PCR-001 Stats, My Info, and Restricted. The 'My Favorites' section is expanded, showing 'Chaplain Corps Reporting' and 'Member Reports'. A red arrow points to the 'Chaplain Corps Reporting' link.

The online Chaplain Corps reporting system is has gone "live". All members of the CAP Chaplain Corps should be using this to submit their Form 34's. The reporting database is easily accessible by signing in to eServices (www.capnhq.gov).

Once you have successfully signed in to eServices, select "Chaplain Corps Reporting" to begin entering data pertaining to your activities. The home screen will be displayed providing you with the opportunity to immediately begin entering your data or view more detailed information about the online reporting

system. Instructions may be viewed by selecting the "Instructions" link on the left side of the screen. These instructions are provided to help guide you through the process of entering data as well as generating reports.

There are two separate forms available in the new online reporting system. The Form 34 – HC is designed for Chaplains and the Form 34 – CDI is designed for Character Development Instructors. You will need to select the appropriate form prior to entry of your data.

All semi-annual reports are due no later than 5 January and 5 July. Please remember, each Chaplain and Character Development Instructor is required to submit a complete semi-annual report even when he or she had been inactive during the reporting period. Guides for using this new process can be found at:
<http://hc.pcr.cap.gov/downloads/How-to-use-Online-Form-34-Report-System.pdf>

DATES TO REMEMBER....



Pacific Region Conference

18-20 May 2012

Portland, Oregon

Tentative activities include:

- ▶ Awards Assembly
- ▶ Open Forum with the Region Commander
- ▶ Critical Incident Stress Management Course
- ▶ Cadet Programs (to include TLC)
- ▶ Operations Update
- ▶ Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Training and Update
- ▶ Training classes on MIMS, E-Services, protocol and many more!

To register for the conference:

<https://events.capnhq.gov/OnlineStore/PCRCConference2012/tabid/234/Default.aspx>

Full conference price \$99.00 – includes conference,

Saturday lunch and Saturday evening banquet; Conference only - \$30.00; Lunch only - \$29.00; Banquet only - \$51.00

Location:

Embassy Suites Hotel, Portland Airport

7900 N E 82nd Ave

Portland, OR 97220-1388 -- 503-460-3000

Hotel web site for registration:

http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/P/PDXESES-CIV-20120516/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Group name: Civil Air Patrol Group Code: CIV

Single or Double Rate: \$115, includes cooked to order breakfast each morning, evening reception, free parking, complimentary airport shuttle service. Book by April 29th to reserve your room!

For further information contact LTC Beverly Scoggins at blscoggins@aol.com or LTC Peggy Myrick at peggym@bmaslo.com or LTC Theresa Longley at t_longley@yahoo.com.



2012 NATIONAL BOARD CONFERENCE
22-25 August Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Baltimore, MD



**PUTTING THE WORD "MEMORIAL"
BACK IN MEMORIAL DAY**
May 28, 2012

The "Memorial" in Memorial Day has been ignored by too many of us who are beneficiaries of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Often we do not observe the day as it should be, a day where we actively remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors, and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice:

-- by visiting cemeteries and placing flags or flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes.

-- by visiting memorials.

--by flying the U.S. Flag at half-staff until noon.

--by flying the 'POW/MIA Flag' as well (Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act).

--by participating in a Memorial Day observance at your local cemetery/memorial park or in the "National Moment of Remembrance" at 3 p.m. to pause and think upon the true meaning of the day, and for Taps to be played.

--by renewing a pledge to aid the widows, widowers, and orphans of our fallen dead, and to aid the disabled veterans.