

Go!

Chaplain's Corner

Stephen Mesa, Chaplain, VFW Post 475

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Within the Bible there is a verse from Matthew 28:19-20 which reads "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." While the verse is speaking about Christian discipleship, the key word to focus upon is the word, "Go!"

If we are to go and reach out to other veterans, it involves courage, boldness, and communication. What holds us back then from reaching out to other veterans and inviting them to join our VFW posts?

I may be wrong, but I think much of our hesitancy comes from the cautions given to us as children from parents, teachers, or guardians. There are several warnings that continue to haunt us today. One of them is "Don't talk to strangers."

We gather at monthly meetings but how often do you attempt to make other veterans seen? By that, I mean introducing yourself and asking them a bit about themselves.

My father-in-law was a B17 flight engineer during WWII. When I spoke to him about his time in between flights, he said they did not really talk to other flight crews. Crews tended to keep to themselves because they knew the chance of their crew surviving, or other flight crews coming back from dangerous bombing runs was very low. They did not want to deal with loss or the emotions that would surface.

That is opposite of how we should feel as post members. We should want those members we see in monthly meetings to join us in our community service activities. The percentage of "involved" members is relatively low. I'd like to challenge you to step forward at the next post meeting and introduce yourself. Ask members how they are involved. If they're not active outside monthly meeting, invite them to join you in one of your activities. Don't keep them strangers. Make them a friend!