



Prayer For Our Troops
The Reverend James T. Akers, D.P.Min.
National Chaplain 2004-2005

O'God, Our Heavenly Father; for over 200 years, You have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. We thank you for each of them and our veterans. They all stand in an unbroken line of brave defenders of freedom at home and abroad.

Being mindful of all who find themselves in harm's way on the far-flung fronts of the world, we invoke Your Divine blessing. May Your protection and grace surround them each day, as they carry out their duties and assigned missions.

May those who have given their lives in the cause of freedom, rest forever in Your Holy Presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the precious lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them. Let us be ever mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, fathers, and friends. Let Your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries.

Father, may peace throughout the world be our goal, but never at the cost of compromising that which is right and good for humanity. Help us to be ever vigilant in guarding the liberty which You have bestowed upon us as a nation. Let the courage of those who defend our way of life never be taken for granted.

Give guidance to our leaders at all levels. May wise decisions be made, which will reflect Your Divine will for each day, each crisis, and each future event.

All this we lift up, knowing that Your vision greatly exceeds our limited sight. We place our confidence in You for all things, as we remember Your promise to be with us, "even unto the end of the Age".

Amen

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Ways Your Place Of Worship Can Support Our Troops

1. Make a display in your narthex, assembly area or sanctuary. A table and a bulletin board work well.

Place pictures and names of members serving in the military. You may want to display a global map with pins and names. Add family members of those who are serving in the armed forces.

Add people you know and associate with in the business and community.

List military bases and units of the Guard and Reserve in your place of worship's area and to whom you minister.

2. Let these people know you are praying for them. Send cards and letters of support. Include bulletins, worship and community news.

Have a card shower.

Divide the list for individuals to pray for and communicate with each one.

Send care packages. You may want to cooperate with the local Legion post and other community-service organizations.

Send devotionals, scriptural tracts, and various inspirational and secular reading materials. These can be used in many ways.

3. Pray from the pulpit.

Have a special presentation of the flag during prayer.

Form prayer chains or host prayer vigils.

Ask personnel in uniform to participate in the service, or use veterans in your congregation if you don't have any members currently serving.

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