Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony Honors Service and Sacrifice at Calvary Cemetery, Queen of Peace Mausoleum, November 11, 2026

On a chilly, sunny morning, the Queen of Peace Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery became a place of solemn reflection and gratitude as a heartfelt Veterans Day Remembrance ceremony brought together a capacity crowd of Veterans, families, as well as those from the local community. Sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church and the Knights of Columbus Council 277, Assembly 751 and led by presiding officer Retired Navy Captain Dan Weed, the event honored the service and sacrifice of veterans across generations. With the sound of patriotic hymns echoing through the mausoleum, the ceremony began as attendees gathered to pay their respects. Attendees stood, united by a shared commitment to remembering those who served in the armed forces.



Captain Dan Weed, a retired Navy officer with over 30 years of service, as well as a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 277, Assembly 751 opened the ceremony with an address that wove together the importance of Service – Service to our Nation as well as Service to Christ; and our obligation as Catholics to fulfill our responsibility through charity, unity, and fraternity. Captain Weed reminded those assembled "when we think of the word 'service', we think of our veterans who pledge their lives in defense of others. It is in its truest form, an act of love – the kind of love that Christ himself modeled when he said, *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

Captain Weed asked those assembled to "reflect upon two sacred responsibilities: remembering the sacrifices of those who served our nation and caring for those who returned home. These responsibilities are deeply rooted in our Catholic faith."

"Our veterans answered a call that demanded courage, commitment and sacrifice. They left their families, endured hardships, accepted risks that many of us will never fully understand. Some returned carrying the wounds of military service. Others never returned at all. Their sacrifices helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Our Veterans Day observances provide a meaningful example of this responsibility." Captain Weed went on to say "When our community gathers at Calvary Cemetery to remember the departed, we demonstrate that remembrance remains an important part of our shared civic and spiritual life. Yet this cannot end when the prayers are finished, the speeches concluded and the flags carefully folded away. A veteran living alone may appreciate companionship more than public recognition."

One of the most poignant moments of the ceremony came as Captain Weed described the history of an old Scottish clan folklore tradition called the *Building of the Cairn*. Before battle, each warrior would place a stone upon a common pile, forming what was known as a *cairn.* After the battle, surviving warriors reclaimed their stones, leaving behind those representing comrades who had fallen and would never return home. Numerous attendees each took a stone and placed one in a pile to symbolize a life, a family, a story, and a sacrifice.

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David Nazer places a stone on the Cairn.



The completed Cairn.

Another powerful moment in the ceremony was the tolling of a ship's bell—a tradition steeped in naval history. Captain Weed introduced this segment by explaining its significance to those who served at sea. "The ship's bell was used to mark time, signal the changing of the watch, and sound alarms," he said. "Today, we use it to honor those who stood the watch during their time in service." The resonant sound of the bell, ringing 12 times, echoed through the Mausoleum; a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by those who answered the call to serve.



Pictured left: Captain Dan Weed, USN (Retired) and Lieutenant Colonel Jim Moravec, USA (Retired), ring the ship's Bell.

Captain Weed went on to say: "We must also remember the families who shared the sacrifices or military service. Today, many family members care for Veterans living with serious illnesses or disabilities. Much of this work takes place quietly without recognition. We can provide a meal, help with home repairs, offer transportation, or allow an exhausted caregiver time to rest. These are meaningful expressions of Christian charity."



The Knights of Columbus Council 277, Assembly 751 with their sponsorship, and Captain Dan Weed, with his eloquent leadership, ensured that the day was not only a tribute to the past but a call to action for the future. As Captain Weed aptly stated, "let us remember that honoring our veterans is a responsibility extending beyond today's gathering. Our gratitude must be reflected in the lives we lead tomorrow."

Pictured left: Dan Carney, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 277, Assembly 751, speaks of his father's service in the U.S. Navy.

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