

Our Board of Directors

Richard C. Vie: Chairman of the Board, Military Outreach USA, Navy Pilot, Aircraft CDR Patrol Squadron, Midway Island, Chairman Emeritus and Board Member, Kemper Corporation, Chairman, United States Navy Memorial, Washington DC, Board Member, Concordia University Wisconsin, Board of Regents, Concordia Calif Irvine, Board Member and Past Chairman, Executives Club of Chicago, Board of Directors, J S Kemper Foundation. Married since 1960, six children, 13 grandchildren, Member-Faith Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, IL.

James H. Mukoyama, Jr., President/CEO: Major General (Retired) U.S. Army 1964-1995, Former Securities Industry Executive for 38 years. Promise Keepers since 1996, Command Religious Program volunteer instructor – at the Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Center since 2001, Pinnacle Forum Partner. Former Chair of the National Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs. He and his wife were hospice patient volunteers for six years. Willow Creek Community Church member since 1995, leading a small group and co-directing a monthly men's breakfast. Married to K.J. since 1971, one son and one daughter.

Howard M. Lang (Secretary): Military Outreach USA, Air Force 1967-1971 active duty, Air Force Reserve 1971-1975, Naval Reserve – JAG Corps 1975-1997 Retired as Captain (O-6).. Principal Attorney, Estate & Business Law Group, P.C., Libertyville, IL. He attends Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL. Married to Mary since 1968 with three children and eight grandchildren.

Ricky Bersano (Treasurer): Military Champion; Stephen Minister Leader prior: President, Vice President, chairman of Elder, Sunday school teacher. He attends North Shore Lutheran Ministry Faith Lutheran Church. Married to Janice since 1980 with two children.

Joseph Palmer (Executive Director): Ex-officio Board Member. Air Force 1966-1970 active duty, Vietnam Veteran, Security Police, K9. Joe got his B.S. in Political Science from Southern Connecticut State University and has a sales and marketing background. Joe is a life member of VFW Post 7539 in Bloomingdale.

John Fortson: USMA 1989. Army Officer 1989-1996, Captain, Infantry. Currently Chief Financial Officer, AAR Corporation. Former Managing Director of Investment Banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. He attends Kenilworth Union Church, Kenilworth IL. Married to Deirdre since 1990 with two children.

Fr. Matt Foley: Pastor: Fr. Matt Foley joined Saint James Parish as its pastor in August 2013. Fr. Matt was ordained a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1989. His first assignment was to serve as associate pastor of St. Agatha located in the North Lawndale Community on Chicago's West Side. During his service at St. Agatha, he focused much attention on teaching at the school and developing a gang alternative program called St. Agatha Family Empowerment (S.A.F.E.). In 1994, he was sent on a special assignment to Mexico to be a pastor of Santiago Apostol in Quechultenango, Guerrero, where he served the mostly indigenous farmers living in 26 villages over approximately 240 square miles in the mountains of the Sierra Madres.

During his time in Guerrero, he began the El Nino Rey scholarship program that provides educational scholarships, dental services, and family assistance to the people of Guerrero. Fr. Matt continues to serve as the director of the board for this non-profit organization. In 2000, Fr. Matt became the pastor of St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish in Chicago's Little Village, where he served for eight years. St. Agnes grew into a worshipping community of 6,100 attending 9 Sunday Masses. For the last five years, Fr. Matt served as the U.S. Army Chaplain the 101st Airborne Division. He had joined the army to fulfill a promise he once made to his brother, who served in Desert Storm, that he would become a chaplain. With the blessing of Cardinal Francis George, Fr. Mat joined the Army in June 2008 and began active duty in April 2009. During his time as chaplain, he spent about 27 months in four deployments to Afghanistan; he completed his last deployment in late May 2013.

Marcia Benjamin: Graduate of the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. While on active duty for Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm also served as the Family Support Leader for husband's deployed Infantry battalion. Began military nursing career as a Navy Nurse at Camp Lejeune, NC. Transferred to the Army and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC. Subsequently she transitioned to the Army Reserves. In September 1990 was recalled to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Served as the Head Nurse of Labor and Delivery at Fort Campbell, KY for 11 months. Subsequent reserve assignments were as Chief Nurse of 4221st Army Hospital and the 452nd Combat Support Hospitals. She retired after 30 years of service in 2001. David J Benjamin Jr COL (R) USA, married since 1974. Three sons, two that are currently on active duty and both have deployed to Afghanistan. Oldest son also deployed to Iraq. Three grandchildren.

Andy Marwede: Andy is the son of a Korean War (US Army) veteran. Andy felt a powerful urge to join Military Outreach USA's efforts after visiting with combat veteran patients at his local VA Hospital at Great Lakes and seeing the devastating effects of PTSD first-hand. He earned a BA from Yale University where he was a three-year letter-winner in football. He also earned an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. Andy is a Pinnacle Forum Member and attends Faith Lutheran Church and Christ Church in Lake Forest, IL and The Chapel in Libertyville, IL. Andy is a fourth-generation resident of Lake Forest, IL.

Steve Wild: Owner and CEO of Club Net, Inc., which owns and manages "semi-private" tennis and health clubs between Chicago and Milwaukee. Mr. Wild has served on a wide variety of non-profit boards and enjoys golf, tennis, and playing in his own 1960's band The Class of '68. Steve has an undergraduate degree from DePaul University and an MBA from Northwestern University with a stop at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in between. He attends Christ Church – Lake Forest, IL.

Frank Nimesheim: Veteran U.S. Army Reserve and earned a BSBA in Industrial Relations from Wayne State University. Frank held HR executive positions with Allied Signal, Kraft, UAL, and 4 private equity firms. Throughout his career he has worked with firms that specialize in placing veteran military personnel. He is a member St. Mary's Church in Lake Forest, IL. Married to Barbara in 1966 and have a daughter, two sons and six grandchildren.

Jack Clarey: U.S. Navy Officer 1965 to 1970, Vietnam Veteran. Jack has a B.S from Iowa State University and MBA from the Wharton School. A highly experienced executive search consultant who founded Clarey Andrews & Klein, Inc. A Lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Northbrook, IL. Married to Kathi since 1965, two daughters and two grandsons.

Advisory Board

Allen J. Lynch: Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, U.S. Army (Retired), served in the First Cavalry Vietnam 1967 -1968; Retired from the Illinois National Guard 1994. Retired from the Illinois Attorney General's Office 2005 was the Chief Veteran Rights Bureau; BS Southern Illinois University, Married, three grown children and 6 grandchildren.

Robert F. Dees: Major General (Retired) U.S. Army, Careers in Military, Business, Ministry, and Education. Currently Vice President for Military Outreach at Liberty University, Military Director of American Association of Christian Counselors, Senior Military Advisor for DNA Military, and author of Resilient Warriors and Resilient Leaders. Married to Kathleen since 1973, one son and one daughter, 7 grandchildren.

Richard C. Slayton: Veteran, U.S. Naval Reserve, BSIE & MBA University of Michigan, GE Subsection Management, Founder and Chairman Slayton Search Partners, Founder and Chairman of three 501 C 3 Christian based organizations. Member and Deacon of First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest, IL. Married since 1962, two sons and five grandchildren.

John McIntosh: Military Ministry-Campus Crusade for Christ, serving at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, former television producer, Minister at Great Lakes with Chaplains serving Recruits – “A” School – Sailors- Navy Staff-Veterans and Families, Member of Christ Church – Lake Forest since 1985. Married to Karen since 1969 with two children who are both married.

Peter E. Strong: Chaplain (Major) U.S. Army – (1993-1998-Navy Active; 1998-2005-Army Active; 2008-Present Active Guard and Reserve), Current church –the Chapel, Libertyville, IL. Married since 1989 with two sons and one daughter,