

Veterans and Active Duty Ministry
2024
Annual Report

Our Veterans and Active-Duty Ministry Team has been very committed in 2024 reaching out to and serving the needs of our Veterans, Active Duty, and parish communities. We meet every second Thursday of the month from 10:00-11:00am in the Guild Room where a variety of initiatives are discussed and planned. This year we accomplished wonderful strides in helping our military, their families and the Veteran community. Our accomplishments are:

- The creation of a Wall of Honor located in the parish hall. Parish family members have provided pictures and the Branches of Service of family members on active duty. More submissions are welcome!
- A community collection provided by our parish was accomplished several times. Our donations were taken to the VA Hospital in West Palm Beach. These provisions were non-perishable food items and clothing for our Veterans in need.
- Sponsored Coffee Hour following the 10:00am Service on the National Holidays of Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the Fourth of July. Veterans alive and deceased were honored with a brief Service following each of the weekend Services in our beautifully decorated Memorial Garden.
- Participated in two packing sessions on October 12th for Forgotten Soldiers. Hundreds of gift boxes were sent to our deployed troops who do not receive adequate support from home. Our parishioners graciously contributed \$3,000.00 to make this even possible!
- Participated in the annual event of the National Wreaths Across America on December 14th at the Palm Beach Memorial Park where parishioners were encouraged to attend. Following each of our weekend Services a Ceremony of Remembrance was held in the Memorial Garden. 17 wreaths stood in the Garden representing 17 Veteran parishioners there interred. The wreaths were then placed on posts inside the church during the Christmas Season.
- The adoption of a Veteran in need, Joseph “Jessie” James, was undertaken. Several members of the Team and other parishioners ministered to his needs. Jessie died early this year.
- We are working toward the goal of becoming a “Veterans Safe Place” with the national organization Fire Watch. Our certification requires 12 parishioners to go online and take the brief certification class.