

## Fund Raising and Support Operations

If you are a donor, grantor, member, volunteer or veteran involved in the ministry of LMVFM, we thank you for your continued prayers and partnership in this ministry. You should be proud to know that your efforts, your

### Legacy Planned Giving



Your bequest gift made through your trust or will provides a future for LMVFM and our veterans and their families



support, and your prayers are making a real impact for our veterans, military contractors and their families. As a Christ-centered non-profit Christian Organization, LMVFM relies upon your generous support. The road ahead for a ministry of this kind is full of challenges. However, with faith firmly fixed in Christ, a dedicated ministry team, and your support LMVFM will continue to carry on our mission well into the future.

One of the ways you can help to secure the future of our work is to consider adding LMVFM to your will or trust. While none of us wants to think about our death, death is a reality we all face and something our ministry painfully experienced last year when our team member Chaplain Braasch went home to our Lord. Before dying she added LMVFM to her will, an act that bears witness to her commitment to LMVFM and those we serve. Her legacy gift

will help us in the years to come as we continue our work. You too have the opportunity to help insure LMVFM's future. If you would like to know more about making a Legacy gift please call us at: **260.755.2239**.

### Why your help matters

**LMVFM provides veterans, contractors and their family members with free counseling services and assessments, help with VA claims, assistance locating and connecting with other types of resource support.**

- ♦ **LMVFM does not solicit or accept any government funding or resources.**
- ♦ **All LMVFM programs and services are free to our clients.**
- ♦ **LMVFM has never turned a veteran, contractor or family member away for any reason.**



### Donating Your Choice Dollars is Easy



There are two ways to Donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice" which will connect you to a friendly Customer Care Agent and tell them that you would like to donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to: **Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries.**
2. You can also donate your Choice Dollars by logging into your account at [Thrivent.com/Thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/Thriventchoice) and direct your Choice Dollars to Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

### In-Kind Donations help us, help them



**Donations of these items help us to keep our programs and services free to those we serve.**

**Gift Cards (especially gas and general merchandise) of any amount, Unused stamps, Small/Large Business Envelopes,**

**LMVFM is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.  
Your gifts are tax-deductible.**

**Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries**

**3480 Stellhorn Rd**

**Fort Wayne, IN 46815**

**260.755.2239 WWW.LMVFM.Org@Gmail.com**

**Find us on Facebook**



**LMVFM is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Ministry . In keeping with our faith beliefs, and need to remain free of government mandates, that conflict with the teachings of our faith, LMVFM does not solicit, or government funding or resources.**



**Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. 3480**

**Stellhorn Rd., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815 260.755.2239 [www.lmvfm.org](http://www.lmvfm.org)**

**"Serving with Christ's Love Those Who Serve"**



**Summer**

**A MAJOR AWARD**

**2021**

"Many people know what the words Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage mean. But how often do you see someone actually live up to them? Soldiers learn these values in detail during Basic Combat Training (BCT), from then on they live them every day in everything they do — whether they're on the job or off. In short, the Seven Core Army Values listed above are what being a Soldier is all about." – [army.mil/values](http://army.mil/values)

We all are likely familiar with those values mentioned in the above quote. Yet, how often do we witness these qualities all within one person? After 33 years of active military service to our country, CH Leslie Haines (ret. Army Major) continues to exemplify those values. She applies them every day, and has been doing so for nearly 14 years of service as the founder and Executive Director of Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. (LMVFM).



Chaplain Haines is truly one of a kind. Through the ministry of LMVFM, she approaches the many opportunities to help, counsel, care for, support and serve those who need it most – and she does so with the proper balance of compassion and creativity to provide solutions to a variety of problems. For these reasons, members of the Board of Directors have nominated Chaplain Haines for the 2021 *Maxine Rippe Award*, a prestigious award given through the Lutheran Foundation. The Maxine Rippe Award recognizes an individual whose past and present service to the Allen County community exemplifies Christian compassion. Administered by The Lutheran Foundation, it is one of four monetary awards given annually through the Raymond Rosenberger Award Foundation. (You can read the full article by going to our website, [www.LMVFM.org](http://www.LMVFM.org). Although the award focuses on activities within Allen County, Indiana, Chaplain Haines' service and the work of LMVFM extends to service members and their families throughout the United States.

Congratulations and thank you, Chaplain Haines, for your love of this country, our veterans, military contractors, and their families. You are a true blessing and we are very proud of you!

*Deb*

Ministry Operation  
Manager (aka M.O.M)

*It was certainly a surprise, and an honor not to mention quite humbling to receive the Maxine Rippe Award. In reality, this was an award that has little to do with me, and everything to do with the ministry that I am blessed by God to lead and serve, LMVFM. You see it is LMVFM that provides me and our ministry team the opportunities to minister to our veterans, contractors and their family members. Most importantly, without the hand of God none of the things I or LMVFM are credited with, would happen. As we move forward I and our team look forward to continuing the mission that God has laid before us. Blessings,*

*Leslie*

**Serving with Christ's Love Those Who Serve**



## Military Suicide Epidemic

### “Soldiers are more likely to die by suicide than in combat”

Last night I received a call from a woman who had just been given our number. Only 14 days earlier she had buried her son, an Army veteran who had committed suicide. It was a heart wrenching story, and his death will most certainly wreck havoc on especially his immediate family.

7,057 service members have been killed in post-9/11 war operations, while 30,177 active duty service members and veterans have died by suicide.

In 2020, military suicide set an all-time record. Some 325 US troops killed themselves, a 14% increase over 2017. Veterans suicides across the country continue to increase, with 19 taking place at VA facilities. The grim reality: Since 9/11, more US soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen have died from suicide, than in combat.

Chances are that you know or have known someone who has thought about committing suicide or worse committed suicide. “I should have known”, “I should have done something” are the words we hear most often from family members and friends of someone who has taken their life. Among other feelings, these family and friends left behind to pick up the pieces, also face a life time of dealing with feelings of guilt.

None of us can stop a person from killing themselves if they are determined to die. However, we can help give that person real hope and a reason to keep on living. One first step is to learn how to **Recognize and Respond** to the unseen moral and spiritual wounds of war borne by the veterans in our midst. See the article below and schedule a Binding the Wounds of War Seminar today!



### BINDING the WOUNDS OF WAR



#### Congregational Training Seminars



Many in our military community struggle with spiritual wounds or moral injury. These bruises on a warrior's soul are best addressed with Christ-centered care and support. LMVFM seminars can be tailored to any group or organization — from lay caregivers and congregations, clergy or other professional groups — that want to grow in recognizing and responding to the ministry needs of warriors and families in their midst.

Veterans are more likely to go to *non-mental* health counsellors, such as clergy, friends and family members for help with PTSD and mental health issues than mental health professionals. With training as a member of clergy, a friend or family member you are well

At LMVFM, we value those who serve *and* those who care for them. We put this value into action through our **“Binding the Wounds of War” seminars**. These high-quality, practical, affordable military awareness and training programs help us to educate, assist and equip civilian caregivers (clergy; counsellors; therapists; social workers; congregations and groups and others who work with the military population) with insights into military culture, issues common to military households, and practical, proven ways



To schedule a “Binding the Wounds of War” seminar for a congregation, clergy or other group, call us at: **(260)755-2239**.

“Let us not merely say that we love each other;  
let us show the truth by our actions”  
1 John 3:18

## An Honor to Serve

### Our Volunteers Rock

One of our favorite days at LMVFM is Tuesday. Why? Because that's when our volunteers “report for duty” to work along side of us. These dedicated, men and women, bring with them a wide range of gifts and talents which they share as they perform a wide variety of important tasks which helps to further the mission of LMVFM.



### “HOME FRONT HEREOS” BIBLE STUDY

*“When the storms of life are raging and the ship is breaking apart, the others on board may freak out, but the gentle person is sober-minded and clear-thinking. Like Paul, they look to God for the solution and remade contagiously calm. The contagiously calm person is the one who reminds others that God is in control.”* Max Lucado.

Anxious? Stressed-out? Frustrated with politics? Then do something about it! If you feel constantly pumelled with bad news of bad things and bad, then make the decision right now to spend time reading GOOD news! Statistics show an increasing number of cases involving mental health and depression and post-traumatic stress (PTS) in the past year. Its okay if you have similar feelings, because there's a solution.

Our Home Front Heroes Group is working through Max Lucado's book “Anxious for Nothing”. Together, we are discovering the difference between “anxiety” (what-ifs or imaginary threats) and “fear” (actual threats), and how we can prepare for and react to them. Now you can finally take a positive step to address these feelings in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Focusing particularly on Philippians 4:4-8, Mr. Lucado helps us in what he calls the C.A.L.M. activities by Celebrating God's Goodness; Asking God for Help; Leaving our concerns with God; and Meditating on Good things. Seeking a C.A.L.M. like this? Join us! Our Group meets each Thursday at 6:00 p.m. (1800 hrs) at the LMVFM office located at:

**3480 Stellhorn Rd, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815**

**Have Questions? We'd love to hear them. Please email: [lmvfm.org@gmail.com](mailto:lmvfm.org@gmail.com) or send us your questions to: <https://www.facebook.com/LMVFM/>**