



# ORTHODOX VETERAN'S CONNECTION

The Voices of Orthodox Military Service Members & Families

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Edited by Robert & Irina Burgener



## The real Legacy of September 11, 2001



The third image from this unholy trinity contains the legacy of that day. Choices.



*Smoke rose from a crater created by the impact of Flight 93 near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.*

*The official 9/11 commission report states the "passenger revolt began at 9:57"*

*Flight 93 crashed at 10:03*

Remembering where you were on that morning, or the connections you had to the twin towers of the World Trade Center or the Pentagon; remains inscribed in your memory along with images of black smoke billowing into the skyline, as thousands watched from the streets of Manhattan or the capital beltway.

The 2,342 souls who perished in the World Trade Center and 184 victims at the Pentagon had no choice but to be victims of a surprise attack. The First Responders who entered the inferno to save lives: 343 New York City firefighters – including their Chaplain – 60 police officers and 8 paramedics, who died, made a choice.

In the skies over rural Pennsylvania, the only audience 45 ordinary Americans had was the loved ones they called from United Flight 93's air-phones in the minutes before the hijacked airliner crashed. Those brave passengers made a choice.

What will your choices be today ?

*Memory*

*Eternal*

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY**

This column will feature the names of service members who gave their lives or were injured while on active duty.

**Cody James Elliott (Lt. USMC)** recovering from injuries received while serving in Afghanistan. Update Wed. Aug. 10 from Fr. Gregory of St. Marks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, FYI (see below) although Cody is no longer in our area, I will attempt to keep you informed on his condition. Please continue to pray for him and his family. In Christ, Fr. Gregory

*Dear family and friends, Cody is now actually in route to the Naval Medical Ctr San Diego, CA with his fiancée Katie. They should be arriving sometime this afternoon. Cody was very excited to be moving forward to California and to a new change of scenery. Kerri, Gracious, Andrew, me are planning to make it there by tonight and see him tomorrow. We are all very excited that it looks like we will finally be seeing him soon!*

*Cody's Family*

**Chief Petty Officer (CPO) John Weston Faas**, one of 22 Navy SEALs killed when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. He was 31.

CPO Faas was a member of Holy Trinity Church (OCA) in St. Paul, Minnesota. *Memory Eternal*

**DEPLOYED MEMBERS OF OUR GUILD**



Col. David Romine  
Flight Surgeon  
U.S. Army

Afghanistan



تام پرونی  
Thomas M. Bruni  
LOGCAP III Theater Engineer  
Kellogg, Brown & Root

Iraq

**Gennady Evgenievich Platoff, MD, MHA**

**Aug.11, 1921-Aug 31, 2011**



For those of us who only knew him as the kindly older gentleman, who with his wife of 63 years Eudoxia (Donya) were founding members and stalwart supporters of the St. Nicholas Veterans Guild, here is what we missed.

Born in Kazan Russia, the son of Captain Evgenie Platoff, Adjutant of the Russian Imperial Artillery School and Tatiana (Novikoff) Platoff of the Petrograd Imperial Theatrical Ballet; the family emigrated to Canada via Harbin Manchuria in 1921, after the death of his father at the hands of the Bolsheviks.

Eventually the family made their way to Boston, MA. where young Gennady was inducted into the US Army in 1942 and served as a coast watcher in Alaska until the end of WWII. After receiving an honorable discharge, he attended Boston University and graduated from the BU Medical School in 1947. During those college years he danced with the Novikoff Ballet School performing at New York's Metropolitan Opera.

In 1949 Dr. Platoff re-joined the U.S. Army as a 1LT and served in Korea as Chief of Triage with the first M\*A\*S\*H (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) – which placed medical care near the front lines saving thousands of lives and becoming the inspiration for a popular 1960's TV series of the same name.

Col. (Dr.) Platoff's military awards include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit and numerous campaign ribbons starting with WWII and continuing through Korea and Vietnam. He will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at 3 pm on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The family tradition continues as his son Col. (Dr.) Gennady Platoff Jr., U.S. Army (ret) , and grandson CPT. Timothy Platoff , USAR continue to serve our nation.

He is survived by his beloved wife Donya, their daughter Tatiana Platoff Prokrym, brother Walter; grandchildren Tim, Larissa, Yuri and Kirill.

*MEMORY ETERNAL*

*Please keep all of them in your prayers*

**Newly Ordained / Commissioned/ Deployed**

This column will feature bios and photos of new chaplains, and those deployed.

**Deployed to Afghanistan**

Dubin, V. Rev. Peter M., MAJ, USAR, 1997–present. Previously assigned to Fort Campbell KY; priest-in-charge Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Mission, Clarksville, TN. 1997-2000, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), Ft Campbell, KY; 2000-2008, 5th Special Forces, Ft Campbell, KY; 2008-2011, United States Army Recruiting Command, Ft Meade, MD; Veteran Kosovo Campaign, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom

**A Martial Monk: Thoughts on Entering Military Chaplaincy**

By Hieromonk Kilian (Sprecher)

Growing up in the military, you don't tend to look at military life as being special or different—you simply don't know any other life. That was my experience the first fifteen years of life. My father and mother both served in the Marine Corps, and after my mother became pregnant with me (the eldest of four children, three boys and one girl), she stayed at home to raise us, while my father continued to serve in the air wing as an enlisted man. After twenty-three years of service, my father retired in 1997 as a Master Sergeant, although he continues to work in the aviation industry. I became Orthodox during my undergraduate studies, and a monk thereafter, but looking back, I see God's Providence in having me raised in a mobile military family as preparation for the work to come for me: serving, God willing, as an Orthodox chaplain in the US Navy.

As a Marine brat, change was always around me. Two weeks after I was born in Southern California, my family moved clear across country to Jacksonville, North Carolina. This was but the first of a total of twelve moves my family made across the country (including once across the Pacific to Hawai'i), and growing up in such a context helped to provide me with a great sense

of flexibility and adaptability to new locales, peoples, and cultures. Such change is a hallmark of military life, and it is my hope that my personal experience of such flux can be a tool in ministering to the men and women in the military whom I may encounter.

My father was deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1990 for Operation Desert Storm, and it is from those eight months of his absence that I have my first memories of military chaplains. The base chaplain (we were living at USMC El Toro at the time in Southern California, now closed) organized meetings for spouses and for children of deployed Marines, and I remember the love and openness of the men who cared for us. Later, in my teen years, I recalled seeing chaplains at many official occasions on the bases we lived at: changes of command, openings of new buildings, commemorative services and funerals, you name it. The omnipresence of these men and women who took care of the soldiers' souls, and those of their families, really impressed me.

My path to undertaking military chaplaincy is a bit unusual, perhaps. After my college studies, I entered monastic life in Northern California at the Monastery of St John of Shanghai and San Francisco, whose abbot at the time was Metropolitan Jonah. I lived in the monastery for four years, and then spent three years at St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, New York, studying theology, liturgics, and pastoral care in preparation for ordination.



I had taken out student loans to pay for both my undergraduate and graduate degrees, and was praying and thinking about possible ways to pay off these debts.

Metropolitan Jonah was thinking on this, as well. When he and I met at the end of my final year of the Master of

Divinity program this past May, he was the first to suggest to me: “Well, have you ever thought of doing military chaplaincy?”

In all honesty, the thought had struck me once or twice before, but I paid it no heed. I loved literature, theology, high fallutin’ academic stuff—why go into the military? Indeed, my parents, when asked, would say I would have been the last child in the family from whom they would have expected military service. Yet something about the Metropolitan’s proposal felt right, blessed, inspired by the Holy Spirit. So, with his blessing, I contacted a local recruiter for the Navy (I had to stick to my roots! The US Navy provides chaplains for the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard—so there is also a great variety of contexts and soldiers/sailors as a Navy chaplain) as well as some of the Orthodox chaplains already in the Navy.

As of early August, I’ve completed my recruiting packet, and am awaiting word from the Navy CARE (Chaplain Accession and Retention Evaluation) Board on whether I have been granted a commission. The plan would be to serve the next two years as a Reserve chaplain, spending one weekend a month learning more of the Navy life as a chaplain and officer at a local Navy installation near New York City, while also serving as a parish priest in Glen Gardner, New Jersey (St Gregory Palamas Church), gaining pastoral insight and experience. Then, in Fall 2013, I could apply to accede from Reserve status to full-time active duty. I ask all of your prayers for me, and for all the chaplains who serve our sailors and soldiers. *Semper Fi! Father Killian*



Greetings,

I hope this newsletter will be the first of many to follow! A significant milestone was reached at St. Nicholas Cathedral, the National War Memorial Shrine, when Fr. Constantine, the Cathedral Dean at that time, and Metropolitan Jonah gave their blessings to organize the Veterans Guild at the cathedral in December of 2009. Following a tireless effort by the Guild Deputy Commander Robert Burgener, the Guild bylaws were written, approved and filed in the District of Columbia in early 2010. Let us briefly review our purpose. The following is the Guild’s Mission Statement:

“The mission of the Guild shall be to encourage and conduct activities honoring fallen Orthodox U.S. military veterans, and also ministering to living Orthodox U.S. military veterans, their families, and survivors in all things spiritual and temporal. Consistent with the designation of St. Nicholas Cathedral as the National War Memorial Shrine of the Orthodox Church in America, the Guild shall maintain the Veterans Memorial and ensure continued public access to that portion of the St. Nicholas parish website dedicated to veterans.”

Our parish is experiencing financial difficulties and we are in a transition period on the selection and assignment of a Cathedral Dean. The current parish affairs should not degrade or distract us from the principles that we stand for. Please continue to be involved.

*George Nartsissov*

Commander, St. Nicholas Veterans Guild

## IN THE FIELD

Claire Powell, Chair of the St. Nick's Veteran's Guild Auxiliary, and her fiancé Chris German from St. Mark's joined veterans at the Vietnam Memorial for the regular weekly washing of the wall.



For more information on how you can be part of this tradition, contact Claire at [cemp18@gmail.com](mailto:cemp18@gmail.com)

## TOM BRUNI VISITS WITH GEN.ROBINSON USMC



On Thursday July 15, 2011 I made a visit to Lt Gen Wallace Robinson, USMC Ret., the husband of Rene Robinson. This living hero is now 92 and living a robust retirement in NW DC.

We spoke of many things ranging from his youth in Washington DC, his entry into the Marine Corps after graduating from Virginia Tech in 1940 and his officer basic school training in Philadelphia.

He related that on December 7th 1941 he was the Officer Of The Day at Parris Island. When he received the news he rushed off to the commanding generals billet and was not allowed access by the generals steward. In good Marine fashion, he pushed by the steward and woke the general himself and delivered his bad news. We spoke of his actions in the invasion of Tarawa and the horrific casualties taken during that action. He had a picture taken of him during the battle on the cover of Life magazine.

After the war he served in China as battalion commander of a combat engineer battalion building and rebuilding roads and bridges. It was while he was there that he met his future wife Rene' at a social event at the British Army Officers Club in Tiensin.

His military career continued with many successes and he eventually retired as a Lt Gen, a very rare rank for a Marine officer to attain. I plan to see Gen Robinson when I return from Iraq and continue to dialog with him and try to capture more of his fascinating history.

تام برونی Thomas M. Bruni  
LOGCAP III Theater Engineer  
Kellogg, Brown & Root Government & Infrastructure  
LOGCAP III HQ

Tom Bruni, XO of the St. Nicholas Veterans Guild, retired from the U.S. Army with the equivalent rank of Sergeant Major. He served on Active duty 1966-1968 and as Marine reservist until 1972.

## Vision Statement for the National War Memorial Shrine

On May 19, 1963 The National War Memorial Shrine of the Russian Orthodox Church of America was dedicated to "Honor those Orthodox Christians who lost their lives in the cause of freedom."

November 7, 2010, Veterans Day, marked the beginning of a new chapter in the legacy of

honoring our Orthodox Veterans with the founding of the St. Nicholas Cathedral (OCA) Veterans Guild.

We cannot honor those who are serving in the cause of freedom today without paying tribute to those whose service, during war and times of often fragile peace, preserved that freedom.

Names and faces change over time, but the common thread of our Orthodox faith holds us together and defines our vision and mission.

The dome of St. Nicholas Cathedral was designed by the parishioners of the 1960's to be helmet-shaped (schlemoval) "as it is symbolic of those who perished on the field of battle."

Today, Kevlar helmets have come a long way from the old steel pots and so has Orthodoxy in America. Binding up the physical and emotional wounds of war for veterans and their families must continue to be our priority.

Let us all, as Orthodox Christians across North America in the United States and Canada, dedicate ourselves to reflecting the spirit and courage of all Orthodox Christians who came before us in honoring those who, by their military service, preserve the cause of freedom.

*The St. Nicholas Cathedral (OCA) Veterans Guild*  
[stnickdcvets@gmail.com](mailto:stnickdcvets@gmail.com)



**An Orthodox Cross on a Red Poppy  
 represents our faith and our service.**

The design of our Guild lapel pin and official symbol was a collaborative effort of then Quartermaster, and now XO, Tom Bruni and Family Support member Rosalie Luster. Pins are available to any Orthodox current or former service member and their family for a donation of \$25.00. One plan is to divide

the revenue, after the cost of the pin (about \$4.50 ea in increments of 100) with 60% going to the Diocese or parish and 40% going to a fund to be established just for the St. Nicholas OCA War Memorial (not the St. Nicholas Veteran's Guild.)

### Who Can Be A Member?

*The following is taken from the St. Nicholas Guild by-laws and is intended to serve as a guide for starting a veteran's organization in your parish.*

4a. There shall be three classes of members. The first designated as **veterans** who have served honorably in any branch of the armed forces of the United States or its allies. The second designated as **family members**, as defined by IRS code, of those who have served in the armed forces of the United States or its allies. The third designated as **auxiliary members** who, while not qualifying as a veteran or family member, have demonstrated to the satisfaction of this corporation, that they support the mission of this corporation.

4b. All members in good standing of this corporation shall have the right to vote, in person or by proxy; and to be notified in advance of any situation where a vote of the members is required.

The St. Nicholas Veterans Guild limits membership to parishioners in good standing at St. Nicholas. The Diocese-wide group can set its own criteria of membership for parishioners within the Washington Diocese. In order to comply with IRS regulations pertaining to tax-exempt (not-for-profit) groups claiming a connection to military veterans, the number of auxiliary members may not exceed the number of documented service members and their families.

Leadership positions are organized along a military chain of command model with a commander, executive officer and various functional areas. Based on their dates of service, starting with WWII and continuing through those currently in service, individuals are elected by majority vote of the members. Our guild began with WWII veterans in key positions with

deputies from the next generation (Cold War) ready to assume their duties when that became necessary.

## Washington Diocese to form Veteran Organizations

With the blessings of His Beatitude Jonah, Archbishop of Washington, we are taking the first steps to establish a diocese-wide organization to support Orthodox veterans and their families.

When asked why the OCA, which has always honored fallen service members, didn't have an organization to support those serving and returning now, V. Rev Ted Boback, Jr., a former military chaplain now Rector of St. Andrew Church in Baltimore, MD. said, "because no one took time to start one."

In 2009 parishioner Irina K. Burgener, a veteran of 26 years as an army wife, and V. Rev. Constantine White, then Dean of St. Nicholas. wanted to add a page honoring veterans to the Cathedral's Fall Festival website. When another parishioner objected to the term "honoring" veterans who were still alive, Metropolitan Jonah made a very clear statement in support of "all Orthodox who have served in the military as a way of honoring those sacrifices."

V.Rev Gregory Safchuk, as Chancellor of the Washington Diocese, will be the spiritual commander of the Diocese Veterans Group. Each parish will then have the option of starting a group within that parish or members can join the Diocese group directly. Officers will be elected from throughout the Diocese.

In an email from Fr. Gregory, he said, "Earlier this week, Metropolitan Jonah and I discussed the effort to organize and recognize the veterans in our Archdiocese which you are proposing. He agreed with me that the best person to bring into it along with myself as Chancellor, is Fr. Mark Koczak, a retired Navy

chaplain and Orthodox Priest attached to St. Mark here in Bethesda. "Fr. Mark responded, " I have been appointed by His Beatitude as the spiritual advisor of the diocesan veterans group. It was my great honor to serve our country first as a US Air Force Reserve Chaplain from 1985-1987 and as an active duty US Navy Chaplain from 1987-2007. Upon my retirement from the Navy, I was attached to St Mark parish in Bethesda. I have been a supply priest for the past four years."

For more information contact Fr. Gregory at [gsafchuk@hotmail.com](mailto:gsafchuk@hotmail.com) or Father Mark at [mkoczak05@aol.com](mailto:mkoczak05@aol.com)



St. Nicholas Cathedral is one of 26 area churches supporting a 20 year tradition of neighbors helping neighbors through the **Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place**. [www.cchfp.org](http://www.cchfp.org) CCHFP is a registered non-profit organization lead by Executive Director Jean-Michel Giraud.

The Veterans Guild is proud to work with Friendship Place and The Homeless Veterans Initiative (HVI) which they started two years ago. Through the leadership of Geoff Millard, a former homeless veteran, HVI has turned a policy and lobbying effort with the Veterans Administration (VA) and local agencies into tangible results for more than 600 homeless former service members. Plans are currently underway to repeat the success here in DC with communities from New York to California. This could be an opportunity for a national OCA veteran's organization to mobilize our parishes in those states.

Guild members can volunteer as hosts and mentors, (contact Michael O'Neill to schedule orientation [moneill@cchfp.org](mailto:moneill@cchfp.org)) or join Irina Burgener and Catherine Vangellow at Friendship Place where they will be serving breakfast and lunch on the first Friday of each month. Contact Ira by email at [iburgen@gmail.com](mailto:iburgen@gmail.com)

Several grocery stores already contribute bread and other staples BUT canned soups, stews and meats are always needed for the pantry. Sturdy back-packs or small suitcases on wheels are always needed. Contact Rob at [stnickdcvets@gmail.com](mailto:stnickdcvets@gmail.com) for pick up.

*Thanks to CCHFP, 203 formerly homeless men and women are now off the street and in a place they can call home. It all starts here at Friendship Place..*

*4713 Wisconsin Ave, NW parking available in front or directly behind on 41<sup>st</sup> Street (meters) 2 blocks from Tenley Town Metro*



**CONTACT EMILY FAGERHOLM (202) 503-2964 or [efagerholm@cchfp.org](mailto:efagerholm@cchfp.org) for more information**



### **A Small Miracle in Afghanistan** by Chaplain (Colonel) Alexander F. C. Webster, USAR (Ret.)



A quiet but profound moment during one of my twelve deployments to combat areas during the global war on terrorism reveals how God the Holy Trinity, the Lord of the universe, provides small miracles every day in His usual inconspicuous way.

When my chaplain assistant—MSG Malcom Wolfe—and I arrived at the Salerno Forward Operating Base (FOB) near Khost, Afghanistan, via C-130 aircraft from Bagram Airfield on Thursday, December 28, 2006, we discovered to our dismay that the host chaplain staff were not expecting us. No Orthodox chapel services were scheduled, so we had to scramble to get the word out about a couple of Divine Liturgies and a Vespers service in the next three days.

As it happens (or perhaps this was the first sign of divine providence at work), the heat in our designated tent was excessive rendering sleep almost impossible. Early the next morning, MSG Wolfe requested that BaseOps lower the temperature, since there was no thermostat for us to do it ourselves. At 1:30 that afternoon, as I was about to take a brief nap to compensate for a miserable night of little sleep, two Kellogg-Brown-Root (KBR) workers arrived at the tent to adjust the thermostat on the outdoor unit. Both were Orthodox

Christians from the Balkan nation of Macedonia. At last, I had encountered fellow Orthodox on this FOB!

As I was attempting to identify myself as an Orthodox priest ("Otets Aleksandr, Pravoslavnie"), one of the workers received a cell telephone call and repaired to a quiet area beneath a tree near the tent. After ten minutes elapsed, I wondered what had happened to Marko. So I went outside and saw him next to the tree, sobbing uncontrollably in the embrace of his colleague. Marko had just received the devastating news that his mother had died back home in Macedonia. I invited him inside the tent, and there we sat for some fifteen minutes, as he continued to sob for his beloved mother and I hugged his shoulder in silence. Then I asked her name (Hhristana) and prayed for her and for him in a mix of English and Old Church Slavonic, concluding with the signature Orthodox hymn for the deceased: Vyechnaya Pamyat ("Memory Eternal"). Marko indicated that he had to return to his supervisor in the KBR heating / air-conditioning section in the hope that his boss would permit him to fly home to Macedonia as soon as possible. Marko was quite worried that, having returned from two weeks of R&R only a week or so ago, he might not be able to leave Salerno. I promised to intercede on his behalf if necessary.

A short time before sundown on Friday, I walked to the KBR village and learned that Marko's supervisor was indeed humane. Marko would begin the long and circuitous journey from Salerno to his mother's house in Macedonia the next morning. On Saturday, I visited with Marko and prayed the Orthodox prayer for a journey as he waited for the aircraft to arrive.

I am personally convinced that the Lord God of the Universe does intervene in the affairs of men and women more often than we know or even ask. The quiet moment on Salerno FOB, Afghanistan, was one such occasion of divine providence at work in a war zone during the Nativity season—not the spectacular kind we believers sometimes crave, but the more subtle, non-flashy, almost routine miraculous intervention of a caring, loving, compassionate God in the personal crises that so often beset His human creation.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Incoming projectiles such as mortars and bullets do not discriminate between soldiers and civilian contractors. Two of our St. Nicholas parishioners who have served or are currently serving in harm's way are Tom Bruni, an engineer with KBR (now in Iraq) and Glenn Barr.*

## Women in Military Service

### "Courage Has No Gender"

by Olga Zoltan



*Looking West from the Lincoln Memorial, Memorial Bridge stretches across the Potomac carrying the roadway known as Memorial Drive toward the elaborate, massive, white semicircular wall which defines the Ceremonial Entrance to Arlington Cemetery.*

Dedicated in 1932 by President Herbert Hoover, the bridge, drive and wall were designed as one integrated project to serve as the most Western extension of the National Mall. Contrary to popular belief this complex is not part of the cemetery, although the ceremonial wall was designed to serve a dual purpose of preventing soil erosion around graves

During the early 1990's women veterans, especially of the WWII era, started a drive to erect a memorial to preserve and commemorate the experiences of military women, their service, sacrifice and achievements. Congress approved the concept of a Military Women's Memorial. The task of choosing an appropriate location fell to Brigadier General (BG) Wilma Vaught, USAF (Ret). She planned the Memorial to honor all women in military service since the conception of our country, not just a specific historic event.

Creating a memorial that could reflect the spirit of women past and present led her to the final choice of a location at the Ceremonial Wall entrance to Arlington. The Women in Military Service to America Memorial, dedicated on October 17, 1997, is the bridge between poignant symbols of the past from the cemetery on one side and the present; with the thriving Capital of our country on the other.



The women of St. Nicholas Cathedral, including WAVE Elizabeth Slepecky Shandor (1920-2000) wife of Sub-Deacon Michael Shandor (1920-2010) and mother of Andrea (Shandor) Lutov, Anne Peregrim, Master Gunnery Sgt. USMC, Irina Stahovich, MAJ U.S. Army Nurse Corps and Helen (Rohal) Oleynik, T3, U.S. Navy served their country during WWII.

LTJG Lillian Blome, a founding member of the veterans guild at St. Nicholas was a Navy nurse from 1963-1964.



Helene T. Watts, of St. Luke's in Bethesda served in the US Army. Marian Kuhnappel and Mary Kinn of St. Mark's in Bethesda also served. We regret their parishes were unable to provide more details as we went to press. Follow-up details welcome.

**Olga Zoltan** is a member of the WIMSA Staff. Olga, a long-time parishioner, is a founding member of the St. Nicholas Veterans Guild

### HOME FRONT ACTIONS



As part of the discharge process from a rehabilitation hospital, Ping comes in and provides three days of golf instruction, followed by club fitting.

*Upon discharge from the hospital, Ping gives each of the discharged veterans, generally about 40 soldiers, a brand new set of custom fitted clubs along with impressive golf bags. From Marty Evanoff*



*Friendship Place staff members (right to left) Patty Piller, Clinical Director, Martina Wright, Outreach Coordinator, Max Horowitz and Luke Hand, Interns and Aron McKeiver Homeless Services Case Manager receive donation of a wheel chair, crutches and a walker arranged by Veterans Guild deputy operations officer Rob Burgener.*

*The items came from VFW Post 5172 in Odenton, MD where Burgener serves as the Staff Judge Advocate. The post recently moved to a new facility which did not have storage space for these particular items.*

**THEIR LIVES REMEMBERED**



Col. Dr. Gennady Platoff  
1920 - 2011



With  
M\*A\*S\*H  
units in  
Korea and  
Vietnam



Elizabeth Manchuk, widow of our Guild's first Executive Officer Apollo Manchuk takes part in the Dormition Guild repast served for family and friends of Col. Dr. Gennady Platoff.



*Tatiana (Platoff) Prokrym prepared a tribute to her dad*




Local VFW Post 4712 provided an Honor Guard with bugler



Fr. Ted Bobak, Irina Burgener, Jim Luster and Tom Bruni during graveside services for Apollo Manchuk at St. Tikhon's



*Parishioner, veteran and long-time friend Dr. Steve Gleason (center) shared memories and inspiration with Tatiana and her husband*



**Apolinary John Manchuk 1918-2011**

United States Army Air Corps WWII. Founding member and first Executive Officer of the Veterans Guild.

**TROOP MOVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES**

This will be a regular feature highlighting who we are and what we have been doing as an organization during the previous quarter year. *(we will stretch it a bit for this first edition)*



Fr. Maximus, Deacon Blagoe bless our rented van for the Memorial Day 2011 trip to St. Tikhon's Seminary



Founding members of the St. Nicholas Veterans Guild November 2010 (Veterans Day)



Founding member and first Communications Officer **Marty Evanoff** (left) receives a Certificate of Appreciation from the St. Nicholas Veterans Guild. Marty has moved to upstate New York to a home she and her late husband Jim built. She continues to travel the country as an IT network consultant.



Guild Auxiliary Chairperson **Claire Powell**, is joining her fiancé Chris German as a member of OCA St. Mark's in Bethesda

She will continue working at the Department of the Navy while pursuing an Executive Leadership Masters in Public Administration from American University. Claire, a founding member of the St. Nicholas Guild, will now be available to work with the Washington Diocese to help start veteran organizations at other parishes in the DC area.

**St. Nicholas salute to veterans**

**Sunday Nov. 8th 2010**

Join fellow veterans and their families in the fellowship (mess) hall after English service for a traditional field kitchen breakfast.

- + **Chipped Beef on toast (SOS)**
- + **Bacon & Eggs any style (as long as it's scrambled)**
- + **donut dollies (with day-old Glazed donuts)**
- + **USO music from the '40's and beyond**

Sponsored by St. Nicholas Cathedral designated the War Memorial Shrine of the Orthodox Church in America through a gift from a generous prior-service benefactor. All are welcome. Veterans go to the head of the line!



Mother's Day / VE Day Celebration 2011