



Department of Texas
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
of the UNITED STATES

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March 15, 2018

James W. Gray
VFW National Chaplain
3599 Calumet Road
Decatur, Georgia 20034

Dear James,

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Allen "Al" K. Lowe, State Chaplain, Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for the National Chaplain of the Year Award.

Earning his eligibility for the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Vietnam, Chaplain Lowe served as an infantryman with the 4th Infantry Division from 1966 to 1967. In 1982, after graduating from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of General Subjects Degree, Al obtained his Master of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky in 1985 and returned to active duty in the U.S. Army as a Chaplain. While in the Army, Chaplain Lowe completed the Chaplain Officer's Basic Course, the Chaplain Officer's Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Staff Service School and the Command and General Staff Officer College. Al earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1997. As a Chaplain, Al served in many positions including service as the Corps Support Command Chaplain for III Corps while serving in Iraq in 2004. Following his retirement from active duty in 2005, he earned a Master's Degree in history from Texas A&M University, Central Texas. His thesis was entitled *Redeployment and Reintegration of the Soldier from a Combat Zone*. Through his experiences, Al was uniquely qualified to write on that subject. From the jungles of Vietnam to the burning sands of Iraq, Chaplain Lowe has served his country well, and he continues that service and commitment today to his community and the VFW.

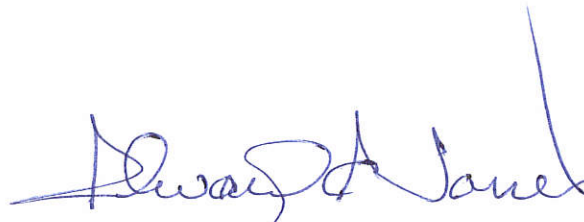
Elected as Department Chaplain in June of 2017, Chaplain Lowe has displayed the characters of an outstanding Chaplain but more importantly, a caring and nurturing leader and comrade. He displays the utmost of integrity and professional conduct, going far above the job description in the VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. As a Life member of VFW Post 4008 in Belton, Texas, Al continues to serve as the Post Chaplain, the District 14 Chaplain and as the State Chaplain. His activism starts in his local community as Chaplain Lowe has volunteered to conduct a memorial or funeral service for any deceased person that does not have a minister, especially for veterans. He has made numerous visits to hospitals and nursing homes as well as the VA Medical Center in Temple, Texas. Chaplain Lowe is the first comrade to send out sympathy cards to the families of our deceased veterans, offering words of condolences, faith and encouragement.

Chaplain Lowe has served the Texas VFW and all of our Post and District Chaplains in an exemplary manner. More than twenty years of experience as a Military Chaplain and more than twelve years as a Church Pastor have given Chaplain Lowe the experience to "make a difference" in the VFW. His main goal was to teach our Chaplains how to be Chaplains and not just a position to be filled at election time. He wrote the *Chaplain Help Book* for Texas Chaplains specifically because he knew there was not enough written guidance in our By-Laws. Al has gone throughout Texas, visiting our Post Chaplains during District meetings and raising their knowledge on how to be an effective Chaplain. His presentations have included conducting a memorial or funeral service of a veteran, conducting Post Memorial Services and hospital and home visitations during times of illness and death. Chaplain Lowe wrote several articles on various segments of ministry basing the programs on the VFW National By-Laws for all of our Post and District Chaplains.

Focusing on Suicide Awareness, Chaplain Lowe wrote a Suicide Awareness Program, as well as a guide, and presented it to our Chaplains throughout the State of Texas during Post and District visits. He presented this class during our Mid-Winter Conference. Afterwards, one of our Post Chaplains wrote to Al and said "Just reporting that I presented the Suicide Awareness Presentation that you put together tonight at our Post general meeting. Our Post Surgeon, a Medical Doctor, wanted me to pass on to you how excellent a job you did preparing this program." Chaplain Lowe stated "I contend nearly everyone is aware of the tragedy of suicide and that many recognize some awareness of the issue. However, very few actually or intentionally have a desire or the training to deal with a suicidal veteran." With his experience in Iraq as an Army Chaplain, Al is uniquely qualified to help our veterans and to stop this tragedy from occurring. Chaplain Lowe has taken this crisis on and made it a priority for the Texas VFW.

Al epitomizes what a Chaplain should be. Chaplain Lowe never judges any person and is always willing to offer his wise counsel. His humility and graciousness add to his reputation in Texas. With his outstanding character, his effervescent personality, his training, his education and his life experiences, Chaplain Lowe has proven that a Chaplain can be more than just the comrade doing the Memorial Service. Chaplain Lowe serves the needs of the Texas VFW well above the job description of a Chaplain. I cannot think of a finer Comrade and friend than Chaplain Allen "Al" K. Lowe to receive the National Chaplain of the Year Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward Torres". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending upwards from the end.

Edward Torres
State Commander