



Castle Oaks Covenant Church Uniform Services Support Ministry Newsletter

Issue 1: May 2021

MISSION STATEMENT: In accordance with our Covenant Affirmations, the mission for the Uniform Services Support Ministry is to join with the Castle Oaks community to recognize and proactively support active and veteran members of the uniform military armed forces and first responders within Castle Oaks Church and the larger Castle Rock community.

WELCOME to the first *Castle Oaks Uniform Services Support Ministry (USSM)* newsletter in support of the men and women in our church family and community who have served or are currently serving in the various branches of the United States military as well as all departments of first responders. Castle Oaks Covenant Church kicked off this ministry in November 2020 for the recognition of Veterans Day.

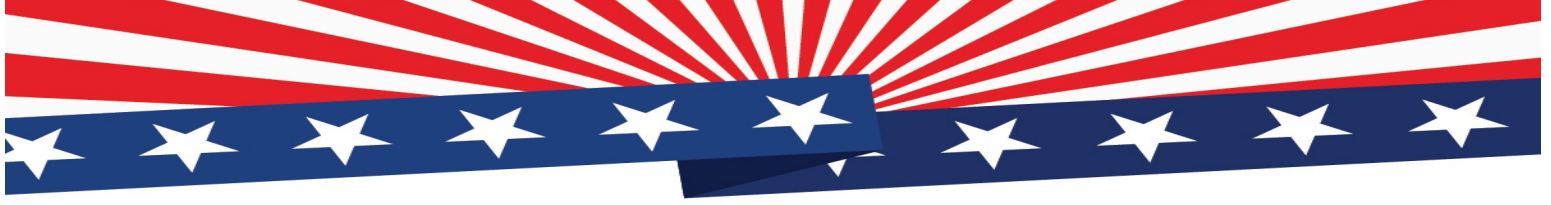
In addition to the Veterans Day recognition, the USSM was successful in sending nearly 80 Christmas cards to men and women currently serving in our military services. Thanks to Dave Ells who coordinated the signing and mailing of those cards, and thanks to all of you who wrote notes of thanks and encouragement!

As with so many other things, the COVID pandemic has hindered our promotion and growth. It is our prayer and expectation that 2021 will allow the USSM to be more active in our support of the men and women who are or have been active in the military or as first responders. This is the first of what will be quarterly newsletters to share news of our growing ministry and activities.

PASS THE WORD: If you are currently serving or have served in the military or as a first responder, we want to be a support to you and your family! Please let us know you are here, and if you know of others, tell them about USSM. You can share this newsletter or an information card (available in the Welcome Center at Castle Oaks), or you can share our website. You can find more info, complete a survey, and share your information with us there:

[Uniform Services Support — Castle Oaks Covenant Church](https://www.castleoaks.org/ussm)

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UPCOMING EVENTS: Memorial Day is coming up on May 31st. Castle Oaks Church will have a special recognition of the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice in serving the country at the morning services on May 30th. Thanks to Dave Ells for organizing this special recognition on Memorial Day.

Cedar Hill Cemetery will also have a Memorial Day observance at 10:00 May 31st. Cedar Hill has over 450 veterans interred in the cemetery. The observance will be held at the Veterans Memorial gardens at Cedar Hill Cemetery, 880 E. Wolfensberger Road, Castle Rock.

In addition to Memorial Day, the following dates are recognized through the 2nd quarter of 2021:

- Peace Officers Memorial Day: May 15th
- D-Day Observance: June 6th
- Flag Day: June 14th
- United States Army Birthday: June 14th

VetFest: The *Douglas County Veterans Monument Foundation* will conduct their annual VetFest fundraiser on Saturday, July 3rd, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Festival Park in Downtown Castle Rock. There will be a 5K Fun Run & Walk which will start at 10:00 am. The event will also feature live music, artist and vendor booths, food trucks, and more.

The following dates are recognized during the 3rd quarter of 2021:

- Independence Day: July 4th
- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day: July 27th
- United States Coast Guard Birthday: August 4th
- Patriot Day: September 11th
- National POW/MIA Recognition Day: September 17th
- United States Air Force Birthday: September 18th

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: As soon as COVID guidelines allow, we will be initiating several volunteer opportunities within our church community. There will be volunteer opportunities for both adults and children. Pick up a Castle Oaks Church Uniform Services Support Ministry information or visit the USSM web page.

We continually seek ideas and suggestions from our USSM members and friends, so if you have an idea that fits within our mission, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

CONTACT US: You can contact us by email at USSM@CastleOaks.Org, or reach out to USSM Team Leads, Dave Ells: dave_lynne@comcast.net or Bob Nelson: nelsonabob@hotmail.com