



# Castle Oaks Covenant Church Uniform Services Support Ministry Newsletter

**Issue 6: October 2022**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** In accordance with our Covenant Affirmations, the mission for the Uniform Services Support Ministry (USSM) 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**National First Responders Day** on **October 28** recognizes the heroic men and women who make it their business to take immediate action when disaster strikes. Congress designated October 28th as National First Responders Day in 2017. The resolution honors the firefighters, police officers, paramedics/EMTs, medical personnel and all those who are first on the scene in stressful situations. For all church members who are part of the First Responders team, we thank you. When you see a police officer, fireman, EMT, etc., please recognize them and thank them for their service.



**Special Thanks:** The national **Patriot Day** on September 11<sup>th</sup> included a special recognition of all first responders during the church service at the MAC (Miller Activity Complex). A special thanks to the Colorado Army National Guard members who supported this special event: SFC Mabelle Deese, SFC Larry Hileman and Specialist Joel Cruz.

## VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



**Veterans Day** (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" to account for all veterans in all wars.

**Coffee and Biscuits at Bonaventure Retirement Center:** This year we are planning a special Veterans Day recognition at the Bonaventure of Castle Rock retirement facility. We had a successful Coffee and Biscuits back on August 16<sup>th</sup> with over a dozen veterans and spouses along with several volunteers from the church.

The USSM ministry is planning a Veterans Day recognition at Bonaventure scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be a special gathering for the veterans and spouses including a recognition celebration of the residents at Bonaventure. The gathering with the veterans and spouses will be at 2:00 pm with the other residents at Bonaventure invited to join at 2:30 to thank the veterans for their services. The Wellspring Community will be baking some special cookies for the event.

We would like to encourage any Uniform Services Support Ministry members to participate on the 10<sup>th</sup>. If you want to join this outreach on November 10<sup>th</sup>, please contact Bob Nelson at the contact info below.

**Veterans Day** observance at Castle Oaks will be on Sunday **November 13th**. Veterans Day is a time for us to say thanks to those who have served in the Armed Forces. Castle Oaks Church will have a special recognition of the men and women who have served in the armed forces. The USSM ministry will also host a **Meet-and-Thanks** after the service. All veterans, active military, along with their families are welcome to join with the social gathering in the lobby of the church.

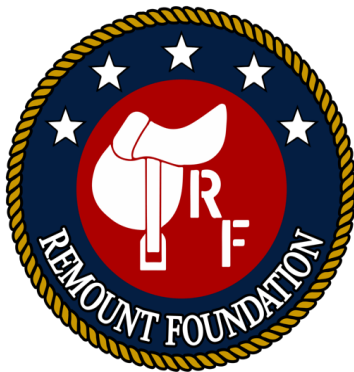


## VETERAN SERVICES FOCUS

Something new in this newsletter is a focus on veteran service organizations. As we approach Veterans Day next month, it is important for us to look at organizations that reach out to our veterans and provide necessary services in their support.

One special organization is the Remount Foundation down in Colorado Springs. This organization operates on a thousand acres within the Air Force Academy's Academy Equestrian Center.

The resupply of horses to military fronts of American armed forces dates back to the Civil War, but it had been an ad hoc affair. In 1908, the U.S. Army began the Remount Service, a formal program providing horses for moving armies, artillery, and supplies. For U.S. Troops, Remount horses also warmed hearts and raised morale during wartime.



Today, the Remount Service legacy lives on. The Remount Foundation provides active-duty military, veterans, first responders and their families with free equine-assisted therapeutic activities within a healing, natural environment, and a supportive community to empower them to heal physically, mentally and spiritually. The Remount Foundation has helped heal trauma in upwards of 4,500 warriors from all services, active duty and veterans, officers and enlisted, men and women in addition to their families. It has expanded to also help first responders, as well as children dealing with conditions such as trauma, behavioral disorders and autism.

The foundation has been in existence for over 25 years. With Colorado Springs home to five U.S. Army and Air Force military installations, word spread, especially through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Army's Warrior Transition Battalion for wounded warriors at nearby Fort Carson. With horses at the focus, the Remount Foundation now offers individual and group sessions in a variety of therapy techniques. Remount Foundation co-founder Billy Jack Barrett says, "*For decades Remount horses transported warriors into battle, now the animals are carrying their riders down the road to healing.*"



The program has never operated on taxpayer dollars and never charged participants; it is a volunteer-run and relies on donations. For volunteer and donation information, click on the following link: <https://remountfoundation.org/>

Castle Oaks is fortunate to have a couple of church members as active volunteers at the Remount Foundation. For personal discussion, visit with Roger Mounts or Dr. Earl Gaughan at the church.

## UPCOMING DATES:

In the month of December there will be a couple of special events that members of USSM can participate in. The National Wreaths Across America Day at the Cedar Hill Cemetery along with a special Stars Christmas Concert at the Bonaventure retirement center with our own Wellspring Stars performing. More details will be available prior to both events.

Important dates are recognized through the fall and into the winter:

- Navy Birthday: October 13<sup>th</sup>
- National First Responders Day: October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Military Family Appreciation Month: November
- Marine Corps Birthday: November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day: November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Pearl Harbor Day: December 6<sup>th</sup>
- National Guard Birthday: December 13<sup>th</sup>

**PASS THE WORD:** If you know of other members of the church who are currently serving or have served in the military or they are currently a first responder, we want to be a support to themselves and their family! Please 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.

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

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** 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](mailto:USSM@CastleOaks.Org), or reach out to USSM Team Leads,

- Bob Nelson: [nelsonabob@hotmail.com](mailto:nelsonabob@hotmail.com)
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