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For God and Country

May, 2020

TO: American Legion Department Chaplains

SUBJ: Memorial Day 2020

Greetings,

At our department chaplains conference last September, which was part of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference, I announced my "[Big Four Months](#)" theme. The month of May is one of those big four months of having important activities.

May is designated for the presentation of our Post Everlasting Memorial Service for Legionnaires who have died since the memorial service the previous year, as well as the placing of U. S. flags on the graves of veterans.

This year, however, the global coronavirus pandemic has caused many cancellations in our American Legion world. Many of our departments, divisions, districts and posts are currently closed in the interest of health and safety due to stay-at-home orders issued by state governors. I truly hope that plans may still be developed to devise methods for our chaplains to reach out to the loved ones of our departed comrades, to place flags on graves, and that our Post Everlasting Memorial Services may still be conducted, perhaps through virtual means. I have found from my many years as a Legion chaplain that an American Legion post with a strong Post Everlasting Memorial Service, perhaps combined with the presentation of a Bible to families, is very meaningful.

In addition to The American Legion's three R's – retention, recruitment and reconnection – our Post Everlasting Memorial Service can add a fourth R ...remembrance.

For God and country,

EDWARD L. HARRIS, JR.
National Chaplain

Cc: National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford
National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler
Americanism Division Director Jill K. Druskis