

Greetings all!!

I pray that you and your Units are all off to a great start!! I am Pastor Cheryl Nymann, your Department Chaplain this year. If at anytime throughout the year, a member of your Unit or District is in need of prayer, please contact me (information below).

This brings me to a call out to all members of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary members who would be comfortable praying for one another. I would like to have one member from each district to become a prayer warrior with me. I would contact you throughout the year to pray for an individual, an event, or whatever comes up, and I would ask you to pray for that individual or event. Please forward me a name of an individual who would be willing to this within your districts. I am a firm believer in the power of prayer.

The focus this year will be on the needs of others and our veterans through prayer.

Praying & Remembering All Year

Also, I will be developing a Department Book of Prayers this year. This book will be comprehensive, covering all special occasions, events, holidays, etc. that happen throughout the year. There will be an index of the prayers at the beginning of the book, so prayers are easy to find. ALSO, I would like to have this be in a little larger print so we can look at and be able to read prayers easily from it. So, please start sending me your prayers now!

Veteran's Day is just around the corner, so I have included a prayer for your Unit / or Veteran's Day program:

Dear God,

We thank you for the freedom you have given to us. The cost of it all. The great sacrifice for freedom.

We thank you for the brave who have fought, and continue to fight, so courageously for our nation. We ask for your covering and blessing over them and their families. We pray that you would be gracious and encircle them with your peace. We pray for your great favor and goodness to be evident in their lives.

Please be with the men and women in uniform, who serve our communities and nation every single day. We ask that you provide your protection, that you would be their guiding force who leads the way, and their rear guard who keeps them safe from behind. We ask that you would draw them to yourself amidst the dangers they face in a dark world, for you are the Truth, you are the Way, you are the Light.

When the voice of hate rises up against them, we ask that you would silence it. When the plans of the enemy rise up to cause them to stumble, we ask that you would thwart it. When the forces of evil rise up to strike them down, we ask that you would stop it. Lord, we know how powerful you are, all have heard of your Great Name, and we ask that you would indeed be the wind beneath their wings, the power behind their efforts, the heart behind their service, as they are on the front lines against evil in our world today.

Help them to walk wisely. To stay covered in your armor. Give them godly discernment. Make them constantly aware of what lurks close by. Help them to be men and women of prayer, realizing that this is where their greatest help comes from. Help them to stay united and strong, bold and resolute, determined and unwavering. Lord bless all those who wear the uniform, who serve our cities, our nation, our people. Bless their families. Bless those they love. Give them your great favor, this day, and every day.

Thank you that in our nation today, we are free to worship. We are free to pray. We are free to read your Word. We are free to speak. We are free to share. For this, we are incredibly grateful. Yet, we understand how quickly these freedoms can be taken away. Give us an increased awareness of the spiritual battle we're in. Help us to stand strong in you and for your purposes.

Thank you that as believers, we can be assured, you never leave us, and you are with us always, in this life, and the next.

In your mighty and powerful name,
Amen.

We honor you today Veterans, and all those who wear the uniform, as we pray...and give thanks...and remember. The Lord bless you greatly for your service and sacrifice. And may God bless America!

And a prayer for Thanksgiving:

O, heavenly Father: We thank you for food and remember the hungry. We thank you for health and remember the sick. We thank you for friends and remember the friendless. We thank thee for freedom and remember our veterans and servicemen and servicewomen who gave us freedoms. May these remembrances stir us to service, that your gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

Some of you will be celebrating Pearl Harbor Day, and I wanted to include a prayer for this very special, yet very somber Day of Remembrance.

Dear Father, on this annual recollection of the Pearl Harbor tragedy, we pray for thy benign blessings and guidance. Enable us to reflect clearly and conscientiously upon our priceless heritage. Let us be determined to guard and preserve it through all trials and difficulties. Help us to be worthy of the lofty ideals for which so many courageous men and women sacrificed so much. Grant us steadfast spirits always to defend our great inheritance for the countless generations yet unborn. Cast thy countenance upon our beloved country, the United States of America. Shelter the inhabitants of our land from all anguish, peril, and gloom. May this blessed haven ever be the citadel of justice, freedom, and brotherhood. May the time not be distant O God, when mankind will live in security and confidence as it is written in the book of thy Prophet Isaiah: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Then the glory of God shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. Amen.

And, of course we should never forget our many blessings which we receive at Christmas. So, I have included this prayer for our veterans on Christmas.

Almighty and Everlasting God, as we celebrate Christmas in this world and experience the peace which it may bring to us, we remember our troops at home and abroad who dedicate their lives to protecting our people on this planet.

We are sorry that war is still a part of our lives and that we call upon our young people to risk their lives for us, putting themselves in harm's way for our freedom. We pray that You will enable us one day to put an end to war and truly experience peace on Earth, so that our Christmas celebrations will be full of joy.

We pray for our troops stationed both here and abroad. We ask that You bless, protect and preserve them wherever they are located. Help us to let them know how much we truly appreciate their service and give us opportunities to care for, encourage, and embrace them.

We pray for their families this Christmas who suffer from separation and distance at this time of year. Surround them with good friends and strong families. Be near to the wives, daughters and mothers, husbands, sons, and fathers who miss their loved ones.

We also remember those who have been wounded in action, who are recovering at home or in Veterans' hospitals. We pray for their healing, recovery, and tender care. We especially remember those who are permanently injured whether emotionally, mentally, physically, or neurologically. May they be deeply cared for and honorably respected.

We pray for our military leaders and Commander in Chief who need to make tough and unenviable decisions. We pray that You will grant them guidance and discernment to act upon the fresh challenges to peace that occur around the world.

Finally, we pray for those service families who have an empty chair at their Christmas tables that will never be filled. In the midst of their loss, surround them with caring friends and loving people. Let the real sacrifices that they have made, and still sadly experience, be humbly honored and deeply respected by all of us. May we cherish the freedom that our troops have accomplished through the giving of their lives.

Hear us now as we silently pray for those who serve our nation today and as we quietly remember those who have actively served and sacrificed in the past. Amen.

Here's a prayer to begin and end your Unit's meeting. Godspeed to all!

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, We come to You in gratitude for the opportunity to serve our veterans, active military and their families. We recognize that it is through great sacrifice that we are eligible to belong to this organization. We ask that You would guide us through our deliberations and that the good of the American Legion Auxiliary and those we represent will be our foremost consideration. Please bless those members who could not meet with us. Help us Lord to remember them as we go about our tasks. Be with us as we conduct the business of our Auxiliary. We pray that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts will be pleasing in Your sight. May we be blessed with success in our endeavors, and the glory will be Yours forever. It is in Your Holy Name we pray, Amen

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, We pray that you will be with each of us as we depart from this place. Go with us and keep us safe until we meet again. We pray that You will bless all those whose families have been separated by military service, that they will be reunited soon with their loved ones. We pray that You will bless those who have lost loved ones that they may be comforted in the knowledge that their sacrifices will be honored and their loved ones memorialized by a grateful nation. Let us, as American Legion Auxiliary members, serve as beacons of light to the rest of the nation that our men and women in uniform will not be forgotten until they have all come home. We thank you once again for your many blessings. In Your Holy Name we pray, Amen.

My prayer for all of our Auxiliary members is that you find joy this holiday season. Psalm 16:11 states, "In your presence is fullness of joy. This truth is simple. Joy is found by spending time in God's presence, delighting in him. But how do we enter into his presence to find this joy? Sometimes the blur of busy family schedules, presses in and keeps us from entering all that He has for us, including a joyful disposition. Joy should flow from a thankful heart. Always remember and give thanks for the many blessings you have in life; so, spend time thanking God for his many blessings and throughout the year that follows. Find your joy today in God's presence. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Gladly pronounce the goodness of God in your life. It will strengthen you and your gratitude will usher you into his presence multiplying your joy as you focus on God and his goodness.

Praying for many blessings to you and those you love!

Pastor Cheryl Nymann
130 1st Street SW
Plainview, MN 55964
pastorcnymann@gmail.com
507-202-0115