## County-Wide Chaplaincy Thanks you!

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November 2017

## Thanksgiving Report

How thankful I am! Those of you who have received this report for years may remember the November letters in the past. I have shared my heart, year after year, how Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday, how I enjoy it, and how it helps me to think about the good things in life and the many blessings (gifts from above) we all have.

Number one would be the love that God has for every individual, and also the peace that comes when we walk in His ways. He has given us so much to be thankful for: our loved ones, the roofs over our heads, the clothes on our backs, the blankets on our beds, the heaters in our homes and cars... Please make your own list, give thanks, and find joy and appreciation. Shake off the negative and plant the positive in your hearts and minds, and lovingly and humbly help others to do the same. Plant gratitude deep in your heart and water it well.

In the New Testament, the small book called Philippians contains four chapters. These chapters are filled with practical instructions and words of encouragement. I know how much I personally need to be encouraged by these words, and how it helps me to take a deep breath and move forward. I think of a song from many years ago. It describes the Saints as just sinners who fall down, recognize their mistakes, repent, and get back up to keep moving forward. With God's help and His love, let us all receive forgiveness and grant forgiveness. Let us be a community of decent and kind people.

We are all so very blessed to have the resources that we have here in our country. I thank God for the men and women who serve in so many ways—both paid employees and unpaid volunteers—whose contributions are so very important. Here are some of the many public servants I am thankful for:

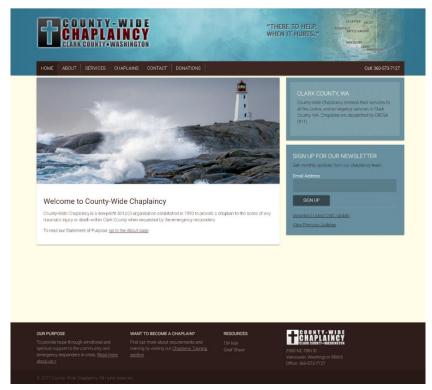
- Our Search and Rescue Personnel, Red Cross Staff, Hospital Staff, and Medical Examiner Staff
- Our 911 Dispatchers, Ambulance Personnel, Tow Truck Operators and their Dispatchers
- Our TIP Family, Chaplains, Police and Deputies
- Our Sheriffs, Chiefs, Captains and Commanders
- Our Reserves, Cadets and Firefighters
- Our State Troopers, Soldiers, Rangers and Coast Guard Personnel
- Our Pastors, Ministers, and Church Workers
- Our Correctional Staff in Jails and Prisons

This list does not include all who deserve to be mentioned. I sure appreciate all the wonderful folks I am privileged to serve alongside and to share this life with.

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With so much thanks to so many, ~Sam LaPore

## <u>Please remember to pray for the safety of all our first responders.</u> <u>We are all so grateful for them!</u>



If you haven't done it yet, check out our website, <a href="www.911chaplain.org">www.911chaplain.org</a>. You can find out more information about the ministry, give online, and now also sign up to receive your monthly newsletter by email.

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Or you can go straight to it with the following web address:

<a href="https://911chaplain.churchcenteronline.com/">https://911chaplain.churchcenteronline.com/</a>.

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