

Martin, Rev. Norman

Legion News

Meet Rev. Martin, Legion Br. 99 padre

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An organization, when required, is fortunate having an individual who rises to the occasion and stands above the rest of the crowd. Branch 99 is blessed with such a person who accomplishes this by being one who is 'last of all and servant of all' (St. Mark 9:35): namely, our padre, the Rev. Norman Martin.

At the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day wreaths and crosses, the symbols of remembrance, are placed. This act is preceded by the officiating of the padre who offers the invocation and prayers on behalf of the community gathered. This veneration led by the padre is the apex of the ceremony. Later at the banquet he will give the grace.

One of Rev. Martin's main roles is conducting a memorial service for a departed comrade. With solemnity and dignity he does this rite providing comfort to the bereaved.

On Friday, Jan. 17, I had the pleasure of visiting Rev. Martin at his residence to enquire of his background. He was born in Toronto and attended Earl Haig Collegiate excelling in biology; and served in the Army during the Second World War. After acquiring post secondary education he worked as a research scientist at the Ontario Veterinary College.

As a youth Rev. Martin had a religious experience and eventually heeded 'the call' and entered Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto. He was ordained a priest of God by the Anglican Church in 1960. Father Martin served as the Rector of the Parish of Perrytown which consisted of three churches under his pastorship: St. Paul's, Perrytown; St. George's, Gores' Landing; and St. Anne's, Bewdley. He also was a founding member of the Bewdley Branch and served as its padre. Upon retirement Rev. Martin and his wife Norma moved to Belleville and has been our padre for the past fourteen years. They are the parents of two daughters and have two grandchildren.

As a result of my conversation with Rev. Martin, I found him to be a pious man with deep concerns about marriage break ups and their ramifications; and that the Church and society must strive to counter this tragedy. I admire him as a traditionalist having a preference for the Authorized Version, and for the use of the Book of Common Prayer in liturgical celebrations in his respective denomination. His love for these two sacred volumes stems not necessarily from an esteem of their majestic Elizabethan English language, but for theological beliefs. I also found him to be an ecumenicalist with a love for people of all faith backgrounds.

On behalf of all Legionnaires, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Rev. Martin for his spiritual leadership and being our padre. Our prayer is that God continues to bless him and his family; as he has truly been a blessing for us.

We regret the passing of Legionnaires William Dyer and Karel Matousek, both of whom were veterans. To their families we offer our deepest sympathy.

This weekend's entertainment: Fri., DACARR DJ, 6-10 p.m.; Sat., Tim Hallman, 3-7 p.m.

Other events: Legion Wed. bingo at 7 p.m., BBH, 610 Dundas E.; Zone Darts, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m.; Zone Bowling, Feb. 2 in Tweed at 10 a.m.; Brunch for the less fortunate, Feb. 9, 9-11 a.m.; Branch General Meeting, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.; Public Speaking, Feb. 11, registration at 5 p.m., program at 5:30 p.m.; and District Cribbage, Feb. 15 in Bowmanville.

Dan Ryan, Acting PRO Br. 99

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