

Dear Members of FOP Carroll County Lodge #20,

It is a privilege to serve our Lodge as the Chaplain. For those of you who do not know me, I would like to share some background information with you. I had the opportunity to serve as a police officer for the Westminster Police Department for fifteen years. I started as a Cadet in 1994 and retired as a Sergeant in 2009. My retirement was the result of hearing loss (bad genetics) that made it unsafe for me to continue to serve as a police officer. In the Police Department, I served most of my career in Uniform Patrol. Three years were in the Carroll County Advocacy and Investigation Center. I had the opportunity to serve as a Crisis Negotiator for over half of my career. I served our FOP Lodge as the secretary (late 1990's) for several years. My family roots are in Carroll County and my wife and our children live on the outskirts of Taneytown. Since 2009, I have served as the MAGLOCLEN Law Enforcement Coordinator and cover Maryland, DC and Pennsylvania West of the Susquehanna River.

In 2019 I attended the CAREForce Chaplain program. Upon completion, I was ordained as a Chaplain. As part of that, I want to make sure you are aware of the ways I can serve each of you and your families as an Ordained Chaplain with CAREForce.

- Provide spiritual and emotional guidance and support to members
- Comfort and aid members and their families in the event of serious injury (work related and otherwise) or death in the family
- Visit sick and injured members at home and in the hospital
- Assist with lodge ceremonies and possibly elsewhere as requested (Blessing ceremonies such as bikes and pets) that will be evaluated on an individual basis
- Liaison with other religious leaders in matters that may impact lodge members
- Perform marriage ceremonies for members and family members of lodge members. By the authority of CAREForce, I am only permitted to marry professing Christians and then only after six counseling sessions spanning six weeks. For those who do not share my faith, I can connect you with a Wedding Officiant or area Pastor who may be able to assist you.
- Conduct funerals and bury members and family members of lodge members.

All members may contact me via email at Chaplain@fop20.com or cell phone at 215-378-6634. I will do my best to respond timely. My family of five and work travel may slow down responses.

As a 24-year member of this lodge, I continue to value my lodge membership and appreciate the opportunity to serve my fellow members.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Helm

Chaplain – FOP Carroll County Lodge #20

