

**Disabled American Veterans**  
Department of Pennsylvania  
**Naomi DAV Chapter 15**



**Memorial Day observance**  
**10 A.M.**

**Monday, May 25, 2026**

Philadelphia. National Cemetery.  
Haines Street and Limekiln Pike.  
Philadelphia, PA. 19138  
**Memorial Day Ceremony Committee**

**Joseph F. Reid (Chairman)**

**Leonard M. Johnson, Commander**

**R.B. "Doc" Speight American Legion**  
**Adjutant/Chaplain**



### **Memorial Ceremony Program**

Posting of Colors	Martin Luther King High School JROTC Color Guard Cougar Battalion
Call to order, Chapter	Cmdr. Leonard M. Johnson
Invocation	Chaplain R.B. "Doc" Speight
Pledge of Allegiance	Assembly
National Anthem	Deaven Ross
Honoring the Deceased (With) Musical Selection	Deaven Ross
Placing of Wreaths	
DAV Naomi Chapter 15	Comrade Betty Christian
DAV chapter 6	Tres. Stephen Resling
Continental Post American	
Legion Riders 263	



Salvo -Taps Music	Firing Detail	honoring the fallen with
rifle salute, honor guard	VVA Chapter 266	Sam Robinson, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Remarks	Dir. Wash. Nat. Cem.	Jason Guenther
Remarks	Dir. Veterans Affairs	Gregory Wright
Remarks	Retired vet Coor. For CCP	Stephen Bachovin
Remarks	Coor Vet Svec's. For CCP	Christina Kinlaw
Keynote speaker	Chief of External Affairs, and	Rita Chappelle
Communications for Michael J. Crescenz, VA Medical Center		
Introduction of VIP's	Chapter Cmdr.	L M. Johnson
God Bless America	Music	Deaven Ross
Closing Remarks	Chapter Cmidr.	LM. Johnson
Benediction	Chaplain	R.B. "Doc" Speight
Retiring of Colors	Color Guard	Martin Luther King
		High School JROTC
		Cougar Battalion

### **Memorial Day Ceremony Committee**

**Joseph F. Reid (Chairman)**

**Leonard M. Johnson, Commander**

**Samuel D. Robinson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Adjutant**

### **The Star Spangled Banner**

Oh. Say, can you see by the dawns, early Light  
What so proudly we hailed. At the twilight's last gleaming.  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars Through the perilous fight.  
O'er, the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming.  
And the Rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

### **God Bless America**

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea.  
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free.  
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,  
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

#### **God. Bless America**

Land that I love.  
Stand beside her. And guide her  
Through the night. With a light from above  
From the mountains to the prairies to the oceans, White with foam.  
God Bless America, My home sweet home. God Bless America,  
My home sweet home.

#### **Technical Assistance And. Audio Equipment**

Provided by.

**DSR Group  
Daniel Melendez  
(215) 475-2271  
DSR@GMAIL.COM**

Mr. Jason Guenther is Director of Washington Crossing National Cemetery, and its four satellite locations: Beverly National Cemetery, Philadelphia National Cemetery, Finns Point National Cemetery, as well as the naval plot and soldiers' lot at Mount Moriah in Philadelphia.

Director Jason Guenther was previously named assistant director of Washington Crossing National Cemetery, effective October 11th 2021, where he oversaw all burials, maintenance, and administrative operations across the cemetery and its satellite locations.

He began his career with the National Cemetery Administration in March 2016 as an office automation Clerk. He steadily advanced through several key roles, including Cemetery caretaker, program support assistant, and administrative officer. Since 2019, he has also served as a valuable member of the NCA organizational assessment and Improvement team.

Before his service with the National Cemetery Administration, Mr. Guenther honorably served in the United States Army from 2004 to 2012 as an infantryman, completing two deployments to Iraq. He also served as a US Army recruiter, continuing his commitment to service and Leadership.

Mr. Guenther's dedication, professionalism, and steady pursuit of Excellence have made him an outstanding role model within his community and Beyond. His journey reflects the values of hard work, perseverance, and continued growth.

**Stephen (Steve) J. Bachovin**

**Retired Veterans / Military coordinator for the Veterans Resource Center at Community College of Philadelphia currently serving as my church's trustee and uber driver for my wife and granddaughters. I am a member of the American Legion Post 810**

**My family has a long history of service in the United States Armed forces. My father and many of my relatives all served in the Army and the Navy from World War II, Korea and Vietnam and the 1st Persian Gulf War and now Iraq and Afghanistan. My older brother is a Marine Vietnam veteran and my sister worked at the Philadelphia veteran's hospital. I am an honorably discharged Veteran of the United States Air Force in both the administration and security fields, having served both stateside and overseas in the Middle East.**

**Christina Kinlaw, MSW,  
Coordinator of Veteran Services, Community  
College of Philadelphia**

Philadelphia native, Christina Kinlaw proudly served in the United States Marine Corps for nearly 10 years. Shortly after completing her service, she enrolled in the Liberal Arts program at the Community College of Philadelphia. During her own transition from military to civilian life, and with the support of mentors, she discovered her passion for helping others navigate similar journeys. This led her to change her major to Behavioral Health Human Services in 2017 and begin her path in social work. Christina Kinlaw earned her Bachelor of Social Work from La Salle University in 2020, and her Master of Social Work from Widener University in 2021.



After earning her MSW, Christina worked at Merakey as a Mobile Mental Health Therapist, supporting individuals living with serious mental illness and substance use disorders. In this role, she developed extensive experience in crisis intervention, treatment modalities, and advocacy. She later served as the Veteran Initiative Unit Clinical Coordinator with the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, where she assessed and coordinated mental health treatment for veterans participating in Philadelphia's Veterans Court program.

Today, Christina serves as the Veteran Resource Coordinator at the Community College of Philadelphia, where she leads programs and provides comprehensive support services to student veterans and their families. Her work is rooted in a deep commitment to advocacy, empowerment, and helping veterans successfully transition and heal.

With almost a decade of experience working in mental health, Christina remains passionate about service to others and having a small part in veterans transition journeys. Outside of her professional role, she is a devoted wife and mother of two teenage boys, and enjoys caring for animals and nurturing her love of plants.

## RITA CHAPPELLE, MA, BSc, SCMP, PMP, APR



Rita Chappelle is Chief of External Affairs and Communications for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration at The Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo Philadelphia VA Healthcare System in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In that capacity, she is charged with outreach, communications and managing the facility's image. Ms. Chappelle is a certified strategic communications management professional (SCMP), media trainer, communications leader, coach, journalist, educator and consultant with more than 30 years-experience in government, public and private companies and non-profit organizations. Ms. Chappelle has led high-performing communications and marketing teams in government, financial services and nonprofits. She is an award-winning print and broadcast journalist, and educator. Her expertise is in crisis management, strategic communications, negotiation, technical writing, media management, reputation and change management, communications planning and branding, internal and external engagement and as a leader and coalition builder. As former spokeswoman for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, she handled many of the agency's most high-profile issues while managing its reputation, dealing with media, informing the public, leading field communicators and working with stakeholders, including:

- ♦ *Chantix*
- ♦ *Approval of Plan B (the abortion pill)*
- ♦ *Recall of Cough and Cold Products for Children*
- ♦ *Gulf Water Horizon --BP Oil Spill and Impact to Seafood Industry*
- ♦ *Peanut Butter Recall*
- ♦ *Enforcement Actions with the Dept. of Justice against Hydroxycut, Bayer Aspirin, Alex Rodriguez, & E-Cigarettes*

She was a contributor to the White House's "**How to Communicate In The Event of An IND or Bioterrorism Attack**" publication that is the federal government's guide for communications professionals on how to respond and communicate in the event of an attack. As the federal government's Regional Communications Director – Region II, for the U.S. Small Business Administration she directed communications, outreach, social media image and messaging, publications, editorial calendars, relationships with state, federal, tribal and international stakeholders for New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and New York. She was one of a handful of communicators tasked with helping navigate the political crisis of the late D.C. Mayor Marion Barry upon his arrest and conviction in a drug sting operation. She was part of a team tasked to position him for reelection following his release from federal prison. She served under two Governors for the State of Maryland where she led all communications for the State's nationally acclaimed finance programs. An award-winning television reporter and producer, Ms. Chappelle is the recipient of several Emmy Awards for her work on *America's Most Wanted* on FOX TV and won a Telly Award for her work on the FDA's *Unapproved Drugs* video. She has written for The Washington Post, Detroit Free Press, and the Afro-American Newspaper and for the Valley News Dispatch/USA Today. She has proactively and reactively overseen high profile media interviews with news organizations around the globe including:

- ♦ *Meet The Press \*The Today Show & NBC Nightly News \*60 Minutes, CBS Morning & CBS Evening News*
- ♦ *20/20, Good Morning America & World News \*FOX News \*CNN and Tier 1, 2 & 3 media outlets*

She is a member of the National Association of Female Executives, the National Association of Black Journalists, the Public Relations Society of America, and the National Association of Female Sportswriters. Her son Josh, is a 2023 graduate of Kutztown University with a Bachelors in Cinema, Television and Media with plans to work for Disney as a video editor.