

The Pastor's Pen

November 12, 2017

Wallace Charles Smith, D.Min.
Senior Minister



On this Veteran's Sunday, we welcome to our pulpit two outstanding men of God:

Dr. Clarence Cross
VA Chaplain (Retired)
Minister of the AME Zion Church

and

Dr. James Key
U.S. Army Chaplain
(Major-Promotable)

We look forward to the uplifting and thought-provoking messages they will share.

The Veteran's Day Committee has done another exceptional job of providing our congregation with programs that assist us in remembering and commemorating the sacrifices of the faithful men and women who dedicated their lives to preserve our nation's freedoms. For people of color, military service was too often a sacrifice made in spite of basic freedoms that were denied them because of race. For too many years, African Americans were denied access to homes in neighborhoods where former enemy combatants were welcomed with open arms. Regardless of the slights and indignities, African American patriots served this nation for more than recognition, but because of obligation, responsibility and duty.

On this Veteran's Day, we are mindful of the climate of anger and hostility that make the world such a dangerous place. Although by all accounts, the Iranians are adhering to their disarmament treaty, our government is poised to withdraw from the pact, a provocative move that could fan the flames of hostility in the Middle East. Bellicose threats hurled at the leaders of North Korea are raising hackles around the world and causing nervousness on the part of many of our allies. Those who have been to war can certainly affirm that firing weapons at enemies and unleashing death and carnage is not a game, but deadly serious business. When we are forced into war, we must yet be prepared, but reluctant to go as a last resort. In Isaiah 2:4-5, the Prophet voices that the will of God is always peace not war, "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

On this 14th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration, we give thanks for all those who wore the uniform. May God bless and keep our courageous and gallant Veterans.