

The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Certain Chaplain, Colonel, USAFR (Retired)

Robert Certain was born in Savannah, Georgia in December 1947. An alumnus of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Maryland, he attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, graduating in 1969 with a BA degree in History and a commission in the US Air Force. As a combat aviator he flew 100 missions over Southeast Asia in 1971 and 1972. He was shot down and captured in December 1972; and repatriated when the war ended a few months later.

Following the Vietnam War, he attended the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, and was ordained as a priest in 1976 after he received his Master of Divinity degree. In 1990, he was awarded his Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Theology.

In his capacity as a military chaplain, he served in the Air Force on active duty and in the reserves. As a reservist he served in various locations, including basic military training, at the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command and Air Mobility Command, and at the Air Force Academy. He also is a graduate of the Air War College. He retired from the Air Force Reserves in 1999 at the rank of Colonel.

Father Certain has served parishes in the Dioceses of West Texas, Mississippi, West Tennessee, Arizona and San Diego, and is now Rector of St. Peter & St. Paul Episcopal Church in Marietta Georgia in the Diocese of Atlanta. He has been a deputy to four General Conventions and served in numerous capacities at the diocesan and provincial levels.

In addition, he serves as an advisor to the Secretary of Defense through the Defense Health Board, on its committees on Psychological Health and Medical Ethics and on the Task Force for Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces. He is also an advisor to the Secretary of the VA through the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War. In Atlanta, he is the founding president of Care For The Troops, Inc., an interfaith Georgia charity that teaches faith community leaders to recognize the presence and unique stresses of veterans and their families living in their midst. Care For The Troops also networks with and trains marriage and family therapists and post-traumatic stress counselors as resources for those veterans living at some distance from VA medical facilities. In early 2010 he was the keynote speaker for a Wounded Warrior Retreat in the Diocese of Florida.

Robert published his autobiography, *Unchained Eagle: From Prisoner of War to Prisoner of Christ* in 2003, with a second edition published in 2010. Another book, *The Spiritual Quest*, was published in 2008. He has contributed a number of articles in *The Living Church*, *The Military Chaplain* and various other magazines.

When former President Gerald R. Ford died in late 2006, Father Certain was chosen to lead all the memorial services and to preside at his burial in Michigan.

Robert is married to the former Robbie Wade of Blytheville, Arkansas. They have two grown children and two grandchildren.