

Military Prayer List



When you read this, I will be in Washington, D.C. for the military retirement ceremony of my son, Matt Holman. He has been in the U.S. Navy for 34 years.

Between that upcoming celebration and the troubling military conflicts erupting around the globe, my mind has been much on those who are currently serving during these tense times. Each week, I see Matt's name on our Armed Forces prayer list in the Crestwood bulletin and wonder about the others who are listed there. I wonder where those men and women are now, and I think about their loved ones who asked that their names be placed on the list. It seems an appropriate time to shine the Crestwood Spotlight on those military personnel with connections to our church.

I do not intend this to be a celebration just of my son, but of all the people – past and present – who have given their talents and their lives to serving the country. Yes, the military is a demanding job – just like most jobs. And it can be controversial. But it does require something extra of the personnel and their families that regular jobs do not. The constant strain of moving, of absence from home and family, at times of being in extreme danger, makes it a unique community of dedicated citizens. They are all well-deserving of our prayers regardless of our perhaps sometimes mixed feelings about the actions required of them.

Today we spotlight 11 individuals whom we pray for each week. I have been disappointed in my unsuccessful attempts to track down four of them. However, we still remember them in our prayers and will mention them in the future if I learn of their whereabouts. Those I cannot locate are: **Karlis** and **Tristan Bowman** (nephews of Debbie Gardner), **Connor Hankins** (nephew of Lauren York), and **Zoe McIntyre** (granddaughter of John Sims).

It has been a joy emailing with the subjects of our spotlight or talking with relatives of the others. Here are the details they shared:

Anar Aliyev - Anar serves as the Aerographer's Mate First Class stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. In that role he provides meteorological and oceanographic support to the fleet. His work involves analyzing environmental conditions from the seafloor to space, ensuring commanders have the critical information needed for safe and effective operations. Anar has family in the area, and says he, his wife, and two children attend Crestwood's early service whenever they are in Lexington. He sends this message:
I have proudly served in the United States Navy for 10 years. It is truly an honor to serve this country and to be part of the Crestwood community.

Alex Back (son of Jesse and Andrea Back) - Alex is a First Lieutenant in the Army, stationed at Grafenwoehr, Germany, the largest Army base in that country. He has been stationed there since November 2023 and will be there until December 2026. He is a Chemical Officer which means he is trained in what to do if chemical warfare were to occur. He has trained NATO officers as well.

Jacob Browning (son of Holly Browning Nutter) - Jacob is in the Army in San Antonio, Texas, for training. His mother says he is not in harm's way now, but the base is locked down due to increased threats. Jacob's grandparents are Rev. John Browning (past Crestwood Associate Minister who passed away) and Judy Browning. His brothers and their wives are all Crestwood members.
I cannot help but comment that Judy Browning was my son Matt's preschool teacher who had a profound influence on his early development as she did on so many children in the area and at Crestwood.

Bud DeLacey (nephew of Matt and Michelle DeLacey) - Bud is in the Air Force and was recently promoted to Master Sergeant.

Daniel and Ashlyn Marra-Sigler (son and daughter-in-law of Pam Sigler) - Dan's mother reports that at one time, Dan was dropped from the prayer list because he had been on the list so long that it was assumed he was back in civilian life! Not so! Dan is now in his 17th year of active duty and is stationed at McConnell AFB in Wichita, Kansas. He is considered a member of the medical unit, having worked in mental health. Since being in Kansas, his job has evolved to training and administrative duties.

Ashlyn Sigler, Dan's wife, has served 18 years. She is a Master Sergeant in the Air Force. She was selected to go to McConnell AFB to be the Director of Imaging in the clinic. Her position has evolved to

include base administration.

Both husband and wife are active in the Wichita community and educational leadership. They are moving this summer to new assignments after which they may contemplate retirement. They have three daughters, undoubtedly impacted by their parents' service to our country. Dan has another daughter whose mother is a lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve. This is a family deeply immersed in the military.

Matt Holman (son of Gaye Holman) - Matt is retiring as a Captain in the US Navy. His current position is Supply Chain Director for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. He attended the US Naval Academy and has had an additional 30 years of service since his graduation. He ends his career in Washington.

I will close with a message from him to the Crestwood congregation:

It has been humbling and comforting knowing I've been on the prayer list during my naval service. As the source of my early spiritual upbringing, Crestwood forever holds a special place in my heart. I feel very connected to its parishioners, past and present. - Matt

Let's explore Crestwood together. If you have an idea or suggestion for a Spotlight, contact Gaye Holman at gdsouth@bellsouth.net.



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