A VETERANS DAY STATEMENT of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Beloved Clergy, Veterans, and Faithful of our Holy Church:

On the annual observance of Veterans Day, we offer heartfelt gratitude to the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. We honor their courage, discipline, and willingness to place service to country above personal comfort and security. Their devotion reminds us that citizenship carries responsibilities and that the freedoms we cherish must be safeguarded through sacrifice, integrity, and concern for the common good. To our veterans and their families, we say with love and respect: thank you for your service.

We encourage every parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to hold a prayer service on Veterans Day or the closest Sunday, asking God to grant our living veterans health, strength, and peace, and eternal rest to those who have departed this life. Invite veterans to be recognized within the parish family, welcome their loved ones, and give our children and young people opportunities to hear their stories. Let our appreciation continue through personal visits, practical assistance, and faithful companionship, especially for those bearing the physical and spiritual wounds of military service.

With particular affection, we recognize Ukrainian American veterans, whose honorable service across generations reflects a deep love for the United States and an enduring devotion to the heritage of their ancestors. The National Ukrainian American Veterans Memorial at the Spiritual Center of our Church stands as a lasting witness to their service and sacrifice. We encourage our faithful to visit this place of remembrance, offer prayers, and teach future generations about those who answered their country's call. As we honor their legacy, we also pray for those defending Ukraine today and for a just and lasting peace.

Our Christian faith calls us to express patriotism through faithful service: caring for our neighbors, supporting military families, fulfilling our civic responsibilities, and protecting

the dignity of every person. May our parishes be places where veterans find friendship, understanding, and a spiritual home. May our gratitude strengthen our commitment to the country they served and to the peace for which so many have labored.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless all our veterans and their families, protect those serving today, and grant wisdom to the leaders of our nation. May He bless the United States of America with unity, justice, and peace.

With gratitude to our veterans and prayers for our nation - God bless America!

With archpastoral blessings and prayers,

† ANTONY
Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

† DANIEL
Archbishop of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

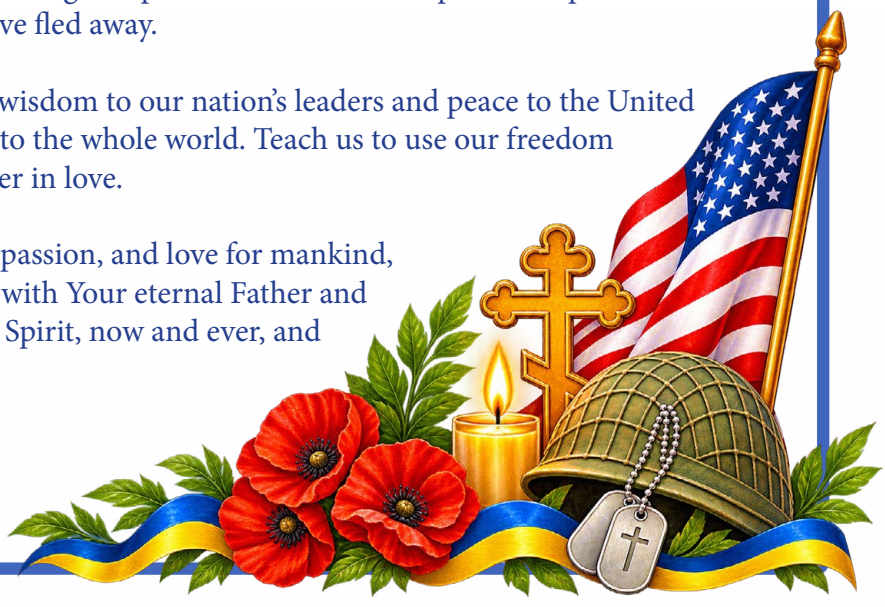
A PRAYER FOR VETERANS DAY

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the Savior of our souls, look with mercy upon the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of our country. Accept our thanksgiving for their courage, dedication, and sacrifice, and bless them and their families with Your loving care.

Preserve our living veterans in health and peace. Heal their wounds of body and soul, ease the burdens of painful memories, comfort the lonely, and strengthen those who struggle. Guide us to honor their service through kindness, faithful friendship, and practical care.

Grant rest, O Lord, to Your departed servants who served our nation, especially those who laid down their lives in the fulfillment of their duty. Forgive their sins, voluntary and involuntary, and grant them a place of light, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow, and sighing have fled away.

Protect those serving today. Grant wisdom to our nation's leaders and peace to the United States of America, to Ukraine, and to the whole world. Teach us to use our freedom responsibly and to serve one another in love.

For You are the God of mercy, compassion, and love for mankind, and to You we offer glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Amen.