

Carlisle Barracks Chapel hosts area religious leaders for Gettysburg staff ride

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Carlisle Barracks Memorial Chapel leadership and community members hosted 29 area religious leaders for a Gettysburg Staff Ride June 10. Here the group poses for a photo in front of a monument of Father

William Corby, chaplain to the 88th Regiment New York Infantry, 2nd Brigade 1st Division 2nd Corps, at the famed battlefield.

June 10, 2014 -- The rain held off for leadership from the Army War College Memorial Chapel, who hosted 29 area religious leaders for a staff ride to the Gettysburg Battlefield.

The trip, organized and planned by Carlisle Barracks Family Life Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Barbee and guided by historians David Myers and Doug Johnson, was intended to be an outreach to our community, providing local clergy an opportunity for an educational venue, according to Barbee.

“The trip involved history and spiritual lessons we can learn from each event,” he said.

The group traveled the grounds of Gettysburg by bus, with stops at many of the prominent locations of the battlefield. Some of the stops included Little and Big Round Top, the 20th Maine Monument and others before ending the day at the cemetery.

The tour guides spoke about the role of religion for the Army and how it tied into the Battle of Gettysburg.

“The three most important things a Soldier would carry were a deck of cards, a journal and a Bible,” said Chap. Art Pace, a former Carlisle Barracks Chaplain himself.

This is the first year the chapel has sponsored this event, choosing Gettysburg because it’s a historic battlefield and they have access to expertise, such as Myers and Johnson. This trip provided “an opportunity for local community to understand what we do here and what the military is about,” said Barbee.

Rev. William Forrey, pastor of Saint Patrick Church and Rev. Ryan Fischer expressed their gratitude in thank you letters.

“You conveyed to us warmth, gratitude and appreciation which in turn helped to encourage us to better understand the objectives of the United States Armed Forces,” said Forrey.

“This was actually my first time visiting the battlefield at Gettysburg, and most assuredly will not be the last,” said Fischer. “Hearing these stories, as a future priest, helps me to better integrate the understanding of this great nation in which I, God willing, will one day minister.”