

# Welcome Home Chaplain Kapaun: Home-Faith-Service

⌘ 10:00am September 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 @ First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Broadway

⌘ An event to welcome Chaplain Kapaun home along with all who have served in overseas Theaters of Operations: Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and all other war zones.

⌘ A service of Prayer for Chaplain Kapaun's service to our nation and to all our neighbors who had have served are serving or will serve.

**Theme: Ch Kapaun: Home-Faith-Service.**



REMEMBERING  
**CHAPLAIN  
EMIL KAPAUN**  
PRIEST • HERO • SERVANT OF GOD

On March 2, 2021, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified the remains of Chaplain Emil Kapaun, who had been unaccounted for since the Korean War.



Emil Kapaun was a Catholic priest and U.S. Army Chaplain born in the small Czech farming community of Pilsen, Kansas on April 20, 1916. Growing up he was much like any other hardworking farm boy, but was especially mindful of God and others. Four years after his ordination as a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, he entered the Chaplain Corps to serve the troops in World War II and was sent to the Burma-India theater. After the war he went back to parish life, but re-entered the Chaplain Corps in 1948, serving first at Ft. Bliss, Texas. At the beginning of 1950 he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Japan.

In July of 1950 Chaplain Kapaun and the 8th Cavalry Regiment of the Army's 1st Cavalry Division were among the first troops sent to help defend nearby South Korea after its invasion by the North. Chaplain Kapaun quickly gained a reputation for bravery by ministering to soldiers in the thick of battle, often having to be reminded to keep his head down from oncoming bullets.

Eventually pushing its way into North Korea, the 8th Cav was ambushed by a large Chinese Army that had secretly entered the war. Here, at the Battle of Unsan on November 2, Kapaun once again braved the battlefield to rescue men or give them Last Rites. He showed his dedication to his "boys" by choosing to remain with a number of wounded men rather than escape.

Captured by the enemy, this group was forced to march over 60 miles to a prison camp along the Chinese border in the bitter cold. Along the way, Father Kapaun carried his wounded comrades and encouraged them to do likewise. For his actions at the Battle of Unsan, Kapaun was awarded the military's highest award, the Medal of Honor, in 2013.

In his seven months in the prison camp, Father Kapaun spent himself in heroic service to his fellow prisoners without regard for race, color, or creed, giving them help and hope when they needed it most. Ignoring his own ill health, he nursed the sick and wounded, stole food for the hungry, picked lice off of men, washed dirty and soiled clothing, and encouraged men through prayer and humor to keep fighting for life. Falling sick, the Chinese moved Father Kapaun to a so-called hospital, where, denied medical assistance, his death soon followed on May 23, 1951.

Two years later the surviving Prisoners of War were released, and with them came a beautiful crucifix carved in the camp by a Jewish POW who was inspired by tales of Father Kapaun's deeds. The Prisoners testified to Father Kapaun's role in their survival and began to tell the world about their heroic and saintly chaplain.