

Bill Kaemmer, MSG (US Army – Ret.)
Executive Director, Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation



Bill Kaemmer is a native of Mequon, Wisconsin. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. He later earned two master’s degrees – in mass communications and school administration – from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

He joined the United States Army in 1989 and attended basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Upon graduation, he attended Advanced Individual Training to become a chaplain assistant at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

His duty assignments have included serving with the HHC 60th Ordnance Group, Zweibrucken, Germany, for four years. He served during the fall of the Berlin Wall and Operation Desert Shield/Storm. His duties included serving soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany. While serving in Germany, he was a member of the all-Army track and field team and was voted the Army European Male Athlete of the Year-1992.

Upon his release from active duty in 1993, he enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard and served with the 1-113th CAV SQ, HHC 2d BDE, 34th ID. He then was assigned to the 185th Regional Training Institute, where he taught Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses, while also teaching and coaching in the Des Moines School District. He continued running as a member of the IA ARNG and All National Guard Marathon teams while coaching high school cross country and track.

In 2004, he moved to Oregon and was assigned to the Oregon Army National Guard, 1-249th Regional Training Institute as an Officer Candidate School instructor and Master Fitness Trainer. He also taught history and coached cross-country at Hillsboro High School, Hillsboro, Oregon. In 2006, he was selected as an assistant military science professor at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, where he taught officer candidates and later ROTC cadets. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant (MSG) and returned to the Chaplain Corps, becoming the Joint Forces Headquarters senior chaplain assistant.

In 2013 MSG Kaemmer was called back to active duty to serve as the Master Religious Affairs Specialist at the Army National Guard Bureau, Arlington, Va., that serves the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories. In 2018 he retired after serving 29 years in the Army Chaplain Corps to become the Executive Director of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation, Philadelphia, PA.

MSG Kaemmer has taught at all levels from middle school through college and as a military instructor. He embraces the Mission of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation which is to “Tell the Story of the Four Chaplains to promote Interfaith Cooperation and Selfless Service in Individuals and Organizations.” MSG Kaemmer believes, “The Chapel/Museum of the Four Chaplains located on the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, PA is truly a historical local monument, but the story of the Four Chaplains belongs to the World!”

Master Sergeant Kaemmer currently resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Mia Bush, who is an editor for a major news service organization.

MSG Bill Kaemmer is available for award or speaking engagements. Contact Information:

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