

Biography of Bill Kaemmer

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 and was awarded the Military Occupational Skill (MOS) 71M, 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.

Upon his release from active duty, 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 Iowa and All National Guard Marathon teams.

In 2004, MSG Kaemmer moved to Oregon, and was assigned to the Oregon Army National Guard, 1-249th Regional Training Institute as an Officer Candidate School (OCS) 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 and returned to the Chaplain Corps, becoming the Joint Forces Headquarters senior chaplain assistant.

In 2013, MSG Kaemmer returned to active duty to serve as the Master Religious Affairs NCO at the Army National Guard Bureau, Arlington, Va., that serves the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories. He held this senior position for five years until he retired after 29 years of service as a chaplain assistant in 2018.

Upon retirement he accepted the position as the Executive Director of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation in which he currently serves. MSG Kaemmer also serves on the staff of Arlington National Cemetery in which he schedules and conducts services for our nation's heroes. He currently has conducted over 1,000 services.

Master Sergeant Kaemmer is a graduate of numerous military educational classes, including Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, Military History course, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Battle Staff NCO Course. He is also a certified military instructor.

His awards include Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass, and NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3).

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

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