

# Logsdon-Walla Post No. 639

## Catholic War Veterans

The Logsdon-Walla Post was founded in 1946 by Father Thomas A. Kennedy, pastor of St. Teresa's parish. World War II ended and servicemen were returning from active duty in the armed forces of the United States. Father Kennedy suggested and encouraged the veterans to form an organization for Catholic war veterans.

Sixteen men formed the Charter Membership and the Post's National Department Charter was issued on March 29, 1946 with 639 as the number assigned to the Post. The charter members were: James Bohland, Louis Bohland, Thomas Bohland, Edward Breitfelder, Bernard Duck, Robert Jenssen, Wilbert Jenssen, Thomas Martin, Donald McQuade, Robert Muller, William Muller, Thomas O'Connor, Dean Rowland, Raymond Schrinel, Paul Swieterman and Francis Thielen.

The Logsdon-Walla name was selected by a special committee and named after Harold Logsdon, the first St. Teresa parish member killed in the service and Robert Walla, the first of the parish killed in action overseas.

The first election of officers for a full term was held in October 1946. Donald McQuade was elected Commander; Melvin Lawicki, Adjutant and Edward Breitfelder, Treasurer. Father John D. Kofflin, who had just returned from the service, became Post Chaplain. Initial meetings were held at St. Teresa's parish hall until property and a building were purchased in September 1949 at 638 North University Avenue. Construction began on a new building in May 1962 and an adjoining building was purchased and remodeled in the same year to form the clubrooms, which served until the property was sold in 1992.

The Ladies Auxiliary was organized in 1947 and a National Charter was issued on September 23, 1947.

The Logsdon-Walla Post grew significantly when veterans returned from the service and joined the Post as they continued their lives in the civilian world. The Post became the largest in the United States with a membership of over 600 veterans. Members became involved in many programs relating to the Catholic Action, Americanism, Veterans Affairs, Leadership and Youth Activities and Sports. Activities in these categories created a true camaraderie among the members and in the community.

For 60 years, the members served in numerous capacities at the National and State levels of the Catholic War Veterans and in parishes and other organizations. The generosity of time and money, donations in excess of \$350,000, given to youth, religious, and charitable organizations are contributions of which we are very proud. In addition, the Post maintains two Memorial Funds that continue to assist the Community. The *Father John D. Kofflin Fund* was established in 1972 and provides assistance to needy seminarians while the *Msgr. Jerome E. Schmit Fund* provides assistance to the Catholic youth in the Toledo diocese. Father Kofflin and Msgr. Schmit, both deceased, served as Chaplains of the Post.

Are you a Catholic War Veteran? We invite you to join the Logsdon-Walla Post 639 Catholic War Veterans.