

**May 14, 2020**

**Dear Fellow Chaplains -**

**My name is Dr. Ron Lester, and it is my honor to have been recently appointed the BVA National Chaplain. I am a disabled Vietnam-era veteran with retinitis pigmentosa, a hereditary eye disease resulting in total blindness. Despite this challenge, I hold degrees in business, education, and administration, and have served as an ordained minister to diverse populations in the United States and overseas. I am the author of two books and current host of a faith-based online radio program for those with special needs. My experience as both chaplain and service officer in organizations committed to veterans will help me to serve and support you in my new role.**

**My desire is for us to come together to encourage one another, so we can in turn engage those veterans who lack connection and support. I am asking for your suggestions to improve our outreach to blinded veterans. What resources and training would be effective to equip those within each region willing to serve this population? I am confident we can find a way to build one another up and improve the emotional and spiritual well-being of our struggling brothers and sisters.**

**Paschal Baute, former Navy Chaplain, BVA member, is eager to help with this project. In the next few days, he will send out a list of listening skills useful in**

relating to our veteran community. We look forward to your questions, comments, and ideas.

In His Service,

**Dr. Ron Lester**

**Phone: (520) 741-1217**

**Email: [ronlester45@gmail.com](mailto:ronlester45@gmail.com)**