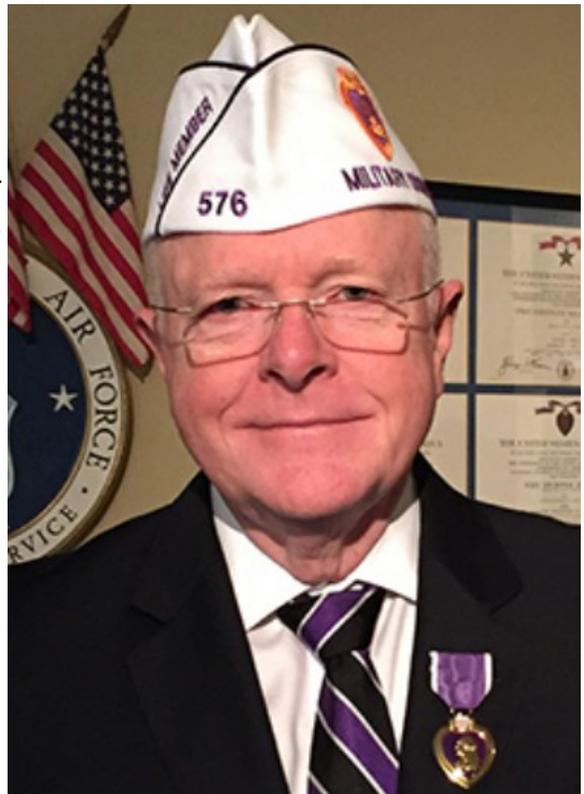




Robert Certain National POW/MIA Coordinator

Robert G. Certain was appointed National Chaplain in 2015. He is Life Member of Chapter 0576, Georgia and joined MOPH in 2013.

As a young USAF officer, he served as a navigator/bombardier on the B-52 Stratofortress and flew 100 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His final mission – on the day his crew had been scheduled to return to the States – was the first night of Linebacker II, the bombing of Hanoi, North Vietnam. Just short of the target, they were hit by two surface to air missiles and forced to eject a moment after they released their bombs on a rail yard in the northeast corner of the city. Patriot Certain landed in an agricultural area northwest of town and was immediately captured. For wounds suffered then and following at the Hanoi Hilton, he was awarded two Purple Heart medals. His other personal awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, five Air Medals, the Prisoner of War Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal.



Upon repatriation in March 1973, he was granted an assignment to attend an Episcopal Church seminary in Sewanee, Tennessee and upon graduation and ordination was transferred from the line of the Air Force to the Chaplaincy. He served on active duty until the fall of 1977, then left for the reserves and continued to serve until his retirement in 1999 as a Colonel. As a civilian clergyman, he led seven congregations across the country and retired in 2012 to become the Executive Director of the Military Chaplains Association, a post he relinquished in November 2015.

Chaplain Certain published his autobiography, *Unchained Eagle: From Prisoner of War to Prisoner of Christ* in 2003 that covers his experience as a combat aviator during the Vietnam War, his shoot-down over Hanoi, his time as a prisoner of war, and his life after the war as an Episcopal Priest. Another book, *The Spiritual Quest*, was published in 2008. He is also the founder of the Care For The Troops, a Georgia non-profit dedicated to educating and training licensed professional counselors and faith communities about the unique challenges of military service.

