

A Beacon of a Life in Service

BY JENNIFER MARIE PELFINI

An Inspiring Journey Guided by Faith

The Honorable Susan Malone was recognized by Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg in April during the Diocese of Reno Volunteer Appreciation Banquet for her significant contributions and impact over the years.

Susan Malone's life is a beautiful account of service, dedication, and unwavering faith, intricately interwoven through her deep connection with the Catholic Church and her love for Nevada. As a retired United States Marine Colonel and her selection as one of the first two women FBI agents in 1972, her career spanned over four decades in roles such as federal criminal investigations, security, intelligence, and international civil affairs. Her story is a testament to the profound impact of a life faithfully devoted to service.

Born with a strong sense of duty, Susan's Catholic faith has always been her guiding star. After achieving her bachelors, two masters degrees, and graduating from the FBI Academy Graduate, her educational journey took her to Catholic University of America, where she attended the Theo-

Susan Malone with Governor of Nevada, Joe Lombardo and fellow veteran, Military Officers Association, attend Veterans Bill Signing with Governor Lombardo earlier this year.



logical College Institute on Matrimonial Tribunal Practice. There she honed her skills to serve the Church in a deeply meaningful way. Since 2014, she has been a Judicial Tribunal Assistant and Advocate for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, conducting comprehensive interviews for marriage tribunal cases. Susan's meticulous approach has often meant traveling to challenging locations, including combat zones, to gather crucial information, underscoring her commitment to those in need.

In Nevada, Susan's devotion to the Catholic community shines brightly through her active participation at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in Reno. As a member of the Parish Council, a lector, and a eucharistic minister, she plays a vital role in nurturing the spiritual life of her community. She has been a sponsor of and an advocate of Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada.

Impact Beyond Home

Susan's cumulative professional, military, community leadership, and volunteer experience married with her education reads as a woman unlike any other. By any means of comprehension, she has had an astounding career and life with touchpoints that have made a difference through her service, locally and globally.

"I believe young people are the hope of America and our Church. I often ask young people, 'Who is your personal hero?' I tell them to seek positive personal heroes, and that I am blessed with several personal heroes — my mother, my husband, and General David M. Shoup, who have guided my footsteps and mentored me throughout my life of service to my God and my country. My mother always told me I could excel and reach for the Stars and my dreams and with honorable character and belief in God, nothing was impossible," said Susan.

Her contribution to the Catholic Church extends globally through her roles in Franciscan in the Holy Land, a Dame of the Order of Malta, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, and the Constantinian Order of St. George. These affiliations have seen her organizing pilgrimages, fundraising events, and supporting charitable activities worldwide. Her leadership has been instrumental in initiatives ranging from pilgrimages to Lourdes to supporting the Malta Warrior project events at Walter Reed Military Hospital.



Susan Malone, Dame of Malta, Dame Grand Cross, Order of the Holy Sepulcher, attends a meeting with Catholic leaders during meeting in Washington, DC

A notable aspect of Susan's life is her dedication to education and the arts within the Catholic faith. Serving on the Board of Trustees for the Catholic Distance University of America, she has been involved in fundraising and strategic planning. Her patronage of the St. Luke's Institute and the Vatican Museum reflects her commitment to preserving and promoting Catholic heritage and education.

Susan's professional journey is equally impressive, with roles in the FBI, the Department of Defense, and the United Nations, where she tackled critical issues such as human trafficking, corruption, and terrorism. Despite the demands of her career, Susan has always found time to support her faith community, demonstrating that service to others is an integral part of her identity. Susan currently serves as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Nevada and was recognized as the Nevada Veteran of the Month for March 2023. She also serves as a member of the Independent Advisory Board for the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home.

Honored in Service

Her marriage to Lt. Col. George M. Malone Jr., a practicing Catholic and daily Mass participant, has been a source of strength and inspiration. Together, they have supported various Catholic initiatives and nurtured a family rooted in Catholic values that they practiced with their son, George.

Susan Malone's life is a powerful example of how faith and service can shape an extraordinary journey. Her contributions to the Catholic Church in Nevada and beyond, coupled with her distinguished career, illustrate a life lived with purpose and commitment. Her story inspires us to find ways to serve our communities and uphold our faith, no matter the challenges we face.

In a world where the call to serve can sometimes feel overwhelming, Susan Malone stands as a beacon of what it means to live a life dedicated to faith and service. Her journey is a reminder that through dedication and faith, we can all make a meaningful difference. †