

AT GRAVESIDE

CHAPLAIN: **MAN WHO IS BORN OF WOMAN, IS OF FEW DAYS AND FULL OF TROUBLE. HE COMETH FORTH AS A FLOWER AND IS CUT DOWN. HE FLEETH ALSO AS A SHADOW AND CONTINUETH NOT.**

FORASMUCH AS GOT HATH TAKEN OUT OF THE WORLD THE SOUL OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADE, WE THERFORE COMMIT HIS BODY TO THE GROUND TO SLEEP AND HIS SOUL TO ENDLESS PEACE TO REST. THE DUST RETURNETH TO EARTH AS IT WAS, AND THE SPIRIT RETURNETH UNTO GOD WHO GAVE IT.

(CHAPLAIN GIVES BENEDICTION)

(TWO PALLBEARERS REMOVE FLAG FROM CASKET, FOLD IT IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER AND PLACE IT ON THE ARM OF OFFICER WHO WILL PRESENT THE FLAG TO THE NEXT OF KIN.)

FIRING SQUAD COMMANDER: **SALUTE OUR DEPARTED COMRADES.**

(OFFICER IN CHARGE GIVES ORDER ACCORDING TO THE INFANTRY DRILL REGULATIONS IN FORCE AT THE TIME)

(SQUAD FIRES THREE ROUNDS OF BLANK CARTRIDGES, THE MUZZLES OF THE PIECES BEING ELEVATED)

(BUGLER PLAYS TAPS WITH TWO BUGLE ECHOES FROM DIFFERENT PORTIONS OF THE CEMETERY IF POSSIBLE)

(THE ESCORT FORMS INTO A COLUMN, IS MARCHED IN QUICK TIME TO THE POINT WHERE IT ASSEMBLED, AND DISMISSED)

GRAVESIDE SERVICE
AS FLAG IS BEING FOLDED

THIS BANNER OF LOVE AND DEVOTION, NOW BEING FOLDED, IS A LIVING MEMORIAL OF THE COURAGEOUS THOUGHTS OF OUR COMRADE; THE ONE YOU CAME HERE TO HONOR THIS DAY.

THE BLUE FIELD REPRESENTS THE SKY THAT OVERLOOKS OUR LAND AND DENOTES THE WATCHFULNESS OF GOD THE ETERNAL.

THE RED STRIPES TELL US OF THE BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS THAT HAS BEEN OFFERED AND CONQUERED BY OUR COMRADE, DEVOTION TO THE RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM OF HIS COUNTRY.

THE WHITE STRIPES BOLDLY PROCLAIM THE PEACE THAT HE HELPED TO BRING TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

THIS IS HIS FLAG.

THIS IS OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE.

RECEIVE IT WITH THE TEARS OF OUR MINDS AND THE FAITH OR OUR HEARTS.

AMEN

AT FUNERAL, CHAPEL OR HOME

COMMANDER: **ANOTHER LEGIONNAIRE HAS BEEN CALLED TO THE HIGH COMMANDER, AND HAS GONE TO REPORT TO THE COMMANDER OF US ALL.**

CHAPLAIN: **LET US PRAY. ETERNAL GOD, SUPREME COMMANDER OF US ALL, LORD OF THE FAR-FLUNG BATTLE LINE, TO WHOM THE RANKS OF LIFE REPORT, WE BOW BEFORE YOU WITH REVERENT HEARTS AND IN SUBLIME FAITH, KNOWING YOU LEAD US ON IN DEATH AS YOU HAVE IN LIFE. FOR AGAIN YOU HAVE ORDERED A LEGIONNAIRE TO THAT REALM IN THE WEST, BEYOND THE TWILIGHT AND THE EVENING STAR, WHERE BEAUTY AND VALOR AND GOODNESS DWELL FOREVER WITH UNNUMBERED MULTITUDE. MINDFUL OF SERVICE NOBLY DONE, YOU HAVE CALLED (NAME OF DECEASED) TO EVER-LASTING REST. YOU HAVE SEALED HIS (HER) LIPS. WITH THE FADED BLOSSOMS OF SPRINGTIME AND THE WITHERED LEAVES OF AUTUMN, YOU HAVE CALLED OUR COMRADE TO ETERNAL PEACE, TO THE LAND OF YOUR SILENT MYSTERY. HEAR NOW THE SORROWS OF THOSE WHO MOURN. TOUCH THEIR TIRED HEARTS WITH HEALING. PROTECT THEM WITH YOUR HOLY CARE. KEEP CLEAN AND BRIGHT IN MEMORY THE SPLENDID FLAME THAT NOW HAS FLICKERED OUT AND SHELTER US WITH YOUR COMPASSION. LORD OF ALL LIFE, WHO LIVES FOREVER, AGAIN YOU HAVE TAUGHT US THE MEASURE OF OUR DAYS. WE ARE STRANGERS WITH YOU AND SOJOURNERS AS OUR FATHERS WERE.**

OUR DAYS ARE AS A SHADOW AND THERE IS NONE ABIDING. BUT YOU ABIDE. YOUR YEARS FAIL NOT. YOU NEVER CHANGE. A THOUSAND YEARS IN YOUR SIGHT ARE BUT AS YESTERDAY WHEN IT IS PAST, AS A WATCH IN THE NIGHT. THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES, BUT YOUR WORD ENDURES FOREVER. AND THEREIN IS OUR HELP AND HOPE. YOU HEAL THE BROKEN IN HEART AND BIND UP THEIR WOUNDS. COMFORT YOUR PEOPLE. IN THEIR SORROW MAY THERE BE NO BITTERNESS, NO DOUBT OF YOUR ETERNAL GOODNESS. GIVE THEM TO KNOW YOU DO NOT MOCK US WITH THIS STUBBORN HOPE OF LIFE ETERNAL; THAT HAVING CREATED AND CARED FOR US YOU WILL NOT DESERT US TO THE DUST; THAT YOU HOLD US WITH A LOVE UNFAILING; THAT OUR DEAD ARE IN YOUR KEEPING; AND THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO DO FAR MORE FOR THEM THAN ALL WE ASK OR THINK. UNTIL FOR US ALSO THE DAY BREAKS AND THE SHADOWS FLEE, GRANT US SO TO LIVE SO OUR LIVES MAY HONOR THE LEGIONNAIRES WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US. TOGETHER WE MAY COME TO THE CITY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE YOU AND KEEP YOUR COMMANDMENTS. FOR YOUR OWN NAME'S SAKE WE PRAY. AMEN.

SHORT EULOGY: **(BY ONE WHO KNEW OUR FRIEND AND LEGIONNAIRE WELL)**

COMMANDER: THIS MOMENT IS SACRED WITH THE ALMOST VISIBLE PRESENCE OF THE ONE WHO HAS GONE BEFORE. WE COME TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF THE ONE WHO OFFERED LIFE AND SERVICE FOR GOD AND COUNTRY; ONE WHO HAS NOW ENROLLED IN THAT GREAT SPIRIT ARMY WHOSE FOOTFALLS CAUSE NO SOUND. BUT IN OUR MEMORY, THEIR SOULS GO MARCHING ON. PROUDLY WE REMEMBER THEIR SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR. BECAUSE OF THEM, OUR LIVES ARE FREE, BECAUSE OF THEM, OUR NATION LIVES; BECAUSE OF THEM THE WORLD IS BLESSED. MAY THE CEREMONIES OF TODAY DEEPEN OUR REVERENCE FOR OUR HONORED COMRADE AND FRIEND. LET US NOT ENSHROUD THEIR MEMORY WITH THOUGHTS OF SORROW. TEARS OR WORDS OF SYMPATHY CANNOT BRING BACK THE COMFORT OF THOSE LOVING HANDS OR THE MUSIC OF VOICES STILLED. THE SOLEMN PRIDE OF THAT SERVICE IS THEIRS, AND FOR THE LIVING TO REMEMBER. LEGIONNAIRES AND FRIENDS, LET US HERE PLEDGE OURSELVES ANEW TO UNITED SERVICE, TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY A DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS IN THE PROTECTION OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND. WE REALIZE HOW FUTILE ARE MERE WORDS TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP AND ABIDING SYMPATHY IN YOUR LOSS. MAY YOU FEEL OUR COMRADE IS AT REST, AND IN ENDLESS PEACE. GENERATION AFTER GENERATION, ALL THE SHADY PEOPLES OF THE PAST HAVE LIVED AS WE LIVE, PERPLEXED AND MYSTIFIED BY DEATH. THEY HAVE GONE INTO THE GREAT BEYOND WITH HEARTS FILLED WITH WISTFUL LONGING, AS ALL MUST GO. SURELY THERE IS AN AFTERLIFE FOR ALL WHO HAVE BEEN LOYAL AND TRUE, A LIFE TO WHICH LIGHT AND PEACE SHALL COME, WHERE THE BURDEN SHALL BE LIFTED AND THE HEARTACHE SHALL CEASE, WHERE THE LOVE, THE HOPE, THE FULFILLMENT THAT ESCAPE US HERE SHALL BE GIVEN TO US, TO BE OURS FOREVER.

(HERE THE CHAPLAIN OFFERS A PRAYER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAITH OF THE DECEASED)

CHAPLAIN: (CATHOLIC PRAYER) WE ENTRUST OUR BROTHER (SISTER) TO YOUR MERCY. YOU LOVED HIM (HER) GREATLY IN LIFE; NOW THAT HE (SHE) IS FREED FROM ALL ITS CARES, GIVE HIM (HER) HAPPINESS AND PEACE FOREVER. THE OLD ORDER HAS PASSED AWAY, WELCOME HIM (HER) NOW INTO PARADISE WHERE THERE WILL BE NO MORE SORROW, NO MORE WEeping OR PAIN, BUT ONLY PEACE AND JOY WITH JESUS, YOUR SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT FOREVER AND EVER. ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM (HER), O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM (HER). MAY HIS (HER) SOUL AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

CHAPLAIN: (PROTESTANT PRAYER) O GOD, WHO HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED AND BINDS UP THEIR WOUNDS; LOOK IN TENDER PITY AND COMPASSION UPON THY SERVANTS WHOSE JOY HAS TURNED INTO MOURNING. LEAVE THEM NOT COMFORTLESS, BUT GRANT THAT THEY MAY BE DRAWN CLOSER TO THEE AND TO ONE ANOTHER BY THEIR COMMON SORROW. FILL THEIR SOULS WITH THE LIGHT AND COMFORT OF THY PRESENCE. GRANT UNTO THEM SUCH A VISION OF THAT LIFE WHEREIN ALL MYSTERIES SHALL BE REVEALED AND ALL TEARS BE WIPED AWAY, THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO ENDURE. SO DWELL WITH THEM AND BE THEIR GOD, UNTIL THE DAY BREAK AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

CHAPLAIN: **(JEWISH PRAYER)** O LORD, WHO ART FULL OF COMPASSION, WHO DWELLST ON HIGH-GOD OF FORGIVENESS, WHO ARE MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER AND ABOUNDING IN LOVING KINDNESS-GRANT PARDON OF TRANSGRESSIONS, NEARNESS OF SALVATION, AND PERFECT REST BENEATH THE SHADOW OF THY DIVINE PRESENCE, IN EXALTED PLACES AMONG THE HOLY AND PURE, WHO SHINE AS THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE FILAMENT, TO **(NAME OF DECEASED LEGIONNAIRE)** WHO HATH GONE ON TO HIS (HER)ETERNAL HOME. WE BESEECH THEE, O LORD OF COMPASSION, REMEMBER UNTO HIM (HER) FOR GOOD ALL THE MERITORIOUS AND PIOUS DEEDS WHICH HE (SHE) WROUGHT WHILE ON EARTH. OPEN UNTO HIM (HER) THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LIGHT, THE GATES OF PITY AND GRACE. O SHELTER HIM(HER) FOREVERMORE UNDER THE COVER OF THY WINGS; AND LET HIS(HER) SOUL BE BOUND UP IN THE BOND OF ETERNAL LIFE. THE LORD IS HIS (HER) INHERITANCE; MAY HE (SHE) REST IN PEACE. AND LET US SAY, AMEN.

(WHEN THERE IS A SERVICE AT THE CHAPEL OR HOME AND IF THE CASKET IS OPEN, THE COMMANDER OR CHAPLAIN MAY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE PLACE A POPPY IN THE CASKET AND SAY), “THE MEMORIAL POPPY IS A NATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE FLOWERS IN FLANDERS FIELD THAT EMBODIES THE SACRIFICES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED AND DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN ALL WARS. WE NOW LEAVE THIS POPPY WITH YOU IN YOUR HONOR, AND AS AN ETERNAL REMINDER OF THE BINDING COMRADESHIP WE FEEL FOR YOU.”

HE THEN SALUTES AND SAYS, “FAREWELL, TO OUR FRIEND, LEGIONNAIRE AND COMRADE”.

(IF THE CASKET IS SEALED AND DRAPED WITH THE AMERICAN FLAG, DO NOT USE THE POPPY, AS NOTHING IS PLACED ON TOP OF THE AMERICAN FLAG, BUT), SALUTE AND SAY, “FAREWELL, MY FELLOW LEGIONNAIRE.”

ALL LEGIONNAIRES PRESENT AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE SHALL PASS THE CASKET AND SALUTE THE DECEASED LEGIONNAIRE. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO PLACE ANOTHER POPPY IN THE CASKET. AFTER THE SALUTE, THE LEGIONNAIRES PRESENT SHALL LEAVE THE FUNERAL CHAPEL IN SINGLE FILE AND WITH DIGNITY.