

ORDER FOR RELIGIOUS FUNERAL SERVICES

(With this service being in a religious setting, it is customary for the male Marines and FMF Navy Personnel to remain UNCOVERED during the entire services. Note: Other religious preferences may be used and/or observed).

COMMANDANT: Members of the _____ Detachment, we are assembled here to pay Honor and Respect to one who has answered the final call.

CHAPLAIN: Almighty God, Supreme Father of us all, we come to Thee in this solemn hour with a realization of our utter helplessness. We are brought face to face with the inevitable fact of death. God of the Universe, be with us now, Helper of the helpless, Giver of eternal peace, Consoler of the disconsolate, take into Thine arms the soul of our departed brother/sister and mend the wounds of his/her bereaved family. Surround them with Thy loving kindness, give to their troubled hearts that peace and comfort which only Thou canst give. Amen.

COMMANDANT: We recognize that all people are God's children and that His power and authority extend beyond the universe. We know that our ways are not always His ways, and that by reason of the frailty of humans, we frequently depart from His way. It is not always given to us to understand His purpose. Often, we do not subordinate ourselves to Devine Power and teachings, nevertheless, from time to time, occasions like this bring us to a clearer understanding of our dependence upon God, and the futility of existence without Him.

He has seen fit to call our brother/sister Marine (FMF Sailor) to his/her final reward. We cannot understand why it should be now rather than later. We must bow in submission to the Divine Will and learn to say with a humble and contrite spirit "Thy will be done." As a symbol of the comradeship that grew from our common service for our Nation, he/she loved so well, we place this Marine insignia of the Eagle, Globe and entwined Anchor upon his/her breast. We shall ever cherish a memory that is lasting, until we, along with him/her, take our places in the silent halls of death.

CHAPLAIN: Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still water; He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

COMMANDANT: Fellow members of the Detachment and all of you within the sound of my voice, think deeply concerning the things you have heard, give heed unto the promises and assurances of the Heavenly Father. Let them not be words without meaning. Ponder the inevitable fact that you surely will, and may soon be, called to your reward. Let the devotion of our departed brother/sister Marine (FMF Sailor) serve as an example to you in your association with your comrades and your fellow men. As he/she enters the Great Unknown, may you resolve to so govern your life that you may, and I am sure our departed friend will, hear from the Heavenly Father these words of commendation: "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of the Lord." Once more hear the consoling words of our Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN: Once more, O God, we come to Thee in prayer for our departed friend and brother/sister, and once more we beseech Thee to receive his/her soul into the joys of Thy Kingdom. Bowed down with grief and a sense of the futility of human existence apart from Thee, we are not always able to understand Thy divine purposes. It has pleased Thee to take from us our departed friend and to leave his/her loved ones without his/her loving companionship; nevertheless, help us to say with resignation and faith: "Thy will be done." Wilt Thou giveth strength and courage to complete the life we have yet to live/to fight the good fight with strength, courage and with a faith that through Thy grace, in Thine own good time we shall stand in the light of Thy love, face to face with Thee, when Thou shalt make all things known unto us? Grant us to know the right and to do the right. Bring to the hearts of the bereaved ones the peace and comfort which passeth all understanding.

Guide them and direct them in all their days, enable them to understand and to believe that this is not goodbye, and that yet in a little while they may reunite with him/her who has gone before, in happiness and peace forever. As we depart and go our several ways, continue to watch over us, and if it be Thy will that the time of our departure is delayed a while, may we be granted the strength and courage to face the coming days with fortitude. And now to Him who hath given, and who taketh away, we give honor, power and glory. Amen.

CHAPLAIN: Please join me in reciting the Lord's Prayer

(* Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen. (**)

(Omit if Jewish, and (**) include if Protestant*

(The Chaplain will pronounce the Benediction)

The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

COMMANDANT: Members, please join me in honoring our Departed Marine (FMF Sailors). *(Commandant and members file past the deceased member and depart)*

Non-Religious Funeral Ritual

COMMANDANT: Members of the _____ Detachment, we are assembled here to pay Honor and Respect to one who has answered the final call. As a symbol of the comradeship that grew from our common service for our Nation, he/she loved so well, we place this Marine insignia of the Eagle, Globe and entwined Anchor upon his/her breast. We shall ever cherish a memory that is lasting, until we, along with him/her, take our places in the silent Halls of Death.

COMMANDANT: Fellow members of the _____ Detachment and all of you within the sound of my voice, think deeply concerning the thing you have heard, ponder the inevitable fact that you surely will, and may soon be, called to your reward. Let the devotion of our departed brother/sister Marine (FMF Navy Sailor) serve as an example to you in your association with your comrades and fellow men and women.

COMMANDANT: Members, please join me in honoring our Departed Marine (FMF Navy Sailor)

(Commandant and members file past the deceased member and depart)

CODE FOR FUNERAL ASSISTANCE

1. When not contrary to orders and regulations the extent that the Marine Corps League participates in a funeral depends on the expressed wishes of the deceased or the deceased family.

2. The Chaplain and/or the Commandant will confer with the Clergy and Funeral Director as to the time and place of the viewing and services and then will notify the Ceremonial Officer.

3. The Commandant will designate the Uniform of the Day to the Ceremonial Officer.

4. The Ceremonial Officer will contact the members of the Color Guard Unit and provide a squad to participate in the funeral.

5. The following are the prescribed types of military funerals.

Class A:

1. Escort at the Funeral Home
2. Pallbearers (Honor Guard)
3. Color Guard
4. Chaplain
5. Firing Squad
6. Bugler

Class B: Same as Class A (but no pallbearers) Class

C: Escort at the Funeral Home

AT THE CEMETERY RELIGIOUS

COMMANDANT: Brothers and sisters, family and friends, we have come to the place of final rest of our departed brother/sister Marine (FMF Sailor) He/She is not here unless it be in spirit. His/Her earthly body, the house in which he/she lived, is all that is left to us. From the earth it came, to the earth we return it. It is a common end to which we all must come. With him/her, the golden bowl is broken, the silver string is loosened. He/She is no longer fettered with an earthly body. His/Her soul can soar through the infinite space of God's Universe. O, Death, where is thy sting? O, Grave, where is thy victory? And now, dear friend, we bid thee farewell. God, grant we meet again in our Celestial home.

CHAPLAIN: *(As to your religious preference, Uncover)*

Our Heavenly Father and Supreme Commandant, be Thou with us as we go our several ways. Keep our feet firmly on the path of righteousness. Protect and comfort the widow (widower) and children* of our departed friend, and finally, when our tour of duty ends on this earth, receive us unto Thyself, Amen. *(Cover)*

**Note: If no widow (widower) or children, replace with the Mother/Father as appropriate.*

(At this time the Honor Guard may do any or all of the following: Play Taps, Rifle Salute, and/or fold the American Flag that has been draped over the casket. They will then hand the flag over to the Commandant who will present it to the appropriate family member.)

COMMANDANT: On behalf of the President of the United States of America and a grateful Nation, we, the members of the _____ Detachment, Marine Corps League wish to present to you, this humble token of remembrance for services rendered by _____ (name of deceased). Thank you for his/her service to our Country.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

(If conducted indoors, the service should be considered the same as being conducted in a religious setting, therefore, male Marines and FMF Navy Personnel shall remain UNCOVERED during the services. Other faiths, systems and practices should conform to their customs).

COMMANDANT: Sergeant-at-Arms, Advance the Colors. *(As the Colors advance, the audience is requested to rise.)*

COMMANDANT: All rise.

(The usual form for advancing the Colors is used or an adaptation may be made to suit the exigencies of the occasion)

COMMANDANT: The Chaplain *(Reverend, Rabbi, or Father, if a clergyman/priest is participating)* will give the Invocation.

CHAPLAIN: *(A clergyman or priest may give his (her) own prayer, but the Marine Corps League Chaplain should use the following prayer):*

As to your religious preference, "Our Father, who art in Heaven, we ask Thy blessing upon those here assembled, and upon those of our departed Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who have preceded us in death. Especially, Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee on behalf of those who died in battle with none of their dear ones to comfort them and with little opportunity to prepare to report before Thy judgment throne. For all of our fellow Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who faithfully served our Country and who sacrificed and bled that our people might have freedom, justice, and the right to worship Thee in their own way. We pray for Thy tender care and the everlasting hope that someday we may be reunited at Thy feet in Peace and that war and all the attendant evils will no more demand the sacrifice of the flower of humankind. Thou hast said unto us, "Greater love hath no man that he lay down his life for his friend." Reward those of our Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice of their life, a way possible only with Thee, for we know Thy ways are just."

CHAPLAIN: Please join me in the Lord's Prayer

(*) Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever and ever, Amen. (**)

() Omit if Jewish, and (**) include if Protestant*

(At the conclusion of the Prayer, the Commandant will ask the audience to be seated.)

COMMANDANT: Please be seated.

(At this point a vocal solo may be used or a quartette/choir may be heard)

(If a speaker is to be used for a principal address, his/her address may be given at this time. The Commandant shall introduce the guest speaker. If no speaker has been engaged, the following address may be used. It may be given by the Commandant or a representative selected by him/her).

COMMANDANT: Memorial Day with its sad and sacred memories has come again. This day has been consecrated to our departed Marines and FMF Navy Personnel and dedicated to patriots. It gives us an appropriate occasion to dedicate and re-consecrate ourselves to the preservation of the fruits of their victories, and the sacred heritage that was purchased by their valor and sealed with their blood.

It is right and salutary that those who did sacrifice and die, or who did sacrifice and have since died, should be remembered and honored for the invaluable service they rendered to their Country and Humanity. Let the graves of the dead be strewn with flowers and wreaths of laurel and the memory of their noble deeds be revived again in oratory and song.

The impulse that inspired us to set aside this day for remembrance of our departed Marines and FMF Navy Personnel sprang from the grieving hearts of their family and friends. We cannot forget. The generations to follow us will not forget. Our expressions of love and sorrow will become an expression of gratitude and an acknowledgement of an incalculable debt to countless of generations of Americans.

We recall the glorious aspirations and hopes that filled their souls in times that demanded willingness to lay down one's life for his/her Country. Times filled with the spirit of freedom, patriotism and devotion. Now, on this occasion, we re-ignite the fires of patriotism, freedom and liberty, and again renew the vows of loyalty to the accomplishments that our noble dead have made in past years. Glorious are the dead who died for Liberty. Blessed are those whose blood was shed for the welfare of their fellowmen.

They lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved. Now they are at peace. It is our prayer that they may have Peace forevermore. They are at Peace, for in the roar of conflict, they found the serenity of death. Their memories will fill our land like a benediction.

It is for us, the living, to establish a society that will ban war, and permanently retain the freedom and equal rights of all men and women of all Nations. We must see to it that these honored dead shall not have died in vain. In the days that lie ahead and of the generations to come after us, we must, if we value freedom, justice and liberty, if we love our homes, if we believe that our Country stands as a living vindication of a popular government, prove our beliefs and our patriotism in the days of trial.

(At this point, special music may again be used. A patriotic hymn is suggested)

CHAPLAIN:

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; He is sifting out the hearts of men before the Judgment seat. Oh! Be swift, my soul to answer Him! Be jubilant my feet; Our God is marching on.

CHAPLAIN: As to your religious preference, “Once more we turn to Thee, God of Hosts, in supplication for the Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who have answered their last call. Give unto them, we pray, thy peace that passeth all understanding. May their reward be that of the good and faithful servant. For ourselves, we pray that until the next memorial occasion comes again, we shall be guided in the cause of freedom, liberty and justice so dearly won by the sacrifices of our honored dead. May the generations yet to march down the corridor of the centuries to take our places, preserve the ideals and revere the memories of these heroic dead. Amen.

CHAPLAIN: Benediction (as to your religious preference)

May the Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and
be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His
countenance upon thee and give thee Peace.
Amen.

(The Commandant should prescribe the uniform requirements so that all members are dressed in the same attire.)