

APPENDIX

A Recommended Joint Memorial Ceremony VFW and their Ladies Auxiliary For Department, Conference, District or Post

(The place of assembly should be arranged as for a regular session of the order. In addition, a table with covering and open Bible shall be placed with the Conductress and Color Bearers in their respective places. Titles used in the following are for Department, Conference, District and Post, Commander or Conference President, Chief of Staff or Sergeant-at-Arms.)

(Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President take their stations. The Commander calls the session to order with one rap of the gavel.)

Commander: Comrades, Ladies Auxiliary and friends, we meet at this time to honor the memory of our comrades and sisters who have answered the last call. **Ladies Auxiliary President:** Color Bearers. Prepare the altar for the Memorial Ceremony.

(Motion to rise.)

(Color Bearers with Conductress retire and return with the Memorial Cloth, Bible and flowers.)

Ladies Auxiliary President: (Motion to be seated.)

Madam Conductress and Sergeant-at-Arms, you will see that there is no disturbance during the ceremony.

Conductress and Sergeant-at-Arms: Madam President, your orders will be obeyed.

Commander: I request the Chaplains to preside during this solemn ceremony.

VFW Chaplain and Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain: Comrade Commander and madam President, we are at your service and shall endeavor to perform this solemn duty in the spirit of faith, hope and charity.

(Chaplains will assume the station.)

VFW Chaplain: We will now have the lighting of the POW/MIA candle and the Armed Forces Vigil candle by the Commander and the Ladies Auxiliary President.

(The Commander and the Ladies Auxiliary President will light the two appropriate candles escorted by the Sergeant-at-Arms. VFW Chaplain will offer a prayer.)

VFW Chaplain: O God, Almighty, Creator and Ruler of the Universe, some of our comrades and companions are prisoners of war and missing in action. Comfort them, we pray, in their isolation from their homes and loved ones; supply their needs and protect them from want and deprivation; strengthen and sustain them that they may face discouragement with courage and hardship with resolution. Grant that they may find patience to endure and peace in the knowledge of Your continuing presence.

O God, we ask that You will strengthen and protect all our members of the armed forces of the United States of America. In the day of battle, may they be courageous and strong, resourceful and capable, resolute and victorious. In the time of peace, may they serve with dignity and honor, as effective emissaries of good will for this Nation. May their devotion and loyalty to You and to their homeland inspire them in moments of challenge and comfort them in tribulation and long separations from loved ones. And, finally, we ask they may return safely to serve You and our Country in the days and years to come. Amen.

Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain: (Motion to rise.)

Comrades, Sisters and Friends, will you join me in singing one verse of "Nearer, My God, To Thee."

Nearer my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

E'en tho' it be a cross that raiseth me;

Still all my song shall be

Nearer my God to Thee!

Nearer my God to Thee!

Nearer to Thee!

(Motion to be seated.)

VFW Chaplain: Comrade Commander, to whom should we look for help in the battles of life?

Commander: “Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain: Madam President of the Ladies Auxiliary, what assurances have we of a prolonged stay among the scenes and activities of life?

Ladies Auxiliary President: “For we are strangers before Thee, and sojourners as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow and there is none abiding.”

VFW Chaplain: Comrade Senior Vice Commander, have you a message of condolence for those bereaved?

Senior Vice Commander: I have. The Book of Life tells us that “Like a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For he knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.

VFW Chaplain: What message has the Chaplain of the Ladies Auxiliary?

Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain: I have a message of hope that should inspire our comrades at this solemn moment and all through life. The message is the Captain of our Salvation. He says: “I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth is me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth is me shall never die.”

VFW Chaplain: Comrades and Sisters, we are thankful for these inspiring thoughts. Let us learn the lesson of the hour which is that we, too, are nearing the end of life’s pilgrimage and sooner or later these services may be held in our memory. Let us so live that when our summons comes we may depart with a good conscience, in the comfort of a sincere religion, belief in God, and perfect charity toward all mankind. Madam Chaplain, would you offer a prayer.

Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain: (Motion to rise.)

Let us pray. Our Father in Heaven, at this time of remembrance, we seek You, with whom there is no death. We ask You, in Your everlasting charity, to look down on these, Your servants, and give them health, strength and willingness to carry on the work of our beloved organization, which shall be an everlasting memorial to those comrades and sisters who have passed on. In Your great infinite wisdom and mercy, may we all meet again, and we shall praise Your name, now and forever. Amen.

(Motion to be seated.)

VFW Chaplain: Comrades and sisters, in commemorating the virtues of our departed heroes who served their country in time of need we now offer our symbolic tributes.

(Department Commander and Ladies Auxiliary President will proceed to the Altar. If the ceremony is for a Department, Conference District, or Post, the respective commanders and presidents will stand and may present the flowers on the altar when their Department, Conference, or District is called.)

Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain: Comrade Commander and Madam President, what tribute have you to offer at this time?

Ladies Auxiliary President: These white flowers we bring as a token of the love we have for our departed Comrades and Sisters.

(Department Commander and Madam President return to their stations. Candles may also be lighted by the Districts, Conference, Departments or Posts.)

VFW Chaplain: Comrade Adjutant and Madam Secretary will now call the Roll of deceased members.

(Reading of the deceased members names or numbers of deceased members in their respective District, Conference, Department or Post.)

(“Sleep Soldier Boy” or other appropriate music may be offered at this time.)

VFW Chaplain: (If there is a Memorial Speaker, the Chaplain will make the appropriate introduction.)

Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain: Let us sing “America.” (Motion to rise)

VFW Chaplain: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as today we remember and honor the memory of our departed comrades and sisters, we are indeed grateful for their service and sacrifice. May we continue their efforts as courageous protectors and true guardians of freedom. Let us be masters of brotherly and sisterly love.

O Lord, guide us in the way of moral responsibility and enlighten us and make us true believers in

justice and peace. Enkindle within us a flame of selfless, unwavering devotion to duty that we may never be found wanting in those qualities of spirit and mind which alone are able to preserve our homes, the peace of our Nation, and the tranquility of the world. Remember our departed comrades and sisters, O Lord, in Your mercy, and have compassion on us. Amen.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Attention Comrades and Sisters.

Present Arms! Comrade Bugler!

(“*Taps*” will be played.)

Ladies Auxiliary President: Madam Conductress, you will retire the Memorial Cloth.
(Memorial Cloth is retired.)

VFW Chaplain: This now concludes our service.