

Gracious God, grant that we may appreciate and treasure the freedom that is our gift and our heritage, and that we may never forget the great price at which it was purchased for us all. We remember this day before You all who serve in the Armed Forces of our nation. Protect and defend them in the day of battle, and in the time of peace. Grant that they may serve with honor and dignity both to Your great glory and to the credit of this Nation.

We ask also that You will watch over the veterans of this land, inspiring them to serve You and this Country in ever new and creative ways. Comfort our ill and wounded comrades who languish in hospitals or homes. Lighten their burdens, relieve their suffering and pain, and restore to them the blessings of health again. We also pray for those who have given their lives in the service of our Country (*moment of silence*), and for those, our fellow veterans who have served this Nation both in time of battle and in time of peace. May light perpetual shine upon them. May the good work which You have begun in them be brought to perfection, that this land may prosper and that there may be lasting peace throughout our world. All this we ask You, Almighty Father, in Your Holy Name.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYERS FOR DECEASED COMRADES/SISTERS**

Heavenly Father, we are gathered here to commemorate those among Your servants who have been called to Your bosom in the Land of Light. We pray that Your mercy and justice have made right their human failings and faults. We pray that whatever justice was denied them in this vale of tears has been granted them a hundredfold. We pray that whatever comforts they were denied in this life, whatever evil they endured, may now rebound to their everlasting happiness.

We are thankful for their companionship and association in this life. By their efforts we are assured security and strength. Because they served well, we are proud to call them our own. We ask that, following in their footsteps, we may continue in Your service until Your summons comes. Then, in the knowledge that we have striven to observe Your councils and precepts, may be judged worthy to be united with them and with You forever in Heaven. **Amen.**

O God of mercy, peace, and love, we remember before You in this moment our comrade (sister) and friend (*name*). We recall with gratitude and respect all that he (*she*) stood for in this life. Help us to live in the companionship of his (*her*) spirit. May we be kind to the friends and family he (*she*) loved; devoted to the community in which he (*she*) lived; and loyal to the causes which he (*she*) served. Thus, in our life, may he (*she*) live on, to our great comfort, to the betterment of Your creation, and to the furthering of Your most Holy Will. **Amen.**

O Lord our God, we ask that You will comfort all who are bereaved with a spirit of faith and courage. May they remember, giving thanks, for the love and joy they shared in an earthly relationship. May they be comforted with the sure knowledge of a joyful reunion with those they love in Your Everlasting Kingdom. **Amen.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, You have shown us that death is but the gateway to a more glorious life, and that we must not fear its coming; and we know, also, that neither life nor death can separate us from Your love. Assure us yet again that our comrade/sister (*name*) departed is not lost to us, but sharing new life with You in the Kingdom of our Father, where we shall in Your good time be reunited. We know him/her to be with You forever. **Amen.**

Strengthen and comfort, O Lord, all who mourn for the loss of loved ones now departed this life. Some have died in the service of our Country; and some, having served this Nation both in war and in peace, are now at rest. Be with those who mourn in their sorrow. Support them in their loneliness. Grant that they may know that nothing in life not even death can separate them from Your love declared so eloquently in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Eternal Father, we call upon You for all who mourn the loss of those near and dear to them. Be to those in sorrow a strong support in their loneliness and a comforter in their time of grief. Be ever near them, draw them into closer fellowship with You, and grant them sure trust and confidence in Your Fatherly care. **Amen.**

O Lord our comfort and help in time of need, You have taught us that nothing can separate us from Your love, and that all souls are Yours. Grant that we may come to know this increasingly as we draw nearer to You in faith and love. Grant also that we may be uplifted from our sorrow, so that we may more faithfully serve You our God and more effectively honor the memory of our comrade (*sister*) departed. **Amen.**

Father of us all! In the depth of our silent reverence we realize the truth of the inspired words, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." As comrade after comrade departs, we march on with our ranks grown thinner. Help us to be faithful unto You, and to one another. Look in mercy on the widows and children of our departed comrades, we beseech You, and with Your own tenderness, console and comfort those who are bereaved. Heavenly Father, bless our Country with freedom, peace, and righteousness. Through Your favor may we meet at last before Your throne in Heaven. We praise Your Great Name forever and ever. **Amen.**