

Memorial Service of the Military Order of Stars & Bars

When all are assembled at the appointed meeting area, one of the flags of the Confederacy is brought forward and presented. The Commander ties a black cord or ribbon at the top of the flag, which will remain on the flag throughout the service and during any meeting which may follow, and the Charter of the Chapter is draped in black cloth. After the flag and Charter are appropriately decorated, the Commander begins the service.

COMMANDER: We are here today to pay the last tribute of friendship to our honored dead. We, the descendants of the Officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the Confederate States of America, have assembled in loving memory of _____, our friend and comrade in the Military Order of the Stars & Bars.

CHAPLAIN: "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow and continued not. As the waters fall from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up; so man lieth down and riseth not; till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth and though this body be destroyed yet shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another."

LT. COMMANDER: Compatriot _____ was a good soldier and faithful member of our Order, tried and true. He has fought the good fight. The bugle has sounded taps and he is at rest. He will sleep until the reveille of heaven calls him to take his place in the ranks of the immortal legions of the Great Commander.

CHAPLAIN: "Oh God, Creator of the universe and Commander of the hosts of heaven, to thy care we commit the spirit of our departed compatriot(s). While by day the sun makes its round, and by night the stars keep watch and ward above the bivouac of the dead, grant that we may have the life (lives) and example(s) of our departed compatriot(s) so in remembrance that our years may be years of usefulness and honor; and that at last when we have crossed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees with Lee and Jackson and Johnston and Davis, we may find our names inscribed upon the rolls of thy celestial hosts. Amen."

COMMANDER: Once more the bugle call has sounded and another compatriot, obedient to the signal, has lain down to his last sleep. His battle of life has been fought, he has been relieved from his post of duty. Over his quiet resting place the seasons will come and go; the gentle Spring, the blooming Summer, the golden Autumn and the dreary Winter will pass unheeded by; nor storms, nor sunshine, nor night nor day can win from him a passing recognition. Yet a little while, and we, too, shall fold our hands in peaceful repose, from which there shall be no awakening until the last great Reveille shall arouse the slumbering millions to answer to their names before the great Captain of the Universe. Compatriots, let us engage in the battle of life with an unflinching resolve to do our duty. Let no vicissitudes, however trying, no pleasures, however alluring, drive or tempt us to abandon our post; and when at last we approach the Sentinel that keeps eternal guard over the Great Golden Gate, let us be prepared with the countersign that will admit us to the company of those who have been tried and not found wanting, those choice spirits who, holding their conscience unmixed with blame, have been in all conditions true to themselves, to their country and to their God.

CHAPLAIN: "Oh God, the Father of us all. we pray Thy blessing to abide upon this humble service. Bless the memory of our departed compatriot(s). Bless and comfort those near and dear to him (them) by the ties of the flesh and fraternity. Help us, each one, to appreciate more and more the blessings we receive daily from Thy great love, and help us to prove our gratitude for all these good gifts, by our lives of usefulness and integrity. Bless our friends and compatriots of the Military Order of the Stars & Bars everywhere, and may we be worthy of them and Thee. Lead us graciously by Thy strong right hand, and make us all to be the

citizens we are privileged to be in this goodly land which Thou hast given to us. We ask in the name of our Savior. Amen."

NOTE: This ritual was prepared by MOSB Chaplain General Fr. Robert G. Carroon. In the words of Fr. Carroon, "This service is suggested when a Chapter or Department desires to memorialize a departed comrade or when it may wish to remember several departed comrades at an annual memorial service. It may be varied to suit special circumstances and the terminology changed when more than one comrade is memorialized. It is not intended to be used in place of regular church or graveside services."