



LODGE OF MILITARY TRIBUTE

A Masonic Military Memorial Service
by WBro. Alvin O. Benemerito ©

A.∴D.∴ 2003
A.∴L.∴ 6003

DEDICATED TO
My Mother Lodge
LONG PINE LODGE NO. 136
Long Pine, Nebraska

THANK YOU
to My Wife
SHANDA
For her kind and unending support







LODGE OF MILITARY TRIBUTE




-- WELCOME ADDRESS --

Brother _____: *Welcome Address.*

-- ENTRANCE OF OFFICERS --


S. . D. . : *Raps his rod on the floor* 
All Freemasons who are able, be upstanding to receive the Worshipful Master.
Raps his rod on the floor   
Officers Process into the Lodge.
The Worshipful Master immediately seats the Lodge when he is seated. The other officers will process to their respective stations/place in the lodge.
The Marshal and Stewards may immediately retire to the preparation room to retrieve the colors.

-- INVOCATION --

W. . M. . : Since no Masonic undertaking should ever begin without first invoking the blessing of God, you will give attention while the Chaplain leads us in prayer.
Please rise if able.    *Uncovers.*

Chaplain: *Offers prayer. Amen.*

All: So Mote It Be.

W. . M. . : In the name of _____ Lodge No. ____, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, I declare this Lodge of Military Tribute open.  *Master recovers.*

W. . M. . : Brother Senior Deacon, display the three Great Lights of Freemasonry.
Senior Deacon displays the lights and returns to his seat.

-- FLAG CEREMONY --

W.·.M.·.: Bro. Marshal (or Bro. Senior Deacon), under the escort of the Senior and Junior Stewards, you will present the flag of our country.

W.·.M.·.:  *Uncovers or renders a hand salute.*

All salute as the colors enter the Lodge. The Marshal (or Senior Deacon), flanked by the Stewards will proceed to the front of the Senior Warden's station. They face east; the Stewards form an arch with rods over the flag and march to the altar.

W.·.M.·.: Please join me in singing the National Anthem.

All: *The National Anthem is sung.*

W.·.M.·.: Brother Marshal (or Bro. Senior Deacon), post the Colors. *The Marshal and Stewards bears the Flag to the East and posts it on the stand. The Marshal then steps back, salutes the Flag and returns to his position between the Stewards and return to their seats.*

OPTION -- TOAST TO THE FLAG --

W.·.M.·.: We will now give a toast to the greatest National Emblem to fly over land, sea, air and even outer space. (I now invite W/Bro _____ to deliver "A Toast to the Flag.")

-- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE --

W.·.M.·.: Please join me in saluting the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance.

All: *The Pledge of Allegiance.*

W.·.M.·.: *Recovers.* Please be seated. 

OPTION -- RECEPTION of the GRAND MASTER --

This should be done in accordance to the appropriate Protocol of a Grand Jurisdiction. The Grand Master makes introductions as he deems appropriate at this time. He should also be informed in advance to deliver his address later in the program.

-- THE FORGET ME NOT LECTURE --

W.·.M.·.: The following legend of The Blue-Forget-Me-Not was taken from a Presentation Card issued by the American Canadian Grand Lodge within the United Grand Lodges of Germany. *This legend will now be delivered by W/Bro_____.*

In Early 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became evident that Freemasonry was in danger. In that same year, the "Grand Lodge of the Sun", one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges, located in Bayreuth, realizing the grave dangers involved, adopted the Little Blue Forget-Me-Not Flower as a substitute for the traditional square and compasses.

It was felt the flower would provide brethren with an outward means of identification while lessening the risk of possible recognition in public by the Nazis, who were engaged in wholesale confiscation of all Masonic Lodge properties. Freemasonry went undercover, and this delicate flower assumed its role as a symbol of Masonry surviving throughout the reign of darkness.

During the ensuing decade of Nazi power, a little blue Forget-Me-Not flower worn on the lapel served as one method whereby Masons could identify each other in public, and in cities and concentration camps throughout Europe. The Forget-Me-Not distinguished the lapels of countless brethren who staunchly refused to allow the symbolic Light of Masonry to be completely extinguished.

When Past Grand Master Beyer reopened the 'Grand Lodge of the Sun' in 1947, a little pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was officially adopted as the emblem of that first annual convention of the brethren who had survived the bitter years of semi-darkness to rekindle the Masonic Light.

At the first Annual Convention of the new United Grand Lodge of Germany AF&AM (VGLvD), in 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem in honor of the thousands of valiant Brethren who carried on their Masonic work under adverse conditions.

The following year, each delegate to the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington, D.C., received one from Dr. Theodor Vogel, Grand Master of the VGLvD.

Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a symbol of the fraternity. In the years since adoption, its significance worldwide has been attested to by the tens of thousands of brethren who now display it with meaningful pride.



-- HONORING THE LIVING --

W.·.M.·.: Will all those who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces please rise and move to the lodge floor to be recognized.

Brethren on the sidelines could assist and line the guests in the East facing West.


W.·.M.·.: Please state your name and branch of service.

-- PRESENTATION of CERTIFICATES and/or TOKENS --

W.·.M.·.: *The Worshipful Master reads the Certificate of Appreciation.*

The Grand Master is requested to present the Certificate to the honorees. Presenting a hand salute is appropriate. The Sign of Fidelity is rendered if a member of the team has not served in the Uniformed Service.

The Worshipful Master, The Grand Master, etc... will form a Detail to present the Certificate and/or tokens (i.e. Flag Pin or Forget-Me-Not Pin) to the honorees.

W.·.M.·.:  Brethren & friends, please join me in giving these Valiant Citizens our hearty appreciation for their service to our Country.

Applause.

W.·.M.·.: Brother Deacons and Stewards you will seat our guests. 

The veterans return to their seats.

OPTION -- A PATRIOTIC PRESENTATION --

W.·.M.·.: I now invite _____ to come to the East. *An appropriate Patriotic Presentation is made or a Guest Speaker is invited to speak.*

AND/OR

W.·.M.·.: I now invite W/Bro_____ to deliver "The Ragged Old Flag."

AND/OR

W.·.M.·.: I now invite _____ to perform the Flag Folding Ceremony.

The Flag Folding will be done between the Altar and the station of the Senior Warden. Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold--start reading when Honor Guard is standing ready.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks and who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to him that we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divining guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries - May she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for when "we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the One who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mothers, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, for it has been through faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he too has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in their eyes the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we trust."

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to inspect the flag--after the inspection, resume reading.)


After the flag is folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under our Masonic brother George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under another brother Mason, Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms that we enjoy today.

FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY ADOPTED FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY


W.·.M.·.: Detail, display the Flag at the Altar in remembrance of our dearly departed comrades in arms.

The flag is reverently laid on the Altar, take a step back and present a hand salute. The Flag Detail return to their seats.

-- HONORING the DEPARTED --

W.·.M.·.: Brother Marshal (or Senior Deacon)  , you will display the Flag at the Altar and drape the Charter as a memorial to our dearly departed Comrades-in-Arms.

The Marshal (or Senior Deacon) will solemnly display a folded flag at the Altar and renders a Funeral Hand Salute or Sign of Fidelity. He then reverently drapes the Charter and gives it a court bow or bowing with just the head; and return to his seat.

W.·.M.·.:  Let us place ourselves in an attitude of prayer and observe a moment of silence in memory of those who have gone before us. *Uncovers.*

The lights are lowered.

W.·.M.·.: Amen.

All: So Mote It Be.

The Worshipful Master recovers, leaves his station and advances to the East of the Altar. At the same time the Deacons and Stewards also approach the altar, then

create an Arch with their rods, under which the Worshipful Master delivers the following oration:

W.·.M.·.: Our heavenly Father, will fold the arms of His love and protection to those who put their trust in Him. Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our brethren. Bright and glorious be their rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia sprig, which shall flourish them. And in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may their souls spring into newness of life and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, Dear Friends, Dear Brothers. *Uncovers.* Until then . . . Farewell. *Reverently bows head.*

As the Worshipful Master uncovers, the Deacons and Stewards drop their rods slowly to a carry. They simultaneously bow their heads reverently.

The Low Twelve is rung.


The Worshipful Master recovers.

W.·.M.·.: "Brethren, join me in funeral honors."

W.·.M.·.: "We consign their body to the earth." *The brethren extend their hands forward, palms upward.*

W.·.M.·.: "We cherish their memory here." *The brethren cross the arms on the breast.*

W.·.M.·.: "We commend their spirit to God, who gave it." *The brethren then raise their hands above their heads palms forward.*

The Worshipful Master, Deacons and Stewards simultaneously return to their seats. Master seats the Lodge. 

-- ADDRESS of the WORSHIPFUL MASTER --

W.·.M.·.: *Delivers his gratitude to those in attendance and to those who have made the arrangements for this opportunity to perform this civic duty to honor those who have made our freedoms possible. The Team should be introduced at this time.*

-- ADDRESS of the GRAND MASTER --

W.·.M.·.: Brethren and friends you will now give attention to the address of the Grand Master. *Masons rise.*

G.·.M.·.: *Delivers address.*

-- CLOSING --

W.·.M.·.: We will now close this Lodge appropriately with a benediction, which will be given by the Chaplain . Please rise.  *Uncovers.*

Chaplain: *Offers Prayer.* Amen.

All: So Mote It Be.

W.·.M.·.: Brother Senior Deacon, attend at the Altar.
Senior Deacon attends to the lights and returns to his seat.

Veteran: *A veteran should be invited in advance to read the following:*

“When you go home,
tell them of us and say
for your tomorrow
we gave our today.”

By John Maxwell Edmonds

Taps, The Last Post or other mournful bugle call maybe played.

W.·.M.·.: I now declare this Lodge of Military Tribute closed. 

W.·.M.·.: Please remain standing as the flag is retired. *Salute.*

W.·.M.·.: That concludes our ceremony. Thank you.



Compiled by:
WBRO. ALVIN O. BENEMERITO
P.O BOX 38
LONG PINE, NE 69217

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What can I say to you Old Flag,
You are so great in every fold.
So linked to mighty deeds of old,
So calm, so firm, so still, so true,
My heart swells at the very sight of you,
Old Flag.
And, there you stand with colors bright,
And, I think tis' only right,
That since you neither brag nor boast,
We bring you this heart-felt toast.

"A Toast to the Flag"
by John J. Daly - 1917

Here's to the red of it--
There's not a thread of it,
No, nor a shred of it
In all the spread of it
From foot to head.
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Precious blood shed for it,
Bathing it Red!

Here's to the white of it--
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it,
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood's care for it
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity's prayer for it
Keeps it so white!

Here's to the blue of it--
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star-spangled dew of it
Constant and true;
Diadems gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty's beam for it
Brightens the blue!

Here's to the whole of it--
Stars, stripes and pole of it,
Body and soul of it,
O, and the roll of it,
Sun shining through;
Hearts in accord for it,
Swear by the sword for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red White and Blue!

"The Ragged Old Fld"
by Johnny Cash J. Daly - 1917

I walked through a county courthouse square
On a park bench, an old man was sittin' there.
I said, "Your old court house is kinda run down,
He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town".
I said, "Your old flag pole is leaned a little bit,
And that's a ragged old flag you got hangin' on it".
He said, "Have a seat", and I sat down,
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town"
I said, "I think it is"
He said "I don't like to brag, but we're kinda proud of
That Ragged Old Flag

"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there,
When Washington took it across the Delaware.
and It got powder burned the night
Francis Scott Key sat watching it,
writing "Say Can You See"
It got a rip in New Orleans,
with Packingham & Jackson tugging at its seams.
and It almost fell at the Alamo beside the Texas flag,
But she waved on though.
She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville,
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.
There was Robert E. Lee and Beauregard and Bragg,
And the south wind blew hard on
That Ragged Old Flag

"On Flanders Field in World War I,
She got a big hole from a Bertha Gun,
She turned blood red in World War II
She hung limp, and low, a time or two,
She was in Korea, Vietnam,
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.
She waved from our ships upon the briny foam
and now they've about quit wavin' back here at home
In her own good land here She's been abused,
She's been burned, dishonored, denied an' refused,
And the government for which she stands
Has been scandalized throughout out the land.
And she's getting threadbare, and she's wearin' thin,
But she's in good shape, for the shape she's in.
Cause she's been through the fire before
and i believe she can take a whole lot more.

"So we raise her up every morning
And we bring her down slow every night,
We don't let her touch the ground,
And we fold her up right. On second thought
I *do* like to brag
Cause I'm mighty proud of That Ragged Old Flag"



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