

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



MANUAL OF
*Ceremony
& Prayer*

for God and Country

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DEDICATION

This Manual of Ceremony and Prayer is dedicated to all the Sons of The American Legion, and to all those members of The American Legion who believed in 1932 that God would grant the world peace, and wanted to pass on to further generations, the programs of working “For God and Country” and thus began the Sons of The American Legion.

We also dedicate this manual to those within our ranks who have served our country, joined The American Legion and especially those who gave the supreme sacrifice for our freedom.

This manual is dedicated to all of the past chaplains and to all of the future ones.

The past chaplains have helped lead the Sons of The American Legion with prayers, cards, calls and spiritual leadership. These individuals have helped keep the organization heading in the direction of God’s will.

The future chaplains will be responsible for maintaining the spiritual direction and commitment of the Sons of The American Legion as we continue heading in the direction that God envisions.

INTRODUCTION

To all chaplains:

Please use these prayers and services as guidelines in your work. You do not have to follow these word for word; you can add anything you feel is appropriate for the occasion. This prayer manual is intended to inspire a sense of devotion for the Sons of The American Legion and its principles.

Remember, you are responsible for the spiritual leadership of the squadron. In addition to attending all meetings, you should be ready to take part in ceremonies such as initiation of new members, installation of officers, memorial services and funeral services of a comrade.

You should work closely with The American Legion chaplain and service officer to ensure the spiritual needs of members are met.

Some of these prayers come from the Prayer Manual distributed to American Legion department chaplains. Although any of the material contained in this manual may be changed or altered to suit the user, it should be noted that care has been taken to revise and edit the material to reflect the true non-denominational and non-secretarian views of the "Service to God and Country" program of the Sons of The American Legion.

INVOCATION

Almighty God, we ask you to look down on this meeting and help us to make the right decision to keep this great organization growing in goodness and forever striking for truth. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

Holy Father, grant that the things we do here today will be for the betterment of our organization and ourselves. We ask for your supreme guidance now and in our daily lives. Amen.

Our dear Heavenly Father, let us not forget all those veterans who founded our great parent organization and make it possible for us to join together so that we might carry on all their traditions and programs. Amen.

Our dear Heavenly Father, we pray that your teachings will guide us in this meeting and in our lives. Help us to follow the ideals of The American Legion and to be ready to carry on when we are called on to do so.

Lord, look after those who have fallen in defense of our country. Amen.

Father, we ask you to be with us always. We know that in these troubled times when the world is in great turmoil the things we ask of you may seem insignificant, but we do pray to You to ask for a better world for all. We wish to keep the fires of freedom burning brightly in the skies over this great land of ours and we pray that we will always keep You in our hearts. Amen.

O God, as we begin our meeting we seek Thy counsel and guidance, inspire us with Thy wisdom. Rule over our deliberations we beseech You, O God. Direct us and sanctify us by Thy presence. Teach us to serve You as You deserve; to give and not count the cost, to toil and not seek for rest, to labor and not ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do Your will. Amen.

O God, guard our homes, churches and schools, our entire land and all therein from harm and destruction. Preserve the integrity of this nation founded on religious principles by protecting it from all enemies within and without. Amen.

Now, great God, give us the power to believe in ourselves, and in what we can do, and in what we can be, and in what we are. May the grace of God be with us all. Amen.

Dear Lord, we gather for this meeting, give us the use of your gift of peace and understanding that we may approach the matters we must handle with sincere and just hearts. May You watch over and guide our tongues that we may not hurt our friends with whom we work for the betterment of our communities and our country. Keep us always true to the principles on which we were founded. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

Most gracious God, Creator of us all, from whom comes all help and blessings, look upon us gathered here, and with your favor, direct us in all our actions. Grant to us vigilant hearts; give us minds to know you, diligence to seek you, and wisdom to find you. Sanctify us with your presence, bless us with your might and assist us with your counsel; that all our endeavors may begin with you and through you may be happily ended. Amen.

With hearts humble with the sense of our responsibility, yet proud of the confidence placed in us by our comrades of The American Legion; with hearts grateful for the rich heritage bequeathed to us by our fathers, yet also determined to be ever vigilant to preserve it, we ask Your blessing, O God, on this conference, that it may be fruitful in its accomplishments and lasting in the good it effects. Be with us, in our thinking, and guide us as we work for You, our country and our comrades. Amen.

Be with us, O Lord, as we gather for this important conference (convention). May Your wisdom and counsel guide us as we seek, for God and country, to develop and authorize programs to benefit the citizens and especially the veterans of this great land.

Teach us to think wisely and carefully before we speak, to act with courage and conviction for the good of all rather than simply for vested interests, and to deal charitably with one another that we may all continue to enjoy mutual respect.

So may we serve You in spirit and in truth that our accomplishments will be built upon the firm foundations of charity and justice. Thus may our work both in public sessions and our committee conferences bring credit to the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion and be of benefit to those we seek to serve to Your great honor and glory. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God and Father of all, we praise you and give you thanks for the wonder of your gifts: freedom, justice and peace. Grant us, these virtues, that as we leave here, we may be shining examples of your creation. Give us safe journeys to our families and homes, help us remember our family and friends that now rest with you and guide us, the Sons of The American Legion, along your paths. In your merciful love, dear Father, give us yet many years of service and bless us and our new commander, in the words you gave your servant Aaron — May the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord let his face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord look upon us kindly and give us His peace. Amen.

Heavenly Father, as we depart from this gathering, give us a safe journey home to family and friends, keep us true to our principles and strong in our faith in You. Grant peace and eternal rest to our departed comrades, comfort and consolidation to their families and friends. Keep us ever in thy love and mercy that we may carry on for God and country. Amen.

And now, our Father, as we part one from another to go our separate ways, we pause to worship in memory of those of our comrades who have answered the final call and have been received by You. We are thankful for their lives; the remembrance of them is an inspiration to us; they teach us to dedicate ourselves to the things for which they fought and died. And we pray also for our nation. Continue to watch over its affairs. Grant wisdom and the spirit of being peacemakers to all those in positions of authority and may all the citizens of our country learn to desire justice, to love righteousness and to seek peace. Strengthen, also dear Lord, the bonds of peace between all nations and all peoples. We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hand of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us. Amen.

Thankful always, dear Lord, for Your gifts, we pray that You send us away in harmony, peace, good will, to spread the contagious spirit of patriotism and devotion to Thee, wherever we go. Amen.

Let us go forth, dear Lord, in peace with courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, but strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted and honoring all people and loving and serving them and Thee, O Lord. Amen.



Let us go forth into the world in peace and dedicated to Your service, O Lord. Let us hold fast that which is good, render to no man evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and the afflicted, and honor all men. Let us love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of His spirit. And may God's blessings be upon us and remain with us always. Amen.



The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace, this day (night) and forever. Amen.



May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hand of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us this day (night) and forever. Amen.



Let us depart in peace; learning to share love and charity with our neighbors. May we be joined together in the common goal of service to our God and our country. Let us drive safely and carefully to our homes, and may God's blessing be with us all. Amen.



God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the nation, peace and comfort; to us and all Your servants, the promise of everlasting life, through light to guide us on our way, courage to support us, and Your blessing to unite us in service to You our God and our country. Amen.



May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be always at your backs. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.

TABLE GRACE

For the joy of life we are grateful to You, O God. For the fun we have as we share one with another we thank You. We pray for the food we are about to receive — will be used to strengthen us to better serve you. Amen.



Dear Lord, may this meal that we share be seasoned from above with Thy blessings and Thy grace - but most of all Thy love. Amen.



Our Heavenly Father, grant us, we pray;

Your wisdom and strength to serve day after day.

Bless this food to our use and make us quite strong,
So we can continue to serve well and long. Amen.



Blessed are you, O Lord, God, king of the universe: You bring forth food from the earth, and sustain all Your creatures with goodness, mercy, and grace. Blessed are You, who give food to all. Amen.



Bless us, O Lord, and these our gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty. Amen.



Bless, O Lord, this food to our use, and us to your service; and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. Amen.

AT AN INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Our dear Heavenly Father, we ask for Your blessings on these newly elected officers. Grant them the strength and guidance to carry out the duties of their respective offices.

Grant that we may forever serve our community, state, and nation for the good of all mankind, all this we ask in Your most Holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God, Ruler of the destinies of all men and nations, Thou has blessed us with the honor and the duty of upholding the principles set forth by our parent organization.

Bless The American Legion Family and all those who are joined here tonight. That together we may serve in undivided loyalty, to You our God and to our country. Amen.

For the privilege of serving Thee and our country, Oh God, we thank Thee. As we invoke Thy blessing upon all gathered here we particularly ask Thy blessing upon the one we honor. Grant unto him Thy wisdom as he leads us in the year ahead and give us Thy grace to be an extension of his leadership and guidance that together we will be used for the betterment of our association together for Thee and our country. Amen.

Our Father, we thank Thee for the year we have completed, for its successes, for strength given us by Thee to overcome its failures. As we face a new year together, give us patience and understanding for our fellow man; give us wisdom in our decisions, and Thy aid in building a better organization. Give Thy special blessing to all those who assume duties of leadership. Walk with each of us in heart and mind, day by day, so that we may continue to serve our God and our country. Amen.

Dear Lord, we bow humbly before Thee in gratitude for the blessings that are ours. We pray that we may live our lives, so that the Golden Rule may be exemplified. We pray that our present leaders will be blessed with grace and strength for the coming year. As we face this year together, give us wisdom in our decisions and Thy aid in building a stronger organization. Walk with each of us in heart and mind, day by day, so that we may continue to serve God and country. We ask this in Thy Holy Name. Amen.

(Installation of officers, continued)

Heavenly Father, this is our prayer this day, a prayer of guidance for these newly elected officers. We are thankful for those whose terms have just ended; we thank them for a job well done. And now we seek Your blessings for the coming year. Bless the new officers; guide them in the performance of their duties. Bless them with the knowledge they will need. May they have tolerance toward those whose opinions may differ from their own. Grant our prayers, O Lord, for we pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Most gracious God, who created the seasons which come and go, and who makes the fruits of the earth for the needs of men, we offer you our thanksgiving that according to the promise, seedtime and harvest have not failed. We give You most humble and hearty thanks for Your servants who came across wintry seas at peril of life in order to establish a free nation with fidelity to justice, freedom and democracy. We pray that we who have entered into the heritage of their heroism and sacrifice may so honor their memory that Your blessing may continue to fall upon our beloved land. Protect us from outward dangers and deliver us from inward strife. Keep our country in Your care, and give blessings according to Your will; so that You shall be the glory and the praise and the thanksgiving from generation to generation. Amen.

Our Father, we come to You as your children, to offer our adoration and thanksgiving. We ask Your blessing upon our country and all our fellow citizens. In particular we ask Your blessing for The American Legion, its Auxiliary and its Sons; that we may serve You and our fellow man in charity. In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

Keep us, O Lord, grateful as a nation for the blessings that are ours. Preserve in our hearts the appreciation of Thy gifts that inspired our fore fathers to set aside a special day of thanksgiving, and may we ever be mindful of Your goodness and kindness. Amen.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

As the old year comes to an end, let us ponder what it has held for us. Let us be thankful for the rich experiences You gave us — for every sympathetic smile, for every tear — for moments which brought laughter's melody — for nature's loveliness, and for friendship's beauty. Let us also ask forgiveness for thoughts and deeds unwise. As we stand on the threshold of a New Year — let us be thankful for the opportunity to stand and peer intently and eagerly beyond the door to so many challenges that lie ahead. May we have the courage, truth and faith to meet them without flinching and thought of ourselves. Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Almighty Creator, we pray help us have faith in You and our country. To keep the freedom we have cherished over the years and that with this freedom we may continue to grow in all of our undertakings. Also, help us with the friendship we have made to learn to love one another so that harmony and love may be with us always in this great land of ours. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

BIRTHDAY DINNER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather tonight to celebrate the birthday of The American Legion, we believe that not only is this what the Founding Fathers had in mind for our members, but that truly this is what we have been doing these many years, sharing and giving our joys, our talents, ourselves, not only to veterans and their children, but to all races, colors, and creeds. This is our goal — for You, our God and our country; The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion programs — the joy of giving — the joy of sharing. Hear our prayers O Lord, for we pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Oh God, Judge over Nations, be with us as we come together this day to pay tribute to our _____ American Legion birthday. We rejoice that we are a source of support to our great organization. May our activities be counted among the good deeds that please Thee. We ask for the strength and the ability to do the tasks You set before us. Keep us concerned about the welfare and improvement of our community, the safety and pride of our homes, and the moral and spiritual values that guide our community. We ask Thy blessings upon our members and guests here gathered and to bless the food which we are about to partake together. All of this we ask "For God and Country." Amen.

FLAG DAY

O God, we thank Thee for the flag of our country and for all that our flag represents. We thank Thee for giving victory to brave and valiant men who have given their last measure of strength in order that it might wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave. We thank Thee for giving us the ideals of faith, and liberty, for preserving the sanctity of our homes, and freedom of worship. Conscious of our limitations and our deep unworthiness we pray that our flag may bind together the many elements in our own dear country, and foster in our ranks a one hundred percent Americanism. Make us who have served our country in time of war, willing at all times to uphold and defend our Constitution and our government. Grant that this union, of sovereign states, may remain forever an indissoluble union flying the same flag. Amen.

FOR THE BEREAVED

Father, we call upon You for all who mourn for 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 closer in fellowship with You, and grant them trust and confidence in Your care. 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 nor even in death can separate them from your love. 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 with thanks to love and joy 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 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 increasingly that as we draw nearer to you in faith and love, we draw nearer to all those dear to us who live in your heavenly kingdom. Grant also that we may be uplifted from our sorrow, so that we may more faithfully serve You our God and the more effectively honor the memory of our comrade departed. Amen.

FOR THE DECEASED

O loving Creator, You have showed 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 (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 to be with You forever. Amen.



O God of mercy, peace, and love, we remember before you in this moment our comrade and friend (name). We recall with gratitude and respect all that he stood for in this life. Help us to live in the companionship of his spirit, and to continue in the circles where we together moved as much of his purpose as we can. May we be kind to the friends and family he loved; devoted to the community in which he lived; loyal to the causes which he served.

Thus in our life may he still live on, to our great comfort, to the betterment of your creation, and to the furthering of Your most holy will. Amen.



Receive, O Father, the soul of our comrade (name) departed, and grant him an entrance into Your heavenly kingdom, where he may know the joy of everlasting life according to Your promise. Amen.

FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

O Lord God, some of our comrades and companions are prisoners of war. 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 day after day 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. Amen.

Most importantly, O Lord, we earnestly plead for their early release and safe return. And grant to us the wisdom and the restraint to treat such prisoners as we may now detain in the manner in which we hope and pray our comrades are being held in foreign lands. This is our urgent plea, O Lord. Hear us and help us, we humbly beseech You. Amen.

MEMORIAL PRAYERS

Almighty God, we are gathered here to honor our fallen dead. All who paid with their lives from one of the many devilish ways that man has contrived to maim or kill his fellow man; by bomb, bullet, shell, mine, fire, water, starvation, torture, disease. Some of them rest here; others at the ocean floor, others still are but the scattered ashes of plummeting human torches. We beseech Thee to care for all those who have closed their eyes thus, on the shadows and foggy twilight that makes up this world, and in Thy Mercy to enable them to open them on the full glory and warmth of Thee. For Thy Name's sake. Amen.



As with humble hearts we pay our reverent respect to our departed comrades. We recall their accomplishment and promise to keep the peace, for which they bought and paid for with their blood. Let us further consecrate our living to the real America, the real America worth fighting for. Through the many blessings Thou has given to us, grant that we may with compassion share with the widows and the orphans left to our care. Grant, O Lord, to each courage to trust Thee always, not in the things of this world, but in Thy might and power that Your ways may glorify Thy Name now and forevermore. In Thy Name we pray. Amen.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Commander: The chaplain will now conduct a memorial service.

Chaplain: Sergeant-at-arms allow no one to enter or leave this room until the conclusion of this ceremony. All present will remain silent and will refrain from smoking until the conclusion of this ceremony.

Chaplain: Let us stand and together recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain: Let us pray. O, Heavenly Father, we ask you to look kindly on us who stand here to remember all of our former members who we believe now rest with You in eternal peace. Grant to us the courage, that they have shown and shared with us, as we remember with love their deeds and friendship. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

Chaplain: Please be seated. We will now have our first reading from The Scriptures. It will be Psalm 23 read by _____.

Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul: he leads 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.

He prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anoints my head with oil; my cup runs 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.

Chaplain: Grant us, O, God, that we may know that death is not the final goal. Give us the grace that we may see our time fulfilled, the promised story; of life with You in all its glory.

(continued)

(Memorial service, continued)

Chaplain: The adjutant will now read the names of those members and friends who have gone to their eternal reward since last we met for this occasion.

Adjutant: (Reads list of names pausing after each)

Chaplain: Let us pray. O, great and loving God, we gather to praise your mercy by remembering those of our members and friends whom You have called to be with You. Give us then the strength and blessings to be strong in the face of trial, sincere in the memory of our loved ones and ever faithful in our love for You and our country. We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Chaplain: Our memorial service is now ended, and we have bid our farewell. There is sadness in the parting, but it should fill us with new hope, for one day we shall see our friends again. By God's mercy, we will be reunited in the joy of His kingdom. Let us comfort one another in that faith.

MEMORIAL OR HOLIDAY SPEECH

Use for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and related events

O Lord, we pause to remember this _____ Day the men and women of our Armed Forces, who have served this country at home and abroad during these _____ years of our nation's independence.

It is a great and sacred trust that brings us together, Lord, on this day set aside for remembrance. It is a remembrance worth making — a day of tribute to those who gave their lives in defense of all that America stands for. To memorialize the dead is to pay homage not only to the fallen, but also to their spirit of sacrifice and valor. The loss of these valiant men and women tears the very fabric of the family and the nation.

We pray for all veterans, those in good health and those wounded still in hospitals around the world fighting to regain their health. We pray for those still held a prisoner of war on foreign soil, or who are listed as missing in action. Truly all of these veterans are America's first and finest citizens — they've proven it.

We commend them to You, Heavenly Father, those who have left for us a priceless heritage which serves as part of the life and freedom we now enjoy.

We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Services in the funeral home

Commander: Death has entered our ranks, we members of The Sons of The American Legion Squadron _____ will now pay our respects to _____ who has been called to the final command.

Chaplain: Let us pray. Almighty Father, please accept into your divine care the soul of _____. We are strangers and sojourners as our fathers were journeying toward Your Kingdom. Grant us, O Father that the sorrow we feel today may bring us closer to you. Help us to understand that death is not the end but only the beginning of the glories of a new life with You; enjoying grace, love and peace in Your presence.

Until that time for us, when the day breaks and the shadows flee away, grant that we might live so that our lives may honor the memory of our members who have gone before us. Thus together may we come to that city which You have prepared for all who love You and Your Commandments. We make this prayer in Your most Holy Name. Amen.

Commander: This moment is sacred with the almost visible presence of the one who has gone before. Let us not enshroud his memory with mournful tears, but let us remember with solemn pride his service to God and country.

We know how futile mere words are to express our deep and abiding sympathy to those who are left behind. May they now feel he is at last at rest; encircled by never ending love and peace.

Footnotes: SAL honor guard, if available, should line aisle before ceremony. Colors should be placed at head and foot of casket. Members may file forward to pay last respects, salute and leave. After last member passes, Taps is played and honor guard salutes, turns and leaves.

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

(For the folding and presentation of the American flag to the next of kin)

As the flag is being folded:

This banner of love and devotion, now being folded, is a living memorial of the courageous thoughts of our comrade, the one you came here to honor this day.

The blue field represents the sky that overlooks our land and denotes the watchfulness of God the Eternal.

The red stripes tell us of the blood, sweat and tears that have been offered and conquered by our comrades' devotion to the responsible freedom of his country.

The white stripes boldly proclaim the peace that he helped to bring to our future generations.

This is his flag.

This is our spiritual heritage.

Receive it with the tears of our minds and the faith of our hearts. Amen.

George Washington's Prayer for the United States of America, 1793. Found on the Monument at Valley Forge.

Almighty, God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And, finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example on these things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee. Amen.

SQUADRON EVERLASTING

- Commander:** Sergeant-at-arms, allow no one to enter or leave this room until the conclusion of this ceremony. All present will remain silent and will refrain from smoking until the conclusion of this ceremony.
- Commander:** It is my sad duty to report that one (some) of our members has (have) been called from among us. He has (They have) gone to report to the Commander of all.
- Commander:** Before proceeding with other business, we will conduct the Squadron Everlasting.
- Commander:** This moment is holy with the almost visible presence of those who have gone before. We come to honor the memory of those who are now enrolled in that Great Spirit force, whose steps cause no sound, but in our memory, their souls go marching on, sustained by pride in our country. May this service deepen our respect for our departed friends.
- Commander:** The adjutant will read the name(s) of the member(s) who has (have) gone from us.
- Adjutant:** (The adjutant then reads the name or names)
- Commander:** (Gives three raps of the gavel — all stand)
Our chaplain will offer prayer.
- Chaplain:** Our Heavenly Father, in His everlasting wisdom has called these to membership of the Squadron Everlasting of the Sons of The American Legion. May He in His ever-loving mercy grant them eternal rest and peace. Amen.
- Commander:** We will render a silent salute to our departed comrades. Hand salute. (Pause) “Two”.
- Commander:** This concludes our Squadron Everlasting, we will continue with business.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



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