

Order of Service – Memorial with Honor Guard

Opening -- Good morning / afternoon Family and Friends of _____ I am Chaplain _____ and I welcome you here today on behalf of the family of _____.

Scripture Reading (your choice or use the following if you like)

The scripture reading will be from the Gospel of John

John 14 ---- I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; ^[a] believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going." ^[b] 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Today we remember _____ who has gone to be with the Lord but remains in our hearts. He / she has been to you a friend, father / mother, husband / wife, brother / sister, grand parent . . . etc. Today we both mourn his / her passing but also rejoice that he / she is now in Heaven with you O Lord.

Eulogy – Special Note: family and friends may want to say something about the deceased. This makes the time more meaningful for everyone and I encourage them to have at least one person say something, share a story or a reading that was meaningful to the deceased. I give them the opportunity to come up to the podium and microphone if there is one to speak but sometimes, they want to just stand in their place to share. I don't limit the number of people because they know the deceased and I do not.

Invite speakers to come forward to share stories:

At this time I invite anyone who would like to share a remembrance about _____ to come to the podium one at a time to share with the congregation.

Special Note: If no one has the desire to come up you will need to have at least the following:

Full name, date of birth, date of death, special things they did with their life, time and dates for their contributions to the Air Force, their job - you can get all this information from a family member. Don't be afraid to ask for as much as you can so that you have some substance to share.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23 (or other scripture as the family or you choose – you can say something here too if you want about what the scripture means for us at the time of a loved one's death)

Music (The family may want a special song sung or played and this is the time to do that)

A brief meditation from the scriptures or you may use the following:

Flying High – Heavenward! (Written by Ch, Maj Linda R. Olson copy write 2007)

We stand on the earth and watch as the plane lifts higher and higher from the ground --- it races toward the heavens . . . and if our eyes are good we can see that plane fly to heights greater than 30 thousand feet. But there comes a point where it is gone --- far into the heavens --- not to be seen by our eyes --- but it is just the same plane it was when it left our sight and when last we heard the engines roar. It is not gone – it still flies – just not within our vision --- another plane aloft as high would see it come --- another one would note its presence and be glad for the visitor so high above the earth.

Leaving this life is like that --- no longer visible to us but surely visible to God --- in the vast heavens --- those who have gone before us await our arrival --- ready as we fly upward to greet us and welcome us home.

Prayer at the Graveside.

Pray as the spirit dictates.

PRAYER to End the Service

Father as we remember _____ today, tenderly and with all our hearts we say farewell to him/ her. He / She has entered your world and we know that you have met him / her upon his / her arrival.

The passing of years will not take away the space for him / her that each person who loves him / her keeps in their hearts but knowing your promise of welcome for the true citizens of heaven assures us that _____ is at home with you.

Help all of us to continue to love each other and to support each other in this difficult time.
Amen.

Ladies and Gentlemen please prepare for the rendering of military honors

MILITARY HONORS --- Here the Honor Guard takes over --- they will help you know what to do. If you are inside your hat remains off – if you are outside you will need to have your hat on for salutes but your hat should not be on when you are leading the worship part of the ceremony – it only goes on for the military part. Ask the Honor Guard to train you on when to salute. I think I've listed this in the correct order but it may not be so you can ask the Honor Guard.

Folding the Flag
Firing Line Salute
Taps
Presentation of the Flag

Benediction

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Pray as the spirit dictates.

Ladies and Gentlemen this ends the formal time of remembering _____.
Please offer your condolences to the family and on their behalf, I thank you for joining them
today.