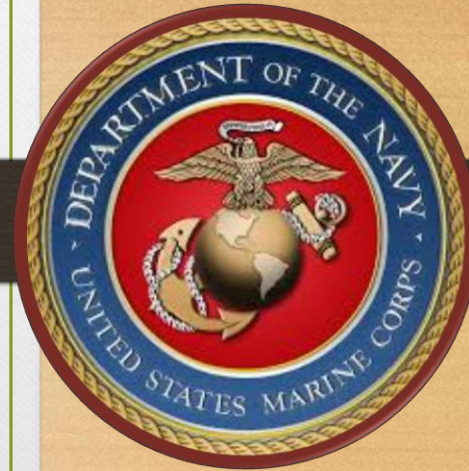


Memorial Service

PFC

By Chaplain James Hummel
LT, CHC, USN





A Marine's Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all
and whose love never fails,
make me aware of Thy presence
and obedient to Thy will.
Keep me true to my best self,
guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed
and helping me to live so that
I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones
and Thee without shame or fear.

Protect my family.
Give me the will to do the work of a Marine
and to accept my share of responsibilities
with vigor and enthusiasm.
Grant me the courage to be proficient
in my daily performance.
Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors
and to the duties my country
and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me.
Make me considerate of those
committed to my leadership.
Help me to wear my uniform with dignity,
and let it remind me daily of the
traditions which I must uphold.
If I am inclined to doubt; steady my faith;
if I am tempted, make me strong to resist;
if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.
Guide me with the light of truth
and grant me wisdom by which I may understand
the answer to my prayer. Amen.



Scriptures:

- Psalm 103
 - 14 For He knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.
 - 15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.
 - 16 For the wind passeth over it and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.
 - 17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them...
 - To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.
 - 19 The Lord had prepared his throne in the Heavens...

Scriptures:

- John 3: 16-17
 - 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 - 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be Saved.

Scriptures:

- Psalm 23:
 - 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 - 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside still waters.
 - 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
 - 4 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...
 - 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Memorial Invocation:

Almighty God,

We humbly bow our heads & our hearts before Thee at this time as we mourn together for the loss of PFC We miss having him here among our ranks. We miss his camaraderie & confident determination to help us work together toward common goals. We feel a great loss of observing his future growth here among us in the years ahead, but we also feel a profound gratitude unto Thee for Thy loving watchful care. We acknowledge Thy eternal omniscience & ask Thee for Thy Spirit of Understanding to endure here, for Thy Tender yet Determined Strength to guide us forward & for thy Holy Peace to speak comfort to our souls and to guide us as we remember & honor PFC ... at this time.

In Thy Holy Name We Pray! Amen.

Memorial Benediction:

Dear God,

We Sincerely Thank Thee with humble hearts that we've had this time to join together today to honor & remember PFC We are grateful for the time we've had with him, & we look forward to meeting him again in Thy Hallowed Halls on High. We ask Thee to be with each & every soul here today & ask Thee to guide us individually & collectively as we continue to press forward graciously in our lives. Please help us to remember the feelings of this day and to allow those memories to guide us each to be a little more mindful of the gift of time that we have each been given. Please help us to remember our fallen brother, for his goodness, for his determination, and for his example. Please allow his memory to help us each of us strive to do a little better in our lives each and every day that we may honor his sacrifice and bring glory to Thy name.

This we pray in Thy Sacred and Eternal name,
Amen.

Pastoral Reflection:

- As we gather together today, I can't help but take it all in. Life seems at times to come and go like the desert blossoms that surround us right now. In ways, one day new life is here and exciting much like seeing these blossoms bring new life to a seemingly empty desert. Life rarely stays the same for long though and it transitions to a new phase. Much like the desert blossoms that come and go, this life is constantly transitioning. It is through these transitions that we learn powerful things about ourselves, about those we love and about the world in which we live.
- I love those scriptures that were just read to us a little bit ago. They remind me that with all these changes there is a deeper schedule which follows as part of a greater master plan. Even more than that though, they remind me that we are truly never alone in both the times of wonder and the times of grief in life. For PFC ..., in many ways he was just beginning his life. At just 19 years old, he was a young adult, and a new Marine, but a Marine all the same. He had just recently left home and embarked on a journey to discover a new phase of life. As he began this new chapter in his book, his parents sent him with a powerful message. The message they sent with him was that he would never truly be alone. He had their love with him and they wanted him to know that they were mindful unto prayer for him. Even more than that though they wanted him to know that God was with him and mindful of him. It is my belief that PFC was aware of that love and power that followed with him, and he showed it in the way he lived his life. As I've spoken to those who knew him, a common thread seemed to coalesce. That thread was the understanding of him as one who understood life and how those around him fit into the master plan of it all. Everyone I spoke to described him as someone who was relatively reserved, but knew when and how to speak to help others find their way. Multiple people told me of times where PFC had pulled them aside to let them know he understood their struggles and that he knew together they could find a way to work through those challenges.
- In many ways, I think it's that message that he would have me share now; that we're never truly alone and that where hearts and minds remain open, there will always be a way we can work through it all together. It is my belief that while PFC is no longer here among us in physical form, his spirit is not far away. I believe that as one who has given his all and conquered life, he is cheering us on and challenging us to press forward and to give our very best at all we do. It is my observation and testimony, that as we do so, we will find that we are truly never left to face these challenges alone, and that the Concourses of Heaven, now joined by PFC, cheer us on to give our very best through it all.
- While we mourn his loss, let us work together to not only make it through this time, but to also grow in new and meaningful ways, as we remember PFC and his example.

Pastoral Reflection bullets:

- Reflect on Atmosphere; notice the **Desert Blossoms** on a seemingly **plain canvas of the Desert**;
 - Reflect on PFC ... example as **sharing with us the beauty and wonder of his life**
 - Reflect on the **scriptures about how life follows a greater master plan** of seasons and change **lead to growth/life informed understanding**.
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- Reflect on how **we are truly never alone** in through all the changes, both seemingly good and not so good
 - At just 19 years old had just recently left home and embarked on **a journey to discover a new phase of his life**.
 - As he did, his **Parents shared a Message with him that he would never truly be alone**. He had **their love with him** and they wanted him to know **that they were mindful unto prayer for him**. They wanted him to know that **God was with him and mindful of him**.
 - Reflect on how **Shared & Exemplified that Message** for all who knew him.
 - Reflect on how he showed he **understood others' struggles** and **worked with them to find solutions**.
 - Message he would have me share now: **that we're never truly alone and that where hearts and minds remain open, there will always be a way we can work through it all together with Heavenly Help**.
 - It is my belief that **while ...is no longer here among us in Physical Form, his Spirit is not far away**. I believe that **as one who has given his all and conquered life, he is cheering us on and challenging us to press forward and to give our very best at all we do**.
 - While **we mourn his loss**, let us **work together to grow in new and meaningful ways**, as we rememberand his example and the lessons he continues to share with us, in his own wonderful way.