

RANK FIRST LAST -

AT THE GRAVESIDE (AFTER CHAPEL SERVICE)

WELCOME TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, where for over **150** years our Nation has honored her fallen warriors and patriots. These hallowed grounds are a lasting memorial to the men and women who have faithfully served our nation. There are over **400,000** such Americans buried here. As you look out upon the rows of headstones, each stone a brick in the foundation of freedom upon which we stand today, I encourage you to remember this: No place in Arlington National Cemetery can be purchased; each must be earned through honorable service.

LET US PRAY AS WE COMMIT FIRST TO REST:

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our *brother*, **FIRST LAST** and we commit *his body* to *the ground* – earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him* and keep *him*. The Lord make his face shine on *him* and be gracious to *him*. The Lord look upon *him* with favor and give *him* peace. Amen.

For *his* honorable service in the United States Army to include service in [*list combat locations*], **RANK LAST** received military awards and decorations to include

[*list significant awards; e.g., . . .*]

The Silver Star, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal. [*etc. . . .*]

For our comrade in arms, **RANK FIRST LAST**, our Nation bestows military honors.

In life *he* honored the flag; now the flag will honor *him*.

[*Funeral detail renders military honors*]

AT THE CHAPEL

Ladies and Gentlemen please stand and face the rear of the chapel.

[*wait for casket*] [*say before procession*]

For I am convinced, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(*Romans 8:38-39*)

[*lead procession with hymn*]

PROCESSIONAL. *Hymn.*

Please be seated.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am Chaplain _____, and it is my honor to minister to your family as we lay to rest your beloved, our comrade in arms, **RANK FIRST LAST**

WELCOME TO THE OLD POST CHAPEL AT FORT MYER;

Since the dedication of this chapel in April 1935

by then MAJ George S. Patton, Jr.,

nearly every American President,

and persons of influence from around the world,

have attended services here,

have sat in the seats where you are now seated,

and have paid tribute to our nation's heroes.

There is no more fitting place

to honor the memory of a Soldier

than within the walls of this Chapel

and among the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

LET US BEGIN OUR SERVICE IN PRAYER:

Father in Heaven, Together, we express gratitude for your presence in all seasons of life, and thank you for what we know to be true, that our Savior lives. He is our hope and our salvation.

We ask for the comfort of your Spirit as we remember our *brother* **FIRST**. We thank you for giving *him* to us to know and to love as a companion in this life.

Help us celebrate a Soldier, and the amazing gift of life.

And give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

We begin this service, realizing well the holiness of this moment. An inspiring setting, inspiring music, all for an inspiring man.

The word of God soberly reminds us: “For our days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so we flourish. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, and its place acknowledges it no longer.”

(Psalm 103:15-16)

While our lives are but a brief moment, the word of God stands forever. The prophet Job proclaimed, “I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.”

And Isaiah prophesied, “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.”

(Job 19:25; Isaiah 25:8).

The Lord himself declared, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

(John 11:25)

Today you remember **FIRST** and all he has been. Your presence here says more than my words can. Thank you for being here.

Eulogy/Remarks from Family Member: [optional]

Additional Readings: [optional]

Let us now turn our thoughts to the Lord, as we listen to

HYMN. *Hymn.*

A reading from the 23rd PSALM:

- 1 “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the 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.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, in Matthew Chapter 5:

“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” *(Matt. 5:1-10,12)*

Blessed are they that mourn? This saying from Sermon on the Mount has brought comfort to God's people for many ages. What does it mean to be blessed when you mourn or grieve? I believe that a part of mourning is to remember. **FIRST** is remembered as a . . . *[short tribute to deceased]* . . .

Perhaps there is much to remember about **FIRST**, but above all remember that he is loved by God.

“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” (*John 3:16*).

To mourn is to remember your loved one. Yet to be blessed in your mourning don't only remember him, but also our Lord's promises to him and to you. The Lord's promise to him and to you is the hope of salvation and the promised resurrection. Our Gospel lesson closes with, “Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven.”

The reality of the Resurrection of Christ overwhelms our grief with hope. He has taken upon Himself all our infirmities, pains, and the injustices we have suffered, and has “rise[n] from the dead, with healing in his wings.” He can make us whole. He “shall wipe away all tears from [our] eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.” **FIRST** can be “made perfect through Jesus, who wrought out this perfect atonement.” “Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Now, would you please join me in the Lord's Prayer. As our Savior has taught us, we pray:

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.

FAREWELL

I genuinely hope that our time together in this chapel has honored our Lord and your loved one.

As we soon continue our time together in the Cemetery, and as you pass rows and rows of many others who have served,

May you be steadfast in the Lord,
And may “the peace of God, which surpasses all understating,
Guard your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:7)

Would you please rise for the benediction?

Almighty God, Father of Mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

RECESSIONAL. *Hymn.*

[lead recession with hymn]