

PFC XXXX

Memorial Ceremony Script

T = Seating of the official party and conclusion of the prelude

T-15 Prelude music begins

T-10 Doors will be closed to the Sanctuary

T-5 **CH Schlecht** – “Ladies and gentlemen, the ceremony will begin in five minutes. Please turn-off all phones and electronics at this time.”

T-3 **Entrance of official party.** Ushers will walk AA6/AA9 and the families to their seats. The ceremony begins once the family is seated.

T **CH Schlecht** – “Good Afternoon ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment Command Team, I welcome you to today’s Memorial Ceremony in honor of the life and service of PFC xxxx xxxx.”

“Please stand for the invocation.”

T+1 **CH Schlecht** gives the **INVOCATON**.

I invite you to pray with me according to the dictates of your own conscience:

Heavenly Father,

This is tough day. We come here, grieving the loss of our dear brother, Private xxxx xxxx. We thank Thee, however, that we are an Army family, and that we have each other to grieve with and support. We thank Thee, especially that today, xxxx’s family could join us from xxxx. Help them to feel our love and support for them. Be with us today and always that we may give honor to this man, and leave here better than when we walked in. Grant us the peace that "surpasses all understanding," is my prayer, in His name

...Amen. **You may be seated.**”

[When CH Schlecht is seated, CPT xxxx moves to the podium.]

T+2 **Commander’s Comments** – CPT xxxx

MG xxxx, CSM xxxx, COL xxxx, CSM xxxx, COL xxxx, CSM xxxx, LTC xxxx, CSM xxxx, Family and Friends of Loyalty and xxx Forward Support Company. Thank you for attending this memorial service for PFC xxxx xxxx.

Comments Rendered.

[When CPT Stephens is seated, SGT xxxx moves to the podium]

SGT xxxx Comments

T+6 Soldier's Tribute – SGT xxxx

Comments:

[When SGT xxxx is seated, SGT xxxx moves to the podium]

T+15 Sacred Reading – SGT xxxx

“Psalm 23.

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Yea, 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.

⁵Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

[As the scripture reader says “forever” the All American Chorus enters from stage right and posts on stage “right center”]

T+16 All American Chorus Vocalist – “Amazing Grace”

[After the Special Music is complete, the All American Chorus exits stage right and CH Schlecht steps to the podium]

T+19 **Memorial Meditation** – CH Schlecht

Leaders, friends, family, brothers and sisters. As we briefly reflect on the life of Private First Class xxxx xxxx, it is evident that his was one of strength and potential. He was in his element within the Army, and those around him seemed to take quickly to his affable Spirit.

I never met xxxx—the day of his death was also my first day in the battalion. But since then I have had opportunity to meet with his friends and family and feel a closeness to him that otherwise I likely would not have been afforded. But, like many of you, I see so much of myself in this man! We could have easily been peers. He experienced the *wonder* that is Basic Training in the very same platoon, in the very same company that I was in as a part of xxxx xxxx Fort Jackson SC ten years apart from each other.

Upon his successful graduation, xxx moved to AIT where he continued to blossom. SFC xxxx, xxxx's Platoon SGT, reflected: "He was by far the best I ever had come through Bravo Company at Fort Lee...He would contact me about virtually everything and I was more than overjoyed to give him my time and guidance when he needed it. He did so many great things for other soldiers always placing others before himself. What made him a great soldier is the fact that he would not only share someone's struggle, but completely shoulder it himself." These comments show that xxxx epitomized the Army values of respect and selfless service.

But these comments also give me thought. What is the cost of "completely shouldering [a burden] himself?" xxxx's picture depicts him carrying his chute on his back, double-timing off the drop zone at airborne school. But were there other weights, unforeseen by even those closest to him, that he shouldered himself? Add these questions to a host of others that you and others may have and we get a sense of the empty holes that are filled only with the grief of his loss.

Though part of us has died with xxxx, his legacy can and must live on through us. Dedicating your next jump to him is one way you can remember him. For those with a little bit more aspiration, Going through the selection process for Special Forces—something that xxxx was preparing for—is another. Keeping his memory alive and sharing with each other—to include his family—will help his memory to never fade.

Each of us in uniform raised our arm to the square in defense of the Constitution. We volunteered ourselves as an ultimate sacrifice should the need arise for our country. Yet, sometimes LIVING for something can be the harder challenge. We can live for xxxx. We can also live the Army values without shouldering the burden ourselves. The first of

these, as you know, is loyalty. That should mean something to those within this battalion. Since 1917, our designation has maintained itself through many battles from World War I to present, earning us the honorable nickname of “Loyalty.” And our success in these battles has been pivotally based upon our ability to work together. Likewise, in our personal battles, we can and should maintain our loyalty:

- Loyalty to a Higher Being or cause that is outside of ourselves
- Loyalty to our families to whom we owe our upbringing
- Loyalty to our country of which we serve
- And Loyalty to each other that helps us to make sense of it all

Lastly, If you are struggling in life to remain loyal and balanced to yourself, I implore you to utilize healthy self-care and coping practices and the resources so amply available to you. xxxx is no longer here, so he can't do it for you, but I believe he would want you to. These words I leave with you, in tribute of Private First Class xxxx xxxx—dear brother, stay Airborne, All the way; stay Loyalty every day, until we meet.

“Please stand for the benediction and remain standing for the rendering of honors.”

Let us again unite our voices, thoughts and prayers accordingly. God in Heaven, we thank thee for this service that taken place thus far. We thank thee for the stalwart example of xxxx, a son, a soldier, a paratrooper, a brother. Be with us as we mourn his loss. Please, be with his family, help them to make sense of this all. Grant them understanding and help them to find strength to help others through their loss. We look forward to the day when we shall see our brother again. We acknowledge Thy Plan, and implore your Amazing Graze, upon xxxx and upon us. Though we "walk through the valley of the shadow of death," help us to "fear no evil," for truly we will all die. Therefore, help us to find meaning and strength to LIVE our lives to the fullest, I pray, in His holy name, **“Amen”**

[During the prayer, the side usher/signaler opens the right-side doors]

[ISG xxxx moves into the aisle from assigned seat. At the cue “Amen”, he conducts the Last Roll Call]

T+23

Last Roll Call – 1SG xxxx

“Private First Class ??”. (?? replies, “Here First Sergeant.”)

“Specialist ??”. (?? replies, “Here First Sergeant.”)

“Private First Class xxxx”..... (there is silence.)

After three seconds of silence, the name is called again:

“Private First Class xxxx xxxx”..... (Again there is silence.)

After three seconds of silence, the **full name** is called as follows:

“Private First Class xxxx xxxx xxxx” (Again, there is silence.)

[After the Last Roll Call the Firing Party NCOIC will receive the signal to fire from the Firing Party Signaler and give the firing commands to fire the volleys (a pause of four seconds is appropriate after the third calling of the deceased’s name).]

T+25 Firing of Volleys and Playing of Taps (Bugler)

[At the command “PRESENT ARMS” the Bugler plays Taps.]

Bugler plays Taps

[After Taps is complete, the ushers move up the center aisle and direct the Division Command Team to render individual honors, followed by the Family, Official Party, and all others as directed by the ushers. CH Schlecht remains in place.]

List of order for rendering honors:

- 1. Division Command Teams (General Officers)*
- 2. Family members of Fallen Trooper followed by CAO/CNO*
- 3. Official Party/First Sergeant (ISG will join Commander at base of memorial display via center aisle of chapel after Final Roll call). Command Team to coordinate timing. Official Party will render honors after the Commander and ISG.*
- 4. Sponsoring Brigade Command Team*
- 5. Sponsoring Battalion Command Team*
- - - Chaplain announces closure of ceremony; release attendees- - - -*
- 6. Battalion Chaplain*
- *** Ushers prevent movement to Memorial until Battalion Chaplain renders honors ****
- 7. Division Chaplain*
- 8. Brigade Command Teams in attendance*
- 9. Battalion Command Teams in attendance*

T+29 Ceremony Conclusion – CH Schlecht

“On behalf of the Soldiers of xxx xxxx xxxx Company and the xxxx Battalion, I express gratitude for all who came out today to remember and honor PFC xxxx. Thank you for coming. At this time, the ushers will direct all who wish to render individual honors. All others may exit quietly to the rear of the chapel using the side aisles. Please remain respectful to those wishing to render honors by maintaining an atmosphere of reverence.”

[CH Schlecht renders individual honors and departs]

T+30 Postlude Music Begins *[Division Band Pianist begins playing after CH Schlecht renders honors and departs]*

[Ushers direct 4 Soldiers at a time to the memorial display to render honors]