

Memorial Ceremony

On behalf of the family of_____, I would like to welcome you today to the Northern Lights Chapel for the memorial service of_____.

(INVOCATION)

(HYMN) Amazing Grace

(SCRIPTURE) Psalm 23

(REMARKS)

Today we honor the memory and celebrate the life of_____ a soldier, Marine, airman, father, son, friend, and coworker.

About a month ago _____daughter in-law called and asked if they could use the NLC for a memorial service. She lovingly explained that her father-in law was sick, and she did not really know how much time he had left. However, when the time was right, she would get in touch with me. Curious, I asked her what branch of the military her father in-law represented, I came to learn that he served in the Marine Corps, 4 years; the Army, and 17 years in the Air force as an airman. _____was quoted as saying that if he could get through the Marine Corps, then he could take anything in life. He did get through the Marine Corps, and he rendered to his nation 23 years of faithful and dedicated service. He retired in 1995 to work on Eilsen, and later at Fort Wainwright Alaska in public works.

From his military record let me share with you an idea of his service to his country: AF Achievement Medal 2/Two Devices; AF Commendation Medal; National defense service medal/w one device; AF Longevity Service Award; Education Ribbon W/One Device; AF Training RBN; AF Overseas Long Tour RBN; Humanitarian Service Medal; AF Outstanding Unit Award W/Three Devices; AF Good Conduct Medal W/Four Devices; Communication-

Electronic Equipment Senior Maintenance Badge. Served from 2 Aug 1990 to 30 Jun 1995 in Support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. And probably his favorite badge - Sharpshooter. He received that in the Marine Corps. So, we do honor today a soldier and an Airman that served his country faithfully during times of war and during times of peace.

When someone we love dies, there are usually two kinds of comfort available. One lies in the condolence and love of family and friends and the other, in the knowledge that there is something after this life. Let me talk about the first: The Love of Family and Friends, and what manner of man was_____.

I didn't have the opportunity to know_____, but in the last few days, through his wife, and family, and friends they have given me an impression or picture of _____ the husband, father, grandfather, son, and friend. Let me give you a snapshot of that impression.

_____loved his wife of thirty years. He wasn't afraid of public displays of affection.

However, I couldn't help but feel, his wife's love for her husband, and the deep sadness that will come because of their separation. He was a good provider and a great friend.

When I asked his children about their Dad, and what he would say to them. It would be that they should know that he is with them, and though on the other side, to know that they have a guardian angel watching out over them. _____his wife, commented that_____, her son, was fiercely devoted to her during her husband's sickness.

So, because of this picture, I could feel the love for a father, a husband, a grandpa, a best friend, and a son.

And yes, there was humor in the fish stories, and yes there is a 30-pound trout that greets you and welcomes you as you enter into their home.

Perhaps, the poem *Miss Me - But Let Me Go* with the picture of _____ on the cover of the bulletin in a boat fishing expresses the nature of the Man, and what he would want to tell his family and friends today, if he were here. And I quote,

When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me, I want

no rites in a gloom filled room. Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little - but not too long and not with your head bowed low.

Remember the love that we once shared, Miss Me - but Let Me Go.

For this is a journey that we all must take, and each must go alone. It's

all a part of the Master's plan, a step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart, go to the friends we know

and bury your sorrows in doing good deeds. Miss Me - but Let Me Go.

(Author: Christina Georgina Rossetti)

All of us here in this chapel today, knew _____ in different ways. For some he was a friend, a husband, a father, a son. Some here were family, others worked with _____ on a daily basis. We have heard from his family and have shared sacred memories from friends and loved ones, and we have laughed as we reminisced. All of us have a memory or a feeling today about _____.

However, the sorrow that we taste with the loss of a loved one or friend is real. Whenever someone close to us dies, we all feel it. And we all ask the hard question “why” - “Why did this happen to someone I loved?” - “Why did this happen to an individual who was so dependable?” or to someone loved by so many.

There is a scripture from the Old Testament that gives me comfort in times of sadness or

sorrow. It talks about a time and place for all things.

In Ecclesiastes it 3:1-9 - says, “To every good thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the sun: A time to be born, and a time to die, ... A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to rend, and a time to sew, a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. And if I could take some literary license with the scriptures, I would add for_____and a time to fish. And then the scripture from Ecclesiastes ends with “God maketh from the beginning to the end.” What this is saying is that God is aware of all things, and at this moment of_____ family and friends.

I believe that there is a purpose for this life and that there is something after this life. In talking to _____, daughter, I know that_____believed this also.

In the New Testament, it says John 14: 1-3,

“In my Father’s house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may also be.”

There is a favorite story of mine that explains the feelings of these scriptures. Let me share it with you. I think_____would approve of it. It has to do with a ship on water.

In a beautiful blue lagoon on a clear day, a ship gets ready to sail.

On the outside it looks like it is able, but below deck you can see that the days and months have taken its toll. As it spreads its brilliant white canvass you notice that they are a bit tattered; however, it catches the morning breeze and sails out to open water.

We watch as it glides away through the deep cold blue waters and gradually see the ship grow smaller and smaller as it nears the horizon.

Finally, where the sea and sky meet, the ship slips quietly from sight; and someone near says. "There, he goes!"

Gone where? Gone from sight-that is all. He is still at large, in mast and hull and sail, still just as able to bear his load. And we can be sure that, just as we say, "There he is gone!"

Others are saying, on a distant shore: family, and friends, "Look here, He comes!"

May we honor this day the memory and celebrate the life of _____, and believe that one-day we will, indeed, meet again. In the name of Jesus Christ - Amen.

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

Military Honors.

Presentation of the Flag

Firing of Volleys

Taps

Benediction

This concludes the memorial service. May God be with you, and may you go in peace.

Will the ushers please come forth and escort the family members and friends from the chapel.

If you would like you can greet the family and extend condolence in the fellowship hall.

Conclusion