

Invocations

Dear Lord, as we gather for this meeting, give us the use of your gift of peace and understanding that we may approach the matters we must handle with sincere and just hearts. May you watch over and guide our tongues that we may not hurt our friends with whom we work for the betterment of our communities and our country. Keep us always true to the principles on which the AMVETS are founded. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Almighty God, creator of all that has been, that is, and is still to come, be with us we pray, as we meet as comrades and friends of the AMVETS. Be with us as we meet our commitments as members of this great organization. Guide our hearts and our minds as we work together for you, our God, and our country. Amen.

Grant us, oh God, to know that which is worth knowing, to love that which is worth loving, to do that which pleases thee most. Increase us in wisdom and strengthen us from our weakness that we may work for thy glory. Amen.



Benedictions

Be gracious unto us, O God, and bless us. As we depart from this place stretch forth thy protection and guard our country that we being devoted to thy service, may ever be defended by thy power. Amen.

Let us pause this moment that each of us, in the faith of his own heart, may hallow the memory of those, our fallen comrades, who made the supreme sacrifice, and gave their lives on the altar of patriotism to a great and grateful America." **(Pause 30 seconds.)**

"God of all consolation and all mercy, may those comrades ever sleep in the bosom of Thy love. And do Thou bless us, our loved ones, our comrades, and our fellow man everywhere, now and evermore. Amen.

As we depart one from the other, may God bless us and keep us. Into his gracious protection we commit ourselves. May he be near us to defend us, with us to refresh us, around us to preserve us, before us to guide us, behind us to justify us, and above us to bless us and keep us from all evil. Amen.

AMVETS Chaplain's Library 2022

AMVETS

[American Veterans]



Chaplain's Pocket Guide, Prayers and Funeral

(The AMVETS Official Prayer)

Almighty God, the Father and Guide of our great nation, we beseech Thee to give us the light and strength faithfully to uphold and defend our constitution, to safeguard our principles of liberty and justice, to promote the cause of peace throughout the world, and to strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual assistance among our fellow citizens.
Amen



Funeral

Commander: Another veteran has been called to the High Command, and has gone to report to the Commander of all of us.

Chaplain: Let us pray. Eternal God, Supreme Commander of us all, Lord of the far-flung battle line to whom the ranks of life report, we bow before You with reverent hearts and in sublime faith, knowing You lead us on in death as You have in life. For again You have ordered a veteran to that realm in the West, beyond the twilight and the evening star, where beauty, valor, and goodness dwell forever with the un-numbered multitude. Mindful of service nobly done You have called **(name of deceased)** to everlasting rest. You have sealed (his/her) lips. You have called our comrade to Eternal Peace, to the land of silent mystery. Hear now the sorrows of those who mourn. Touch their tired hearts, protect them with your holy care. Amen.

A short eulogy may be given by someone who knew our friend well.

Commander: This moment is sacred with the almost visible presence of the one

who has gone before. We come to honor the memory of one who offered life and services for God and Country; one who has now enrolled in that great spirit army, whose footfalls cause no sound, but in our memory their soul goes marching on. Proudly we remember their service in time of war, because of them our lives are free and our nation lives. We realize how futile are mere words to express our deep and abiding sympathy in your loss. May you feel our comrade is at rest and in endless peace.

Chaplain: Lord, we entrust our (brother/sister) to your mercy. You loved (him/her) greatly in this life, now (he/she) is freed from all its cares, give (him/her) happiness and peace forever. May (his/her) soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

All AMVETS present at the funeral service shall pass the casket and salute the deceased veteran.



**Look like a Chaplain - Act like a Chaplain
- and Be a Chaplain.**

Procedure at the Cemetery

Chaplain: For as much as God hath taken out of the world the soul of our departed comrade we therefore commit (him/her) back to the ground to sleep and (his/her) soul to endless peace to rest. The dust returneth to earth as it was and the spirit returneth unto God who gave it.

Two pallbearers remove the Flag from the casket, fold it in the traditional manner, and hand it to the Chaplain who will give the Flag to the nearest of kin.

Commander: (as the flag is being folded) This banner of love and devotion now being folded, is a living memorial of the courageous thoughts of our comrade, the one you came to honor today. The blue field represents the sky that overlooks our land and denotes the watchfulness of God. The red stripes tell us of the blood, sweat, and tears that have been offered and conquered by our comrade's devotion to the responsible freedom of his country. The white stripes boldly proclaim the peace that he helped to bring to our future generations. This is (his/her) flag; this is our Spiritual Heritage. Receive it with the tears of our minds and the faith of our hearts. Amen.

**Firing squad fires three volleys
- "Present Arms" -
bugler plays Taps.**