



# **Chaplain Services and Conducting A Memorial Service**

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Department of Texas Chaplain

# Agenda



- Purpose of a Chaplain
- Qualifications of the Chaplain
- The Work of the Chaplain
- What the Chaplain Provides
- Where to Begin
- When a Crisis happens

# Purpose of a Chaplain



- The Office of Chaplains is not just to provide a “religious” officer to the organization to offer prayers at the meetings.
  - To help individuals grow in their relationship with God.
  - To help individuals grow in their relationship to one another and become a true comrade to one another.
  - To serve as a reminder of the transcendent in life.
  - To develop an environment with which comrades are encourage in their personal and collective moral and spiritual growth.
  - To remind all Americans that God is the source of all rights and privileges

# Qualifications of the Chaplain



- The qualifications for the VFW are not academic or ecclesiastical. A Chaplain candidate is not required to be a “professional” clergy person. The qualifications are simple, yet important.
  - A willingness to serve the office.
  - A sense of spiritual maturity.
  - Committed to providing a Chaplain’s ministry.
  - A caring individual.
  - A desire to help others.
  - The ability to keep things confidential.
  - Willing to be neutral and objective when settling disputes.

# The Work of the Chaplain



- The Chaplain exists to minister to Veterans and their families.
  - First, the Chaplain nurtures the living.
  - Secondly, the Chaplain cares for the dying.
  - Last of all, the Chaplain honors the dead.

# What the Chaplain Provides



## The Chaplain Provides:

- Spiritual Guidance
- Assistance in Emergency Situations.
- Conducting/Assisting at Funerals/Memorial
- Services
- Counseling
- Visitation
- Attending Functions

# Where to Begin



- It is the responsibility of the Post/District Chaplain to get to know the Members if he or she is truly going to serve those who served.
- Make an effort to get to know your members
- Be friendly and take the initiative to introduce yourself to those who make not know you.
- Send cards out to your Comrades
- Call them – a buddy check is a great way to make sure they are okay

# When a Crisis happens



A – Achieve Contact

B – Boil down the situation

C – Cope Actively



# Memorial Services

# Types of Memorial Services



- Draping of the Charter
- Memorial Service
- Burial Service
- Memorial Day
- Honor Guards

# But First...

## Three “R’s” of a Memorial Service



- **Remembrance**

- The world will little note, nor long remember what we say, but it can never forget what they did here, to remember is to commemorate.

- **Recognition**

- Words sometimes taken for granted unless they are defended.” By recognizing those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield, the nation acknowledges them for their love of God and country.

- **Respect**

- Never fail to respect the war dead for their immense sacrifices.

# Draping the Charter



- Page 112 in Ritual

- IAW the 62<sup>nd</sup> VFW National Convention, Resolution 183, mandate provides that—"charters should be draped for 30 days for all deceased comrades."
- Once learned of a Comrade's death a motion from the floor is made to drape the charter or the Commander requests ceremony. Once seconded and passed The commander requests the OOD drape the charter.

## **After 30 days:**

- After the 30 days an Undraping of the Charter ceremony may be performed: After motion from floor, or Commander requests ceremony:

# Memorial Service



- Page 74 in Ritual
  - In applying to Departments or Posts "Commander-in-Chief" refers to "Commander" and "Chief of Staff" refers to "officer of the day," etc.
- Roll Call of Posts
  - Post Commander states name, service and date of death.
- Officer of the day will place items on the memorial as read by the appropriate official. Pause enough to allow a ceremonial salute for each item.

# Burial Service



- Page 106 in Ritual
  - Unless the deceased veteran was an active member of the VFW the symbolic flower part of the service, paragraphs numbered 1 to 4, inclusive, page 107, will not be used.
- Every Post should have on hand at all times copies of the VFW memorial song, "Sleep, Soldier Boy," or an appropriate song for use at all funerals and on all commemorative occasions.
- When services are held elsewhere than at the grave (without burial) formations will be maintained as nearly as possible to those of the foregoing burial ritual, and the Commander shall Return to TOC 111 omit the committal service beginning with the words "The Master saith."
- A short, appropriate address should be given by the Chaplain followed by the benediction, or an assisting minister may give this address and benediction.

# Memorial Day



- Page 79 in Ritual
- For Post holding Memorial Day ceremonial at veteran's grave or monument. The ceremony may follow a brief address by Commander or other speaker, commemorating veteran dead of all wars and emphasizing VFW pledge to honor the dead by helping the living.
- The talk should be extemporaneous or based on latest materials made available by National Headquarters.
- General Logan's "General Order No. 11" is appropriate for this kind of ceremony.
- At the end of this ceremony, a Bugler sounds Taps. This may be followed by gradually softening tattoo on drums or echo Taps from muted bugle or second bugler stationed at a distance

## Can assist with:

- Advancing Colors
  - Dedicating Post Colors
  - Funerals
  - Memorial Dedication
  - Memorial Day
  - Retiring Colors
  - Sporting Events
  - Parades
- Contact your District Commander of Department for POCs for your nearest Honor Guard





# Questions!

**Call Foy Day at (936) 697-8769**

**Thank You for attending the  
Chaplain Seminar today.**