



Honor the Dead: A Chaplain's Guide

A resource from the United States Army
Chaplain Center & School



Honor the Dead: A Chaplain's Guide

Soldiers go into battle, knowing the risks and sacrifices required for such a noble profession. They freely offer themselves to serve their country for a mission that is larger than themselves. War takes a toll on the family, friends, and country. For those dealing with death there is burden, loss, and grief. Within the act of honoring the dead, Chaplains bring light to the darkness, reaffirm meaning, give voice to grief and honor the service of those who have served their country. Since 1775, Chaplains have been providing religious support. They Nurture the Living, Care for the Wounded and Honor the Dead.

Religious support honors the dead. We revere those who have died and lay to rest those who have served our nation with dignity and honor and treat their Families with respect and compassion. Funerals reflect the emphasis the American people place on the worth and value of the individual.

(ATP 1-05.02, 3-1.)

Throughout this resource you will find tips, suggestions, and personal examples. It is our hope and prayer that this guide will serve as a helpful tool for use as you plan, prepare and help others **Honor the Dead**.

God's Blessings as you serve our Nation's best,

CH Brandon Moore and CH Matt Madison

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But you excel them all.”

³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,

But a woman who ^[l]fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

³¹ Give her the ^[m]product of her hands,

And let her works praise her in the gates

_____ was the kind of Army wife and mother who embodied that Scripture. Throughout her life she honored her husband and family with her service and now today, we honor her for that lifetime of service.

Helpful References and Resources

ATP 1-05.02: *Religious Support to Funerals and Memorials*, March 2013

IMI (Interactive Multimedia Instruction) 1: *Religious Support to Funerals and Memorials*

TC 3-21.5 (FM 3-21.5): *Drill and Ceremonies*, Chapter 14.

Dignity with Brevity. Edited by CH Ronny Fisher

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INTERVIEW CHEAT SHEET

(Call the funeral home first and inform them you will be the officiant and confirm DTG. Ask them to send you info they have that would help you. (a copy of the DD214, obituary, list of awards, other family contact information, family dynamics, etc.). If you are unable to contact funeral home, look for the obituary online at www.legacy.com. That can give you some good information prior to a conversation with the family. When contacting a family prior to a funeral, whether in person or on the phone, it is helpful to get some basic information.

When Calling NOK: “Good morning. My name is Chaplain (*Madison*) and I’m trying to get in touch with (*Mrs. Smith*). Yes (*Ma’am*). The reason I’m calling today is that I’m the chaplain who will be conducting the service for your (*husband, COL James Smith*). Is now a good time to talk?” (If so, I move down my list of questions. If not, I try to find out a good time to call back.)

RANK/NAME (NICKNAME): Here I am verifying the information I already have, making sure I have the correct pronunciation, and finding out if “*William*” went by “*Bill*” for example. I like to mention that I plan on calling the veteran by his/her rank during the military portion of the service and use their familiar name during more personal parts if that is ok.

DOB/DOD: If you plan on mentioning when the decedent was born and died, make sure you have this information correct. Sometimes obituaries are wrong.

BEST CONTACT: It’s a good idea to ask if this is the best number to contact them on. Sometimes I have found it helpful to have an email address in order to exchange information. Families will sometimes have a eulogy written that they’d like you to share from and you can get it ahead of time via email.

DTG OF SERVICE: Again, here I’m just making sure everyone is on the same page.

MARITAL INFORMATION: I ask how long the couple was married so I can possibly highlight that in my comments. You can also find out through this question if it’s a second marriage, divorced, separated, etc.

MILITARY AWARDS/SERVICE: If I already have the DD214 ahead of time, this allows me to say something like, “I see that your husband was a paratrooper and highly decorated.” I let them know I already have access to the decedent’s military record so they don’t have to provide that for me. Watch for discrepancies between the DD214 and the obituary. Ask about their military career.

is with you to bring comfort through your tears. And so....

PROVERBS 31

(Description of a Worthy Woman)

- ¹⁰ An excellent wife, who can find?
For her worth is far above jewels.
- ¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her,
And he will have no lack of gain.
- ¹² She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.
- ¹³ She looks for wool and flax
And works with her ^[a]hands ^[b]in delight.
- ¹⁴ She is like merchant ships;
She brings her food from afar.
- ¹⁵ She rises also while it is still night
And gives food to her household
And ^[c]portions to her maidens.
- ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it;
From ^[d]her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- ¹⁷ She girds ^[e]herself with strength
And makes her arms strong.
- ¹⁸ She senses that her gain is good;
Her lamp does not go out at night.
- ¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
And her ^[f]hands grasp the spindle.
- ²⁰ She ^[g]extends her hand to the poor,
And she stretches out her hands to the needy.
- ²¹ She is not afraid of the snow for her household,
For all her household are clothed with scarlet.
- ²² She makes coverings for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- ²³ Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the land.
- ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells *them*,
And ^[h]supplies belts to the ^[i]tradesmen.
- ²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing,
And she smiles at the ^[j]future.
- ²⁶ She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And the ^[k]teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- ²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.
- ²⁸ Her children rise up and bless her;
Her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*:
- ²⁹ “Many daughters have done nobly,

of eternal life. And, in this place the Bible tells us, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him.” This is where _____ now resides and where one day through Jesus we will join her there.

LUKE 4:18

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” As a former Prisoner of War, _____ had a unique understanding of what it meant to be freed from captivity. Jesus came to free us all from our sin if we would only trust in Him. This promise was true for Clifton and it remains true for us today. And so...

ISAIAH 25:6-9

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, ‘Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him, let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.’ This passage reminds us that the Lord has promised us a future with no death and no tears. _____ has already inherited that promise and we look forward to the day we join him/her in heaven. And so....

ISAIAH 61:103

(To comfort those who mourn)

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.” As you mourn the loss of _____ today, may you be reminded that the Lord

WARTIME SERVICE: Did they serve during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, OEF/OIF etc.?

FAITH BACKGROUND: There are various ways to get to this. I like to ask, “What was your _____’s faith background? Did they have a particular denomination or church they attended?” Some people will ask, “Did your husband consider himself a Christian?” This is important b/c sometimes a mistake will be made and a Protestant can get assigned to conduct a funeral service when the deceased is actually Catholic! This information also helps you choose appropriate Scripture passages.

CIVILIAN CAREER: This helps you get a bigger picture of what the deceased did in life. It’s especially relevant if they only served in the military for a short time.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS: Again, this gives you greater insight into who the person was.

SURVIVING FAMILY: Many times I like to mention in my remarks, “_____ was preceded in death by _____, but he is survived by.....” This question helps me get that. Don’t rely upon obituaries to be correct all the time with this detail. Also, this helps you get a sense of any family dynamics at play.

REQUESTED SCRIPTURE: Many times I’ll mention I have the perfect Scripture for the service, but other times I’ll ask if they have a favorite Scripture they’d like included.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU’D LIKE ME TO KNOW: I like to end with this question. Then I close the conversation (if via phone) with a reminder of the date and time of the service and that I’ll come in and see them about 30 minutes prior. In the meantime if they have any questions, I give them my contact information for them to follow up.

FOR A CHAPEL SERVICE: Be sure to talk about the order of service, who besides you will be speaking, music considerations, and time constraints. Make sure you know if any other Clergy will be involved.

BLANK INTERVIEW CHEAT SHEET

Look for the obituary online at www.legacy.com.

Contact funeral home (# () -)

Confirm DTG _____

Request a copy of the DD214 for a veteran, Obituary and other family information prior to talking to the family.)

When Calling NOK: (# () -)

“Good morning. My name is **Chaplain** _____ and I’m trying to get in touch with (**Mr/Mrs.** _____). Yes (**Sir/Ma’am**). The reason I’m calling today is that I’m the chaplain who will be conducting the service for (**Rank/Name** _____). Is now a good time to talk?” (If so, I move down my list of questions. If not, I try to find out a good time to call back.)

RANK/NAME (NICKNAME):

DOB/DOD:

BEST CONTACT:

DTG OF SERVICE:

MARITAL INFORMATION:

MILITARY AWARDS/SERVICE:

WARTIME SERVICE

JOHN 15:13

(Graveside Active Duty Hostile Fire)

Jesus talked about that kind of sacrificial love and we read about it in John 15. He said, “My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” We are surrounded today by great men and women who did just that. We are surrounded by others and bury one today who was willing to do just that if called upon. _____ demonstrated sacrificial, Christ-like love during his life to his country, to his family, and to his Lord and we honor him today.

2TIMOTHY 2:1-3; 4:7-8

I believe that God has a special place in His heart for soldiers and we see many times in His word references to soldiers. Paul wrote to his protégé Timothy and encouraged him with these words: “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ Jesus.” An NCO is responsible for teaching young men and he sets the example for them even as he suffers hardship. I’m sure that’s what _____ did throughout his career.

Paul goes on to tell Timothy, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. Now there is store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

We’re here this afternoon to honor _____ for fighting the good fight, finishing the course and keeping the faith. May he enjoy the rewards of heaven.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

“But friends, not only have we come together today to reflect upon the life of _____ and the sacrifices she made for her nation and family, but more importantly, we gather today to celebrate the sacrifice that was made for her so that she might have the gift of eternal life.

In Ephesians 2:8-9, the Apostle Paul writes, “For we are saved by grace through faith and not by works so that no man can boast before the presence of the living God.” By placing our faith, not in a religion, but in a person – Jesus – believing that He both died for our sins and rose again from the dead, we have the promise

do not pray for _____, but for ourselves")

I CORINTHIANS 15:50-58

"I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

_____ has traded the perishable body for an imperishable one. He is now with Christ where his mind and body have found true healing. And so...

JOHN 14:1-4

Jesus told his disciples shortly before His death, "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In my father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself. That where I am, there you may be also. This promise Christ made to His disciples was true for ---

_____ and it remains true for us as well. And so...

ROMANS 8:35-39

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword ? **36** Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. This passage tells us that not even his death could separate _____ from the love of Christ. That promise remains true for us today. And so...

FAITH BACKGROUND:

CIVILIAN CAREER:

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

SURVIVING FAMILY:

REQUESTED SCRIPTURE:

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE ME TO KNOW:

FOR A CHAPEL SERVICE:

MISC/OTHER

As we gather in this most hallowed place today for such a solemn occasion, my prayer for you is simply this: may these rows of picturesque headstones – each stone a brick in the foundation of freedom upon which we stand today – always remind you of this very important fact. No plot here at _____ cemetery can be purchased. Each must be earned. (for use in a veterans/national cemetery)

PURPLE HEART

This medal is unlike any other military award. The original Purple Heart was established by George Washington on August 7, 1782. The actual order includes the phrase, "Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the Purple Heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen." While many have served our Nation, _____ shed his blood for the freedoms we hold dear today.

IRISH PRAYER

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

SPECIAL FORCES PRAYER

Almighty God, Who art the Author of liberty and the Champion of the oppressed, hear our prayer. We the men of Special Forces, acknowledge our dependence upon Thee in the preservation of human freedom. Go with us as we seek to defend the defenseless and to free the enslaved. May we ever remember that our nation, whose oath "In God We Trust" expects that we shall acquit ourselves with honor, that we may never bring shame upon our faith, our families, or our fellow men. Grant us wisdom from Thy mind, courage from thine heart, and protection by Thine hand. It is for Thee that we do battle, and to Thee belongs the victor's crown, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and Glory forever. *AMEN*

** Other examples, Quotes, Branch/Unit specific, songs, etc. .*

EXAMPLE SCRIPTURE TRANSITIONS

(One of the more difficult parts of preparing brief graveside services is making smooth transitions from Scripture passages to the next item. In each of these examples, the transition is being made from the Scripture into praying the 23rd Psalm. The whole text would read, then add "And so, the Psalm we pray now, we

the still waters; He restores my soul.
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and staff, they
comfort me.
You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You
anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my God forever-
more. Amen.

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
John/ Glory to you, Lord Christ
JOHN 14:1-4**

Jesus told his disciples shortly before His death, "Let not your
hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In my fa-
ther's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would
have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and
prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto
Myself. That where I am, there you may be also.

The Gospel of the Lord/Praise to you, Lord Christ

I just want to encourage you. If _____ is in Christ and Christ
is in you, then _____ can't be far.

Please pray with me.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy king-
dom 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 for-
give those who trespass against us. And lead us not into tempta-
tion, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen.

And now, In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eter-
nal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty
God our sister _____ and we commit her ashes/body to
the ground.

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face
shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His coun-
tenance upon you and give you peace.

EXTRA FUNERAL RESOURCES

WELCOME TO _____ NATIONAL CEMETERY

Good morning/afternoon. My name is Chaplain _____
_____ and I want to welcome you to _____.

**Section 1:
Graveside Template &
Example Graveside Only**

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GRAVESIDE OUTLINE

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Prayer

Eulogy

Military

Personal

Homily/Scripture

Committal Prayer/Transition to Honors

Honors

LITURGICAL SAMPLE

DOB JAN 12, 1931 DOD OCT 3, 2012 AGE 81

(Note: This sample is focused on a non-veteran spouse. To use this for a veteran, simply include a brief military bio with awards before going into Scripture. Then remember to go to honors as in the veteran example)

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant _____, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

ISAIAH 25:6-9

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, ‘Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him, let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.

I CORINTHIANS 15:50-58

“I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

PSALM 23:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside

GRAVESIDE EXAMPLE (CH + Other)

(Co-officiating with Officiant of another faith tradition)

Good (*Morning/afternoon*) family and friends.

I'm (*Chaplain Brandon Moore*) and our (*Officiant, Priest, Rabbi, Imam, etc*) for today's service is (*Insert Name and Title*) and it is our honor to welcome you today, as we gather to remember the life and service of (*SFC William Fair*).

These hallowed stones tell the story of our country one name at a time, the stories of men and women who answered the call to defend our nation, our constitution, and our national interests here at home and around the world. They have answered that call in times of war, but also in times of peace, so that you and I might enjoy those freedoms envisioned by our forefathers. These freedoms have often come at a terribly high price. There are (**over 585 acres**) that make up (**Ft. Jackson National Cemetery**), Since (**2008**), countless Americans have been laid to rest on these grounds. As we look out across the landscape, I encourage you to remember this:

No plot on this sacred ground can be purchased; each must be earned. And we know that (**SFC William Fair**) has earned his place among us here today.

*(Step back and off to the side)

Religious portion of service conducted by civilian clergy or chaplain of another faith tradition.

*(After Officiant completes portion of service, return to front and say) For our comrade in arms, (**Sergeant First Class William Fair**) our nation bestows military honors. In life he honored the flag, and in death the flag will honor him.

*(Step back and stand at attention.)

GRAVESIDE TEMPLATE

DOB _____ DOD _____ AGE _____

Welcome and Introduction

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant _____, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Optional)

He is survived by his wife of over ___ years: _____

1. Theirs was a romance that spanned over ___ DECADES.
2. This in itself is a testimony to their love and commitment to one another.
3. He is also survived by:

_____ ...served our Nation with distinction

Among his many awards and decorations

But not only was _____ a patriot,

JOHN 14:1-4 (Scripture & transition)

Jesus told his disciples shortly before His death, "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In my father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself. That where I am, there you may be also.

This promise that Christ made to His disciples was true for _____ and it remains true for us today as well. And so....

The Psalm we pray now, we do not pray for --- _____ but for ourselves.

Section 3: Misc. Funeral Helps

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In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our **(brother William)** and we commit his body to the ground.

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. AMEN.

*For our comrade in arms, **(Sergeant First Class William Fair)** our nation bestows military honors.

In life he honored the flag,
and in death the flag will honor him.

(Step back and stand at attention.)

Follow the lead of honor Guard with Salute. If presenting the flag make sure the point is facing self. Once in front of the next-of-kin, bend at the waist extending the flag and making eye contact while saying: *On behalf of the President of the United States, the United States Army, and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service.*

After making the flag presentation, stand up to the position of attention and *slowly* salute. Hold the salute for five seconds then step back to where you were prior to the military honors portion of the service.

PSALM 23:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters; He restores my soul.
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

I just want to encourage you. If _____ is in Christ and Christ is in you, then ---- _____ can't be far.

Please pray with me.

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother _____ and we commit his body to the ground.

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Amen.

HONORS

For our comrade in arms _____, our Nation bestows military honors. In life he honored the flag. And in death, the flag will honor him.

FLAG PRESENTATION

EXAMPLE GRAVESIDE SERVICE

SGT JOHNNY CARGO SR

DOB JAN 30, 1924 DOD FEB 27, 2014 AGE 90

Good morning. My name is Chaplain (*Matt Madison*) and it's my honor to welcome you to (*Arlington National Cemetery*) where for over (**150 years**) our nation has honored her fallen warriors and patriots. These sacred grounds are a lasting tribute to the men and women who have faithfully served our nation. There are now over (**400,000**) Americans buried here in (*Arlington National Cemetery*). And as you look out upon these gently rolling hills and the rows of picturesque headstones, I encourage you to always remember this: no plot here at (*Arlington National Cemetery*) can ever be purchased; each must be earned.

We've gathered together this morning to pay tribute to the life and service of (*SGT Johnny Cargo*, who certainly earned his place among these hallowed grounds. (*He*) was born on (*Jan 30, 1924*) and went to be with the Lord on (*Feb 27, 2014*) at the age of (*90*). Let us pray.

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant (*JOHNNY*), being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(*SGT CARGO*)...served our Nation with distinction for (*add personal information here*) 20 years, beginning in 1943 when he was a member of the US Army Air Corps which supported the African American 92nd Infantry Division in Italy. (*SGT CARGO*) went on to serve in the Korean War and had a tour in Germany. Among his awards and decorations are the European African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the Army of Occupation Medal – Japan).

But, (*JOHNNY*) was also more than a patriot...he was a loving (*add personal information here*) husband, father and grandfather who after retiring in 1963 worked at Universal Studios and retired again from the Aerospace Corporation in the late 1980's.

EXAMPLE GRAVESIDE after Funeral

(Committal with Military Honors)

These hallowed stones tell the story of our country one name at a time, the stories of men and women who answered the call to defend our nation, our constitution, and our national interests here at home and around the world. They have answered that call in times of war, but also in times of peace, so that you and I might enjoy those freedoms envisioned by our forefathers. These freedoms have often come at a terribly high price. There are over (**585**) acres that make up (*Ft. Jackson National Cemetery*), Since (**2008**), countless Americans have been laid to rest on these grounds. As we look out across the landscape,

Please join me in prayer.

I encourage you to remember this:

No plot on this sacred ground can be purchased; each must be earned. And we know that (*SFC William Fair*) has earned his place among us here today.

*The Psalm we pray now, we do not pray for William but for ourselves – Psalm 23.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures:

he leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul: he leads 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 you are with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: you anoint 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.

I want to encourage you. If (*William*) is in Christ and Christ is in you, then he can't be far.

You'll never know, dear,
How much I love you.
Please don't take my sunshine away.

Please join me in prayer...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Almighty God, our creator and redeemer, you are our comfort and strength. You have given us our (**brother William Fair**) to know and to love in the journey of life on this earth. Be with us now as we entrust *him* to your boundless love and eternal care. Assure us that not even death can separate us from your mercy. Help us in our grief to recall all the moments of Joy. Comfort us in our pain and wipe our tears away. Deal graciously with us in our grief, remind us of your grace, and help us learn to live in confident hope in the resurrection; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

BENEDICTION

May God, who is our refuge and strength, be to you a very present help in trouble. May the river that streams from the throne of God be your help when the morning dawns. Be still and know that He is God! He is exalted among the nations, he is exalted in all the earth! Amen.

(**JOHNNY**) loved life and was a very caring person who met no strangers. He liked to stay up to date on current events and was always willing and able to carry on a good conversation. (**JOHNNY**) had a passion for cooking and took joy from your enjoyment of the meal he had prepared. (**Johnny's**) motto in life was "excellence, humility, and respect are the tools for success." But most importantly, (**JOHNNY**) was a follower of Christ who accepted Christ as Lord and Savior at an early age growing up in Proctor, Arkansas. It is because of that decision to follow Christ that today can be a celebration. We know that today is not the end of the story and we do not say goodbye, but farewell, until we meet again.

(**JOHNNY**) was by all accounts an extraordinary individual. He remains one of the last of those considered the greatest generation this country has ever known, and we in uniform are honored to celebrate his life and military service with you this afternoon.

2 CORINTHIANS 5

I want to share with a passage of Scripture this morning from Paul's letter to the Corinthians. **2 Corinthians 5:5-6** says, "Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore, we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

Today we celebrate that (**Johnny**) is at home with the Lord and so...

The Psalm we pray this afternoon, we do not pray for (**JOHNNY**) but for ourselves.

PSALM 23:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters; He restores my soul.
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my God forevermore. Amen.

I just want to encourage you. If **(JOHNNY)** is in Christ and Christ is in you, then **(JOHNNY)** can't be far.

Please pray with me.
In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother **(JOHNNY)** and we commit his ashes to their resting place.

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Amen.

HONORS

For our comrade in arms **(SGT JOHNNY CARGO SR)**.
Our Nation bestows military honors. In life he honored the flag.
And in death, the flag will honor him.

FLAG PRESENTATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND A GRATEFUL NATION,
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS FLAG AS A SYMBOL OF OUR APPRE-
CIATION FOR YOUR LOVED ONE'S HONORABLE AND
FAITHFUL SERVICE

make sense of life and death.

Friends, never forget that just because, we have turned away or have closed our eyes to God. It does not mean that he has left or forsaken us. God is there. So turn around and open your eyes. God is there. God is here!

Sacrifice inspires men who are willing to step into adventure and danger and the cost of their lives to fight for freedom of another. This stirs deep down in our soul.

John 15:13 says "No greater love than this, than a man lay down his life for his friend."

John 3:16- "For God so loved the world that he gave his son, that whomever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Sacrifice inspires us because it mirrors God's love and goodness.

There is something that stirs within us when men are willing to sacrifice their lives for a cause.

We begin to see the heart of God.

We see that through Death comes life.

In the midst of pain there is Joy.

In the midst of despair we find hope.

(William) was deeply loved and will be deeply missed.

Today, we gather to remember, to honor, and salute, **(a husband, father)**, friend, and fellow Soldier.

Today, we must remember the special times with **(William)** and hold these memories in our hearts.

Today we come to remember **(SFC William Fair)**

We come to remember, and say Good bye,
Good Bye for now!

As we close this service, The family has asked to sing **(William's)** favorite song. "You are my Sunshine"

You are my sunshine
My only sunshine.
You make me happy
When skies are grey.

they Mentioned (**SFC Fair**) still having a shirt with a bullet hole in it where he had been grazed. (**Add personal info here**)

As we continue in the Psalms we read these words, in Psalm 139:1-16

¹You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. ⁵You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. ⁷Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," ¹²even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. ¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

*Sometimes we feel like if we mess up, or if we don't want anything to do with God. That God stops caring about us, and that God leaves us or we can hide from God. I think this passage is saying, that there is nothing you can do, there is no where you can go to get away from God!

He is there right by your side.

The Psalmist concludes in verse 23-24

²³Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Times like these, we come face to face with God. With prayers and questions, seeking forgiveness and answers, as we try to

Section 2: Funeral Example Chapel & Graveside

US Army Chaplain Center & School



BASIC INFORMATION

1230 // Tues 10 JUN

Rank/ Name: **SFC William O. Fair**

Type/ Location: **FH / Grave**

Born: **25 Sept 1935**

Death: **4 JUN 2014**

Hometown: Columbia, SC

Years in Service: AD: 7 JUL 1956 - 31 Aug 1976

Military Info: Worked Logistics, missions, 2 Bronze stars

Civilian Info: Dock Forman 19 years

Yrs. Married: 43

Next of Kin: **My-Yen P. Fair (widow) #**

Adopted Children Doug (Son)

Angela (Daughter) #

Denomination: Protestant/Presbyterian

Notes: **Big in Vietnamese community. Brought back nearly 30 family members to the states. Always caring for others, self sacrifice**

Favorite Song to sing: "You are my sunshine"

greatest act of religious training-Sacrifice. In battle and in the face of danger and death, he discloses those divine attributes which his maker gave when He created man in his own image. No physical courage and no brute instinct can take the place if the divine help which alone can sustain him."

There are times in our lives when the only way to make it through is with the help of God.

We turn to the pages of scripture and Read **Psalm 91** often called the Soldier's Psalm.

¹Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

²I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

³Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

⁵You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ⁶nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

⁸You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. ⁹If you say, "The LORD is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, ¹⁰no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. ¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

¹²they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

¹³You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

¹⁴"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. ¹⁵He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Many soldiers have read these words and prayed this prayer, (**William**) knew the reality first hand of life and death, Good and evil and God's hand of protection. When talking to the family

country, but also to his family and to his community. Truly, we measure a life NOT by the accumulation of wealth, nor by the earning of rank or accolades or awards, BUT we weigh a life by the touch one has on the lives of the people they love, the people they serve. Your presence with us today speaks volumes to the impact (**William**) has had in each of your lives. We are truly blessed to have had such a man live and serve among us.

EULOGY: Family Members

As we reflect on the life and honor the service of (**SFC William Fair**) today, I would like to invite

(Introduce them here)

(“KON PHON” Khanh Phan with Interpreter, William’s brother-in-law,) to come and share some words of reflection.

As we continue to remember, (**William**), I would like to invite *(“Danny Fair”, William’s youngest son)* to come and share some words of reflection.

MEDITATION HYMN

Amazing Grace (Played)

HOMILY / MEDITATION / SCRIPTURE READING

For many, it is an honor to become a soldier and even a greater honor still, that at the end of life, to be remembered as one. For it is the Valiant who commit their life to sharpening their skills, to focusing their efforts, to wearing the uniform that one day ventures off with other soldiers, side-by side, to uphold and defend the ideals of freedom, though it may cost them their lives. And for those who venture off to defend and survive and make soldiering their life, theirs is a legacy past from Soldier. . . to Soldier.

Gen. Douglas Mac Arthur in 1962 in his speech at West Point **“Duty, Honor, Country”** said:

“The Soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the

EXAMPLE OBITUARY

William O. Fair COLUMBIA - Services for William O. Fair, 78, US Army (Ret.), will be held 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel. Interment will be in Ft. Jackson National Cemetery with full military honors. The family will receive friends 5 until 9:00 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Mr. Fair passed away Wednesday, June 4, 2014. Born in Greenville, TN, he was the son of the late William and Verna Goodman Fair. He entered the US Army in 1956 and served until his retirement in 1976. He served three tours in Vietnam, three in Germany and one in Korea. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Good Conduct Medal and Driver Mechanic Badge. After his retirement from the military, he worked for Anchor Continental for 19 years. Mr. Fair was known as a kind, generous and selfless person, with an uncanny sense of humor. Seen as a father figure to all who knew him and a friend to anyone in need. He sponsored many immigrants and helped them achieve the same American freedom and opportunities that he has always cherished and protected. Surviving are his loving wife of 43 years, My-Yen P. Fair; children, Doug B. Fair (Karen Literski) of Atlanta, GA, Angela L. Fair (Torsten Spitzka) of Arlington, VA and Danny W. Fair (Christina) of Columbia; grandchildren, Isabella, David, William, Emma and Sarah; brothers, Charles Fair of Evansville, IN, Carl Fair (Rose) of Mohawk, TN and David Fair (Diane) of Mosheim, TN; close in-laws, My Lee Phan, Khanh C. Phan (Tinh T. Vuong), Anthony L. Phan (Lan Nguyen), My Tuyet Phan (Len Tran), Anh Phan, and Quay Tran (Hra) from South Carolina. Close and special family friends include Darrel and Jackie McGovern, Betty Moreland, Pat Wirt (Lan), Sau Fitzpatrick, and Flipper Smith. He was preceded in death by a special aunt who raised him, Mae Pattison; mother-in-law, Ngoc Anh Thi Nguyen; three sisters, Gladys Carter, Mary McAmis and Larue Gosnell; and in-laws, David L. Phan, and Tinh Nguyen.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.dunbarfuneralhomedevine.com

EXAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE

Dunbar Funeral Home

Prelude (*Family seated before service begins*)

***Processional** (*Move ahead of remains to podium.*)

***Invocation**

Greeting

Eulogy (*family members*)

Meditation Music: *Amazing Grace*

Homily / Meditation (adjust for remaining time available)

***Song:** *You are my Sunshine*

Pastoral Prayer

***Benediction**

***Recessional** (*Stand facing Remains until bearers make facing movement.*)

Postlude (*family escorted out by ushers*)

EXAMPLE CHAPEL SERVICE

PRELUDE

(*Family seated before service begins. Present Arms & Band; Stand behind pews until casket is inside; center & stand all.*)

PROCESSIONAL (*Move ahead of remains to podium.*)

INVOCATION

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth: You formed us from the dust of the earth, and by your breath you gave us life. We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life: You tasted death for all humanity, and by rising from the grave you opened the way to eternal life. We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life: You are the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope. We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. AMEN.

WELCOME!

Good *afternoon* family and friends.

I'm Chaplain (**Brandon Moore**), and it is a honor for me to welcome you today, as we gather to remember the life and service of (**SFC William Fair**); to commend *him* to God who is our merciful redeemer and judge; to commit *his* body to rest until the Day of Resurrection; and to comfort one another in our grief of loss.

It is a day of mixed emotions. It is a day to remember the joys and special memories, it is also time to say goodbye to someone we love.

(**SFC William Fair**) is a *man* who has offered *his* strength, his skills, and indeed his very life to the service - not only of our