

Memorial Service for Departed Compatriots

This Service is suggested when a Chapter, Society or Department desires to memorialize a departed member or when it may wish to remember several departed comrades at an Annual Memorial Service. It may be varied to suit special circumstances and the terminology changed when more than one comrade is memorialized. It is not intended to be used in place of regular church or grave side service.

When all are assembled at the appointed meeting area one of the flags of the Confederacy or the Chapter Flag is brought forward and presented. The Commander ties a black cord or ribbon at the top of the flag, which will remain on the flag throughout the service and during any meeting which may follow and the Charter of the Chapter is draped in black cloth. After the flag and Charter are appropriately decorated the Commander begins the Service.

Commander: *We are here today to pay the last tribute of friendship to our honored dead. We, the descendants of the Officers of the Officers Corps and civil government of the Confederate States of America, have assembled in loving memory of our friend and compatriot in the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.*

Chaplain: *"Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. As the waters fail from the sea and the flood decayeth and drieth up; so man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not wake, nor be raised out of their sleep. For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth and though this body be destroyed yet shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another."*

Lieutenant Commander: *Compatriot (Member's name) was a good soldier and faithful member of our Chapter, tried and true. He has fought the good fight. The bugle has sounded taps and he is at rest. He will sleep until the reveille of Heaven calls him to take his place in the ranks of the immortal legions of the Great Commander.*

Chaplain: *"God, Creator of the universe and Commander of the hosts of heaven, to thy care we commit the spirit of our departed compatriot. While by day the sun makes its round, and by night the stars keep watch and ward above the bivouac of the dead, grant that we may have the life and example of our departed comrade so in remembrance that our years may be years of usefulness and honor; and that at last when we have crossed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees with Lee and Jackson and Davis, we may find our names inscribed upon the rolls of thy celestial Hosts. Amen.*

