

# **Ritual and Memorial Service**

**OF THE**

**29<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.**



***"29 Let's Go!"***

**Official Ritual of the Twenty-Ninth Division Association**  
**Format for 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association Meetings**  
**For Use at Post or National Convention Meetings**  
**Installation of Officers and Memorial Service of Deceased**

**Meetings (of Post or National Convention)**

At the appointed hour, the Commander will call the meeting to order by the command "Attention" with two raps of the gavel. (Members will not be permitted to enter or leave the meeting room during opening or closing ceremonies).

COMMANDER: The Sergeant-At-Arms will advance the colors.  
(Colors are advanced by the Sergeant-At-Arms and duly appointed Color-Bearers. When the colors reach the front of the room, the Sergeant-At-Arms and the color-bearers shall face the assembly.)

COMMANDER: Comrades, you will join me in saluting the Colors.  
Right Hand Salute. (One- Two)

COMMANDER: Sergeant-At-Arms - Post Colors.  
(Colors are then placed in flag stands and will remain in place until the end of the meeting. Sergeant-At-Arms and Color-Bearers remain Standing at attention, next to the colors, facing the assembly, until after the opening prayer.)

COMMANDER: Comrade Chaplain  
(At the command, Chaplain proceeds to altar, takes station beside Altar table -draped with flag -and with Bible. He opens the Bible. When this is done, Chaplain salutes the Commander. Commander returns the Chaplain's salute and then the Commander says:)

COMMANDER: Parade Rest. Uncover. The Chaplain will deliver the Opening Prayer.

Opening Prayer- (All Members join in.)

Almighty God, we thank you for the blessings and the freedom that you have given us in this great Nation. We thank you for the camaraderie that brings us together here today. As we assemble to perpetuate the friendships we cherish, grant that we may always: keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat, glorify our dead and ever keep before our Country, the record of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division, in their service. Guide us with your wisdom and love in all our deliberations, and let us not forget our comrades who have answered the last roll call. Amen.

COMMANDER: The Sergeant-At-Arms will retire the Color detail.

COMMANDER: Please re-cover.

Please remain standing and recite with me, the Preamble to the Constitution of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association.

### **Preamble**

To perpetuate the friendships we cherish; to keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat; to glorify our dead; and to further keep before our Country the record of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division in all wars; we associate ourselves in an organization known as the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association.

COMMANDER: Please join me in a salute to the Flag of our Nation, as we pledge our Allegiance to our Flag. Hand Salute- One.

### **The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

COMMANDER: Order- two.

### **Order of Business**

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Roll Call of Officers
3. Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Report of the Finance Officer and Reading of Bills
5. Reading of Communications
6. Reports of Committees
7. Presentation of New Candidates
8. Reports of Sick, Distressed or Unemployed members
9. Payment of Dues – Always in order
10. Unfinished Business
11. New Business
12. Good of the Association and Welfare
13. Closing Ceremony

## **Closing Ceremony**

Commander calls the meeting to attention with two raps of the gavel

COMMANDER: There being no further business, we will proceed to close  
(Two raps of the gavel. All rise.)

COMMANDER: Comrade Chaplain.  
(Chaplain takes his position as in opening ceremony)

COMMANDER: We will all stand at Parade Rest, with bowed heads, for one minute  
in honor of our Comrades who made the Supreme Sacrifice, or  
who have departed this life since the World Wars.

COMMANDER: Parade Rest. The Chaplain will now bring the meeting to a close  
With prayer. Comrades, please un-cover.

CHAPLAIN: Comrades, please join me in reciting our closing prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER: (All members join in.)

Almighty God, we thank you for this day and for the opportunity to meet with our  
Comrades. As we come to a close of this meeting, let us resolve to: go forth with a  
new zeal, to be true to You our God, ourselves and our friends. Grant that we will  
ever labor to keep fresh in our minds that spirit of Democracy for which we fought  
and, for which so many of our Comrades died. Keep us, we pray, ever mindful of our  
duty to defend from all encroaching foes, this, our Native Land, so that our  
descendants may forever be free. Amen.

COMMANDER: Comrades, please re-cover.

COMMANDER: Sergeant-At-Arms, prepare to retire the Colors.  
(The Sergeant-At-Arms and Color-Bearers advance to the altar,  
salute the Commander, who returns their salute, advance to the  
Colors where they have been in place the throughout the meeting,  
execute an about face, take up the Colors and then stand fast.)

COMMANDER: ATTENTION. (Chaplain closes the Bible and folds the Altar Flag)

COMMANDER: Comrades, you will remain standing until the Colors are retired.  
Right-Hand Salute.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Color detail, Forward March. (When Colors have been retired  
Commander says: Order - Two.)

COMMANDER: I now declare this meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ Post Number \_\_\_\_\_  
adjourned (until \_\_\_\_\_, (if time of next meeting has been fixed.)

OR: I now declare this \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the National Executive  
Committee adjourned, (until \_\_\_\_\_, (if time of next meeting has been fixed.)

OR: I now declare this \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the National Convention of the  
29<sup>th</sup> Division Association adjourned, until \_\_\_\_\_, (Date and place of the  
next National Convention.)

## **Reception and Welcome of New Members**

The new members are invited to advance to a position in front of the Commander.

COMMANDER: You have indicated a desire to become members of \_\_\_\_\_  
Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association. It is my duty,  
therefore, to charge that you take to heart, seriously, the sincerity  
of the motive of our organization, in its determination to perpetuate among  
ourselves which we knew and displayed while we were members of the  
illustrious 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Are you willing to subscribe to the purposes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division  
Association? If so, I ask you to signify your willingness by answering,  
“I will.”

Since you have voluntarily embraced the basic principles for which  
Our organization was founded, I now pronounce you members of  
\_\_\_\_\_ Post No. \_\_\_\_\_.

COMMANDER: Comrades, I have the pleasure of presenting to you these Comrades  
who are new members of our Association. It is your duty to  
exercise at all time the strictest fidelity towards them, even as you  
expect them to exercise the same towards you. Let come  
Prosperity and adversity, we will be true to our trust until we have  
finished the course of our mortal life.

THE COMMANDER THEN ANNOUNCES:

I now declare a recess for three minutes that we might greet new members.  
Please make them welcome.

## **Installation of Officers**

(By a National Officer or Past National Officer)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade Commander, the term for which you and your Officers were elected has now expired. I am present to Install your newly elected Officers. Have the Officers for the ensuing year been duly elected?

COMMANDER: They have.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Have you the (Post or National Association) Charter in your Possession?

COMMANDER: I have.

INSTALLING OFFICER: You will surrender it to me.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade Commander, your duties as presiding Officer of this (Post or National Association) have terminated. It is proper to remind you that in assuming the chair of Past Commander, it will be your duty to assist your successor with that counsel and experience which you have gained during your term of Office.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Adjutant, you will call the roll of the Officers-elect. (As the roll is called the Officers-elect are placed in a line (or semi-circle) facing the Commander's station, the Commander-elect on the Commander's right, the others in order, according to rank.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: (Salutes Installing Officer, and reports:)  
The Officers-elect are in the proper position to receive their Obligations.

INSTALLATION OF ALL OFFICERS, EXCEPT COMMANDER:

INSTALLING OFFICER: My Comrades, you have been chosen by your Comrades to fill the various offices of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association. You will, I know, vindicate the trust that has been reposed in you, and fulfill in every way the obligations that trust entails. You will each, at once, familiarize yourselves with the duties of your particular Office and what is expected of you as an Officer of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association. You must know that the Welfare and success of the (Post, Region, or Association) depend largely on you; and you must know also that upon your shoulders equally rests the burden of preserving the integrity of the 29<sup>th</sup> Blue and Gray, Division Association. You must protect its good name before the people of the United States. You must exalt it in their eyes. You must make them know, as we know, its purposes and policy. Ever remember the tolerant spirit that animates its members. There is no rank among us, each serves as the equal of his Comrade.

Ever remember that the cardinal purposes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association are: to perpetuate the friendships we cherish; to keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat; to glorify our dead; to rehabilitate our disabled Comrades; to keep before our Country the record of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in all wars; and to devote your service to the Community, State, and Nation. You will now raise your right hands and repeat after me, using your name where I use mine:

INSTALLING OFFICER: I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly pledge myself; to perform faithfully and impartially the duties in the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association I am about to assume, so help me God.

INSTALLATION OF THE COMMANDER:

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, I congratulate you upon your election as Commander of this (Post or National Association) and it gives me great pleasure to invest you with the authority of your office. However, it is necessary that you signify your assent to the Constitution and By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the National Association, (The State and Region, and this Post). You shall be governed at all times by the Constitution and By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and cause the same to be read at your meetings from time to time, so that none may pretend ignorance.

The charter, which you now receive, you are carefully to preserve and transmit to your successor in Office.

Comrades, I present your Commander, and proclaim the Officers duly installed and entitled to enter in and discharge the duties of the various Offices to which they have been elected.

## **INSTALLATION OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS – LONG FORM**

**While this expanded form of installing each officer individually and charging each of them with the duties of their office is rarely, if ever, used at the present time, the following paragraphs are included for possible use if desired. In any event, the Officers being installed should be made aware of the duties of their office.**

### **VICE-COMMANDER(S)**

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Vice-Commander of this (Post or National Association). Your regular attendance at all meetings is essentially necessary. In the absence of the Commander, you are to govern this (Post or National Association), in his presence, you are to assist him in the government of it. We rely on you for the faithful discharge of the duties of this important trust. You are to function as membership Officer responsible for increasing membership and reporting on the status of membership at all meetings.

### **FINANCE OFFICER:**

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Finance Officer of this (Post or National Association). It is your duty to receive all monies from the Adjutant, giving your receipt for same. Disbursements shall be made by order of the Commander with consent of the (Post, Region or Association) and a true and just account of the same be rendered. I trust to your honor for the faithful discharge of the duties of your Office.

### **JUDGE ADVOCATE:**

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Judge Advocate of this (Post or National Association). Your duty is to advise the Officers and to rule on all questions relating to the Constitution and By-Laws, and on matters pertaining to Parliamentary procedure.

### **WELFARE OFFICER:**

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Welfare Officer of this (Post or National Association). Your duty is to look after the welfare of all Comrades in distress.

### **HISTORIAN:**

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Historian of this (Post or National Association). It is your duty to keep a history of the events of the (Post or National Association).

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:**

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Sergeant-At-Arms of this (Post or National Association). It is your duty to allow none to enter except as are duly qualified, and by permission of the Commander; to instruct all entering to Salute the Colors, should the meeting be in session.

**CHAPLAIN:**

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Chaplain of this (Post or National Association). It is your duty to aid us in those solemn services which we constantly render to our Creator, and also, to open and close the meetings, conduct and take part in Memorial Services for our Deceased Comrades.

**ADJUTANT:**

INSTALLING OFFICER: Comrade \_\_\_\_\_, you have been (elected or appointed) Adjutant of this (Post or National Association). You shall assist the Commander with the administration of the policies and mandates of the Association. You shall report or cause to be read all correspondence received by you as Adjutant, or referred to you by the Commander. You shall be responsible for the recording, reporting, and proper distribution of the minutes of meetings. You shall have in your possession at all meetings a complete and currently corrected roster of the Officers of this (Post, Region, or National Association), and upon request, call and record the roll at all meetings. You shall keep a complete and proper file covering your term of Office and pass same on to your successor.

## **Memorial Services for the Deceased**

**Prior Preparation:** It shall be the responsibility of the Commander to express sympathy to the immediate family of the deceased and to ascertain if a Memorial Service by the Post is desired. If it is desired, it shall be the responsibility of the Sergeant-at-Arms to have the National and Post Colors at the Funeral Home, Church or other location where the Memorial Service is to be held, well in advance of the service. Post members and other Association and National Auxiliary members who are to take part should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the Service and report immediately to the Commander (or his representative). The 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association cap shall be worn by all members attending.

**Formation:** At the appointed time, the Commander shall assemble the Members in an adjacent room (or, if not available, in the hallway, or in an area in the rear of the room in which the body of the deceased rests), Post and other Association Members present will form in a column of twos, the left file headed by the Commander and the right file headed by the Chaplain.

**Procession:** Upon a quiet “Forward” by the Commander, he and the Chaplain shall move toward the bier. (Post members remaining in place). If they proceed up an aisle, they will initially halt at the first row of seats, hesitate momentarily, and then render a right-hand salute (If there are no seats and or no aisle they shall initially halt at a distance of approximately six feet away from the bier and render the right-hand salute). They shall then continue forward as follows:

**Commander:** moves obliquely to the left, halts at the head of the casket and executes a half-right face so that he will be at a 45 degree angle toward the head of the casket and remains at attention (See Sketch A).

**Chaplain:** simultaneously with the Commander moves obliquely to the right. He halts at the foot of the casket and executes a half-left face so that he will be at a 45 degree angle toward the head of the casket and remains at attention (See Sketch B).

**Eulogy:** As soon as the foregoing is completed the Commander shall read the following in a slow, clear, distinct voice:

“Comrades, we have assembled here to pay tribute to Comrade \_\_\_\_\_ who has answered the Last Roll Call. We are grateful for his part in our cherished friendship, for his undefeatable spirit, for his unselfish contribution to the security of his country, and for his cooperation and participation in the purposes and ideals of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association.”

“To his immediate family, words of sympathy and condolences only tend to soothe the pain which they have so greatly suffered. We know that his loss is irreplaceable. To his many friends and relatives the memory of his life will always remain a cherished possession. We extend our sincere sympathy to all those who loved him and to all of those whom he loved.”

“Many of us knew him intimately, but had it not been for his participation in our Nation’s cause in time of war, he would have been a stranger to most of us. The bond of mutual respect, esteem and affection which binds us all together cannot suffer because of our separation in death, any more than it can suffer by our separation as we go about our regular work.”

“As we remember him at this particular time, so let us remember all of our Comrades who have answered the Last Roll Call.”

## **PRAYERS:**

The Chaplain shall say in a CLEAR, DISTINCT VOICE: “Let us Pray.”

The Chaplain shall wait until all Post and Association Members have removed their 29<sup>th</sup> Division Association caps and placed them over their hearts. (See Sketch C).

The Chaplain may read Scripture selections from The Hebrew Testament and/or The New Testament, which he may follow with spontaneous prayer.

The Chaplain continues by reading the following prayer:

“O God, unite our prayers with those of the family of Comrade \_\_\_\_\_. Grant that we who are still in this mortal life be true to Thee, to our friends and to ourselves. Ever let us labor to keep fresh in our minds that spirit of democracy for which we fought and for which so many of our Comrades died. Keep us firm in our duty to defend from all encroaching foes this, our Native Land, that our descendants may forever be free. Amen.”

## **IF APPROPRIATE – IF THE DECEASED WAS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, THE FOLLOWING MAY BE USED:**

With the Association Members present remaining with their caps over their hearts, the Chaplain shall say in a CLEAR, DISTINCT VOICE:

“Let us pray in unison, The Lord’s Prayer”

“Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom 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 forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

## **IF THE DECEASED COMRADE WAS OF THE JEWISH FAITH, THE ABOVE WILL NOT BE APPROPRIATE. A READING FROM THE PSALMS AND OTHER READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED. A COLLECTION OF FREQUENTLY USED SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FROM BOTH THE OLD AS WELL AS THE NEW TESTAMENTS AND FAVORITE PRAYERS APPEAR ON PAGES 12, 13 & 14.**

Here, may follow a eulogy of the deceased by someone who knew him well.

Benediction: As soon as the foregoing is completed, and with the 29<sup>th</sup> division Association members remaining with their caps over their hearts, the Chaplain shall read in a CLEAR, DISTINCT VOICE:

“Praise the Lord, all you Comrades, praise Him all you people. For His merciful kindness is great towards us and the truth of the Lord endures forever. May the Lord bless us and keep us and make His light to shine upon us and keep us in His peace. Amen”

(Or another form of benediction may be substituted by an attending clergyman.)

Final Respects: As soon as the foregoing is completed the 29<sup>th</sup> members will replace their caps. The Commander shall then say in a CLEAR, DISTINCT VOICE:

“Will all Comrades please come forward and pay their final respects to our departed Comrade.”

The members will then face toward the bier, and from rear to front, and alternating from right to left, each member shall singly advance forward to a point approximately six feet away from the bier, come to a complete halt, render the right-hand salute, then proceed to a point behind and in line with his file leader. (The Commander shall predetermine if circumstances are such that a double row is required. If so, he shall designate the individual in each file who shall establish the head of the second row.) (See Sketch D).

As soon as the foregoing is completed, the Commander shall say in a CLEAR< DISTINCT VOICE:

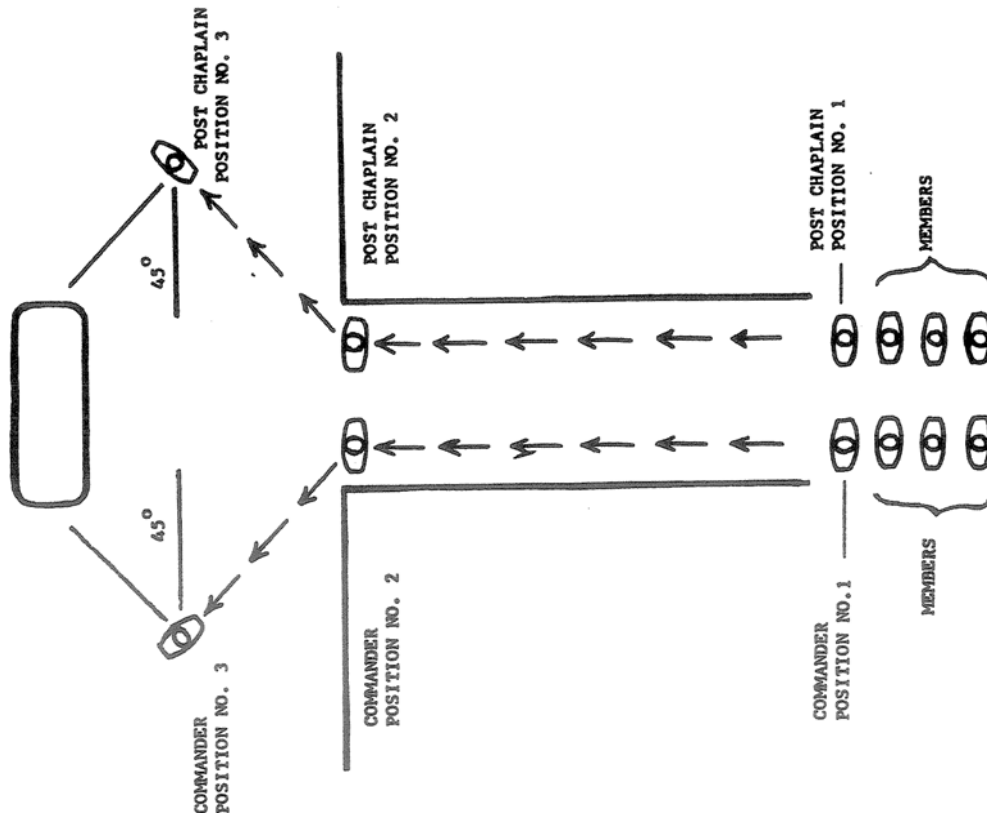
“Right-hand Salute!” (Hold for approximately 15 seconds). “Order, two!”

Recession: The Commander and Chaplain shall execute a half face and face each other, and then side-by-side depart by the same route as that used to approach the bier.

Post Members: As the Commander and Chaplain start their movement forward, the post members shall execute the appropriate half-face and follow their respective file leader out of the room. (See Sketch E).

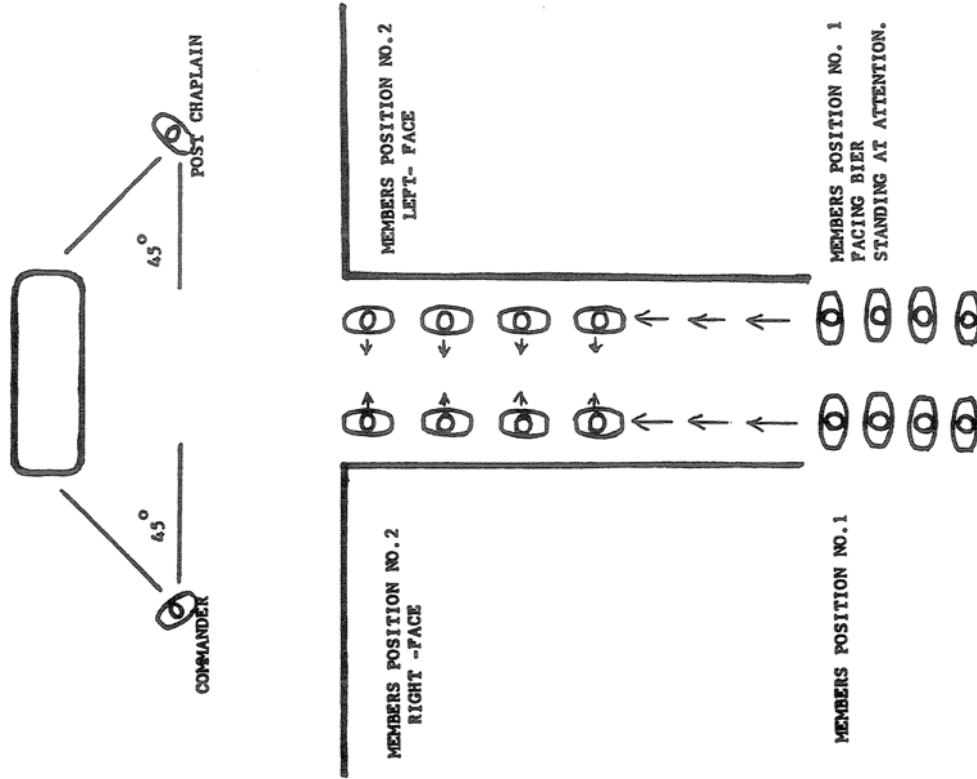
SKETCH A

MOVEMENT OF COMMANDER AND POST CHAPLAIN

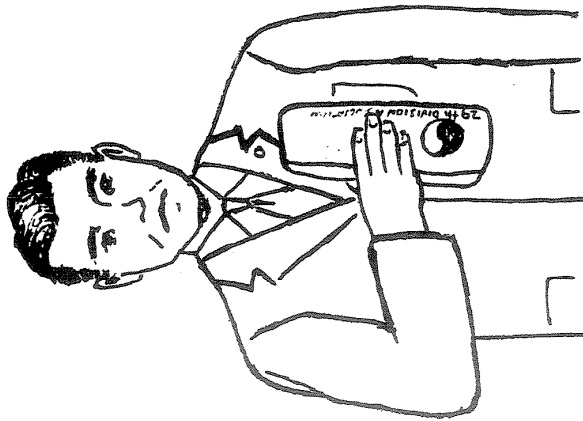


SKETCH B

FIRST MOVEMENT OF POST MEMBERS AFTER COMMANDER AND CHAPLAIN ARE IN PLACE

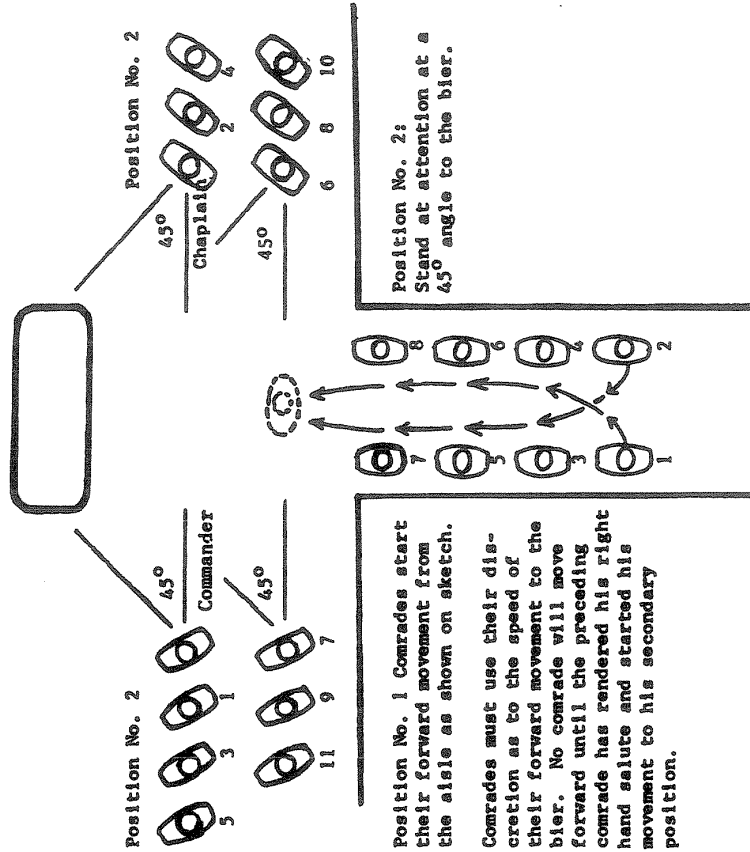


SKETCH C



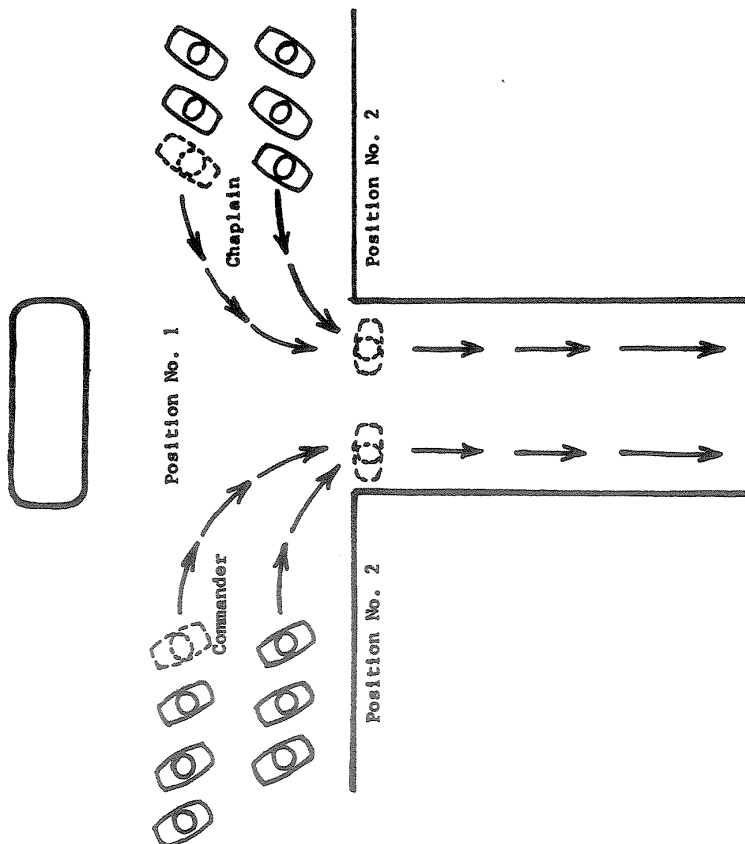
1. All Comrades stand at attention.
2. After the Chaplain says, "Let us Pray" each Comrade will remove his cap from his head, with the right hand and place it over his heart. (This is approximately in the area of the shirt pocket.) It is recommended that the cap be placed as shown in the sketch.
  - a. The Twenty-Ninth Insignia be facing outward.
  - b. The thumb of the right hand be placed under the cap and the four fingers be extended and closed.
3. Upon completion of this movement, ALL HEADS WILL BE BOWED, ALL EYES CLOSED. The Comrades will remain in this position until the prayer has been completed.
4. Upon completion of the Prayer the Comrades will replace their caps upon their heads.

SKETCH D  
SECOND MOVEMENT OF POST MEMBERS



NOTE: The positions shown on the sketch indicate two rows. The number of rows will, of course, be determined by the number of comrades participating in the ceremony. The number of rows will also be determined by local conditions, the size of the funeral home being used. It may not be practical to use the method shown above. If a situation such as this occurs it is recommended that the method shown on SKETCH E be used.

SKETCH E  
RECESSION

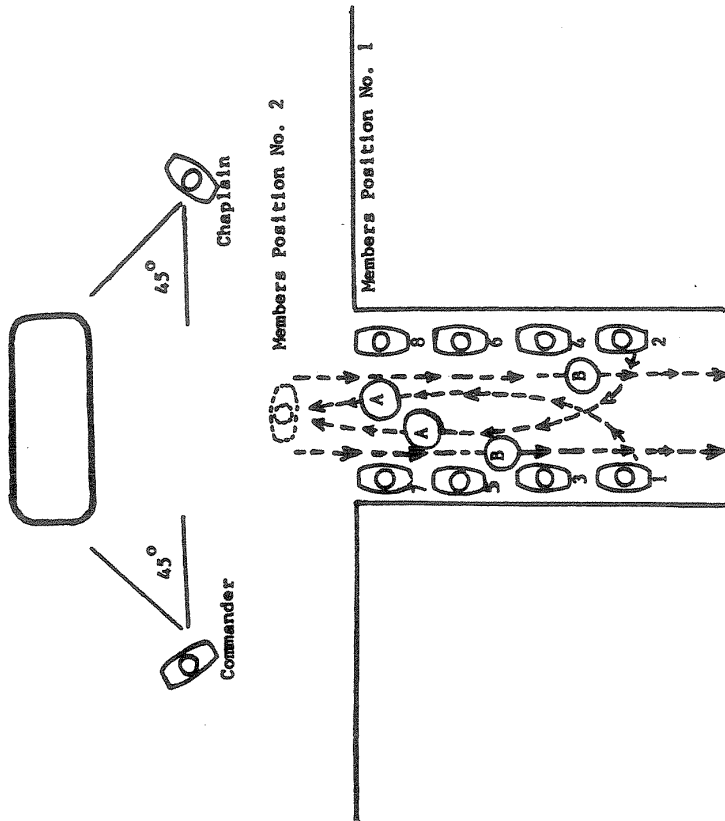


1. Position No. 1 Commander and Chaplain move out.
2. Position No. 2 Commander and Chaplain reach first row of seats.
3. As the Commander and Chaplain reach the first row of seats, the Post Members shall execute the appropriate half-face and follow their respective file leaders (Commander or Chaplain).

NOTE: The row nearest the bier shall be the first to start the movement to the rear of the room.

SKETCH F

ALTERNATE MOVEMENT OF POST MEMBERS AFTER COMMANDER AND CHAPLAIN ARE IN PLACE



1. Position No. 1 Comrades standing at attention.

2. Position No. 2 Comrades move, individually, from the aisle toward the bier. Come to a halt, approximately six feet from the bier, render a right-hand salute. (Movements shown in dashed line lettered (A)).

Upon completion of the salute the comrade will do a right about face and move, smartly, toward the rear of the room. (Movements shown in dashed line lettered (B)).

3. After all the comrades have paid their last respects, the Commander and Chaplain shall move forward to a position approximately six feet from the bier, render a right hand salute, about face and move, smartly, to the rear of the room.

**A COLLECTION OF FREQUENTLY USED SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS  
FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT AS WELL AS  
SEVERAL PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM IN  
PLANNING A MEMORIAL SERVICE.**

**OLD TESTAMENT:**

May my words and thoughts be acceptable to You, O Lord, my refuge and Redeemer.  
(Psalm 19:14)

Sovereign Lord, how majestic is Your presence in all the Earth!  
You have stamped Your Glory upon the heavens!  
When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers;  
the moon and stars that You have established;  
What are we mortals that You care for us?  
Yet You have made us little less than divine, and crowned us  
with glory and honor. (Psalm 8: 1-5)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for the sake of His name.  
Even when I walk in the valley of the shadow of death  
I shall fear no evil, for You are with me;  
With rod and staff You comfort me.  
You have set a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You have anointed my head with oil, my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life, and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever.  
(Psalm 23)

My help will come from the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth.  
He will not let you fall; Your protector is always awake.  
The protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps.  
The Lord will protect you from all danger; He will keep you safe.  
He will protect you as you come and go, now and forever.  
(Psalm 121: 2-3-4-7-8)

**Prayer:**

God of infinite love, in Whose hands are the souls of all the living, and the spirits of all the flesh, we gratefully recall the goodness in them and we give thanks for the consolation of memory. Strengthen us who mourn, that, walking through the valley of the shadow of death, we may be guided by Your light. May our actions and aspirations honor our loved ones who stand as symbol of our abiding devotion. So will they live on for blessing among us.

### Old Testament Readings:

A reading from the book of Wisdom: (Wis. 3:1-9)

#### *The Destiny of the Righteous*

The righteous people are protected by God and will never suffer torment. It is a foolish mistake to think that righteous people die and their death is a terrible evil. They leave us, but it is not a disaster. In fact, the righteous are at peace. It might appear that they have suffered punishment, but they have confident hope of immortality. Their sufferings were minor compared with the blessings they will receive. God has tested them, like gold in a furnace, and found them worthy to be with him. He has accepted them, just as he accepts the sacrifices which his worshipers burn on the altar.

When God comes to reward the righteous, they will blaze out against the wicked like fire in dry straw. They will rule over nations and peoples, and the Lord will be their King forever. Those who have put their trust in God will come to understand the truth of His ways. Those who have been faithful will live with Him in His love, for he is kind and merciful to the ones whom he has chosen.

A reading from the book of Wisdom (Wis. 4: 7-14)

#### *A blameless life is a ripe old age.*

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.  
For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.  
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,  
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.  
He who pleased God was loved;  
he who lived among sinners was transported-  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
or deceit beguile his soul;  
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.  
Having become perfect in a short while, he  
reached for the fullness of a long career  
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness  
But the people saw and did not understand,  
nor did they take this into account.

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (Ecc. 3: 1-8, 14, 15)

*A Time for Everything.*

Everything happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.  
He sets the time for birth and the time for death,  
the time for planting and the time for pulling up,  
the time for killing and the time for healing,  
the time for tearing down and the time for building,  
He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy,  
the time for mourning and the time for dancing,  
the time for making love and the time for not making love,  
the time for kissing and the time for not kissing.  
He sets the time for finding and the time for losing,  
the time for saving and the time for throwing away,  
the time for tearing and the time for mending,  
the time for silence and the time to talk.  
He sets the time for love and the time for hate,  
the time for war and the time for peace.

What do we gain from all our work? I know the heavy burdens that God has laid on us. He has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does. All we can do is be happy and do the best we can while we are still alive.

Everything God does will last forever. You can't add anything to it or take anything away from it. And one thing God does is to make us stand in awe of him.

Whatever happens or can happen has already happened before. God makes the same things happen again and again.

**NEW TESTAMENT READINGS:**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 12: 23-36)

[If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.]

Jesus told his disciples:

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I solemnly assure you that unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. The man who loves his life loses it, while the man who hates his life in this world preserves it to life eternal. If anyone would serve me, let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be. If anyone serves me, him the Father will honor."

The Gospel of the Lord

## **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS (Continued):**

A reading from Holy Gospel according to John  
[There are many rooms in my Father's House.]  
Jesus said to his disciples:

(John 14: 1-6)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be. You know the way that leads to where I go."  
"Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus told him:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

The Gospel of the Lord

### **Thoughts from Scripture at death**

Come. You have my Father's blessing. Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

(Matthew 25:34)

We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death, brothers; otherwise you might yield to grief, like those who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus dies and rose, God will bring forth with him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in him.

(I Thessalonians 4: 13-14)

I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, though he should die, will come to life, and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die. (John 11:26)

I heard a voice from heaven say to me: "Write this down: Happy now are the dead who die in the Lord!" The spirit added, "Yes, they shall rest from their labors, for their good works accompany them."

(Revelations 14:13)

### **A Meditation: "Life Must Go On"**

Grieve for me....for I would grieve for you...then...brush away the sorrow and tears... Life is not over...but, begins anew...To live forever in the past is wrong...It can only cause you misery and pain...Dwell not on memories overlong...With others you must share and care again...Reach out and comfort those who comfort you...Recall the years...but only for a while...Nurse not your loneliness...But live again! Forget not...Remember...with a smile.

**A Blessing:** The Lord bless you and keep you! Amen.

The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! Amen.

The Lord look upon you with kindness and give you his peace! Amen.

(Numbers 6: 24-26)

***+ In the Name of The Father, and of The Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.***