

Graveside VFW Memorial Tribute

Name of Deceased

Day and Date

_____ Cemetery

_____ was a veteran of the _____ War and a _____ member of the VFW Post _____.

Procedure for Graveside Service

- Muster near Hearse and walk as a group following casket to the gravesite.
- Following the religious ceremony by the Pastor, VFW Members present will follow Chaplain _____ - - walk in single file up to the casket (stand near head and face seated family).

Opening Remarks

Commander or Chaplain: We, the members of _____ Post _____, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are here to pay a lasting tribute of respect to _____, our departed comrade.

When the call of our country was heard, comrade _____ answered that call. _____ was a veteran of the _____ War and a _____ member of the VFW Post _____. As a brave man he served faithfully with an abiding faith in God, his country and his flag.

Following his military service, he served as _____ before retiring in _____.

Tributes

_____ On behalf of _____ Post _____, veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I present this **evergreen tribute** as a symbol of our undying love for our comrade. At the opening of each of our Post Meetings we will take time to remember _____ and the rest of our departed comrades.

(Step forward and lay a piece of evergreen on the casket. Salute - - and return to your place in line)

_____ In honor of _____, I place this **white flower** as a symbol of pure, unselfish devotion upon this casket. May each of us seek to emulate such pure unselfish devotion to God, our country, our profession, and our families..

(Step forward and lay a white flower on the casket. Salute - - and return to your place in line)

_____ : On top of the evergreen and beside the white flower, I present this **yellow flower** as a memorial to the bright sunny joyful times you have had

together. As we get older, with the aid of our memory, you can relive and enjoy again those happy and special times you had.

(Step forward and lay a yellow flower on the casket. Salute - - and return to your place in line)

_____ On behalf of our glorious republic, for whose integrity our comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars willingly served, we place upon _____'s casket this **small flag of the United States**. It is the emblem of our country and symbol of individual and personal liberty.

(Step forward and lay flag on the casket. Salute - - and return to your place in line)

Chaplain:

Poem

There is no time that we could set for parting.
We who must remain are never ready for such pain.
Even our prayer would be: "Not yet! Not yet, dear God - -
Another day with us, Let our beloved stay."
We must believe, when falls that blow,
That wisely God has willed it so.
Edgar A. Guest

Committal

In the light of the promises God has given us in His Word and in as much as it has pleased the Lord in His sovereign wisdom and purpose to take _____ from our midst, we now commit his body to its final resting place to await the fulfillment of the promises of Scripture.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Comfort us as we remember the scriptures that says, "*God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.* Amen

Announce that Volleys will be fired and "Taps" sounded to honor _____
Present Arms

Playing of Taps

- Remain at Casket while Taps is played
- At the conclusion of Taps, Order Arms

Folding and Presentation of Flag to Family

On behalf of a grateful nation and _____ Post _____ we present this flag in honor of your loved one's service.

- This concludes _____ Post _____'s service for _____.
- Detail retires and Funeral director gives final instructions.
- Detail waits and at the end of the procession, pays final respects by placing a poppy on the casket.