

Masonic War Veterans

of

New York



Funeral Service

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Good [afternoon, evening], my name is _____ ,
it is a privilege to be here as a representative of the Masonic
War Veterans of New York. We have assembled here to
honor a member of our [post name] _____ Post No.____
located in _____, NY,

[rank] _____ and **Brother** [name] _____

A significant number of the founders of our great country
were Masons and Veterans. Over the years it has been
discussed at length what it means to be a Mason, but what
does it mean to be a Veteran and a Mason.

Many people do not know just what a Veteran is. On
occasion I have been asked if I was one and just what it
meant to serve. I am proud to be a Veteran and have
searched for a good definition of the term.

I feel that being a Veteran is:

a state of mind, a constant, life long
dedication of service, to our great county.

What Is A Veteran?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing
limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a
bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg. Or perhaps
another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the
refinery of adversity.

Except in parades or ceremonies, the men and women who
have kept America safe wear no uniform, badge or emblem.

You cannot tell a Veteran just by looking at them.

Who Is A Veteran?

They are men and women who have served their country as a member of the armed forces in times of peace and times of war

They have served in a combat zone in a faraway, remote, hostile and unfamiliar country

They are the nurses who worked double shifts at a M*A*S*H unit in South Korea and Vietnam

They are POWs who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back at all

They are the drill instructors and support personnel who saved countless lives by turning undisciplined kids into soldiers, and teaching them the meaning of trust and honor

They are the Service men and women who pin on ribbons and medals with one hand

They are the anonymous heroes in The Tomb of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the depths of the oceans

They are the elderly greeting you in a department store - who landed on a cold wind swept beach called Normandy

They are ordinary and yet extraordinary human beings – that offer some of life's most vital years in the service of their country, and who sacrifice their ambitions so others do not have to sacrifice theirs

They are a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and they are nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

Let us remember that

It's the Veteran, Who salutes the flag, who serves others with respect for the flag, and whose coffin [turn and face the coffin] is draped with the flag of our country.

It's the Veteran, our Brother Veteran that seems to always attend meetings, helps organize degrees, and is known as a mentor and upright man.

So I try to remember, each time I recognize someone who has served our country, to just stop and say, 'Thank You'

That's all most people need, and in most cases it means more than any medals or honors they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Thank You [rank] _____ [name] _____,

for being a Veteran and our Brother

We salute you

[turn and face the coffin, "hand salute..... two"]

I would like to close with these words:

We offer our warmest and sincerest condolences to our Brother's Family and Friends. A good mentor, leader, and friend he will be truly missed. While we mourn his loss we can rejoice in the fact he was a Mason and believed in the immortality of the soul. There can never be any doubt of his love for our Fraternity, he lived, breathed, walked and bled Masonry. May God be with him and members of his family.

God Bless you and those you love ...

God Bless the men and women in our Armed Forces past and present ...

God Bless our great fraternity ... and may God continue to Bless the United States of America!

Military Honors

Gun Salute:

Performed by MWV / Local / Active Military Honor Guard

Taps:

Performed by MWV / Local / Active Military Honor Guard

Flag Folding:

**Performed by MWV / Local / Active Military Honor Guard
[How to Fold the United States Flag ref. page 5]**

Flag Presentation:

Performed by MWV / Local / Active Military Honor Guard

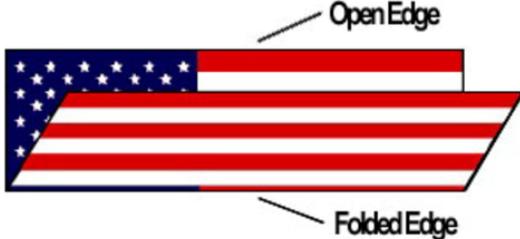
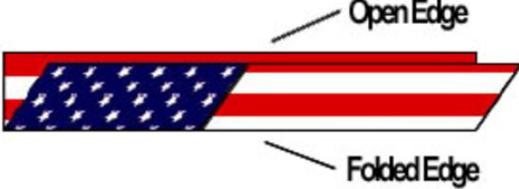
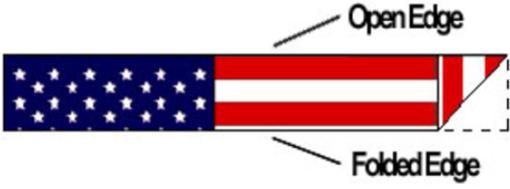
[render a hand salute to the flag as it is handed to you]

“This flag is presented on behalf of a grateful nation and the United States [Army, Navy, Air force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard] as a token of appreciation for your loved one’s honorable and fateful service.”

[stand and render a salute]

How to Fold the United States Flag

United States flags are manufactured with a proportion of 1.0 (the HOIST, or Width) to 1.9 (the FLY, or Length), therefore the folding instructions are the same regardless of the size of the flag.

<p><i>Start</i></p>		<p>↑ HOIST ↓ ← FLY →</p>
<p><i>Step 1</i></p>		<p>Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.</p>
<p><i>Step 2</i></p>		<p>Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.</p>
<p><i>Step 3</i></p>		<p>A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.</p>
<p><i>Step 4</i></p>		<p>Outer point is then turned inward and parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.</p>
<p><i>Step 5</i></p>		<p>Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.</p>
<p><i>Completed</i></p>		<p>The edge of the final triangular fold is tucked tightly inside the remaining open fold.</p>

Prepared by the Military Salute Project using information provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – National Cemetery Administration. This information may be copied and distributed at will provided no person, business or organization receives any financial gain whatsoever.