

Memorial Service for _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Age _____

Purpose: To provide comfort and hope with a sensitive caring attitude.

Acknowledge the pain of grief and affirm the hope of the Gospel.

Welcome

I am VFW Post _____ Chaplain _____, and I will be guiding our service this afternoon to remember and honor _____.

_____ is grateful for your presence and the many words of consolation and encouragement he/she has received during this time of bereavement. Your presence here this afternoon is very comforting to him/her and the family.

VFW Post Commander: We are members of _____. Veterans of Foreign Wars and it's Auxiliary. I am _____. We have assembled to pay a lasting tribute of respect to our departed comrade, _____.

When the call of our country was heard _____ answered, self was forgotten in the cause of the greater good. Bravely he served with an abiding faith in God, his country, and his flag.

_____ was a true patriot and a great model of what it means to be a soldier and a good citizen.

Poem

The passing of a loved one and friend is always a great loss and a sad occasion.

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 the blow,

That wisely God has willed it so.

Edgar A. Guest

Prayer: Our Loving Eternal Heavenly Father, as we remember _____, a dear friend, loved one, and comrade to those present, we ask you to be the God of all comfort and the God of all grace. Use the elements of this short Memorial Service to give us perspective and hope as we honor _____ and face the reality of death. Amen.

Obituary read by:

Meditation

When we hear of the death of a friend or loved one, even when it is expected, we have a **reaction**.

1. It is natural to have a **REACTION**.

It is natural and OK to have a reaction.

2. Second, we begin to **REFLECT**, and we start to **REMEMBER**

We remember the happy years we spent together. The sharing the special occasions and family traditions.

We Will Remember You, _____

At the rising of the sun and at its going down – We will remember you

At the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter - We will remember you

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring - We will remember you

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer - We will remember you

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn - We will remember you

At the beginning of the year and when it ends - We will remember you

As long as we live, _____ too will live on; for _____ is a part of us, and we will remember him.

3. A third thing also happens.

We **REALIZE**

1. How quickly life passes.

2. For those of us who believe the sacred scriptures, we realize that death is not the end.

Verses of Comfort

In John 11:25 "Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.'

Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Special VFW Tribute and Remembrance

(Name of presenter) On behalf of the Veterans, I present this **evergreen tribute** as a symbol of our undying love for _____.

*(Step forward and lay a piece of evergreen next to the Urn or beside casket.
Salute [slowly] - - and return to your place in line).*

(Name of presenter) In honor of _____ and his commitment and service to others, I place these **white flowers** as a symbol of pure, unselfish devotion. May each of us seek to emulate such pure unselfish devotion to God, our country, our profession, and our loved ones.

*(Step forward and lay the white flowers on or next to the evergreen.
Salute [slowly] - - and return to your place in line).*

(Name of presenter) On top of the evergreen and beside the white flowers, I present these **yellow flowers** as a memorial to the bright sunny joyful times we have had together. As we get older, with the aid of our memory, we can relive and enjoy again those happy and special times we had.

*(Step forward and lay the yellow flowers next to the other items.
Salute [slowly] - - and return to your place in line).*

(Name of presenter) On behalf of our glorious republic, for whose integrity _____ and his fellow comrades willingly served, I place 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 the small flag next to the other items. Salute - - and return to your place in line).

The Memorial Poppy

The Memorial Poppy is a national symbol of the flowers in Flanders Field that embodies the sacrifices of men and women who served and died for their country in all wars. We now leave this poppy in your honor, _____, and as a reminder of the binding comradeship we feel for you.

Committal

In the light of the promises God has given us in His Word, we now commit _____ to the Lord. May we find comfort as we remember the scripture 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

United States (Branch of Service) will render Military Honors

Present Arms: Playing of Taps

Folding of Flag and Presentation of Flag: On behalf of the president, the United States Army, and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a token of your loved ones honorable and faithful service to our nation.

