PRAYER: INITIATION CEREMONY

Almighty God, we ask Thy blessing upon these our comrades who now become fellow members. May the tender ties formed amid the privations and dangers of war be drawn closer by our fellowship in this order. May our union foster among us an enduring comradeship and a spirit of mutual loyalty and support in every walk of life. May these comrades dedicate and devote their lives to th service. And as Thou did spare them during the perils of wars, grant that henceforth they may be spared for a useful life. To the honor and glory of Thy Holy Name. **Amen.**

PRAYER: DRAPING THE CHARTER

Eternal God, let Your mercy rest upon us as we, with grateful affection, remember Comrade _____ (name), who has departed this life. We thank You for his/her days upon earth and the joy that he/she brought. May our remembrance of him/her live long among us and be to us a source of guidance and strength. Give to those who miss him/her most deep wells of consolation from which to draw comfort, and enable us to be Your ministers of mercy to them in their time of need,. **Amen.**

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

PRAYERS FOR MEETINGS

OPENING PRAYER

Chaplain: Let us bow our heads. O, Sovereign Ruler of the Universe who art the Lord of Hosts and God of Peace, without Thee our efforts are vain. Continue Thy blessings upon us and our families, we pray Thee, and guide us during our deliberations. We beseech Thee, O God, to bless the dependents of our departed comrades, and to comfort all who gave their loved ones to our nation's cause.

Bless and strengthen the sick, the needy and the afflicted. Bless, we ask Thee, the widows and children in our National Home to help us to fulfill our duty toward them. Continue Thy favor upon our order, and help us to practice the spirit of true comradeship, both in our councils and with the world at large. Enable us to better the community in which we live through our devotion to duty as citizens.

We now have a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades and for those missing in action and those held as prisoners of war. (short pause.)

These and all other necessary blessings we ask of Thee, Mighty Ruler of the Universe. **Amen.**

NATIONAL HOME PRAYER

Chaplain: Almighty God, we ask for Your divine blessing on the children, families and staff of our National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

May Your Spirit dwell with them forever giving them health and guiding their lives. Help us to always be faithful to our fallen comrades by providing (shelter and guidance) support for their families. We ask in Your Holy Name. **Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Chaplain: Almighty God, the hour has come when we must part.

We commit ourselves to Thy care. Thou, Who art our strong tower of defense and our protection, grant that in life's battles we may be strong and brave living such lives of stainless integrity as shall reflect honor upon our country and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and glorify Thy great and Holy Name.

May Thy good providence shield us from all harm, watch over those who even now guard the gates of freedom, and bring us together again in true comradeship and peace. **Amen.**