

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Chaplain:** Let us bow our heads. O, Sovereign Ruler of the Universe Who are the God of Peace, without You our efforts are vain. Continue Your blessings upon us and our families. Guide us during our deliberations. We ask Your blessings on 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 the children, families and staff of our National Home and help us to fulfill our duty toward them. Continue Your favor upon our order. 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 You 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 Your care. You Who are 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 Your great and Holy Name. May Your 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**

**PRAYER: INITIATION CEREMONY**

**Chaplain:** Almighty God, we ask Your 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 Your service, and as You spared them during the perils of wars, grant that they may be spared for a useful life, to the honor and glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

**PRAYER: DRAPING**

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**