

## AIR FORCE BURIAL RITUAL

### **Commander:**

We are assembled here to pay a lasting tribute of respect to our departed comrade

\_\_\_\_\_.

When the call of our country was heard, Comrade \_\_\_\_\_ answered; self was forgotten in the cause of the greater good, as a brave man marched away with an abiding faith in God, his country and his flag.

The red of our country's flag was made redder still by his heroism; the white, more stainlessly pure by the motives which impelled him; and, in the starry field of our nation's glorious banner, the blue has been glorified by the service he gave for American ideals.

**Chaplain:** O God! Father of us all, we here extend these final earthly tributes to our beloved comrade.

Accept our prayers in behalf of the soul of thy servant departed.

Welcome him to Thy house to rest in peace, Look with mercy upon the loved ones bereaved by his passing.

Comfort and console them through Thine own tenderness.

These things we ask humbly in Thy name. Amen

**Commander:** One by one, we are called upon to fulfill these sad duties of respect to our departed comrades.

The present, full of the cares that besets our nation engaged in war, fades away as we look back on the day this comrade left his home to defend his country.

Imbued by the spirit of devotion and inspired by an undying love of his land, our comrade gladly went forth and joined with comrades to preserve our freedom.

We trust that the example set by our comrade provides a glorious beacon to the youth of our country, to uphold the honor of our flag.

As years roll on, we, too shall have finished our fight, shall be laid to rest, and our souls follow to the realms above, as all-enfolding death, hour by hour, marks his recruits.

Comrades, let us so live that when the Keeper of the Eternal Records shall have called our names for the last time, those we have left behind may say of us, as we now say of this Comrade.

"Here lies all that is mortal of a true-hearted comrade, a fearless defender of our country and our flag."

## **Chaplain's Address:**

The march of your comrade is over and he lieth down in the house appointed for all the living.

We are reminded of the frailty of human life and the tenure by which we hold our own. "In such an hour as ye think not, the final summons may come which no one disobeys."

Our departed comrade of the Air Force no longer flies through enemy fire to drop ordinance nor fights off enemy attacks.

May each of us, when our voyages, battles of life and mission are over, find a welcome in that region of the blest where there is no more storm-tossed sea, nor scorching battlefield, nor dangerous skies.

Our comrade is in the hands of our Heavenly Father, and "God giveth His beloved sleep."

He will be laid to rest, but let us cherish his virtues and learn to imitate them, reminded by the place, he fills no more.

Let each one be so loyal to every virtue, so true to every friendship, so faithful in the remaining marches, that he will be ready to fall out and take his place in the great review hereafter; not in doubt, but with faith that the merciful Captain of our Salvation will call him to that fraternity which on earth and in heaven remains unbroken.

**Commander:** "Please Rise and remain standing for rendering of Military Honors"

### **Gun Salute**

### **Taps**

### **Presenting of the flag**

On behalf of the President of the United States, the Department of the Air Force, and a grateful nation, we offer this flag for the faithful and dedicated service of your loved one.

May God bless you and your family, and the United States of America.