



# LODGE OF MILITARY TRIBUTE

A Masonic Military Memorial Service  
by WBro. Alvin O. Benemerito ©

A.:D.: 2003  
A.:L.: 6003



DEDICATED TO  
My Mother Lodge  
LONG PINE LODGE NO. 136  
Long Pine, Nebraska

THANK YOU  
to My Wife  
SHANDA  
For her kind and unending support





## LODGE OF MILITARY TRIBUTE

### -- WELCOME ADDRESS --


**Brother**\_\_\_\_\_: *Welcome Address.*

### -- ENTRANCE OF OFFICERS --

**S : D :** *Advances to the center of the Lodge.*

To order brethren! *Raps his rod on the floor* 

All Masons who are able, be upstanding to receive the Worshipful Master.




*Raps rod on the floor*   

*Officers Process into the Lodge.*

**W : M :** *Be seated brethren.* 

*The other officers will process to their respective stations/place in the lodge. The Marshal and Stewards will exit the Lodge to prepare for the Flag presentation.*


### -- INVOCATION --

**W : M :** *Since no Masonic undertaking should ever begin without first invoking the blessing of God, you will give attention while the Chaplain leads us in prayer. Please rise.*    *Uncovers.*

**Chaplain:** Almighty Father, Grand Architect of the Universe, We bow our heads in gratitude for our brothers in arms, whose valor and virtue shine as beacons of integrity. In lodges of brotherhood and fields of battle, their commitment unwavering, their spirits indomitable, they serve with honor, they protect with courage. Bless them, O Sovereign Ruler of our hearts, with fortitude in trials and tranquility in turmoil, As they carry forth the banner of freedom. May the compass of morality guide their paths, and the square of virtue frame their deeds in service to humanity and the greater glory of Thy name. For those who have served, and those who serve still, we offer our thanks, our respect, our prayers, bound by the fraternal ties that unite us all. Amen.

**Brethren:** So Mote It Be.

-- *DECLARATION* --

**W. M.:** In the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, I declare this Lodge of Military Tribute open. 

**W. M.:** Brother Senior Deacon, you will display the three Great Lights of Freemasonry.  
*Senior Deacon displays the lights and returns to his seat.*

-- *FLAG CEREMONY* --

**W. M.:** Bro. Marshal (or Bro. Senior Deacon), you will present the flag of our country.

**W. M.:** *Uncovers or renders a hand salute.*

*The Marshal (or Senior Deacon), flanked by the Stewards, enters the Lodge and proceeds to the front of the Senior Warden's station. They face east; the Stewards form an arch with rods over the Marshal. They march halfway to the altar.*

**W. M.:** Please join me in singing the National Anthem.

**All:** *The National Anthem is sung.*

**W. M.:** Brother Marshal, post the Colors.

*The Marshal and Stewards bear the Flag to the East. The Marshal posts the flag, steps back, salutes and returns to his position between the Stewards. They remain facing the East*


*OPTION -- TOAST TO THE FLAG --*

**W. M.:** We will now give a toast to the greatest National Emblem to fly over land, sea, air and even outer space. (I now invite W/Bro \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver "A Toast to the Flag.")

-- *PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE* --

**W. M.:** All proud citizens of this great nation, please join me in saluting the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**All:** *The Pledge of Allegiance.*

**W. M.:** *Recovers.* Please be seated. 

*The Marshal and Stewards turns about face and return to their seats.*

*OPTION -- RECEPTION of the GRAND MASTER --*

*This is done in accordance with the appropriate Protocol of the Grand Jurisdiction. After saluting the Grand Master the Lodge is seated. The ceremony proceeds.*

-- THE FORGET ME NOT LECTURE --

**W. : M. :** The following legend of The Blue-Forget-Me-Not is taken from a Presentation Card issued by the American Canadian Grand Lodge within the United Grand Lodges of Germany. (*This legend will now be delivered by W/Bro\_\_\_\_\_.*)

In Early 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became evident that Freemasonry was in danger. In that same year, the "Grand Lodge of the Sun", one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges, located in Bayreuth, realizing the grave dangers involved, adopted the Little Blue Forget-Me-Not Flower as a substitute for the traditional square and compasses.

It was felt the flower would provide brethren with an outward means of identification while lessening the risk of possible recognition in public by the Nazis, who were engaged in wholesale confiscation of all Masonic Lodge properties. Freemasonry went undercover, and this delicate flower assumed its role as a symbol of Masonry surviving throughout the reign of darkness.

During the ensuing decade of Nazi power, a little blue Forget-Me-Not flower worn on the lapel served as one method whereby Masons could identify each other in public, and in cities and concentration camps throughout Europe. The Forget-Me-Not distinguished the lapels of countless brethren who staunchly refused to allow the symbolic Light of Masonry to be completely extinguished.

When Past Grand Master Beyer reopened the 'Grand Lodge of the Sun' in 1947, a little pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was officially adopted as the emblem of that first annual convention of the brethren who had survived the bitter years of semi-darkness to rekindle the Masonic Light.

At the first Annual Convention of the new United Grand Lodge of Germany AF&AM (VGLvD), in 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem in honor of the thousands of valiant Brethren who carried on their Masonic work under adverse conditions.

The following year, each delegate to the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington, D.C., received one from Dr. Theodor Vogel, Grand Master of the VGLvD.

Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a symbol of the fraternity. In the years since adoption, its significance worldwide has been attested to by the tens of thousands of brethren who now display it with meaningful pride.



*-- HONORING THE LIVING --*

**W.:M.:** Will all those who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces please rise and move to the lodge floor to be recognized.

*The Team and/or brethren on the sidelines may assist and line the guests around the Lodge floor.*


**W.:M.:** Please state your name and branch of service.

*-- PRESENTATION of CERTIFICATES and/or TOKENS --*

**W.:M.:** (Option: *The Worshipful Master reads the Certificate of Appreciation.*)

*The Marshal, Grand Master and Worshipful Master will form a Detail to present the Certificate and/or tokens (i.e. Forget-Me-Not or PinFlag) to each honoree.*

*Presenting a hand salute is appropriate. The Sign of Fidelity is rendered if a member of the team has not served in the Uniformed Service.*

**W.:M.:**  Brethren & friends, please join me in giving these Valiant Citizens our hearty appreciation for their service to our Country. *Applause.*

**W.:M.:** Brother Deacons and Stewards you will seat our guests. 

*The veterans return to their seats.*

*OPTION -- A PATRIOTIC PRESENTATION --*

**W.:M.:** I now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to come to the East. *An appropriate Patriotic Presentation is made or a Guest Speaker is invited to speak. Examples below.*

*EXAMPLE*


**W.:M.:** I now invite W/Bro \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver "The Ragged Old Flag."

*EXAMPLE*

**W.:M.:** I now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to perform the Flag Folding Ceremony.



-- HONORING the DEPARTED --

**W.:M.:**  Brother Marshal (or Senior Deacon), you will display the Flag at the Altar and drape the Charter as a memorial to our dearly departed Comrades-in-Arms.

*The Marshal will solemnly display a folded flag at the Altar and renders a Slow Hand Salute or Sign of Fidelity. He then reverently drapes the Charter and gives a court bow (bowing with just the head); and returns to his seat.*

**W.:M.:** Let us place ourselves in an attitude of prayer and observe a moment of silence in memory of those who have gone before us. *Uncovers.*

*The lights are lowered.*

**W.:M.:** Amen.

**Brethren:** So Mote It Be.

*The Worshipful Master recovers, leaves his station and advances East of the Altar. The Deacons and Stewards will simultaneously approach the altar, create an Arch with their rods, under which the Worshipful Master delivers the following oration:*

**W.:M.:** Our heavenly Father, will fold the arms of His love and protection to those who put their trust in Him. Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our brethren. Bright and glorious be their rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia sprig, which shall flourish them. And in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may their souls spring into newness of life and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, Dear Friends and Brothers. Until then. . . *Uncovers.* Farewell. *Reverently bows head.*

*As the Worshipful Master uncovers, the Deacons and Stewards drop their rods slowly to a carry. They simultaneously bow their heads reverently.*

***The Low Twelve is rung.***

*The Worshipful Master recovers.*

**W.:M.:** Brethren who are able, join and repeat after me in giving honors.

**W.:M.:** We consign their body to the earth. *Extend the hands forward, palms upward.*

**W.:M.:** We cherish their memory here. *Cross the arms on the breast.*

**W.:M.:** We commend their spirit unto God, who gave it. *Raise the hands above the head with palms forward.*

**W.:M.:** Please be seated. *Audience are seated.*

*The Worshipful Master, Deacons and Stewards simultaneously return to their seats.*

-- RESPONSE FROM A VETERAN --

**W.·M.·:** On behalf of the Veterans, we now invite (Bro./Mr.)\_\_\_\_\_ to bring greetings.

-- ADDRESS of the *WORSHIPFUL MASTER* --

**W.·M.·:** It is indeed a privilege, to honor the men and women who have served or are currently serving in the Uniformed Services.

We recognize that these sacrifices were also endured by their spouses, their children, their parents, their families ... even their sweethearts.


If you are a member or have been a member of a military family, would you kindly stand.

Please accept our grateful appreciation for your sacrifices.


*Worshipful Master delivers his gratitude to those in attendance and to those who have made the arrangements for this opportunity to perform this civic duty to honor those who have made our freedoms possible. The Team should be introduced at this time.*

-- ADDRESS of the *GRAND MASTER* --

**W.·M.·:** Brethren and friends you will now give attention to the address of the Grand Master. To order brethren. 

**G.·M.·:** Brethren be seated.   
*Grand Master delivers his address.*

-- CLOSING --

**W. : M. :** We will now appropriately close this Lodge with a benediction, which will be given by the Chaplain . Please rise.  *Uncovers.*

**Chaplain:** O Great Architect of the Universe, we gather here in solemn reverence, seeking your guidance and protection. Look upon our brothers who stand in distant lands far from home, their duty calling them to serve. Bless them with courage and strength. Shield them from harm's cruel grasp. And grant them wisdom in their actions. May their hearts be steadfast, their minds clear and their spirits unyielding as they uphold the principles we hold dear. Watch over them, O Divine Light as they navigate treacherous paths and bring them safely back to our fold. For they are our brethren, bound by honor and their sacrifice echoes through time, a testament to duty, loyalty, and love. Amen.

**Brethren:** So Mote It Be.

**W. : M. :** Brother Senior Deacon, attend at the Altar. Brother Marshal, you will assist.  
*The Marshal will first retrieve the Flag from the Altar and then take three steps back. The Senior Deacon attends to the lights. Both return to their seats simultaneously.*

**Veteran:** *A veteran should be invited in advance to recite (read) the Kohima Epitaph:*

“WHEN YOU GO HOME,  
TELL THEM OF US AND SAY,  
FOR YOUR TOMORROW,  
WE GAVE OUR TODAY.”

*By John Maxwell Edmonds (Kohima Epitaph)*

***Taps, The Last Post or other mournful bugle call may be played.***

**W. : M. :** I pray that you have a safe journey home. And may you continue to spread the light of Masonry from generation to generation, until time shall be no more.

I now declare this Lodge of Military Tribute closed. 

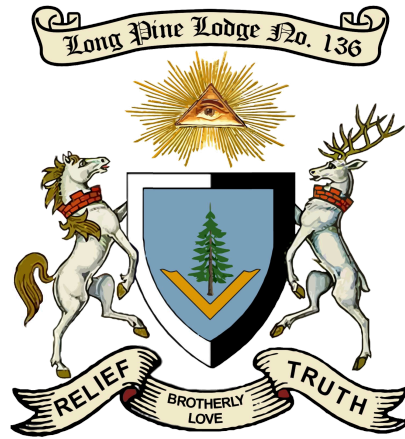
**W. : M. :** Brother Marshal you will retire the colors.

*The Marshal and Stewards will proceed to the East. The Marshal retrieves the Flag. They all face the West and stand at attention.*

**W. : M. :** Please join me in singing a verse of America The Beautiful.

*The Marshal and Stewards will exit during the Chorus.*

**W. : M. :** This concludes our ceremony. Thank you.



[longpinelodge.org/lmt](http://longpinelodge.org/lmt)



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OPTION -- A PATRIOTIC PRESENTATION --

**W. M. :** I now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to perform the **FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY.**

*The Flag Folding will be done between the Altar and the station of the Senior Warden. Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold--start reading when Honor Guard is standing ready.*

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks and who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to him that we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divining guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries - May she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for when "we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the One who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mothers, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, for it has been through faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he too has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in their eyes the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we trust."

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to inspect the flag--after the inspection, resume reading.)

After the flag is folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under our Masonic brother George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under another brother Mason, Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms that we enjoy today.

FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY ADOPTED FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**W. : M. :** Detail, display the Flag at the Altar in remembrance of our dearly departed comrades in arms.

*The flag is reverently laid on the Altar, take a step back and present a hand salute.  
The Flag Detail return to their seats.*

**OPTION -- A PATRIOTIC PRESENTATION --**

**"THE RAGGED OLD FLAG"**

by Johnny Cash J. Daly - 1917

I walked through a county courthouse square  
On a park bench, an old man was sittin' there.  
I said, "Your old court house is kinda run down,  
He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town".  
I said, "Your old flag pole is leaned a little bit,  
And that's a ragged old flag you got hangin' on it".  
He said, "Have a seat", and I sat down,  
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town"  
I said, "I think it is"  
He said "I don't like to brag, but we're kinda proud of  
That Ragged Old Flag

"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there,  
When Washington took it across the Delaware.  
and It got powder burned the night  
Francis Scott Key sat watching it,  
writing "Say Can You See"  
It got a rip in New Orleans,  
with Packingham & Jackson tugging at its seams.  
and It almost fell at the Alamo beside the Texas flag,  
But she waved on though.  
She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville,  
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.  
There was Robert E. Lee and Beauregard and Bragg,  
And the south wind blew hard on  
That Ragged Old Flag

On Flanders Field in World War I,  
She got a big hole from a Bertha Gun,  
She turned blood red in World War II  
She hung limp, and low, a time or two,  
She was in Korea, Vietnam,  
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.  
She waved from our ships upon the briny foam  
and now they've about quit wavin' back here at home  
In her own good land here She's been abused,  
She's been burned, dishonored, denied an' refused,  
And the government for which she stands  
Has been scandalized throughout out the land.  
And she's getting threadbare, and she's wearin' thin,  
But she's in good shape, for the shape she's in.  
Cause she's been through the fire before  
and i believe she can take a whole lot more.

"So we raise her up every morning  
And we bring her down slow every night,  
We don't let her touch the ground,  
And we fold her up right. On second thought  
I \*do\* like to brag  
Cause I'm mighty proud of That Ragged Old Flag"

What can I say to you Old Flag,  
You are so great in every fold.  
So linked to mighty deeds of old,  
So calm, so firm, so still, so true,  
My heart swells at the very sight of you, Old Flag.  
And, there you stand with colors bright,  
And, I think tis' only right,  
That since you neither brag nor boast,  
We bring you this heartfelt toast.

**"A TOAST TO THE FLAG"**

by John J. Daly - 1917

Here's to the red of it--  
There's not a thread of it,  
No, nor a shred of it  
In all the spread of it  
From foot to head.  
But heroes bled for it,  
Faced steel and lead for it,  
Precious blood shed for it,  
Bathing it Red!

Here's to the white of it--  
Thrilled by the sight of it,  
Who knows the right of it,  
But feels the might of it  
Through day and night?  
Womanhood's care for it  
Made manhood dare for it,  
Purity's prayer for it  
Keeps it so white!

Here's to the blue of it--  
Beauteous view of it,  
Heavenly hue of it,  
Star-spangled dew of it  
Constant and true;  
Diadems gleam for it,  
States stand supreme for it,  
Liberty's beam for it  
Brightens the blue!

Here's to the whole of it--  
Stars, stripes and pole of it,  
Body and soul of it,  
O, and the roll of it,  
Sun shining through;  
Hearts in accord for it,  
Swear by the sword for it,  
Thanking the Lord for it,  
Red White and Blue!



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