

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Quick Reference Guide

This reference guide is not to take away from our historical Ritual and Special Services Manual, it is intended to be a simplified reference guide.

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-political, non-sectarian organization. We do not support any political candidate, nor do we endorse any religious organization. The military represents all aspects of America as does our organization. Links to our website do not represent an endorsement. We are a 501(c)3 Organization.

LOYALTY OATH

“I do solemnly swear that I am not a Communist or Fascist. I do not advocate nor am I a member of any organization that advocates the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence or other unconstitutional means or seeking by force or violence to deny any person their rights under the Constitution of the United States.

“I do further swear that I will not so advocate, nor will I become a member of such an organization during the period I am a member of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I sign the oath freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God. “

Opening Ceremonies for National/Department Conventions

The room will be set up with the dais. The altar will be set up in front of the dais with the charter and Bible. The POW/MIA table can be set up if desired.

The convention opens with the presentation of the American Flag and Blue Star Mother Flag followed by the procession of elected officers. Colors coming in, American Flag walking on the right, BSMA walking on the left. The American Flag crosses first to the left in front of the altar, then the BSMA Flag crosses to the right of the altar, both setting the flags on the corners of the head table simultaneously. From the head table view, the American Flag will be to the right of the President.

National/Department Conventions

The room will be set up with the dais. The altar will be set up with the charter and Bible. The POW/MIA table can be set up if desired.

At National/Department Conventions there is a protocol for seating of the board. Looking from the back of the room, walking in; head table with all elected NEB Officers and Parliamentarian. Going from left to right; 4VP, 3VP, 2VP, 1VP, President, Parliamentarian, RecSec, FinSec, Treasurer.

Flag

The Flag of the United States of America is necessary equipment of every Chapter and shall be displayed during each meeting. It should be placed to the right of the Presiding Officer.

The Flag of the United States of America should always be carried in an upright position do not dip the Flag to any person or thing.

All Officers and Members, except the Color Bearers, shall stand at attention facing the Flag during the Pledge of Allegiance and The National Anthem.

When the Flag passes during the presentation of the Colors, salute and hold until the Flag is posted.

When holding the American Flag (either large or small), do not sing nor give the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Ceremonies for National

President: (two raps of the Gavel) “The Officers will retire and present the Colors for formal entry and opening of the Chapter.” (3 raps of the gavel for assembly to rise)

NOTE: See above for formal entry instructions with presentation of colors

President: The Officers and Members will sing the National Anthem, or America, or stand at attention while the National Anthem is played.

Sergeant at Arms: (Approaching the Altar) “Madam President, the doors are closed and guarded.”

President: “Madam Chaplain, you will lead in our opening prayer.”

President: “Blue Star Mothers, we have met to transact such business as may come before our organization.”

NOTE: See Order of Business

Opening Ceremonies for Formal Chapter Meetings

President: (two raps of the Gavel) “The Officers will retire and present the Colors for formal entry and opening of the Chapter.” (3 raps of the gavel for assembly to rise)

- After the Patriotic Instructor posts the Flag, she salutes it; then the Banner is posted, and officers return to the Altar and then to their stations.

President: The Officers and Members will sing the National Anthem, or America, or stand at attention while the National Anthem is played.

Sergeant at Arms (Optional): (Approaching the Altar) “Madam President, the doors are closed and guarded.”

President: “Madam Chaplain, you will lead in our opening prayer.”

President: “Blue Star Mothers, we have met to transact such business as may come before our Chapter.”

NOTE: See Order of Business

Instructions for Chaplain in Opening Ceremonies

- On the command of the Presiding Officer, the Chaplain carrying the Bible will walk in a direct line to the Altar, stopping three feet therefrom.
- Presiding Officer will ask the Chaplain to open the Bible and provide an opening prayer.
- After the prayer the Chaplain will take three steps backwards then a square turn to the right then back to her seat.
- For the closing prayer, the Chaplain will go to the Altar alone and follow the same procedure as in the opening.

Chaplain: “Let us pray: Dear God, we ask Thy blessing upon those here assembled, that we may perform the duties that lie before us, according to Thy Divine love and mercy, that mankind may benefit through our actions. Teach us to be loyal and true to the ideals for which our sons and daughters fought. Help us to serve our fellow men, and by the principles of brotherly love and patriotism, lead us toward a just and lasting peace. Help us, God, in all we do, and to Thee alone shall we give all honor and praise. Amen.”

Patriotic Instructor: “Officers and Members, you will unite with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country. I 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.”

President: “Madam Historian, you will lead in the Preamble of the Blue Star Mothers of America.”

Historian: “We, the Mothers of members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, do unite to establish a permanent organization. Desiring to continue to be of service to our Nation, we dedicate our time and our lives, if necessary, to the perpetuation of democratic government and are proud and honored that our sons and daughters have been chosen to serve their Country.”

President: “The objects of our order are patriotic, benevolent, and charitable. May our proceedings be harmonious and beneficial to all. I now declare this National Convention opened for the transaction of business.” (One rap of the gavel to seat the assembly)

Order of Business

Roll Call of Officers
Approval of minutes

(see convention agenda)

Remarks for the Good of the Order
Closing Ceremonies

Closing Ceremonies

President: “Officers and Members, I am about to close this meeting. It is hoped that it has been pleasant and profitable for all of us. You will arise and assist in the closing ceremonies.” (Three raps of the gavel)

President: “We will now sing our Closing Song. *We’re the Blue Star Mothers of America.*”

President: (After song) “Madam Chaplain, you will now ask a parting blessing.”

Chaplain: God, our Father, we commend to Thy loving care the transactions of this meeting. May our every act be dedicated to Thy Glory and Honor. As we separate one from another, let the memory of our services, and mutual love prevail. Imbue us with that Spirit of Peace and Harmony, that our efforts may shed joy and happiness upon the paths of those less fortunate than ourselves. Help us, O God, to walk in Thy way and teach us to be truly thankful for all good things. Amen.”

(Chaplain closes Bible and returns with it to her station.)

President: “The Officers will retire the Flags.”

“I now declare this meeting closed until our next regular meeting -- unless otherwise ordered. Officers will retire.”

Retiring of Flags

The convention closes with the retiring of the American Flag and Blue Star Mother Flag, followed by the procession of elected officers. Both flags are removed from their bases and are carried to the alter facing each other, then turning to face the body. The American Flag crosses first to the left, the BSMA crosses to the right. They exit together out the back of the room.

Installation of Officers-National, Department and Chapters

Line up of Officers for installation

Patriotic Instructor and Historian will lead the Officers to the altar.

Installing Officer: “Madam President, have the books of your finance officers been audited, and are they ready to be turned over to the successor? Have the new officers been elected and appointed according to our constitution and by-laws?”

“Madam Financial Secretary, are the officers-elect in good standing, according to your records?”

“I now declare the offices of this Chapter vacant, and we are ready to proceed with the installation.

Installing Officer: “Madam Secretary, you will read the names and office of the Officers to be installed.”

Installing Officer: “Officers elect, you have been chosen to care for the welfare of this organization. This fact proves that the members have confidence in your ability to conduct the affairs of the Blue Star Mothers of America in a successful and conscientious manner.

“You know the principals involved and realize the necessity for keeping both the business and the social life to the highest standard.

“You will instruct its members in its purposes and aims. You will protect the good name of the Blue Star Mothers before the people of America.

“You will strive to prevent the distinction of class and creed. There is no rank among us, for we all answered the call of our country when we gave our sons and daughters in its defense.”

“Are you ready to assume the obligation?”

(The assembly will rise and remain standing during the obligation, then be seated during the charges to the Officers.)

Installing Officer: “Madam Chaplain, you will obligate the officers elect.”

Chaplain: “You will raise your right hand and repeat after me. In the presence of Almighty God, I do solemnly promise that I will, to the best of my ability, faithfully perform the duties of the office to which I have been elected; that I will conform to and abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Blue Star Mothers of America and the Department under whose jurisdiction I may be. I promise to do all within my power to promote the welfare of all Blue Star Mother Chapters

I will be kind and considerate of my associate Blue Star Mothers members in word and deed. These obligations I promise faithfully to keep. So help me, God.”

Installing Officer: “Madam First Vice President, you have been chosen to an office second in importance to the President. It shall be your duty to assist the President in the discharge of her responsibilities, to preside in her absence, secure new members, and perform all other duties as required.

Installing Officer: “Madam Second Vice President. It shall also be your duty to assist the President and the First Vice President in the discharge of their duties. You will be required to preside in the absence of the President and the First Vice President. Therefore, you should familiarize yourself with the duties of these officers, that you may capably function for them and perform such other duties as may be required.”

Installing Officer: “Madam, Third Vice President. It shall also be your duty to assist the President and the First Vice President in the discharge of their duties. You will be required to preside in the absence of the President, first, and second Vice Presidents. Therefore, you should familiarize yourself with the duties of these officers, that you may capably function for them and perform such other duties as may be required.”

Installing Officer: “Madam, Fourth Vice President. It shall be your duty to assist the President, first, second, and third Vice Presidents in the discharge of their duties. You will be required to preside in the absence of the President, first, second, and third Vice Presidents. Therefore, you should familiarize yourself with the duties of these officers so that you may capably function for them and perform such other duties as may be required.

Installing Officer: “Madam Recording Secretary, it shall be your duty to keep an accurate record of all meetings, read all communications, write all letters requested by the President, Executive Board, or by the Chapter. You shall carry on the correspondence between this group and all other organizations. Therefore, your good judgment and discretion will assist to preserve harmony and goodwill.

Installing Officer: “Madam Financial Secretary, it shall be your duty to receive and deposit all monies of the organization and maintain accurate financial records.”

Installing Officer: “Madam Treasurer, it shall be your duty to pay all approved invoices of the corporation and maintain accurate financial records.”

Installing Officer: “Madam Chaplain, yours is a sacred trust. In the discharge of your duties, you will be required to lead in the devotional exercises, and to invoke God’s blessings at all meetings and obligate new members. It shall be your duty to respond to all sickness and deaths reported and to perform such other duties as may be required.”

Installing Officer: “Madam Patriotic Instructor, it shall be your duty to display the Flag of our Country and to formulate plans to instill in the minds of members and the public love and reverence to the Flag; to have it suitably guarded; and, to have due homage rendered to the Flag when publicly displayed. You shall lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.”

Installing Officer: “Madam Historian, it shall be your duty to compile a report of the leading accomplishments of the Chapter that are of general interest to its members; to display the Blue Star Flag and lead in the preamble to the Blue Star Mothers.”

Installing Officer: “Madam Parliamentarian, it shall be your duty to act in an advisory capacity to the President. You may give an opinion in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order, but the final decision is up to the Presiding Officer ensuring our Governing Documents are followed.”

Installing Officer: “Madam President, you have been elected to the highest office within the gift of the members. With this high honor come responsibilities and duties which you will be required to perform with fidelity and justice. You are the presiding officer. You appoint all Committees unless otherwise provided for. It will be incumbent upon you to provide energetic leadership, plans, and working provisions.”

“I now present you with the gavel, your emblem of authority. Use it firmly and with discretion, but never in a dictatorial manner. Remember that the President is expected to set a good example. The success of this Chapter, for the period of your office, depends in a great measure upon your wise conduct of its affairs. I congratulate you and wish you great success.”

Chaplain: “Let us pray. God, Our Father, Who dost control the lives and destinies of Thy people, bless these new officers in the obligations they have assumed. Give them wisdom to perform their duties, courage to overcome all obstacles, love to exemplify the beauty of our service, and honor that they may be a blessing to mankind, our Sons and Daughters and Thee, their God. This we ask in Thy Glorious Name. Amen.”

(The newly elected President will receive the President Pin)

Installing Officer: “Madam Past National President, please come forward to receive you Past National President Pin.”

Installing Officer: “By the authority vested in me as _____ I hereby declare the Officers of this Board duly elected and legally installed. Officers and Members, I am happy and honored to present to you your President, _____. May this Board have a happy and harmonious year under her leadership.” The President is then escorted to the President’s station followed by the newly elected Board.

Chapter Initiation

Chapter President: “Madam Secretary, have you any applications for membership in our Chapter?”

Secretary: “Madam President, we have ___ (read name or names) who wish to become a member of our Chapter.”

Chapter President: “If these Mothers are in the room will they please retire to the anteroom”

Chapter President: “Madam Chaplain, you will obligate these Mothers.”

Chaplain: “You will raise your right hand and repeat after me:

“In the presence of the Eternal God, surrounded by these Blue Star Mothers, I swear to support the Constitution of the United States, to do my utmost to protect its Flag and institutions. I pledge my services to assist the parents of servicemen, and of veterans, and their dependents who may need aid, encouragement, or protection. To be true to the ideals of our democracy; to encourage the doctrine of universal liberty, equal rights, and full justice to all men; to be loyal to the principles of patriotism and good citizenship to the best of my ability.

I promise to obey the Constitution and By-Laws of the Blue Star Mothers of America and the Department under whose jurisdiction I may be and to obey all orders that may emanate from the properly constituted authority.

This obligation I promise to fulfill, so help me God.

“Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father we beseech Thy Blessings upon these Blue Star Mothers. Heed our prayer and sustain them in the obligation they have taken. May these new members create a greater understanding of friendship, comradeship, and loyalty, and may they be spared many years for useful life. Endow them with the spirit of love that they comfort and help those in need and one another. We ask this in thy Holy Name. Amen.”

Chapter President: “It gives me great pleasure to welcome you into our Organization.”

Institution of New Chapter

Presiding Officer: “Here assembled are the designated Charter Members of _____ Chapter, Number _____, ready to be instituted into a Blue Star Mothers Chapter. It is fitting that we ask the Divine Guidance of our Heavenly Father in this undertaking, that He may imbue us with wisdom and love of service.” (Three raps of the gavel).

Chaplain: (opens Bible): “Let us pray. Almighty God, we invoke Thy Benediction upon the purposes of this assembly. May our service be established in Thine Honor. Let the light of Thy Love and Presence prevail in this new Chapter _____ Number _____. Make their meeting place one where love, harmony, and service will always dwell. Endow the officers with wisdom, and may the membership be mindful of their duties toward Thee and one another. May they be loyal to the Blue Star Mothers of America and render love and service to our Veterans. Amen.”

Secretary: “Madam Presiding Officer, I have the honor of presenting the following Mothers who desire to become Charter Members of this Chapter.”
(These Mothers will rise and answer “Present” when their names are read).

Presiding Officer: “In the institution of this Chapter dedicated to service and love of humanity, with high ideals and an earnest desire to accept its responsibilities, we, the Mothers of men and women who are serving or who have served with the armed forces of the United States of America.

“We have formed ourselves into a permanent organization to keep before us those ideals of humanity, liberty, and patriotism, which our sons and daughters have fought to preserve, to the end that they might not have fought, suffered or died in vain, and to perform such other duties as the Constitution and By-Laws may require. With this knowledge of the purpose of this organization, are you ready to assume your obligation? “

(Mother’s answer: “I am”).

Presiding Officer: “Madam Chaplain, you will administer the obligation.”

Chaplain: “That you may faithfully represent the Blue Star Mothers, maintain its honor and dignity, and perform the requirements indicated by its purposes, raise your right hand, and repeat after me.

“Before this patriotic and sacred Altar, in the presence of those here assembled, I do solemnly and sincerely promise, before Almighty God, that I will abide by the Constitution of the United States of America, support its laws, traditions, and institutions.

“I promise that I will conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Blue Star Mothers of America and of the Department under whose jurisdiction I may be. I promise to keep green the

memories of all Veterans of the United States of Armed Forces, and the do all within my power to aid them in the problems arising from their services to the Country.

“I further pledge myself to assist in promoting peace, the advancement of liberty, democracy, justice, equality, and fair play in this Nation, that Veterans and ourselves may have opportunity, security, general welfare and, happiness. I further promise that I shall promote harmony and cooperation among all Blue Star Mothers of this organization by word and act in every way. The solemn pledges I promise to perform and keep.”

Instructions for Draping the Charter for a Blue Daisy Ceremony

The draping of the Charter will be the same procedure as escorting the Chaplain to the Altar for opening prayer. When Chaplain is in position back of Altar, the Colors will lead to the President’s station, turning right to the Blue Star Flag. Colors open rank for the Chaplain to go through, who places a drape and offers a prayer. An appropriate song may be used here. The Colors and Chaplain will proceed to the Altar form square and return to their stations.

All members should remain standing during the entire ceremony.

Sacred music should be played at this time. The drape should be white or lavender, either a drape or large bow, and placed at the Chaplain’s station and carried by her on open palms.

Draping of Charter for a Blue Daisy Ceremony

President: “Mothers, I regret to report the passing of Mother _____ since our last meeting. Madam Chaplain, and Colors, prepare for the ceremony of draping the Charter.”

Chaplain: “With loving reverence, we drape this Charter in memory of Mother _____ who has been called to her eternal home. (Lovingly and reverently place drape or bow).” Let us pray.”

“Infinite and merciful God, Thou Who dost rule over the lives and destinies of Thy people, be with us in the solemn hour. May she who has been taken from our midst ever live within our memories, and may her kindly acts be our inspiration until we meet in that Chapter above, Eternal in the Heavens. Amen.” sacred song or appropriate music. (Then return to stations.)

Committal Service for a Blue Daisy

This is at the family's discretion. Please coordinate with the family. The below are suggested examples:

The Flags lead, followed by the Chaplain; then, officers in twos form an avenue on each side of the grave.

After the officiant has said the prayer, the Chaplain steps to the head of the grave, with the American Flag on the right side and Blue Star Flag on the left. Each Mother holds a flower (blue daisy) to be later placed on the casket.

(The following address and prayer are suggested to be used in a church, mortuary, or home for a deceased Mother, omit the Committal Ceremony unless used at the grave).

President: "We come to the final hour on earth with the remains of our dear Mother. Death in our midst is always a shock, no matter what may be the circumstances. The workday of life still leaves us unprepared for parting with our loved ones.

"Each of us is summoned to earth by the mystery of birth, and we depart by the mystery of death. From Heaven, we descend to our life here, and at its end, we return again to God and Heaven.

"There is no mystery unless we have been too attentive to the passing day and, engrossed with the Now, have not had a concern with Tomorrow. Life is a mere interlude for every man in the endless path of eternity. It did not commence with birth, and it does not end with death. We are in a timeless universe without beginning or end.

"Here is our opportunity for service and growth in understanding. We win our reward in Heaven by the good we have accomplished. At the same time, we may find that light which makes our future steps a lighted way, as far as we have need.

"Let us dry our tears. We have not lost this Mother. May we think of her as living - and loving you as before. May we understand and be comforted."

Chaplain: (Prayer) "Infinite God, we turn to Thee again in the hour of deep solemnity, seeking more of understanding, of comfort, and of Thine aid.

"We are gathered to bid farewell and Godspeed to our departing Mother as the gates of Heaven open to her, welcoming her to the joys of a higher and better life. She is now with Thee. Thou hast explained to her the mystery of death, as each of us, in turn, must be taught. We are comforted by this consolation; like the stranger who asked for a light that he might find his way

into the unknown, we too place our hand in Thine and trusting trust Thee find the answer, better than any known light.”

“And now, O God, give us strength, and peace and comfort as we depart. In his name, Amen.”

Committal Ceremony: “Tenderly, O Freed Soul, do we relieve Thee of the last clinging touch of the house of clay in which Thou hast lived; we know we do Thee service, Blue Star Mother, by committing these material elements to the bosom of Mother Earth.”

(Tenderly drop flowers on the casket as words, “by committing these material elements to the bosom of Mother Earth.”)

Instructions for The Annual Memorial

- The President begins the march to the altar, squares to the right and assumes her station.
- The President reads the scriptures slowly, distinctly, and reverently.
- At the same time, the double file of members enters the room, marching on lines beyond the Altar so as to keep two paces apart and in a position so the Altar Cloth Carriers will be in a position to drape the Altar.
- They should keep the cloth taut, then gently and slowly drop it over the Altar.
- The Chaplain enters with a white Bible open, carried on opened palms, and after all, are in position, she places the open Bible on the Altar.
- When the President has completed her charge, the B.S.M Candle Bearer gives her charge. The Eulogist then reads the names of the departed Mothers. The Service Men and Women’s Candle Bearer give her charge, followed by the Eulogist.
- Then lighted candles are placed on the Altar by the two Candle Bearers at the same time.
- The Eulogists then give their charges. When both are completed, the Flower Girls place two baskets or large vases of flowers in front of the Altar on the floor.
- When they have resumed their stations, the Chaplain steps forward and gives her prayer.
- A sacred song should be sung.
- Then the members retire.
- They march to the center facing the Altar, square the Altar and march out of the room, followed by the other members who move forward and face the center.

NOTE: NEB members, unless assigned a role as noted above, are not a part of the ceremony

Annual Memorial Ceremonies

This ceremony may be used as the Annual Memorial Service at a regular or special meeting held nearest to the last Monday in May or as a public ceremony in honor of Memorial Day.

The Altar Cloth to be used is white.

A white Bible is to be used for this service.

- If the Bible on the Altar is white, the Chaplain will approach the Altar in the usual manner, close the Bible and retire with it after the other officers have left the room.
- The Altar Cloth is carried reverently outspread so that it may be gently lowered into place.
- When all are in line and the Altar has been draped, then the Chaplain, with the white Bible, shall step forward three paces. Place the Bible in the center of the Altar, resting the back of the Bible on the Altar gently as she at the same time opens it.
- And again, steps back three paces and remains standing there until the ceremony is completed, after which she again steps forward to within one pace of the Altar and says her prayer, then again resuming her former position three paces back.
- The President, two paces in front of her station facing the Altar, reads the following Scriptures slowly, reverently, and distinctly while the procession enters the room and while the Altar is draped, and the Bible is placed and opened:

President: St. John XIV, 1st verse. "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in Me."

President: 2nd "In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

President: 3rd "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

President: 4th "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

President: 5th "Thomas sayeth unto Him, Lord, we know not whither Thou goest; and how can we know the way?"

President: 6th "Jesus sayeth unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

President: 15th "If ye love Me, keep My Commandments."

President: 16th "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever."

President: 18th “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.”

President: 26th “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My Name. He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.”

President: 27th “Peace I leave with you. Peace, I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Blue Star Mother Candle Bearer: “Death has entered our midst and has summoned the following Blue Star Mothers to their Eternal Home.”

Blue Star Mother Eulogist: Reads the list of names of deceased Blue Star Mothers.

Veterans’ Candle Bearer: “In this solemn hour, we honor our illustrious dead, who have made the supreme sacrifice that Democracy might live.”

Veterans’ Eulogist: Read the list of such known Service Men and Women. If none are listed then, refer to all Service Men and Women who have made the supreme sacrifice.

Blue Star Mothers’ Eulogist: “We pause in loving tribute to the deceased Blue Star Mothers, who only yesterday were our companions of earth, joined in our mutual patriotic efforts. Before us passes in review the kindly services they rendered to our Veterans and to all fellow men. The tapestry of service rendered, in their lives, causes us to bow in homage - it gives us spiritual strength and bids us not to falter in our line of duty, in the pattern they have woven. They imparted courage and others in the face of the storm of life –spiritual blessing in the hour of trial - and security in the time of need.”

“Each of these dear Blue Star Mothers has met the challenge of mortal service, and for each is laid up a crown of righteousness. May they press on to God’s farthest heights, and His Blessings rest upon them, as the Angel hosts surround, and peace forever more. We shall miss them. Theirs, too, is illustrious service.

“Not til the loom is silent,
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas,
And explain the reason why.
The dark threads are needful,
In the Weaver’s skillful hand.
And the threads of gold and silver,
In the pattern He has planned.”

Veterans' Eulogist: "Today, we are met in profound Memorial of these Service Men and Women - these Veterans who have served humanity, country, the world, and God. To these timeless ideals and rewards, they have contributed their last full measure of loyalty. This is their endless honor, their infinite praise, their highest consummation. Their reward is now that closeness to Infinity which is man's ultimate aim. The only justification for their supreme sacrifice is that men may have peaceful homes, a peaceful nation, a peaceful world, and a peaceful soul.

"For their Country and for all nations, they served that man may pursue life and eternity with freedom, with justice, with opportunity, and equality; 'where no man profits at another's ill and all are brothers'.

"This torch they have now passed to us to fulfill first and then to enjoy. To us, they have left the challenge. We are the Service Men and Women of peaceful days, and how we are measuring up to the heritage left us - as citizens?

"There is no death. Life is without beginning and without end. We came from the throne of Heaven, and to God, we return.

"Bright Spirit, let thy light be given,
With tender and celestial ray,
Beaming like some Star from Heaven,
To guide us on our earthly Way.
Clad in Thy Immortality,
Even now, we hear Thee joyfully sing,
O Grave, where is they victory,
O Death, where is they sting."

Chaplain (Prayer): "In Thine Infinite Wisdom and Love, O God, Thou has called these Blue Star Mothers and Service Sons and Daughters to their eternal abode, with Thee. Mayest Thou, in Thy Infinite Mercy, heal every broken heart and wipe away all tears of those who loved." "May we who are left behind to finish our unfinished labors find greater love in our dedication to their principles and causes. In our efforts, may we find completion of those ends for which they were expendable. They strove for the four freedoms; a just and lasting peace; a nation of the dignity of every man; a true democracy for all.

"O God, this is a giant task; help us to its fulfillment Will Thou grant us the fortitude to carry on till Truth and Light shall reign forevermore. Amen."

Memorial Service

To be used at graves, monuments, and tablets of our departed sons and daughters.

- President approaches point of ceremony.
- Chaplain follows.

President: “We have come at this time to pay tribute to those sons and daughters who have paid the supreme sacrifice. The message of hope at this hour and always, comes from the Holy Bible “I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me, shall never die.” (If placing a wreath as tribute, make the following statement): “In memory of those sons and daughters who have paid the supreme sacrifice, we place this wreath in loving tribute.”

Chaplain: “Let us pray. Almighty God our Father, we beseech Thee to comfort the loved one of those who have gone on into the realm of eternity and bless us with the realization that these lives have not been given in vain. O, God, we pray that we join them at Thy throne. May the blessing of God the Father be with each and every one. Amen.”

Rudyard Kipling’s “Recessional” or other poems may be used in closing.

“TO A GOLD STAR MOTHER”

There’s a land where the birds are singing
And the skies are always blue
On the other side of the rainbow
Where your soldier waits for you.

Safe at last from the sins of mankind
And the ravages of war
On the other side of the rainbow
Is the son that you adore.

In his eyes is the light of Heaven-
On his face is the same loved smile-
On the other side of the rainbow
Where he’ll greet you in a while.