

**PART III**

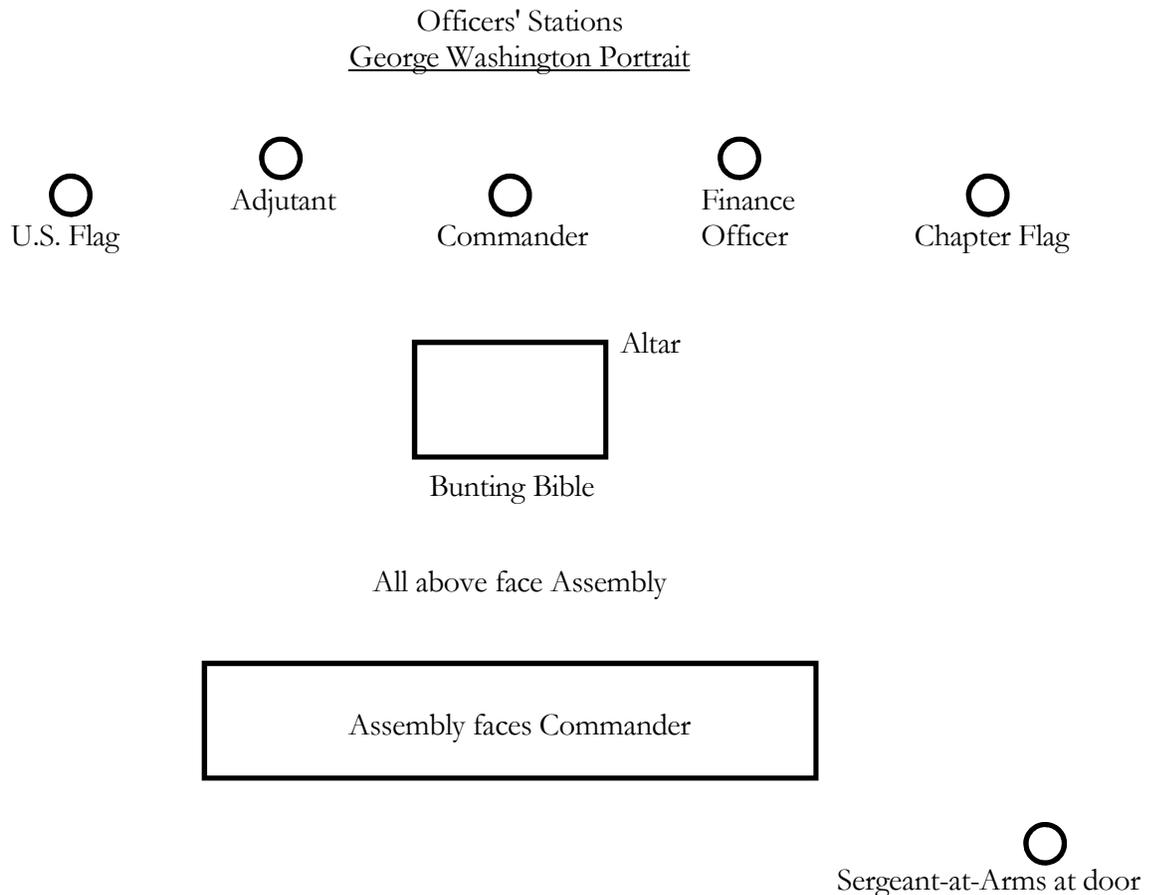
**RITUAL AND MANUAL OF CEREMONIES**

**FOREWORD**

This Ritual and Manual has been updated in its designation to conform with the Federal Charter Incorporation Law No. 761, enacted by the 85th Congress, August 1958, as the "Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Inc."

Except for update corrections, the contents and wording of the Ritual and Manual remain unchanged.

This Manual is intended to be sufficiently flexible to permit adaptation to any function or requirement: (1) By changing or omitting "The Order of Business" for special occasions. (2) By changing the word "Chapter" to Department, or National. (3) By varying the Burial or Memorial Service to conform to the religious faith of the Patriot.



## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

**Decoration:** The Purple Heart should be worn at all meetings of the Order, and at all meetings of veterans of other patriotic groups attended by veterans as such, especially at any program in honor of George Washington. Whenever the Purple Heart is not worn, the accompanying purple bar should be on the coat lapel.

**Uniform:** The uniform and/or cap of the Order should not be worn except at, or going to or from an official meeting or ceremony, or by an official guest or participant at a patriotic function, or by Patriots when officially representing the Order on public occasions.

**Manual for Devotion and Tribute:** During prayer and silent tribute, the preferred method of devotion is to uncover with the cap in the right hand placed over the heart, facing to the front. In meetings, at salute to the U.S. Flag, National Anthem (or "To the Colors") Right Hand Salute will be used whether or not the cap is worn. Salute to the National Anthem (or "To the Colors") will be held from the first to the last note. If it is to be sung in unison or by radio or recording, the salute will not be given but by uncovering and standing at attention, cap held by the right hand over the heart.

**Church or Burial Service:** Patriots will uncover on entering Church or other place of Service. While marching or standing in formation, cap will be carried in right hand at left shoulder. At Burial Service, in cold or inclement weather, the cap will not be removed, but "Parade Rest" will be executed during prayer and volleys. Salute at *Taps*. The Color Guard and/or Guard of Honor will not remove caps while in rank or standing guard. When seated or off guard, they will conform to the other Patriots.

**Procedure at Meetings:** Regular meetings may be open to friends and visitors. The Color Guard will be marched in the center aisle, if possible, to the position of the Flags, facing forward. The Sergeant-at-Arms, taking the cue from the Commander, will give commands in a low voice, "post Colors, order arms," etc. When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff, the Flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as the speaker faces the audience. Any other flag, including Auxiliary or Chapter Flags, are to be displayed on the left of the speaker or to the right of the audience.

**Courtesy:** Patriot Officers or members when addressed by the Commander will rise, salute, and await instructions. On entering or leaving during a meeting, a Patriot will stand in a convenient position, salute the Commander, and (upon the return of the salute) will take a seat or retire.

**Initiations:** The initiation or preliminary Admonition and Obligation should be given to the candidate early in the first meeting of the Chapter he attends. In exceptional circumstances the preliminary Admonition and Obligation may be given the candidate at his home, at his work, or in the hospital.

## RITUAL

Officers are advised and encouraged to *memorize* their parts for the Ritual, at least so it can be quoted freely from notes carried in hand.

**Manual of Gavel:** ONE RAP -- calls attention or seats the body when standing -- closes an order of business or meeting. TWO RAPS -- calls officers to standing attention. THREE RAPS -- calls all to attention standing in place.

Officers are personally responsible for their Rituals. Officers' stations are mandatory as prescribed by the Floor Plan. The station of the Sergeant-at-Arms is at the door except when on duty on the floor during a meeting.

This Ritual may not be changed except by approval of the National Convention Body in Assembly.

The use of the altar upon which is draped U.S. bunting and the Bible is mandatory. When the Chaplain offers the opening prayer, he shall open the Bible at the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. While the Chapter is in session, no member will walk between the altar and the Commander's station.

All Chapters must hold a public memorial service for departed Patriots once a year.

All Commanders and Chaplains will arrange special religious services -- with the clergymen of the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths -- to be held for the Patriot members on the Sundays near Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

The Military Salute and the regulations of the Drill of the Soldiers Manual will be pursued at all ceremonies and meetings

## CHAPTER MEETINGS

The Sergeant-at-Arms will see that the hall is in order, with flag stands in place. He will have all Patriots register in the Attendance Book; all visitors, and particularly all visiting Department and National Officers, will be reported to the Senior Vice-Commander. When directed to do so by the Senior Vice-Commander he will escort visiting Officers to the Commander's Station.

### Opening Ceremony

The Commander will call the meeting to order by one rap of the gavel or by a bugle call.

**Commander:** "Patriots will come to order. Officers take your station. We will proceed with the formal opening of the Meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Sergeant-at-Arms, close the doors and allow no one to enter during the opening ceremony. Patriot Senior Vice-Commander, please introduce the visiting Officers, Patriots, and guests."

**Senior Vice-Commander:** "Patriot Commander, I am pleased to present Patriot \_\_\_\_\_," etc. (Visiting National and Department Officers will be escorted to the Commander's station by the Sergeant-at-Arms if space permits.)

**Commander:** "Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, Advance the Colors (Three raps) -- Patriots, Right Hand Salute."

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** "Post Colors. Right Hand Salute." (He salutes individually.)

**Commander:** "Two." (Color Guard is marched to the rear.) "Uncover. The Chaplain will offer our opening prayer." (A chair must be placed centered below the podium and Bible with the POW/MIA banner or flag draped over the back of the chair.)

**Chaplain:** "Lord God of our Fathers, we thank You for our manifold blessings, the inspirations and joys of life, our companionship and association, one with another. We pray You bless us assembled here tonight, in reverence of God and in loyalty to our country. Guide the deliberations of this meeting. Prosper all our patriotic endeavors. May the policies adopted at this meeting ever uphold the best and finest expressions of patriotism and good citizenship. May our chief concern be the integrity of our nation and the peace of the world. Strengthen us in the service of our country, that our country may be a source of hope and blessing to the world."

Almighty God, God of our fathers, our help in ages past, and our hope for the years to come, hear our prayer. Protect and comfort our fellow Americans both missing and held captive by the aggressors of freedom. In your divine mercy, let them know that they are not forgotten. (Point to chair) May this chair, empty of body, but occupied by the spirit, constantly remind us of our devotion to these men and women. May God comfort and protect them always. Amen."

**Commander:** "Recover. Right Hand Salute. Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country. Two."

**Commander:** "(1 rap) I now declare this meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., regularly convened for the transaction of such business as may be properly brought before it. Sergeant-at-Arms, you will admit all who are qualified to enter."

**Commander:** "The Objects of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. are patriotic,

fraternal, historical, and educational. Patriot Senior Vice-Commander, will you amplify the Patriotic Object of our Order?"

**Senior Vice-Commander:** (stands and salutes) "By Patriotism we mean true allegiance to the government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws. Patriotism is devotion to our Country which demands that we do our utmost to make our home, our city, our state, and our nation a better place in which to live. In time of emergency we must give all we have of loyalty, service, savings, and sacrifice in the defense of our Country and Flag."

**Commander:** "Patriot Junior Vice-Commander, will you define the Fraternal Object of our Order?"

**Junior Vice-Commander:** (stands and salutes) "Fraternity requires that we attend all meetings of our Chapter if at all possible, to keep alive our contacts with fellow Patriots, to aid in the deliberations, and to offer suggestions for the good of the Order. Fraternity means a kindly impulse towards all Patriots, a cheerful smile, and a firm handclasp of loyal friendship. It also means that we cooperate with other veteran, patriotic, and civic organizations in worthy objectives."

**Commander:** "Patriot Chaplain, will you explain the Historical and Educational Objects of our Order?"

**Chaplain:** (stands and salutes) "Our aim is to keep alive the memory and achievements of our Country's founders and to ever cherish the memory of General George Washington, who instituted the Purple Heart on August 7, 1782, at Newburgh-on-the-Hudson in the State of New York.

"The Educational Objects of our Order are based solidly on the 'Faith of our Fathers,' reverence to God, and loyalty to Country. We advocate the teaching and influencing of our youth and new citizens in a loyal appreciation of the heritage of American Citizenship with its responsibilities, as well as its rights and privileges."

**Commander:** "We will now proceed to the first order of business."

### **Order of Business**

#### **1. Application for Active Membership.**

**Commander:** "Patriot Senior Vice-Commander, ascertain if any applications or candidates for active membership are waiting."

**Senior Vice Commander:** "The following candidate(s) for active membership is (are) present, and application(s) is (are) submitted for Patriot(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (and \_\_\_\_\_, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Organization), \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsored by Patriot \_\_\_\_\_" (The same for each candidate.)

**Commander:** (If investigation has not been made previously) "Patriots \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will constitute a committee to investigate the facts of the application. You will retire with the Senior Vice-Commander and candidate(s) and return with report of your findings."

- 2. Roll Call of Officers.** (Adjutant calls roll. Report by Sergeant-at-Arms.)
- 3. Introduction of Guests and New Members Attending for First Time.**
- 4. Reading of Minutes of Last Meeting.**
- 5. Report of Finance Officer.**

**6. Reading and Action on Bills Payable.**

**7. Reports of Committees.**

a. Membership candidates. (Upon report of Senior Vice-Commander at this time, or before if possible, the Commander will order a ballot or vote on each application. The initiation or the preliminary admonition and obligation of elected candidates will follow immediately as is convenient.)

b. Welfare Officer.

**Commander:** "Are there others of our fellow Patriots sick or in need? Is there a Patriot's family in distress?"

c. Americanism.

d. Special Committee(s).

**8. Reading of Orders and Communications.** (Discussions on same.)

**9. Unfinished Business.** (Adjutant is responsible to have these items ready.)

**10. New Business.**

**11. Good of the Order.** (Talks, inspirational and otherwise, etc.)

## Closing Ceremony

**Commander:** "If there is no further business to come before us, we will proceed to adjourn.

"Once again we come to the close of a meeting of loyal Patriots of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. No human tie can be closer than the association of Patriots who have qualified for this most treasured heritage. Before we adjourn let us stand in silent tribute in honor of our Fellow Patriots who have departed this life." (3 raps, all stand) "Uncover." (After 10 seconds, the Chaplain without announcement offers the closing prayer.)

**Chaplain:** "Almighty God, we thank You for the opportunity of association and memories. We pray that You will incline our hearts to entertain a brotherly affection for one another and for all fellow citizens. We pray You dispose us all to justice, kindly impulse, and mercy. As we declare our loyalty to our Country, help us to keep in mind the need of faith in God and Immortality, without which life is meaningless and vain. In that faith and conviction we can and do say to one another and to those who have departed from this life, 'Farewell, until we meet again.' Amen."

**Commander:** "Recover. Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, Retire the Colors." (After the Color Guard has taken position, facing the Commander) "Patriots, join me in the salute to our National Flag. Right Hand Salute."

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** (In low voice) "Color Guard, Present Arms. Colors." (With dispatch) "Retrieve Colors. Color Guards, Order Arms (or two)." "Right (left or about) Face Forward March." (Whenever possible, Colors should be carried the length of the hall upon retiring.)

**Commander:** "Two. I now declare this meeting adjourned."

## ADMONITION AND OBLIGATION OF CANDIDATES

(Pending Later Formal Initiation)

**Commander:** "Sergeant-at-Arms, you will present the Candidate(s) for obligation."

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** "Patriot Commander, I present Patriot(s) \_\_\_\_\_ for admonition and obligation."

**Commander:** "Patriot(s), you have been elected to active membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_, of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- an organization of veterans of the United States military services who have served in combat and suffered wounds for their country.

"We are together as a result of this exceptional service which we hold in common -- service which develops close ties of fraternalism and a spirit of brotherhood and loyalty which lives far beyond the actual crucible of war that bore them.

"The Purple Heart -- first created by George Washington in 1782 -- is the symbol of this brotherhood and of our basic Americanism. We value it as a treasured heritage from the very heart of our country's origin. Such a historic background and requisite of membership serves to set us apart from, although not in rivalry with, any other group.

"Nor do we consider it vanity to have honest pride in our eligibility for this distinctive organization. Such pride does not set us above any other honorable service, nor does it overlook the fact that it was the fortunes of war which asked us to sacrifice more than some.

"Rather, it is this pride and this fraternalism -- as well as a deep feeling of responsibility towards those of us in need -- that are the sources of our strength -- and of our future.

"Now, as you take the obligation of active membership, you promise to work for the best interest of the Order, and to strive to maintain its high ideals of patriotism and of mutual helpfulness; you will endeavor always to be worthy of the Purple Heart which stems from our first Commander in Chief. With a clear understanding of these conditions, are you ready to take the obligation and try to ever faithfully observe its spirit and its meanings?"

**Obligation:** (3 raps) "You will raise your right hand, give your name when you say 'I,' and repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply -- with all the laws, rules, and regulations -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- I will never commit or permit -- any injustice or wrong -- to any Patriot of this Order -- or his family -- if it is in my power to prevent it. -- I will endeavor, at all times -- to aid any member -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- his widow and orphans -- as much as is in my power to do so. -- I also promise to uphold and defend -- the Constitution of the United States of America -- and the Flag of our Country. -- All this I do solemnly promise -- upon the honor of a true Patriot -- and a loyal citizen of our great Republic."

(1 rap) All seated except candidate(s) and Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Commander:** "Patriot(s), we welcome you into the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of our Order, I hereby enroll you and pronounce you to be, (an) active members(s) of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. It is a high honor; cherish and preserve it. You will now be seated among your fellow Patriots."

## FORMAL INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Before the meeting the Sergeant-at-Arms will instruct the candidate(s) in the simple maneuvers necessary, and also secure the Purple Heart Medal if recently awarded or if desired for decoration of candidate(s).

**Commander:** "Sergeant-at-Arms, you will present the candidate(s) for Initiation."

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** "Patriot Commander, I present to you Patriot(s) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, who has (have) been found qualified and approved for active membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A."

**Commander:** "Sergeant-at-Arms, you will conduct the(se) Candidate(s) in turn to the Patriot Past Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, and Chaplain for communication of the principles and objects of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Then, return him (them) to this station."

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** "Patriot Past Commander, by order of the Patriot Commander, I present to you this (these) candidate(s), to whom you will amplify the Patriotic object of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A."

**Past Commander:** "The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. is founded on definite historical contact with the Founders of our Country. It is our objective to emphasize the responsibility of citizenship as well as the rights and privileges. Citizenship responsibility is the price of liberty.

"When that is achieved, our responsibility as disciples of the principles of George Washington is to demand that the 'Star Spangled Banner' remain now and forever our one and only National Anthem; and that our one and only National Flag be unblended and not be merged with those of any other Nation. To be a true Patriot of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., we must first be a loyal patriot of the United States of America.

Sergeant-at-Arms, you will conduct the candidate(s) to the Junior Vice-Commander, who will define the **Fraternal** object of our Order."

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** "Patriot Junior Vice-Commander, by order of the Commander, I present this (these) candidate(s), to whom you will define the Fraternal object of the Order."

**Junior Vice-Commander:** "Fraternity requires that we attend all meetings of our Chapter if at all possible; to keep alive our contacts with our fellow Patriots; to aid in the deliberations and offer suggestions for the good of the Order. Fraternity means a kindly impulse toward all Patriots, a cheerful smile, and firm hand clasp of loyal friendship. Fraternity makes impossible any accusation or charge without very careful investigation and positive proof. Fraternity will mark as a violation of our ideals any personal resentment or hostility because of a difference of opinion of any function of our Order. We pledge ourselves to stand by each other in sickness or trouble; to visit and assist a needy Patriot or his family when in illness or distress and to report the facts to our Welfare

Chairman. Most insistent of all our obligations is that Combat Wounded Patriots of all our Wars receive justice in consideration and compensation for disabilities. Our Officers are committed to this duty.

"The Senior Vice-Commander will now explain the Historical Object of our Order."

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** "Patriot Senior Vice-Commander, by order of the Commander, I present this



**Sergeant-at-Arms:** "Patriot Commander, the candidate(s) has (have) received the admonitions on the Patriotic, Fraternal, Historical, and Educational Objects of our Order."

**Commander:** "Patriots, I am pleased to welcome you into the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A." (3 raps, all stand.)

"You will raise your right hand, give your name when you say 'I,' and repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_, -- do solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply -- with all the laws, rules, and regulations -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- I will never commit or permit -- any injustice or wrong -- to any Patriot of this Order -- or his family -- if it is in my power to prevent it. -- I will endeavor, at all times -- to aid any member -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- his widow and orphans -- as much as is in my power to do so. -- I also promise -- to uphold and maintain -- the Constitution of the United States of America -- and the Flag of our Country. -- All this I do solemnly promise -- upon the honor of a true Patriot -- and a loyal citizen of our great Republic."

(1 rap, all seated except candidate(s) and Sergeant-at-Arms.)

**Commander:** "By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of our Order, I hereby enroll you and pronounce you to be (an) active member(s) of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Be true and faithful to the admonitions you have received and the obligation you have taken.

"You will now be seated among your fellow Patriots."

## INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Under the order of "New Business," or other time if preferred, the Chapter Commander will introduce the Installing Officer and give him the Chapter Charter, Constitution, Ritual, and gavel and will remain in the chair to his left throughout the Installation Ceremony.

If the Officers-elect are of a new Chapter, this Ceremony will follow immediately after the Institution of the Chapter.

**Installing Officer:** "Patriot Commander-elect, has the Chapter decided upon the Officers for the ensuing year? (\_\_\_\_\_) Do you vouch for each Officer-elect having received the decoration of the Purple Heart from the government and is in good standing in this Chapter? (\_\_\_\_\_) We will then proceed to install your officers in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of our Order.

"Patriot Adjutant, you will call the roll of Officers-elect, and they will report to the Sergeant-at-Arms in the rear of the Hall." (They will be arranged in file in reverse order listed in the "Duties of Officers.")

"Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, present the Officers-elect to this station." (Stand in one rank with the Commander-elect at the right of the Station, facing front.)

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** "Patriot Installing Officer, I am pleased to present the Officers-elect of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A." (He will then remaining standing to the left rear of the Commander-elect.)

### Admonition and Obligation

**Instituting Officer:** "Patriot Officers-elect, you have been chosen to serve as Officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Department of \_\_\_\_\_, for the ensuing fiscal year. It is an honor and an obligation. I am sure that you will strive to be worthy of the confidence and responsibility. Permit nothing to swerve you from the faithful and impartial administration of your office, your service, or your leadership. Upon you will largely depend the record and progress of this Chapter for the year. If you will employ earnest, aggressive leadership, and follow closely the Constitution, Regulations, and Ritual of this Order, the success and growth of your Chapter is assured. If you accept your office, followed by sluggish interest and only occasional cooperation, the Chapter will mark time and its progress will be limited. The fault will be yours. Study carefully and exemplify clearly our principles and objects, which are:

"(1) PATRIOTIC: By word and deed let us testify our loyalty. Permit no Patriotic National Holiday to pass without some observance.

"(2) FRATERNAL: No Patriot should be allowed to be friendless when lonely, or without aid when in need.

"(3) HISTORICAL: The historical foundation of our Order must ever be emphasized. The memory and precepts of George Washington must ever continue as an influence for true Americanism.

"(4) EDUCATIONAL: Our constant endeavor should be that our youth and immigrants know and appreciate the blessings and benefits of our Constitution, our Republic form of government, and our American institutions.

"Commander-elect, in accepting your obligation, you promise to build a program for regular meetings and interesting Chapter activity based on these four Cornerstones of our Order.

"Junior Officers-elect, when you take your obligation you agree to assist in this program and each and all of you agree to plan and conduct an aggressive membership activity.

"With this definite understanding of your responsibilities, are you all ready to take the obligation of your office?"

### **Obligation of Officers**

**Instituting Officer:** (3 raps) "You will raise your right hand, give your name when you say 'I,' and repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby solemnly promise -- that to the best of my ability -- I will faithfully discharge -- the duties of the office -- which I hereby assume -- according to the Constitution -- Bylaws, Regulations, and Ritual -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- and the Bylaws of this Chapter. -- I further promise -- that I will relinquish -- all authority of my office -- and all Chapter property and monies in my possession -- to my successor when elected or appointed -- by the Constitutional provisions of the Order. -- All this I pledge on my honor -- as an active member -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A.

(1 rap) "Patriot Officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, I congratulate you and enjoin you to make the success, progress, and increased membership of this Chapter your first considerations and very best endeavor.

"Patriot Officers, about face. Patriots of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, I am pleased to present your officers for the ensuing year."

(The Instituting Officer, with a list of Officers and Offices, arranged with the Junior on the left, will descend to the line of Officers, grasp each by hand, and congratulate him. Further, in the following or other brief admonitions, suggest his duties and pin on a badge, if used, assisted by the Sergeant-at-Arms.)

### **Duties of Officers**

"Welfare Officer, you are last on the list, as we hope you will be least called upon for service. Your office is, however, of first importance if any Patriot is ill or in need or his family is in distress. It will be your most earnest endeavor to secure justice in the award and compensation for all disabled Combat Wounded Patriots."

"Judge Advocate, you will give advice on the legal aspect of any project, insure justice to all Patriots in meetings, and act as parliamentarian."

"Americanism Officer, you will suggest patriotic participation or special observance at nearest meeting preceding all national holidays, and suggest opportunities for cooperation in patriotic occasions. You will assist in making plans for initiation of classes of new, active Patriot Members."

"Historian, your responsibilities are great, for only through the faithful performance of your duties can the labors and plans of the present Officers become a benefit and heritage for future years."

"Trustee, you become the junior member of the Chapter Trustees. It is your duty to act as secretary and arrange to audit the Adjutant's and Finance Officer's books each quarter and to submit a written report to the Chapter. You will also be consulted in all but routine financial matters."

"Color Sergeant, you will assist the Sergeant-at-Arms in the manual of Colors. Have them ready in advance of meetings and take charge in his absence."

"Sergeant-at-Arms, you will guard the door and prevent any disturbance in or about the meeting hall.

You will assist the Senior Vice-Commander in greeting all visitors, have all register who enter, and report to him the presence of all visiting Patriots, particularly visiting National and Department Officers. The respect, care, and manual of our National and Chapter Flags are your responsibility. Guard them well."

"Dept. Executive Committeeman, it is your duty to attend and submit to the Executive Committee all pertinent resolutions from the Chapter and to report back all proceedings."

"Chaplain, by the sincere and serious exemplification of your duties, you will add much to the dignity of our meetings. Let us not forget that as true Patriots we owe reverence to God as well as loyalty to our Country."

"Finance Officer, the success of a Chapter is often determined by the Finance Officer. The amount of money the Chapter has or has not is not as important as that your records are carefully compiled. Standard account forms should be used."

"Adjutant, the duties of other officers are largely inspirational and creative; yours are facts and figures and details which must be recorded carefully and faithfully or the Chapter will suffer. See that the Finance Officer's records agree with yours. Study your duties carefully as enumerated in the 'Rules and Regulations.' They are most important."

"Junior Vice-Commander, your duties are to assist the Commander in providing interesting meetings and entertainment for the Patriots. Also, you are to see that all paraphernalia and accessories for the program are in place. Further, you are to assist the Senior Vice-Commander in making plans for, and in developing, early aggressive membership activities."

"Senior Vice-Commander, you are in complete charge of the membership activities of this Chapter, both early renewals and new active members. You will endeavor to personally greet all guests and see that they are registered with the Sergeant-at-Arms. It is also your responsibility to assist the Commander in advancing the objects of the Order, and to be prepared to take his station in his absence."

"Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, conduct the Junior Officers to their stations (or seats). Patriot Commander, accompany me to the Commander's station." (at station)

"Patriot Commander (retiring), I now install you as the Immediate Past Commander with duties to give advice when requested and to assist the Patriot Commander in his program. You will aid in the formal initiation of new active members."

"Patriot Commander (new), I congratulate you upon your election to this office. It is a high honor and much will be required from you in return. Guard well the interest of your Chapter, this Department, and the Order. Work for and further the welfare of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. The Patriot Officers who are now associated with you, I believe, will faithfully fulfill their duties. However, the responsibility to see that they do is yours. None of these duties can be waived. Be fair and impartial in your decisions toward all Patriots. Be tactful, cordial, and cooperative with other veteran organizations. They are our Comrades-in-Arms in the bonds of patriotism and aid to disabled veterans and their dependent families.

"In assurance that you will not fail to meet all the obligations, I now assign to your care, use, and protection, the Charter of this Chapter, and the Constitution, Bylaws, and Ritual of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Preserve them carefully and transfer them to your successor when elected. I now present you with this gavel. May it symbolize your authority in fraternal manifestations toward your fellow Patriots.

"As (\_\_\_\_\_), of the Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart

of the U.S.A., I now proclaim you as Commander, and the other Patriots installed as Officers, of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_. I bring congratulations and best wishes for your success from our National Commander.

"Patriot Commander, you will now proceed with the (introductions and ) program."

## NEW CHAPTER

### Initiation of Members; Institution of Chapter

Commander-elect will escort Instituting Officer to Commander's Station and introduce him and remain seated at his right.

**Instituting Officer:** "Patriots, I have been authorized by the National Commander to institute this Chapter in accordance with the Constitution of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. In testimony of our loyalty to our Country, join me in the salute to our National Flag. (3 raps) Sergeant-at-Arms, advance the Flag of our Country -- (or if in place) -- Right Hand Salute -- Two. In testimony of our reverence to God, the Chaplain will lead in prayer for Divine blessing. Uncover."

**Chaplain:** "God of our Fathers, Whose Almighty Power has protected the destinies of our Nation, continue to show Your favor toward us.

"May we be imbued with that spirit which prompted our Fathers and was reincarnated in their sons, thereby enabling them to uphold the principles for which the Fathers died.

"We would be ever mindful of all the sacrifices made for us whereby we are permitted to be partakers of the liberties so dearly bought. May we always be faithful to those ideals which have been the inspiration for action in this land of ours.

"Enable us to cleanse our thoughts of all evil desires and false ambitions. Inspire us with high motives and noble aspirations.

"May the principles of right, truth, and justice govern us in our conduct at home and abroad that our Flag may never be sullied and that our Nation may prosper.

"To you, O God of Nations, we pray. Amen."

**Instituting Officer:** "Recover." (1 rap, all seated.)

"Patriots, I congratulate you upon your decision to organize a Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., an organization of Veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have offered their lives and have suffered for their Country. We who have been honored by the award of the Purple Heart prize it highly as a treasured heritage from the Father of our Country. But we claim no credit or distinction above that of any other Veteran who honorably served. It was the fortunes of War which qualified us for the honor. But we did stand in our place with fidelity to essential service. We strive always to be worthy of the salutation 'Patriot.'

"Our order is founded on the Purple Heart which was instituted by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, by his General Order, which reads in part as follows: 'The General directs . . . that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facing over the left breast, the figure of a heart, in purple . . . This Order is . . . to be considered as a permanent one.' The Purple Heart is the oldest decoration of the American Army and the first ever made available to the enlisted men. After the Revolutionary War the facts and information of the Purple Heart vanished from public knowledge. No trace or record of it appeared in any public document for 150 years. Thus, a great and important event was lost to the pages of history.

"On February 22, 1932, in conformity with Congressional action. President Herbert Hoover directed the War Department to revive the Purple Heart as the oldest of Army decorations. The enacting Order reads as follows:

Purple Heart. -- By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart, established by General George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect of his memory and military achievements.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Douglas MacArthur  
General, Chief of Staff

"This significant order has consummated the Order of General Washington, that the Purple Heart be a permanent decoration. It has made it possible for the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. to become the sacred tie binding closely the fighting men of all our wars. No other organization has this historic foundation. None is so all-inclusive. It was but natural that an association of qualified Veterans would follow. The Military Order of the Purple Heart was incorporated in Ansonia, Connecticut, in September, 1932, and Chartered by an Act of the 85th U.S. Congress August 26, 1958, as the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Inc."

### Initiation and Institution

The Commander-elect will call the role of Patriots who have applied for active membership in the Chapter. The Sergeant-at-Arms will present the Patriots to this station as their names are read.

**Instituting Officer:** "Patriots, we have covered the inception, history, and inspiration of our Order. As you accept the Obligation of active membership you will promise to work for the best interest of our Order, to always strive to maintain your own character at a high standard, to endeavor always to be worthy of the Purple Heart, instituted by our first Commander-in-Chief. With a clear understanding of these conditions, are you ready to assume the Obligation, and ever try to observe the same faithfully as long as you live?" (Pause for assent.)

**Obligation:** (3 raps) "You will raise your right hand, give your name as you say, 'I,' and repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_, -- do solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply -- with all the laws, rules, and regulations -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- I will never commit or permit -- any injustice or wrong -- to any Patriot of this Order -- or his family -- if it is in my power to prevent it. -- I will endeavor at all times -- to aid any member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- his widow and orphans -- as much as it is in my power to do so. -- I also promise -- to uphold and maintain -- the Constitution of the United States of America -- and the Flag of our Country. -- All this I do solemnly promise -- upon the honor of a true Patriot -- and a loyal citizen of our great Republic. (1 rap)

"Patriots, we welcome you into the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of our Order, I hereby enroll you, and pronounce you to be (an) active member(s) of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A." (1 rap, all seated.)

### Institution

**Instituting Officer:** "We will now proceed to the Institution of your Chapter. Have you decided upon a name for your Chapter?" (Or, "I understand you have decided upon the name \_\_\_\_\_. Is that correct?") (answer) "National Headquarters has assigned to you the number \_\_\_\_\_. In compliance with your selection and by authority of the National

Commander, I now declare this to be a Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., henceforth to be known as \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., and entitled to all rights and privileges of the Order, so long as its members comply with its laws, rules, and regulations."

(Installation of officers follows immediately)

## DEDICATION CEREMONY

This suggested ceremony, with the inclusion of the SPECIFIC Dedication to fit the occasion, is adaptable for any function.

After the advancing and posting of the Colors. --

**Commander:** "Fellow Patriots of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. and friends. It is fitting that we have assembled for the dedication of this (hall, building, memorial, tablet, tree, Charter, or Colors). Our words and acts here add little to its (their) significance and value, but by them we can and do consecrate ourselves to renewed loyalty to our Country, reverence to our God, and continued fidelity to essential service in days of peace as we did in war.

"In this and in all functions of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., we strive earnestly to follow the precepts and policies of our first Commander-in-Chief, George Washington, who instituted the Purple Heart in 1782. We follow his admonition, as his Patriot disciples.

"The Chaplain will ask the blessings of God upon these ceremonies. Uncover."

**Chaplain:** "Almighty God, our Divine Father and Guide, we humbly stand before You in acknowledgment of our reverence and faith. We thank You for our manifold blessings and for our associations one with another. We pray for Your blessings on our Republic, the United States of America. Bless and guide our President and all representatives in government. Guide their deliberations that they may rule wisely for the welfare of all our people.

"We ask Your blessings upon this occasion as we dedicate this \_\_\_\_\_ to the service of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. As we bow before You, may we each and all resolve to consecrate ourselves, our words, our deeds, and our lives to loyal allegiance to Country and reverent faith in God.

We pray for Your care and solace to our sick and needy fellow Patriots. In the conviction that You favor honesty of purpose and unselfish service, we ask Your blessings on this day. Amen."

**Commander:** (Will introduce him/her who is to make the presentation.)

Presentation Speech: (if desired.)

Acceptance Remarks by a Past Commander or other Patriot.

**Commander.** (Actual Dedication. Here insert the suggested dedication suitable.)

(Closing prayer and retirement of Colors.)

**Commander:** "In the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now dedicate this Memorial in commemoration of the extraordinary fidelity and essential service of those fellow Patriots who suffered and gave their lives for the cause of justice, liberty, and freedom. Words cannot enhance their Glory. They died for their Country. We can best consecrate this occasion by rededicating ourselves, our words, our deeds, and our lives to loyal, unselfish service, that the cause for which they died will ever live; that our great Republic will ever remain the bulwark of liberty and freedom, and the guarantor and protector of the democratic and American way of life. I dedicate this Memorial to the sacred memory of all our Nation's defenders, and with it I dedicate the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. to continue to be the sacred tie binding the Patriots of all our wars who offered their lives and have suffered for their Country."

### **Dedication of Chapter**

**Commander:** "In the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now dedicate this Charter, which establishes this Chapter as a part of our Order. May each Patriot whose name is thereon inscribed, and other Patriots who will actively enroll with us, strive to be ever worthy of membership in our Order. Each of us has accepted the responsibility of helping to consummate the last sentence of General Washington's General Order establishing the award of the Purple Heart. 'This Order is . . . to be considered as a permanent one.' As we dedicate this Charter, may each Patriot dedicate himself in loyal fidelity to the principles and ideals of our Order."

### **Dedication of Hall, Building, Bridge, Tree, Park**

**Commander:** "In the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now dedicate this \_\_\_\_\_ to the welfare and enjoyment of our Chapter and Community. May it ever remind us that true service is in action, not sentiment alone. We dedicate not an inanimate, beautifully formed figure of metal or stone, but a contribution to our daily life, which we will ever guard in commemoration of our fellow Patriots who have departed this life.

"I dedicate this \_\_\_\_\_ to the welfare and purpose of this Chapter and Community, and with it I dedicate this Chapter to faithful service to our disabled Patriots and their families, our Community, and our Nation, in commemoration of our heroic deeds."

### **Dedication of Colors**

(All other Colors or Flags present will be advanced at opening of meeting and will remain in place. Stands should be provided for new Colors to be Dedicated.)

**Commander:** (3 raps, all rise) "Sergeant-at-Arms, display the Colors for Dedication." (Additional Color Guards will take position back of all Colors in place, facing the Chapter. They will retrieve Flags as Sergeant-at-Arms advances Colors to be dedicated, to midway between first row of seats and Commander, facing forward.)

**Commander:** "Salute the Colors. Right Hand Salute." (Bugler sounds "To the Colors" or band or piano plays "The National Anthem.")

**Commander:** "Two." (Color Guard will remain in place.)

"In the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Military

Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now dedicate these Colors, our National Flag, in design and colors suggested by the Coat of Arms of General George Washington, representing the very spirit of the United States of America. It is the cherished emblem of our free Republic, which we will ever love, honor, and protect with our lives if need be. Beside it stands the beautiful Flag of our Order: Purple, Royal Purple.

"I dedicate these Colors for the purpose and use of our Chapter, our Community, our State, and our Nation. In our hearts and minds we dedicate ourselves to continued fidelity and to essential service to our Order, our Nation, our people, and our Flag. Patriots, join me in the salute to our National Emblem.

"Right Hand Salute. Post Colors."

(Sergeant-at-Arms will direct placing of Colors in stands.)

"Two." (1 rap, all seated.)

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

This Commemorative or Memorial Service is suggested with sufficient flexibility to be adapted to any Memorial Service, indoor or out, in regular meeting or at formal Memorial Day Ceremony. The Commander's remarks in the Burial Service may be incorporated if desired.

### In Regular Meeting of the Order

**Commander:** "We will suspend the regular Order of Business and dedicate this part of the meeting to honor the memory of our departed Patriot(s) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The Patriot Chaplain will lead us in prayer. (3 raps) Uncover." (Use prayer below and follow program as printed.)

### If In Special Memorial Meeting

**Commander:** (1 rap) "The Patriots of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. will come to order. We are met to honor the memory of our departed fellow Patriot(s) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, advance the Colors. (3 raps) Right hand salute." (Color Guards take positions, face the Charter and remain with Colors, without posting.) "Two."

"The Patriot Chaplain will lead us in prayer. Uncover." (If an outdoor Memorial Service, the above words should be changed accordingly.)

**Chaplain:** "Almighty God, the God of our Fathers, our Help in ages past and our Hope for years to come, we thank You for the lives of these men whom we today commemorate. Their sacrifice shines down through the years upon us and lightens our path for the future. Help us to walk in the light of that sacrifice. Grant us power and vision to maintain the peace for which these men died, and to work with You for a world where there shall be no more slaughter of man by man, where the war drums no longer throb, and the battle flags are furled.

"Grant us to see the vision of world peace when nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Teach us to love men of every race, color, and language as our own brethren. The glorious ones who died gave their lives as a sacrifice for their nation and they died for peace. Make us ready and willing to sacrifice our all to You, O God of sacrifice. Dear Lord! America needs Your guidance today, that Your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen."

**Commander:** "Recover. Fellow Patriots and Friends: We have assembled in sincere and heartfelt affection and deep sense of loss to honor the Patriot(s) who served and suffered for his (their) Country and have now departed this life. Not in boasting but as an expression of our specific responsibility in this occasion do we come together. The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. is the sacred tie binding veterans of all our Wars. It is founded upon the 'Purple Heart' established by General George Washington in 1782.

"We meet today to honor our Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Air Force, Aviator, and Coast Guard dead of all our Wars. Other vacant chairs are being placed and may be placed in the future on the hallowed Memorial Altar at our Commemorative Ceremonies. The affectionate regard and fellowship of our Order will increasingly extend to all the Patriots who, because of wounds or death in battle, are awarded the Purple Heart decoration.

"Patriot Adjutant, read the roll of our departed fellow Patriots."

(Adjutant will read each Patriot's name individually with services and Chapter. As each Patriot's name is read separately, if time and occasion permit, a Past Commander or some Patriot who was close to him will eulogize his memory and give facts of his service to the Order.)

**Chaplain:** (As each name is completed or the eulogy given, the Chaplain will place a flower in a case.)  
"In memory of Patriot \_\_\_\_\_" (last name only).

**Commander:** "The Chaplain will offer the closing prayer."

**Chaplain:** "God of the dead and of the living, we come unto You in a prayer of memory for those who died that others might live. For servicemen and women who on many distant fields of death gave their lives for their country and their homes and all who were to come after them. For those who in mortal combat found in the restless ocean their last long sleep. For statesmen who gave of life and health to build a better world. For martyrs who sold their bodies for their souls' desires. For policemen and firemen, who died on duty to protect the homes of all. For the physician who purchased in his death the knowledge to make our lives secure. For these, O God of the Ages, we bring our memorial tribute of praise. Seal You our memories with a new consecration to the unfinished causes for which they gave their all. Your Name, we ask it. Amen." (At this time the Elegy from Page \_\_\_\_, Burial Service, will be appropriate.)

**Commander:** (If in regular meeting) "Patriots Recover. (1 rap) We will continue the regular Order of Business." (Or, if in special meeting)

**Commander:** "Patriots. Recover.

"Sergeant-at-Arms, Retire the Colors.

"Patriots, Right Hand Salute; two.

"I now declare this meeting adjourned."

## BURIAL SERVICE

All Patriot members are advised to assemble at the home of the deceased or the funeral chapel at 8:00 P.M. on the evening preceding the burial. The Commander of the Chapter must make arrangements for this assemblage with the next of kin of the deceased Patriot and the funeral director.

All Patriots present must bare their heads and place overseas cap to left breast while standing at attention upon the order of "Uncover" by the Commander.

**Commander:** "We assemble here this evening in honor and reverence to our departed Patriot \_\_\_\_\_, who has answered the summons of the Divine Commander-in-Chief.

Our departed Patriot served his country well, exemplifying the cherished traditions of America. We admire his extraordinary fidelity and devotion to service. He was awarded the Decoration of the Purple Heart instituted in 1782 by the Father of our Country, George Washington. This loyal soldier (or sailor, marine, airman or coast guardsman) could receive no higher commendation. He was beloved by us all. He was a true Patriot. Chaplain, will you kindly lead us in prayer?"

**Chaplain:** "O God, Who has placed us in a mysterious universe where some things are known, but much is yet beyond our comprehension, and Who has set us in the midst of life, where there are high joys, but also grim pain, said separation, and final death, You know that the Flag is at half-mast in our hearts in tribute to the dead. We remember those who were once a part of this organization, and served You through their faithful performance of all duties and obligations, but not one whose passing did not leave an empty place against the sky and a lonely place in our hearts. Especially do we pray for our departed Patriot \_\_\_\_\_. Receive our prayers for Your servant whom death has overtaken. Retain his soul in Your keeping. Pardon all that has been amiss; and draw him nearer and nearer to Yourself. Have compassion, O most merciful Lord, on all who are mourning our Patriot. Be You our Comforter and Friend, and bring us to a fuller knowledge of Your love, assuage the anguish of our bereavement, and leave only the cherished memory of the loved and lost who have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the Altar of Freedom. We pray in Your Name. Amen."

When the Chaplain has finished this prayer, each Patriot member, the Commander preceding, will walk quietly forward to the casket, give a slow, respectful salute, and then clasp the hand of the next of kin and the mourners of the deceased, saying in a low voice some appropriate remark, such as "Heartfelt condolences," and then retire to an outer room or leave the home if every room is filled with mourners.

It is advisable that the National Flag and Chapter Colors be displayed by the Color Guard during the ceremony.

### Funeral in Church and at Graveside

The flag of burial, usually wool bunting, will be obtained from a government agency, Postmaster in Post Office, or representative in County Court House, for war veterans or officers or men who died in the Service.

The Purple Heart cortege at funerals ranks as follows in motion: Color Guard, Chaplain, Bugler, Pallbearers on each side of casket, Firing Detail, Commander and officers, members. In time of mourning we must be very solicitous that the wishes of the next of kin of the deceased are affected diplomatically. A representative of the Chapter must contact the family of the deceased before the ceremony and ascertain all essential facts concerning the church ceremony and burial ceremony at the grave.

We must remember not to infringe the Ritual Ceremony upon the actual religious ceremony in the church or at the grave. The wishes of the officiating clergyman and the members of the family of the deceased must be respected.

Usually, today, in our modern times of fast transportation and long distances between a residential district and a cemetery in the urban district, the regular funeral cortege has been eliminated. We are at present concerned with the Ritual Ceremony at the Church and at the graveside, for all members usually travel in automobiles.

The Chapter funeral cortege will not participate in the Church Ceremony. Arriving at the church the Color will march down the aisle to their seat or pew reservation. Colors may be carried into the church and placed in the pew. The Chaplain, Bugler, Pallbearers, Honorary Pallbearers, the Commander, and Chapter members will follow in order and be seated in the pews reserved for them. They will not actually participate in the ceremony but will be attentive as they occupy seats in the pews. If the Chapter Chaplain is of the same faith as the officiating clergyman, he may participate upon invitation. When the church ceremony has ended, the cortege will leave in order up the aisle: Color Guard, Chaplain, Bugler, casket, pallbearers, Commander, and Chapter members. The funeral director will escort them outside the church to the automobiles waiting at the curb to transport them to the cemetery.

Members of the Firing Detail may attend the church ceremony but they must bivouac or leave their rifles outside when they enter the church. However, the custom prevails that members of the Firing Detail do not enter the church, as discretion demands that each member retain his own particular rifle until he has lodged it in a safe place.

The Color Guard and Firing Detail always flank the cortege when standing, entering, or leaving the church, or when arriving at or leaving the grave in the cemetery.

From the very beginning, the casket is to be covered with the burial flag.

It is important that the entire ceremony run harmoniously and smoothly. Some changes may be made in this Ritual Ceremony to accommodate local circumstances.

Army and Navy regulations for military funeral services essentially should be followed. The United States flag is never dipped or lowered. Only Chapter colors are dipped during the sounding of Taps and every time the casket passes. During inclement weather at graveside, all remain covered and do not uncover during the religious ceremony.

Members of the Firing Detail must be certain that their rifles contain only blank cartridges and that they rigidly follow the manner depicted in the manual of arms. The Firing Detail Commander must have an incisive stentorian voice.

His commands are **1. Ready. 2. Aim. 3. Fire.** After the first volley the rifle is lowered to the position of load.

The next two commands are: **1. Aim. 2. Squad. 3. Fire.** After the 3rd volley the Firing Detail positions to load and remains so until Taps have been sounded.

At the conclusion of Taps the Chapter Commander and the Chaplain fold the burial flag through 6 prescribed phases to form finally a cocked-hat shape. The Chaplain presents the flag to the next of kin at the graveside.

Usually the officiating clergyman and his attendants perform the religious ceremony at the graveside. When this ceremony has ended, the Chapter Chaplain and the Chapter Commander take their stations and the Ritual Ceremony is begun.

## **Burial Ceremony at Grave**

Commander stands at head of grave behind and to the right of the Chaplain.

**Commander:** "We are met and assembled here upon a solemn occasion. In our hour of grief we deem it fit and proper to offer our heartfelt tribute to the sublime sacrificial deeds of our worthy Patriot \_\_\_\_\_, who has been called away by the Father of us all to join in the immortal ranks, in answer to the last roll call. Forgetful of self, oblivious of danger, he offered his life and suffered for his country. Upon his return from the horrors of war he entered civilian life with an abiding faith in God, his Country, and his Flag. Because of war wounds and essential loyalty to this beloved Country, and fidelity and devotion to its principles, he was awarded the Decoration of the Purple Heart instituted by George Washington in 1782. Patriot \_\_\_\_\_ was a beloved member of Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., a true Patriot of our Order and a loyal citizen of our beloved United States of America. Chaplain, will you kindly lead us in prayer."

**Chaplain:** "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. These are Divinely spoken words and clearly depict the charitable contribution of the life of our departed Patriot. Patriot \_\_\_\_\_ truly offered his life upon the altar of sacrifice, so that the principles of our beloved country might survive.

"We pray, Almighty God, All-loving Father, give restful sleep and rest to the soul of this, our Patriot, who has returned to God. Grant also that each one of us here today may return to You in confidence and faith in that final parting hour that, having fought the good fight, we can say with St. Paul that we have attained the reward of everlasting happiness with You and Your Angels. Amen."

("Nearer My God to Thee" may be sung assembled or rendered by the Drum and Bugle Corps, if present.)

**Commander:** "In deep grief and abiding affection we officially salute our departed Patriot, whose epitaph is indelibly engraved upon the hearts of his buddies and shipmates:

"Soft and safe be the resting place of our Patriot.

Bright and glorious be his rising from it.

Fragrant be the flowers that shall flourish here.

May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauty in perennial loveliness.

And, in the bright morning of the World's resurrection,

May his soul spring into newness of life

And expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies.

Until then, dear friend and Patriot, until then, farewell."

**Commander:** "Salute our departed Patriot."

The Firing Detail Commander executes 3 volleys.

Taps will be sounded by Bugler followed by echo 220 yards distant.

The Burial flag will be folded in triangle, blue outside, and presented to next of kin by the Chaplain.

**Commander:** "Farewell, Patriot \_\_\_\_\_. A fond farewell until we meet again."

# POSITIONS OF PARTICIPANTS AT GRAVESIDE

