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Introduction

The Royal Canadian Legion and its members engage in a wide variety of activities, many of which are ceremonial. Integral to many of these events is the participation of a Legion Chaplain or other designated Minister or religious leader. Their activities range from short prayers, consecrations, blessings and dedications to longer services. The religious elements of Legion activities involve many denominations and creeds, and on some occasions there will be several different beliefs represented in the same service. In any circumstance such as these it is the intent of the Legion and its members to create an atmosphere of solemnity and respect for everyone present.

The Chaplain's Manual has been compiled to provide suggestions and assistance to anyone tasked with organizing the religious aspect of a ceremony. One of the challenges in assembling the material for the manual is the issue of inclusiveness. Choice, no matter what the subject, is by its very nature discriminatory. The moment a decision is made, it becomes exclusive of other options. In this manual the Legion, in an effort to accommodate the vast majority of its members, has chosen to follow widely accepted religious traditions as much as possible. This is by no means an indication that other religious beliefs that are not specifically identified are discouraged. In fact it is the policy of the Legion to be open to and accepting of Comrades from all walks of life. All that is asked of them is that they show respect for those Comrades from which they differ. At any time, those involved in a service or ceremony on behalf of the Legion are welcome to modify or adjust the elements contained in this manual or in other material to suit a particular occasion.

There are two components to the Chaplain's Manual. The first is a compilation of the events that are contained in the Ritual and Insignia Manual which mention the presence of a Chaplain. The second is a collection of prayers and services that were provided by Rev. Francis Peter Chisholm M.A.,B.D.,TH.M.,TH.D. in a previously circulated document entitled "Prayers and Services for use within the Royal Canadian Legion." There are other materials referenced in footnotes indicated by superscript numbers in the text and found in the final pages. Please use this or other material in a manner of your choosing, keeping in mind that the preferences and sensitivities of the people for whom the service is being held should be paramount.

Also of note, there are references to services held for Veterans. Legion branches have always been encouraged to hold services for any Veteran, whether they are a member of the Legion or not.

WHAT IS THE PROPER DRESS CODE FOR A LEGION CHAPLAIN?

Chaplains are appointed or elected officials of a Branch, Zone, District or Command. A Chaplain's Manual is available on our Legion website to assist our Chaplains in the carrying out of their ceremonial duties. As stated in our Chaplain's Manual, their activities range from short prayers, consecrations, blessing and dedications to longer services. The religious elements of Legion activities involve many denominations and creeds, and on some occasions there will be several different beliefs represented in the same service. In any circumstance such as these it is the intent of the Legion and its members to create an atmosphere of solemnity and respect for everyone present. This also includes that of their particular religious dress.

In regards to the dress for a Chaplain, it is the Legion stole that identifies them as a Legion Chaplain. If they are an ordained member of the clergy, they no doubt will choose to wear their normal clergy dress with a Legion Chaplain's stole. If they are not an ordained member of the clergy, the Chaplain would then wear their Legion Dress along with the Legion stole. Again, it is the Legion Chaplain's stole that identifies them as a Legion Chaplain and it may be purchased through our Legion's Supply Department.

NOTE: There are references within the Chaplain's Manual to individuals who are indicated as responsible for the religious portion of various events. Terms used for these individuals, such as Clergy, Chaplain, or Padre, are commonly accepted and interchangeable. There is no implication that any particular faith is either preferred or omitted.

CEREMONIES AND EVENTS

100. It should be noted that the Chaplain's Manual is written to be used in context. Chapter 1, for example, contains excerpts from the Ritual and Insignia Manual that require the involvement of a Chaplain or member of a Clergy, but does not attempt to present the complete text concerning the planning of the event. A Clergy person can identify their role in an event, but will still need to coordinate with others involved, such as an organizing committee.
101. In the descriptions of the ceremonies in chapter 1, where there are references to prayers or the presence of a Chaplain or Clergy Member, there will be a note of direction indicating where suggested prayers, psalms, scripture or other readings can be found in the manual.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES

102. **The National Remembrance Day Ceremony.** The National Remembrance Day Ceremony is held at 11:00 a.m. on November 11th at the National War Memorial in Ottawa under the auspices of Dominion Command.
103. The Ceremony follows this format:
 - 10:30 am Parade of massed bands, Dominion Command Colour Party, Veterans, Commissionaires, Canadian Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Cadets march to position.
 - 10:45 am All participants in position at National War Memorial.
 - 10:50 am Governor General arrives and takes position. On arrival the Governor General takes the Vice-Regal Salute from the parade.
 - 10:57 am "O Canada."
 - 10:58:30 am "Last Post"

11:00 am First Gun
The Silence - Two Minutes duration
Second Gun
Lament
Rouse
The Act of Remembrance
21 gun salute carried out at proper intervals
Prayers (for suggested prayers, see Chapter 3)
Placing of Official Wreaths
Benediction and Blessing
Royal Anthem
Public Wreath Laying
March Past

104. Official wreaths are laid by the Vice-Regal Party, which consists of:
- a. The Governor General;
 - b. The Memorial (Silver) Cross Mother;
 - c. The Prime Minister;
 - d. Speaker of the Senate or House;
 - e. The Minister of Veterans Affairs;
 - f. The Chief of Defense Staff;
 - g. The youth representatives;
 - h. The Dominion President of the Legion;
 - i. The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.
105. Veterans organizations and members of the Diplomatic Corps follow the Vice-Regal Party. There may be special occasions where circumstances dictate that a personage be added to the Vice-Regal Party.
106. During the wreath laying, the band and/or choir performs suitable music. (e.g. “Abide with Me”, “O Valiant Hearts”, etc.).
107. Other organizations and individuals lay wreaths after the official wreath laying.
108. Following the playing of “Royal Anthem”, the parade marches past the saluting base where the salute is taken by the Governor General.

LOCAL REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES

109. Local ceremonies should, where possible, conform to the general format of the National Remembrance Day Ceremony. (for suggested prayers, see Chapter 3)
110. The Order of Precedence for the placing of wreaths is:
 - a. A representative of the Sovereign ;
 - b. The Memorial (Silver) Cross Mother or a representative;
 - c. A representative of the Federal Government;
 - d. A representative of the Provincial or Territorial government;
 - e. A representative of the Municipal Government;
 - f. A representative of the Canadian Forces;
 - g. Representatives of The Royal Canadian Legion;
 - h. Representatives of other organizations;
 - i. individuals.
111. The suggested order of march for the parade that will follow the Remembrance Day Ceremony is:
 - a. The Royal Canadian Legion Colour Party;
 - b. Band(s);
 - c. Veterans and may include all Legion and Ladies Auxiliary members;
 - d. Members of the Canadian Forces;
 - e. Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
 - f. Members of civilian police forces and fire departments;
 - g. Members of the Sea, Army and Air Cadets.
112. The organizing committee may invite other groups and organizations to participate in the parade.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIALS

113. The dedication of a memorial, be it newly constructed or refurbished, is a significant event in the life of the Legion and the members. The dedication may be as grandiose as the unveiling of a new cenotaph to as simple as the placing of a memorial plaque.
114. Any activity of this nature is of extreme importance to the persons affected by the event that is being remembered and care must be taken to ensure that the activities are carried out in a solemn, dignified and respectful manner.
115. Order of Ceremony. The recommended manner in which the ceremony should proceed is as follows:
 - a. O Canada;
 - b. A hymn; “O God Our Help”;
 - c. A scripture reading; Joshua 4:1-9 The Memorial Stones
 - d. An address if considered appropriate; The Scottish Clan Farquharson had a sacred monument called “The Cairn of Remembrance.” To the clan, this cairn was the most sacred spot on earth. It was but a loose pile of granite stones thrown together at the top of a heather hill, but every stone had precious worth. Throughout the generations, as the clan sallied forth to battle, each man took a stone and placed it on the cairn. When he came back, he took his stone away. The stones that were left were in memory of those who would never return. Every city, town and village in Canada has its equivalent of “The Cairn of Remembrance,” a memorial to those who heard the call of sovereign and country, who went away and did not return. As we gather to dedicate this War Memorial, it is not enough for us just to remember. This should be a day of dedication, in which we resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.
 - e. The unveiling of the memorial;

PADRE: Comrades, for as much as it pleased Almighty God to put it into the hearts of his servants to erect this Memorial, let us now fulfill the godly purpose for which we are assembled, of dedicating it to the glory of God, and in grateful memory of all who gave their lives that we might live. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- f. A prayer of dedication; Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in ages past, your people did take twelve stones from the River Jordan as a memorial to the children of Israel for ever: bestow your blessing on us now as we dedicate this memorial to your glory, and in grateful memory of those who laid down their lives for our sake. Send your spirit upon us at all times when we assemble here to honour their memory, and to remember all those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of life, that we may follow their example of faith, hope and love, and that at the last, we, being faithful unto death, may receive with them the crown of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- g. The "Last Post"
- h. 2 Minutes of Silence
- i. "The Lament". The playing of the Lament is optional. If played it is not to commence until the 2 Minutes of Silence has elapsed;
- j. "Rouse";
- k. The Act of Remembrance;
- l. The placing of wreaths;
- m. "The Royal Anthem".

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE

- 116. The manner in which a divine service is to be organized should be done in full consultation with representatives of the clergy. Obviously, the reason for the service will determine the degree of preparation required, the facility to be used, the number of persons who will be directly involved with the service and the number of people expected to attend. These are not easy questions to answer and can only be resolved through a careful and thorough examination.
- 117. The service should be of an ecumenical nature. (for suggested prayers at items b, c, d and e below, see Chapter 3.)
- 118. **Order of Service.** The manner in which the service should proceed is as follows:
 - a. A hymn;
 - b. The Invocation;
 - c. The reading of a Psalm;

- d. A scripture reading;
 - e. Prayers and The Lord's Prayer should be included;
 - f. An address focusing on the reason for the service;
 - g. A hymn;
 - h. "O Canada";
 - i. The Blessing.
119. **Other Factors.** Should the service be Remembrance related the Last Post, Silence, Rouse and The Act of Remembrance can be inserted at an appropriate place - for example prior to the address or immediately following.

CEREMONY - OPENING A LEGION HALL

120. When a Legion Hall is opened, be it a new building or one that has been renovated, it is a very significant event in the life of the community. In order to ensure that the event receives the recognition and publicity deserved, care must be taken to ensure that the opening is carried out in a dignified manner. Care must also be taken to invite persons within the Community with whom the Legion has worked to achieve this special moment, those with whom the Legion will work when doing community service and those whom the Legion will serve.
121. **Protocol.** In order to ensure that guests, both senior Legion members and federal, provincial and municipal officials, are accorded the respect that their position dictates, the Legion Ritual and Insignia Manual must be consulted. The manual, if it is not available at the branch, can be obtained through the Supply system.
122. Further information can be obtained by contacting Heritage Canada. The web site is - www.canadianheritage.gc.ca. Once the site has been located go to the A-Z index, look up "protocol" and click on the word.
123. Each Provincial Government has a Protocol Office and the addresses are available in the protocol area of the Heritage Canada website.
124. **The Opening.** The suggested order of the ceremony is as follows:

- a. Conduct the Opening Ceremony as described in Chapter 2 of the Ritual and Insignia Manual;
- b. Welcoming remarks from the Branch President;
- c. Guests should be introduced in the following order:
 - i. The Guest of Honour - if the Guest of Honour is one of the people named below the individual will be introduced here;
 - ii. The Dominion President;
 - iii. The Provincial President;
 - iv. The Member of Parliament for the federal riding in which the branch is located;
 - v. The Member of the Provincial or Territorial Legislature for the riding in which the branch is located;
 - vi. The mayor and/or reeve;
 - vii. The District Commander;
 - viii. The Zone Commander;
 - ix. The Branch President if the president is not performing the responsibilities of the Opening Ceremony Chairman;
 - x. The Chairman of the Building Committee;
 - xi. The Chairman of the Finance Committee;
 - xii. Others as appropriate (e.g. designers and contractors)
- d. The Guest Speaker may, at the conclusion of his/her remarks, be called upon to cut a ribbon that will symbolically open the building while at the same time declare the building officially open;
- e. The Chaplain should be called upon to conduct the Dedication;
- f. “Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. Peace be to this house, and upon all who gather here. And may the Lord preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and even for evermore.”

PRAYER

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, you have built your people a living temple upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Be present to sanctify with your word and spirit this building which we dedicate in the service of the Royal Canadian Legion. Confirm and bless, we pray you, that which we have now done in your name, and prosper the work to which we have set our hands. Remember those who planned and toiled for the furthering of this work. Hear us as we make memorial of those who laid down their lives for freedom and truth, and pray that we may be worthy of their sacrifice. Help us to be faithful and true to those ideals for which they fought and died. May we continue to honour the memory of our departed comrades by our service to veterans and their loved ones, and remembering our solemn obligations, may we ever pray: LORD GOD OF HOSTS, BE WITH US YET, LEST WE FORGET, LEST WE FORGET.

- g. The Branch President thanks the Guest Speaker, the Chaplain, the various Building Committee members, the Ladies Auxiliary for their support, and the people from private industry responsible for designing and doing the construction or renovations;
- h. Announcements such as refreshments, tours, etc;
- i. Conduct the Closing Ceremony as described in Chapter 2 of the Ritual and Insignia Manual;
- j. Move into the social phase of the occasion.

125. **Other Significant Events.** The format for the ceremony outlined above can be adapted for other events where community leaders and members of the public will be present at a Legion sponsored activity.

LEGION FUNERALS

TYPES OF LEGION FUNERAL SERVICES

126. Within The Royal Canadian Legion there are two forms of a funeral service for departed comrades. The services are:
- a. A funeral service for any Veteran or Ordinary member;
 - b. A funeral service for all other members - Associate, Affiliate voting and non-voting members and members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Note: All Veterans are not necessarily Legion Members. Legion funerals can be held for all Veterans, whether they are members of the Legion or not.

SYMBOLS

127. The symbols used at the Legion Tribute are:
- a. The Lapel Poppy used at a funeral service for a Veteran or Ordinary member;
 - b. The Red Maple Leaf used at the funeral of all other members - Associate, Affiliate voting and non-voting members and members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

NOTIFICATION OF A DEATH

128. Upon the notification of the death of a member or member of the Ladies Auxiliary, the following action should be taken:
- a. Exterior flags are to be lowered to the half-mast position and remain in this position until the comrade has been buried or the period of mourning has passed;
 - b. The family may be contacted to determine what assistance the branch can provide. Some examples of assistance are - does the family wish a Legion Tribute as this is a decision for the family; does the family wish Legion pall bearers; does the branch provide a reception after the funeral and if so does the family wish to take advantage of the offer; etc;
 - c. A wreath should be sent to the funeral home;

- d. If a Legion tribute is to take place action must be taken to notify the following people:
- i. The Branch President;
 - ii. The Chaplain;
 - iii. The Sergeant-at-Arms or designate;
 - iv. The Members;
 - v. Consideration must also be given to notifying other branches of the death and all details of Legion involvement.
- e. For the purposes of this chapter the people listed above are referred to as the Comrade in Charge as each may be required to conduct a Legion funeral service;
- f. All of the other details that must be pulled together to ensure that the comrade is properly honoured.

ACTIVITIES - THE LEGION TRIBUTE

129. The Legion Tribute is the ritual that is used to pay homage, grieve, remember and say goodbye to a departed comrade. When the Tribute is conducted the degree to which it will be performed will depend on local circumstances. At a minimum, the following should occur:
- a. For any Veteran or Ordinary Member - the placing of at least one Poppy, The Silence and The Act of Remembrance should be included in the service;
 - b. For other Members and the Ladies Auxiliary - the placing of at least one Maple Leaf.
130. The requirements that must be taken into consideration are as follows:
- a. **Dress.** Legion dress with medals is to be worn. It is not normal practice for berets to be worn indoors with the exception of the Sergeant-at-Arms, Colour Bearer(s) and/or Honour Guards, members of the Ladies Auxiliary and by members whose religious doctrine or customs require that the head be covered. Berets may be worn immediately following the service to permit a salute when passing by the remains of the deceased or the memorial display;

- b. Procedure - Legion Tribute.** The place where the Tribute will take place may be a funeral home, a Legion branch, a church, a private residence or other place. Regardless of the location, care must be taken to ensure that all involved with the funeral are aware of their responsibilities and that people not associated with the Legion are aware of what will occur. The points that follow are of particular importance as they are key to a dignified and meaningful tribute:
- i. If the Last Post, Rouse and/or other music is to be played there is a requirement to advise the Funeral Director and take into account any advice that may be provided. If the Director will play the music he must be made aware of the appropriate time. If a comrade is to play the music, either live or on tape, the Director must be aware.;
 - ii. Poppies or Maple Leaves are to be distributed to the comrades as they arrive. It is Legion practice for the Poppy or Maple Leaf to be worn on the Legion blazer prior to being removed to be placed on the casket;
 - iii. Prior to the Tribute, all comrades participating should be gathered together and briefed on the procedure that will be used. The briefing should include the route to be taken, the number of people per group who will go forward to place their tribute, the direction in which they will leave the casket, and the route to leave the room;
 - iv. At the appointed time, move into the area where the tribute will occur under the direction of the Sergeant-at Arms. Comrades will march in pairs, led by the Branch President, the Branch Chaplain and the Comrade in Charge. The group will follow in order of seniority, Dominion Command representatives leading, followed by Provincial Command representatives, followed by District, Zone, Branch Executive representatives and branch, L.A. and other members;
 - v. When all comrades are in position, the Sergeant-at-Arms moves to a position near the head of the casket;
 - vi. The cue for the Clergy or Comrade in Charge to commence the Legion Tribute is the Sergeant-at-Arms taking his/her position near the head of the casket.

c. Placing - Poppies and Maple Leaves. The information required to conduct this part of the Tribute is as follows:

- i. The Clergy or Comrade in Charge will place the first Poppy or Maple Leaf and then return to his position;
- ii. Comrades will then commence to place their Poppies or Maple Leaves. Two comrades will move forward at a time, place the Poppy or Maple Leaf, step back one pace, bow, turn left or right and march to the rear of the group. At this point a new group will start to form;
- iii. Each pair of comrades will follow the same procedure moving forward as the comrades to their front move away from the casket;
- iv. As each line, be it two, four or six comrades wide, completes the tribute the assembly will move forward one pace;
- v. Once all others have placed their Poppy or Maple Leaf the Sergeant-at Arms will salute and place his Poppy or Maple Leaf and return to his position;
- vi. The cue for the Official to complete the ceremony is the Sergeant-at-Arms taking his position near the head of the casket;
- vii. Upon completion of the prayer or benediction the Clergy or Comrade in Charge, followed by the Branch President and all remaining comrades will pay their respects to the family and move out of the area;
- viii. The Tribute has been completed.

CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

131. There are selected ceremonial activities that may or may not occur depending on local circumstances. Should these activities occur the procedures to be followed are as listed below:

- a. **Covering the Casket.** It is the responsibility of the designated Legion member, through the Funeral Director if desired, to determine if the family wishes to drape the casket with the Canadian Flag and the departed comrade's beret, medals and a wreath. Figure 6-1 shows the manner in which the items listed above are to be placed. The point of the Maple Leaf in the Canadian Flag is to be adjacent to the deceased's heart.

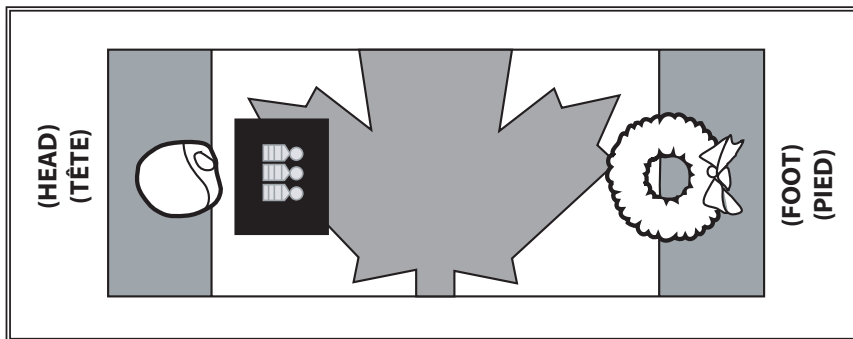


Figure 1-1 - Placement of Flag, Beret, Medals and Wreath

- b. **The Canadian Flag.** At the request of the clergy, a ceremony to remove and replace the Canadian Flag before and after the church service may be conducted. A procedure for folding the Canadian Flag can be found in Chapter 6 of the Ritual and Insignia Manual.
- c. **Presentation - The Canadian Flag.** The deceased member's branch may wish to present the Canadian flag to the next-of-kin. The flag folding ceremony is to occur immediately prior to the casket being interred.
- d. **Presentation of the Beret and Medals.** If the Legion Tribute occurs during the evening prior to the funeral service, the Funeral Director to remove, care for and return the beret and medals to the next-of-kin following burial. Should the Legion Tribute occur at the funeral or at the grave site, the Funeral Director will remove and pass the beret and medals to a designated Legion member. The Comrade will be responsible to present these items to the next-of-kin at an appropriate time.

- e. **Pallbearers.** Pallbearers, when carrying the casket, may remove their headdress. If the headdress is removed it is to be replaced at the grave side immediately before The Last Post is sounded.
- f. **Leaving the Service.** If it is intended that the Legion members precede the casket and bearers out of the location of the service they will line up on both sides of the exit and form a Guard of Honour and will remain until the cortege has left. If the Guard of Honour is to proceed to the cemetery, it will hold its position until the casket is placed in the hearse and then move to the transportation being provided.

FUNERALS FOR ANY VETERAN OR ORDINARY MEMBER

THE FUNERAL SERVICE

132. The form that the funeral service will take may have been predetermined by the departed comrade and/or the next of kin. In addition, the member of the clergy who will conduct the service has the responsibility to see that the deceased's and next of kin's wishes are respected.
133. The Legion is present to support the family and to honour the departed comrade. To this end, it is imperative that the clergy understand the symbolism of the Legion Tribute and the Legion members participating must be aware of the requirements of the clergy. The only way that both parties can be informed of each other's needs is through communication. To ensure effective communication the Legion should take the initiative and contact the clergy to discuss the arrangements for the funeral.
134. **The Legion Order of Service.** The Legion Order of Service or Legion Tribute as it is often called is a funeral service that has been developed to permit members to say goodbye to their fallen comrade. The Poppy is an integral part of the service, and its use must be planned so as not to detract from the dignity of the occasion. Consideration must be given to the wishes of the family, the officiating clergy, local customs and location. The service is conducted in the following manner:
 - a. The Clergy, or Comrade In Charge, should announce the hymn and request the gathering to stand;

- b. A suitable selection is “Abide with Me“ (first and last verse);
- c. The Clergy or Comrade In Charge states “In the presence of the last earthly remains of our **Comrade [name]**, whose loss we mourn but whose spirit still lives, may we, as citizens and members of The Royal Canadian Legion, be charged anew with the full sense of our duties and responsibilities to our country and our organization. May we ever strive to uphold the principles of unselfish service which led us to serve our God and our country in time of war and in peace, so that we may continue to serve, even unto death”;
- d. The Clergy or Comrade in Charge places a single Poppy on the casket;
- e. A Prayer which is optional. The following is suggested:
- “O God, we remember before you those who laid down their lives for freedom and truth. We commend their souls into your gracious keeping and pray that we may be worthy of their sacrifice. Help us to be faithful and true to those ideals for which they fought and died. May we continue to perpetuate the memory of our departed comrades by our service to country, community and comrades, and remembering our solemn obligation, may we ever pray - Lord God of Hosts; Be with us yet.”
- Response:** “Lest we forget; Lest we forget.”
- f. “Last Post” (optional).
- g. Brief silence.
- h. “Rouse” (optional).
- i. The Act of Remembrance.
- j. The Clergy or Comrade In Charge: “Our Heavenly Father, grant, we beseech you, to the loved ones of our departed comrade, your comfort and protection. Amen”.
- k. Poppies may be placed on the casket by a special honour guard and/or all comrades present.

A LEGION GRAVE SIDE SERVICE

135. There may be circumstances which preclude a Tribute being conducted at a Funeral Service or the need for a grave side service has been identified. Regardless of the circumstances a Tribute may occur and the degree to which it will be performed is to be determined locally.
136. The following order of service is suggested:
- a. Arrangements are to be made in advance with the person who will officiate at the service, the Clergy or Funeral Director, to position the Legion members for the service and determine when the Tribute will occur;
 - b. Prior to commencing the service, Poppies are to be distributed to those who will participate in the Tribute;
 - c. The Clergy or Comrade in Charge is responsible for carrying out the Legion Tribute;
 - d. Poppies will be dropped into the grave at the conclusion of the Tribute;
 - e. Comrades in uniform and wearing their headdress will salute after dropping their Poppy;
 - f. All other persons will pause a moment, turn and file past the grave.

A LEGION MEMORIAL SERVICE

137. A Memorial Service is held when there are no earthly remains and the procedure is as follows:
- a. The Clergy, or Comrade In Charge, should announce the Hymn and request the gathering to stand;
 - b. The Hymn is one that is chosen by the family or the clergy;
 - c. The Clergy, or Comrade In Charge: “We assemble today to solemnly remember and to pay our respects to the life of our **Comrade [name]**, whose death we mourn, but whose spirit still lives. May we, as citizens and members of The Royal Canadian Legion, be charged anew with the full sense of our duties and responsibilities to our country and our organization.

May we ever strive to uphold the principles of unselfish service which led us to serve our God and our country in time of war and in peace, so that we may continue to serve, even unto death”.

- d. A Prayer is optional; (suggested prayers can be found in Chapter 3 of this manual)
- e. The Eulogy;
- f. The Last Post is optional;
- g. The Silence;
- h. Rouse is optional;
- i. The Act of Remembrance;
- j. The Clergy or Comrade In Charge: “Our Heavenly Father, grant, we beseech you, to the loved ones of our departed comrade, your comfort and protection. Amen”;
- k. A Memorial Cross, constructed from a porous material, may be placed in position where members may place a Poppy.

FUNERALS ASSOCIATE AND AFFILIATE MEMBERS AND THE LADIES AUXILIARY

THE FUNERAL SERVICE

- 138. The form that the funeral service will take may have been predetermined by the departed comrade and/or the family. In addition, the member of the clergy who will conduct the service has the responsibility to see that the deceased’s and family’s wishes are respected.
- 139. The Legion is present to support the family and to honour the departed comrade. To this end, it is imperative that the clergy understand the symbolism of the Legion Tribute and the Legion members participating must be aware of the requirements of the clergy. The only way that both parties can be informed of each other’s needs is through communication. To ensure effective communication the Legion should take the initiative and contact the clergy to discuss the arrangements for the funeral.

140. **Order of Service.** The Order of Service for an Associate or Affiliate member and member of the Ladies Auxiliary is as follows:
- a. Maple Leaves are to be distributed to those who will participate in the Legion Tribute prior to the commencement of the service;
 - b. The Clergy, or Comrade In Charge, should announce the hymn and request the gathering to stand;
 - c. A suitable selection is “Abide with Me” (first and last verse);
 - d. The Clergy or Comrade In Charge states: “In the presence of the last earthly remains of our **Comrade [name]**, whose loss we mourn but whose spirit still lives, may we, as citizens and members of The Royal Canadian Legion, be charged anew with the full sense of our duties and responsibilities to our country and our organization. May we ever strive to uphold the principles of unselfish service which led us to serve our God and our country, so that we may continue to serve, even unto death”;
 - e. The Clergy or Comrade in Charge places a single Maple Leaf on the casket;
 - f. A Prayer is optional; (suggested prayers can be found in Chapter 3)
 - g. A silence;
 - h. The members go forward and place the Maple Leaves;
 - i. The Clergy or Comrade In Charge: “Our heavenly Father, grant, we beseech you, to the loved ones of our departed comrade, your comfort and protection. Amen.”

A GRAVESIDE SERVICE

141. The following is the suggested order of service if held at the grave side:
- a. Arrangements are to be made in advance with the person who will officiate at the service, the Clergy or Funeral Director, to position the Legion members for the service and determine when the Legion Tribute will occur;
 - b. Should a Legion Tribute occur, Maple Leaves are to be distributed to those who will participate prior to the commencement of the service;

- c. The Maple Leaves will be dropped into the grave;
- d. The Clergy or Comrade In Charge is responsible for carrying out the Legion Tribute;
- e. Legionnaires in uniform and wearing their headdress will salute after dropping their Maple Leaf;
- f. Other people attending will pause a moment, turn and file past the grave site.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE

142. A Memorial Service is held when there are no earthly remains and the procedure is as follows:

- a. The Clergy, or Comrade In Charge, should announce the Hymn and request the gathering to stand.
- b. The Hymn is one that is chosen by the family or the clergy;
- c. The Clergy or Comrade In Charge: “We assemble today to solemnly remember and to pay our respects to the life of our **Comrade [name]**, whose death we mourn, but whose spirit still lives. May we, as citizens and members of The Royal Canadian Legion, be charged anew with the full sense of our duties and responsibilities to our country and our organization. May we ever strive to uphold the principles of unselfish service which led us to serve our God and our country, so that we may continue to serve, even unto death”;
- d. A Prayer is optional; (suggested prayers can be found in Chapter 3)
- e. The Eulogy;
- f. A Silence;
- g. The Clergy or Comrade in Charge: “Our Heavenly Father, grant, we beseech you, to the loved ones of our departed comrade, your comfort and protection. Amen”;
- h. A Memorial Cross, constructed from a porous material, may be placed in position where members may place the Maple Leaf;
- i. The Tribute may be carried out at the conclusion of the service.

CONSECRATION OF COLOURS (OR A DRUMHEAD SERVICE)

143. **The Parade to the Location of the Ceremony.** Parade FALLS-IN at an area adjacent to location of ceremony in two groups with the band (if available) on the right. The Colours are MARCHED-ON to a position in front of the band while the band plays appropriate music. The Parade is now ready for the MARCH-ON,

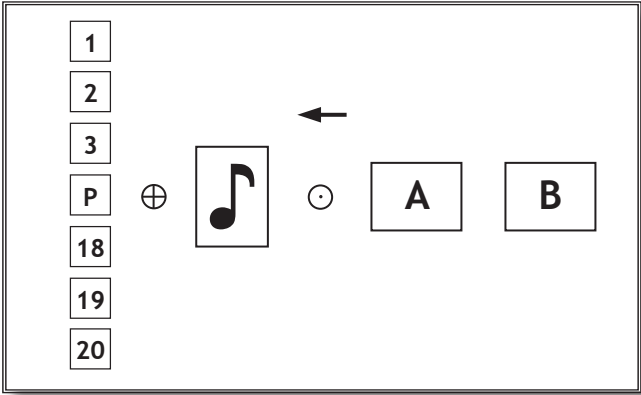


Figure 1-2 - Position for the March-on

The Parade moves to the right and marches into position,

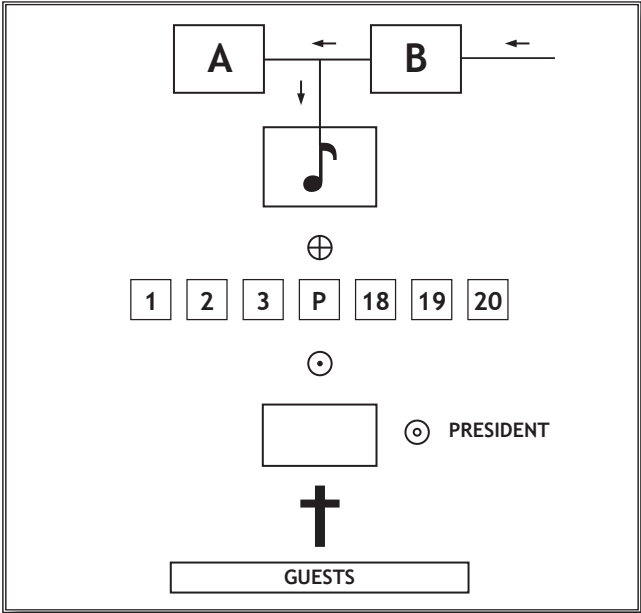


Figure 1-3 - Positions at Ceremony

144. When all members are in position for the ceremony, the Colour Party Commander gives the command "ORDER COLOURS". The Parade Commander then orders "PARADE STAND AT EASE ... PARADE STAND EASY". The Colour Party acts on this order.
145. **Procedure for the Ceremony.** The Parade Commander brings the Parade to "ATTENTION". The Colours are brought to the Carry. The Parade Commander orders "PARADE SALUTE". The Band plays "The Royal Anthem", the officers in charge salute and the Legion Banner is dipped. On the last note of "The Royal Anthem" the Legion Banner is raised to the Carry and the salute is completed.
146. The Branch president moves from a position on the right side of the altar (constructed of drums in a Drumhead Service) to a position in front. The order is then given "PLACE COLOURS". On this order the flags, in the sequence that follows - Legion Banner, UN Flag, Provincial Flag, Royal Union Flag, The Red Ensign and the National Flag - are taken from the Colour Bearers by the Colour Party Commander and handed to the Branch President, who places them on the altar. The Colour Party Commander returns to his designated position.
147. The Parade Commander addresses the Chaplain:
"On behalf of The Royal Canadian Legion, will the Chaplain bid God's blessing on the Colours."
148. The Chaplain replies:
"We are ready to do so."
149. The Parade Commander orders:
"PARADE REMOVE HEADDRESS ... STAND AT EASE ... STAND EASY".

CALL TO WORSHIP

150. The Chaplain performs the following Consecration Ceremony.

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of our God, we will set up our banners. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

[The colours are presented and placed upon the Altar.]

“For as much as people at all times have made for themselves signs and emblems of their allegiance to their rulers, and of their duty to uphold these laws and institutions which God’s providence has called them to obey, we, following this ancient custom and remembering that God himself led his people Israel by pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day, are met together before God to ask his blessing on these colours, which are to represent our duty towards our sovereign, our country and our God. Let us, therefore, pray to Almighty God for his mercy and to make it a sign of his presence with them at all times, and to increase their faith and hope in him, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do dedicate and set apart these colours that they may be a sign of our duty to God, to our Sovereign and to our country.”

CANADIAN FLAG

151. “Almighty God, we rejoice in your Salvation and in the name of our God, we will set up our banners. Bestow your blessing upon us now, as we dedicate this flag that it may be a sign of our love and allegiance to this country. Let your gracious favour rest upon all who live beneath the Canadian flag, that they may strive for those things which bring peace, freedom, justice and unity. Help us to pass on to new generations something of our goodly heritage, and as each new age listens to our nation’s story, may new hearts catch fire, and know how brave and noble life can be.”

ROYAL UNION FLAG

152. “We give thanks to you, O God, for the cross of Jesus, for the good news of salvation and forgiveness to the children of the world. For your servants, St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick, for the high examples of those who have gone before us, who by their loyalty, courage and sacrifice have won for us our liberties, parliamentary process and respect for law, for the goodly fellowship of many lands and diverse races, united under one flag, and honouring the Queen in the Commonwealth of Nations. As we come to your altar to dedicate this flag, the emblem of our faith, loyalty and comradeship, inspire us to yield our hearts anew to you, and to the service of your kingdom.”

153. On completion of the Consecration Ceremony, the Chaplain moves to the front of the altar.
154. The Parade Commander orders:
“PARADE ATTENTION ... REPLACE HEADDRESS ... STAND AT EASE ... STAND EASY”. The members on parade adjust their headdress.
155. The Parade Commander orders:
“PARADE ATTENTION”.
156. The Chaplain removes the flags from the altar in the following sequence - the National Flag, the Red Ensign, the Royal Union Flag, the Provincial Flag, the United Nations Flag, and the Legion Banner. He passes each flag to the Branch President individually who accepts each flag in a kneeling position with the right knee on the ground. As each flag is received the Branch President rises and places the flag in the sling of the Colour Bearer. Each flag is accepted at the Carry.
157. When all flags have been returned to the Colour Bearers, the Parade Commander orders:
“PARADE SALUTE”.
158. The Band plays “O Canada”; officers in charge salute, the Legion Banner is dipped. On completion of “O Canada”, the Legion Banner is brought to the Carry and the salute is completed.
159. **The March Past.** The Parade Commander orders A and B Groups to turn right. The Colour party, by a series of wheels, moves to its position ahead of A Group. The officers take up their positions. The Band stands firm. The Parade Commander orders the Parade to MARCH PAST. The standard order is “THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION WILL MARCH PAST IN COLUMN OF ROUTE BY THE RIGHT QUICK MARCH”.
160. When the Parade has moved off, the Band steps off and marches at the rear of the Parade.
161. Upon reaching the first saluting marker, the contingents perform an EYES RIGHT in succession of contingents, the officers in charge salute, and the Colour are let fly.

- 162. Upon reaching the second marker, the contingents are given an EYES FRONT in succession by contingent, the officers in charge complete their salute, and the Colours are CAUGHT.
- 163. The Parade marches to the location where it was formed, the Colours are MARCHED-OFF, and the Parade is DISMISSED.

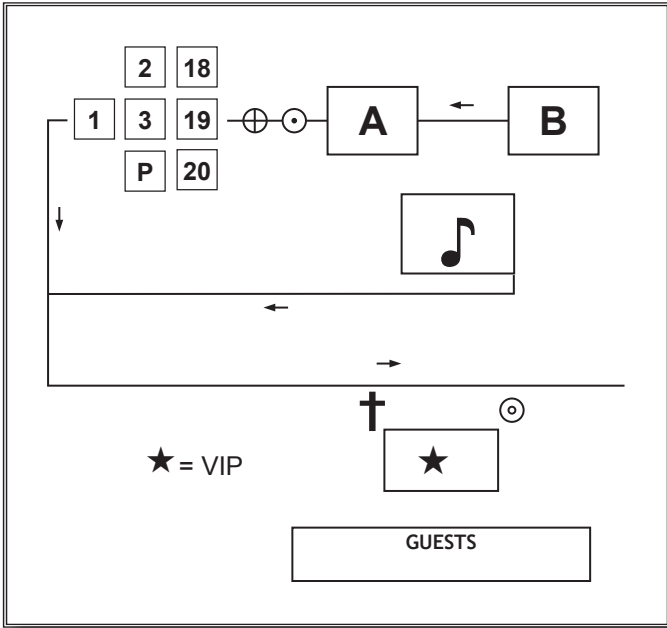


Figure 1-4 - The March Past

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

200. Chapter 2 is a listing of the dates over the course of the year on which events of a Remembrance nature occur, and the prayers or readings connected to those events. The suggested dates are meant to be guidelines and services on those dates are not mandatory. It may also be possible that there are other dates that are significant in a local or regional context that are not mentioned here.

JANUARY	1	New Year's Day
MARCH		(second Monday) Commonwealth Day
APRIL	9 21	Vimy Day: Battle of Vimy Ridge, 1917 H.M. The Queen's Birthday
MAY		(first Sunday) Battle of Atlantic Sunday
	8 24	VE-Day, 1945 Victoria Day
JUNE	6	Decoration Day D-Day Landing at Normandy, 1944
JULY	1 10 27	Canada Day Canadians in Sicily Korean Armistice, 1953
AUGUST	15 19	VJ-Day, 1945 Dieppe Raid, 1942
SEPTEMBER		(second Sunday) Battle of Britain, 1940 (third week) Legion Week
OCTOBER	21 24	Trafalgar Day: Naval victory, 1805 United Nations Day
NOVEMBER	11	Remembrance Day
DECEMBER	4 25	St. Barbara's Day: Patron Saint of Gunners Christmas Day

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

(First Sunday in May)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Those who go down to the sea in ships,
Who do business on great waters,
They see the works of the Lord,
And His wonders in the deep.

On this Battle of the Atlantic Sunday, let us pause for a few moments to think reverently of those of our shipmates who by sea, laid down their lives for their sovereign and country.

Their sacrifice will ever inspire us to labour on, to the end that those who survive and need our aid, may be assured of assistance, and that the country in which we live, and for which they died, may ever be worthy of the sacrifice they made.

During the Silence, we remember all who lost their lives at sea.

They shall grow not old.
As we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them.

Response: We Will Remember Them

Hymn: “Eternal Father, strong to save” (Melita)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107:21-31 St. Mark 4:36-41

NAVAL PRAYER

O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end: Be pleased to receive into your almighty and most gracious protection the members of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Fleet in which they serve. Preserve them from the dangers of the sea, and from the violence of the enemy; that they may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve you our God; and that they may return in safety to enjoy the blessing of the land, with the fruits of their labours, and with a thankful remembrance of your mercies to praise and glorify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ¹

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE'S PRAYER, ON ENTERING CADIZ HARBOUR, APRIL 19, 1587

O Lord God, when thou givest Thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through Him that for the finishing of thy work laid down his life, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen. ²

PRAYER OF ADMIRAL NELSON ON THE MORNING OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR, OCTOBER 21, 1805

May the great God whom I worship, grant to my country, and for the benefit of Europe in general, a great and glorious victory; and may no misconduct in anyone tarnish it; and may humanity after victory be the predominant feature in the British Fleet. For myself, individually, I commit my life to Him who made me, and may His blessing light upon my endeavours for serving my country faithfully. To Him I resign myself and the just cause which is entrusted to me to defend. Amen, Amen, Amen. ³

DECORATION DAY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.
Their bodies are buried in peace;
But their name liveth for evermore.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, as this day we gather round our War Memorial and decorate the graves of our fallen comrades, accept our memorial of their sacrifice, and this offering of praise and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 46 St. John 12:20-26

Almighty God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, by whose graciousness in Jesus Christ we are made citizens of heaven: We rejoice in all who have faithfully lived and manfully died, especially those who loved freedom and offered their lives in its defense.

As we lay these floral tributes — an offering of benediction and beauty — let us be assured in our hearts that they who are absent from us have found a more perfect rest in You and have secured their faithfulness a crown of unfading life. You will care for them better than we in our love could do.

Into a life more abundant, into a service more noble, where there is no more pain or sorrow, neither tears nor suffering, You, O God, will lead them.

Christ, bless our comrades we pray.

And grant unto us the peace that passeth understanding, and the hope made real by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Help us, Father, to be faithful to the ideals which they struggled to maintain as we seek to perpetuate the memory of our departed comrades by our service to their King, remembering at all times our solemn obligation may we ever pray:

Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,

Lest we forget, lest we forget.

These things we ask in the name of the One whose prayer we share when we say:

“Our Father ...” ²¹

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

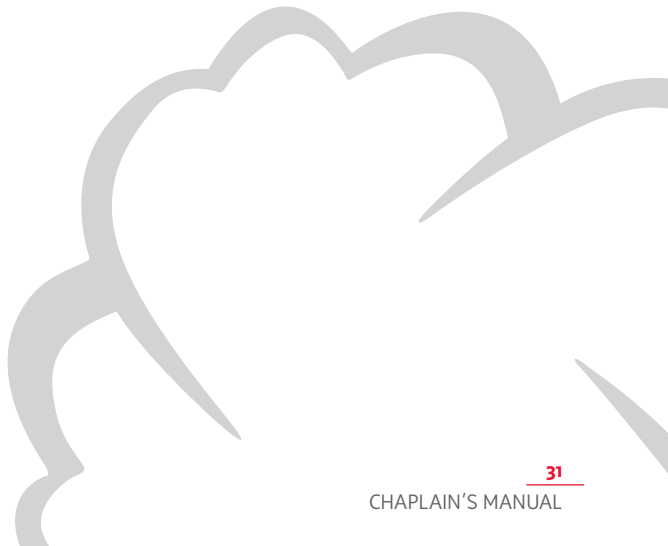
CALL TO WORSHIP

I will lift up my eyes to the hills,
from whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
Seek those things which are above.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 121 Colossians 3:1-4

PRAYER FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

Almighty God, You make the clouds Your chariot and walk upon the wings of the wind: Have mercy, we pray You, on the members of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and when they are amidst the clouds and wonders of the sky, give to them the assurance of Your protection, that they may do their duty with prudence and with fearlessness, confident that in life or in death the eternal God is their refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ⁹



RUNNYMEDE

Inscription on the centre window of the Air Forces Memorial,
Runnymede.

The first rays of the dawning sun
Shall touch its pillars,
And as the day advances
And the light grows stronger,
You shall read the names
Engraved on the stone
Of those who sailed the angry sky
And saw harbour no more.
No gravestone in yew-dark churchyard
Shall mark their resting place;
Their bones lie in the forgotten corners
Of earth and sea.
But, that we may not lose their memory
With fading years, their monument stands here,
Here, at the heart of England, half-way between
Royal Windsor and lordly London; looking down,
Here, where the trees troop down to Runnymede.
Meadow of Magna Carta, field of freedom,
Never saw you so fitting a memorial,

Proof that the principles established here
Are still dear to the hearts of men.
Here now they stand, contrasted and alike,
The field of freedom's birth, and the memorial
To freedom's winning.
And, as evening comes,
And mists, like quiet ghosts, rise from the river bed,
And climb the hill to wander through the cloisters,
We shall not forget them. Above the mist
We shall see the memorial still, and over it
The crown and single star. And we shall pray
As the mists rise up and the air grows dark
that we may wear
as brave a heart as they. ¹⁰

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of...wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sun-lit silence...
Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along
And flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delicious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
Where never lark, nor even eagle flew;
And while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God. ¹¹

REMEMBRANCE DAY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace be unto you and peace, from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God. Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore.

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, time stands still for a moment; and we remember those who died, not for war, but for a world that would be free and at peace.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, You are our refuge and strength; we humble ourselves in Your presence, and, remembering the great things You have done for us, we lift up our hearts in adoration and praise. As You have gathered us together this day, we give You thanks for all who served their country in time of trial.

In remembrance of those who made the supreme sacrifice, make us better men and women, and give us peace in our time, O Lord. ¹²

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Almighty God, as You have gathered Your people together this day in hallowed remembrance, we give You thanks for all who laid down their lives for our sake, and whom You have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of Your presence. Let the memory of their devotion ever be an example to us, that we at the last, being faithful unto death, may receive with them the crown of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEFORE A WAR MEMORIAL

O Lord our God, whose name only is excellent and your praise above heaven and earth: We give you high praise and hearty thanks for all those who counted not their lives dear unto themselves, but laid them down for their friends, praying you to give them a part and a lot in those good things which you have prepared for all those whose names are written in the book of life; and grant to us, that having them always in remembrance, we may imitate their faithfulness, and with them inherit the new name which you have promised to them that overcome; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ¹⁴

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS AND SERVICES

FOR THE FALLEN

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death August and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain. ⁷

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields. ⁴

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

O God our Father, we thank you for those valiant hearts, who at the call of Sovereign and country laid down their lives in the cause of freedom. We pray that we may uphold the torch entrusted to us so that their sacrifice may not have been in vain. Unite all the peace loving peoples of our world in one holy purpose to defend the principles of freedom and brotherhood for which these valiant hearts lived and died. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. In the name of the great Prince of peace we pray. Amen. ²²

FOR THE WOUNDED AND BEREAVED

Father of mercies and giver of all comfort, we commend to your compassion all who are in trouble, sorrow or distress, and, especially at this time, the disabled and wounded, and all who must carry through the years a burden of suffering. Extend to them your healing and help. Let not our gratitude fail or grow weary, but deepen our sympathy, that we may bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Visit with your comfort the sorrowful and the bereaved, especially those to whose hearts this day brings back the proud but grievous memory of loved ones fallen on the field of honour, and grant them your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE VETERANS' PRAYER

O Almighty God, the great Ruler and Architect of the Universe, we offer thanks for the life and health given us to carry the torch this far, and ask your Divine help for the future. We desire your presence with us this day and may your guiding light penetrate the hearts of all assembled here. We pray you at this time to comfort the sick, heal the wounded and give them patience under their suffering and a happy issue out of their afflictions. Cherish the mothers, the widow and the fatherless of our brave boys who made the supreme sacrifice in the great conflict. Give them strength to overcome their great loss. Be near them in their solitude and give us all the will to hold the torch still high, to be an inspiration to all the world that the peace of God which passeth all understanding may be with us now and through Eternity. ¹⁵

PRAYER FOR PEACE

O God of peace, may the memory of two world wars strengthen our efforts for peace.

O Father of souls, may the memory of those who died inspire our service to the living.

O Builder of the kingdom of love, may the memory of past destruction move us to build for the future. ¹⁶

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make us instruments of your Peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek
to be comforted, as to comfort;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning, that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life. ¹⁷

DEDICATION

Teach us, O Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹⁸

PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

We give praise and thanks to you O Lord of Hosts, for all that makes our common life secure: for reverence for things holy, for respect for our fellow humans, for the humility that leads us to draw on your strength.

We thank you for the peace we enjoy and for the opportunity that is ours of building a better order of society in this Canada for the generations still to come.

We remember with pride and gratitude those who fought on the land, the sea and in the skies to make this possible, and we pray that the memory of their self-giving may inspire us to invest our energy, our strength and our substance in building a world where the Angel Dove of Peace may fly freely and safely, and may do it, O God, for your sake and for all our sakes. Amen.

Eternal God, we thank you for this land in which we dwell, and for the high price paid to keep her free. We thank you for the raw courage of Canadians, who with their allies, crossed the channel to infiltrate the enemy. We recall the many battles and the bitter strife, and the sacrifice of volunteer forces who were prepared to give their all.

We remember this day those who laid down their lives in a spirit of unselfish service. "Greater love hath no man than this."

Be with us, O Lord, as we pledge ourselves anew to your service in gratitude and in pride for those who gave that last measure of devotion to make Canada what it is - a place where the strong stoop to the needs of the old and weak, where we encourage our young people in worthy accomplishment, where we stand to guard the rights of all citizens against tyranny and oppression.

We bless you, Lord, that for our comrades fallen, the tribulations of this world are ended and death is past. We pray that in your mercy you will bring us all into the joy of your perfect kingdom, a house not made by human hands, but eternal in the heavens as we soldier on in the faith and loyalty of our Lord, Christ. Amen.²¹

VIMY PRAYER

Almighty God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, by death or by life, by principalities or by powers: Receive our prayers and thanksgivings for those we remember this day.

We recall the day our country became a nation when colonials marched up one side of Vimy and came down the other side of that hill victorious.

Fulfil in those who saw combat the high purpose of your love and bring us, along with them, to your eternal joy reserved for all who love and serve you to the last measure of devotion, as did Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.²¹

A DECORATION DAY PRAYER

They served and fought and died so that we might be safe and free.
Grant them, O Lord, eternal Peace and give them the Victory!
And in these days of unrest, filled with grave uncertainty,
Let's not forget the price they paid to keep our country free. . .
And so, on this Decoration Day, we offer up a prayer —

May the people of all nations be united in thy care, and grant us
understanding and teach us how to live so we may lose our selfish pride
and learn to love and give, and keep us ever mindful of the fighting men
who sleep In Flanders Fields and foreign lands so we may ever keep the
light of freedom burning in their honour through the years and hear their
cry for Peace on earth resounding in our ears —

ON DECORATION DAY

The flags are proud to decorate the graves
Of heroes; catching every breeze that blows,
they shout, significantly, truth that saves
A world almost accustomed to its woes.
They speak of boys with blood red as the rose,
Who sacrificed young lives and happy dreams
to learn a mystery nobody knows —
To fly beyond familiar hills and streams.

The rose is proud to bloom upon the beds
Of soldiers; every flower tries to press
Toward sweet perfection. Lilies lift white heads
In hallowed ground, and spill their loveliness
Upon the sleeping heroes. We confess
To obligations scarcely felt before.
Shall we, the living, feel our sorrow less
If we make peace our goal, and rule out war? ⁶

SHORT PRAYERS

Almighty God, Father of all, we gather round our War Memorial to
offer our thanks for those who through the sacrifice of their lives have
handed on the torch, and to ask your Divine help for the future. Give
to all assembled here the will to hold the torch still high, to serve their

comrades, and to be an inspiration to all people, that the peace of God which passes all understanding may be with us, now and forever. Amen.

Eternal God, You alone are our strength and our deliverance: We remember before You with thanksgiving all who gave their lives to save us; especially do we make memorial of those known to us whom we name in the silence of our hearts before You ... Keep us loyal to their memory, and true to their example; and give us grace to follow them in the spirit of self-sacrifice and service, that, being faithful unto death, we may with them receive the crown of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God our Father, those whose memory we celebrate today, chose to die far from home, because they believed their sacrifice would set us free, and it did, and so we honour them. And yet, today, our Father, God of peace, we offer a prayer that will surely join in. We pray that with Your help, this day may mark the last of war. We simply pray for peace on earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Your Son, who lives and reigns for ever; Amen. ⁸

Blessed are You, God our Father, for You have stood by us in our darkest hours. Even when we doubted, You were ever near. And You have given to the world that victory which is beyond all others, victory over death itself. May You be blessed and praised by all people, now and forever. Amen. ⁸

Lord Jesus, the one man who lived free of sin, we praise you. You came among us to teach us how to live and how to die. You have shown us how great is the price of freedom by giving your life to deliver us from evil. You came to save us from sin. Help us to live in the will of the Lord of Hosts; teach us to give to the uttermost, to develop our creativity, use our imagination, and lend our strength in worthy pursuits. Help us to regard highly what others have secured for us; and to pursue peace in obedience to your compassionate spirit of goodwill, until the kingdoms of this world give to you their full allegiance, and your name is glorified throughout the earth. Amen. ²¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
Greater love has no one than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.

We are gathered together for our annual Service of Remembrance, to give thanks to Almighty God for His goodness to us as a nation and Commonwealth, to remember before God those who died in the service of their country, especially those whose loyalty and courage are cherished in our personal memories, and to dedicate ourselves in the cause of peace.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we bless You again for the remembrance of this day. You make wars to cease to the end of the earth; You break the bow and cut the spear in sunder, and burn the chariot in the fire: Cause us to be still, and to know that You are God.

Remember, O Lord, what You have wrought in us, and not what we deserve; and, as You have called us to Your service, make us worthy of our calling.¹³

LEGION TRIBUTE TO A DEPARTED COMRADE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

PRAYER

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our comrade.

We thank you for giving him to us to know and love as a companion in our pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, comfort those who mourn. Give us your help, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth with confidence, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us.

O God, we remember before you those who laid down their lives for freedom and truth, and we pray that we may be worthy of their sacrifice. Help us to be faithful and true to those ideals for which they fought and died. May we continue to honour their memory by our service to veterans and their loved ones, and remembering our solemn obligation may ever pray:

LORD GOD OF HOSTS, BE WITH US YET,
LEST WE FORGET, LEST WE FORGET.

LAST POST (Bugler)

LAMENT (Piper)

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them.

Response: We Will Remember Them.

ROUSE (Bugler)

The comrades present may place a poppy on the casket, salute and return to their place.

LEGION TRIBUTE TO A NAVAL VETERAN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters, they see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107:21-31 St. Mark 4:36-41

PRAYER

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in your perfect wisdom you have ended for our shipmate the voyage of this troublous life. Watch over us who are still on the dangerous voyage of life, and remember such as lie exposed to the rough storms of trouble.

Frail is our vessel, and the ocean so wide, but as in your mercy, you have set our course, so steer the vessel of our life towards the everlasting shore of peace, and bring us at length to the quiet haven of our heart's desire, where you, our God, are blessed and live forever and ever. Amen.

REQUIEM

Under the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie:
Glad did I live and gladly die,
and I laid me down a will.
This be the verse you grave for me;
Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
and the hunter home from the hill. ²⁰

NAVAL BUGLE CALL: SUNSET

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them.

Response: We Will Remember Them.

NAVAL BUGLE CALL: WAKEY-WAKEY

The comrades present may place a Poppy on the casket and return to their place.

GRACE

GRACE AT A LEGION DINNER

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. Praise to you, O Lord our God, king of the Universe, who gives us this day our daily bread. Be present at our table, as we remember before you those who laid down their lives for freedom and justice. Sanctify with your word and spirit both us and these gifts. Bless this food to our nourishment and enjoyment. Grant in all our endeavours in the service of Veterans and their loved ones your blessing and good success. Amen.²³

GRACE FOR A LUNCH AFTER PARADE

All praise and thanks be to you, O gracious Father, for the experiences of this day. We thank you for the loyalty and persistence of those who marched proudly, those who carried the colours and those who by their very presence contributed to the significance of the day.

Now in comradeship of this shared meal, satisfy both the hunger of our bodies and our personal need for fellowship and appreciation.

Bless those who prepared the food and each one who in honest gratitude partakes of the mercies you have made possible.

We pray in our Saviour's name. Amen.²¹

GRACE FOR LADIES AUXILIARY CELEBRATION

Eternal God, we pause thankfully before eating this meal, mindful of all the times we have served and shared around these tables in the work of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Bless us, each one, as we wait in your presence, thoughtfully recalling the contribution made by our sisters over the years. Receive our thanks for the labours of so many in their devotion to our well being. May we, nourished by the food and fellowship we enjoy, continue in those traditions which bind us together in comradeship with those who have gone before seeking always to win a greater freedom to be your faithful children.

In the name of the "Man for others", Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.²¹

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We join in thanking you, O God, for this land in which we live, the blessings of which we so often take for granted.

Open our eyes to see and appreciate the price that was paid for it.

Let us never assume that we can have anything for nothing but sustained by our faith in your goodness may hope with sure confidence that we may play our part without hesitation and share in the glory you have prepared for those who are faithful unto death.

We ask in the name of our ever living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.²¹



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