

Commander: –Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

Auxiliary Chaplain: Madam President of the Ladies Auxiliary, what assurances have we of a prolonged stay among the scenes and activities of life?

Auxiliary President: –For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow and without hope.”

VFW Chaplain: Comrade Senior Vice Commander, have you a message of condolence for those bereaved?

Senior Vice Commander: As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For he knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

VFW Chaplain: What message has the Chaplain of the Auxiliary?

Auxiliary Chaplain: I have a message of hope that should inspire our comrades at this solemn moment and all through life. The message is from our sacred scriptures, assuring us that there is life after death and whoever is faithful to the end, shall inherit eternal life.

VFW Chaplain: Comrades and Sisters, we are thankful for these inspiring thoughts. Let us learn the lesson of the hour which is that we, too, are nearing the end of life’s pilgrimage and sooner or later these services may be held in our memory. Let us so live that when our summons comes we may depart with a good conscience, in the comfort of a sincere religion, belief in God, and perfect charity toward all mankind. Madam Chaplain, would you offer a prayer.

Auxiliary Chaplain: (Motion to rise.)

Let us pray. Our Father in Heaven, at this time of remembrance, we seek You, with whom there is no death. We ask You, in Your everlasting charity, to look down on these, Your servants, and give them health, strength and willingness to carry on the work of our beloved organization, which shall be an everlasting memorial to those comrades and sisters who have passed on. In Your great infinite wisdom and mercy, may we all meet again, and we shall praise Your name, now and forever. Amen.

(Motion to be seated.)

VFW Chaplain: Comrades, brothers and sisters, in commemorating the virtues of our departed heroes who served their country in time of need we now offer our symbolic tributes.

(Department Commander and Auxiliary President will proceed to the Altar. If the ceremony is for a Department, Conference or District, the respective commanders and presidents will stand and may present the flowers on the altar when their department or district is called.)

Auxiliary Chaplain: Comrade Commander and Madam President, what tribute have you to offer at this time?

Auxiliary President: These white flowers we bring as a token of the love we have for our departed Comrades and Sisters.

(Department Commander and Madam President return to their stations. Flowers may be presented by other Districts or Departments.)

VFW Chaplain: Comrade Adjutant and Madam Secretary will now call the Roll of deceased members. (Reading of the deceased members' names or numbers of deceased members in their respective Departments or Districts.)

(–Sleep Soldier Boy” or other appropriate music may be offered at this time.)

VFW Chaplain: (If there is a Memorial Speaker, the Department Chaplain will give an introduction.)

Auxiliary Chaplain: Let us sing –America.” (Motion to rise)

VFW Chaplain: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as today we remember and honor the memory of our departed comrades and sisters, we are indeed grateful for their service and sacrifice. May we continue their efforts as courageous protectors and true guardians of freedom. Let us be masters of brotherly and sisterly love.

O Lord, guide us in the way of moral responsibility and enlighten us and make us true believers in justice and peace. Enkindle within us a flame of selfless, unwavering devotion to duty that we may never be found wanting in those qualities of spirit and mind which alone are able to preserve our homes, the peace of our Nation, and the tranquility of the world. Remember our departed comrades and sisters, O Lord, in Your mercy, and have compassion on us. Amen.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Attention Comrades, Brothers and Sisters.

Present Arms! Comrade Bugler!

(“Taps” will be played.)

Auxiliary President: Madam Conductress, you will retire the Memorial Cloth.

(Memorial Cloth is retired.)

VFW Chaplain: This now concludes our service.

THE HISTORY OF LOYALTY DAY

Loyalty Day is observed on May 1 in the United States. It is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.

The holiday was first observed in 1921 as “Americanization Day,” and was intended to counterbalance the celebration of Labor Day on May Day (May 1), an internationally celebrated holiday which was perceived as communist.

Loyalty Day is celebrated with parades and ceremonies in several U.S. communities, although many people in the United States remain unaware of it. Although a legal holiday, it is not a federal holiday, and is not commonly observed.

It was made an official holiday by the U.S. Congress on July 18, 1958 (Public Law 85-529). Following the passage of this law, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed May 1, 1959 the first official observance of Loyalty Day.

In 2007 President George W. Bush issued an official proclamation of the May 1, 2007 Loyalty Day in accordance with the 1958 Congressional declaration,[6] as have many of his predecessors:

- * Bill Clinton, proclamation 6556 (May 1, 1993)
- * George H. W. Bush, proclamation 5962 (April 28, 1989)
- * Ronald Reagan, proclamation 4836 (April 14, 1981)
- * Jimmy Carter, proclamation 4493 (March 23, 1977)
- * Gerald Ford, proclamation 4354 (March 4, 1975)
- * John F. Kennedy, proclamation 3528 (April 18, 1963)

THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. It was a time set aside to honor the nation’s Civil War dead by “decorating” their graves. It was first observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers. During this first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration inspired local observances in several towns throughout America. By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Decoration Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America’s wars.

In 1966, the Federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event since their first celebration on May 5, 1866, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags. (Other towns have claimed to be the birthplace of this celebration including Boalsburg, Pennsylvania.)

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a National Holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May.

HISTORY OF THE TAPS

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than Taps. Up to the Civil War, the traditional call at day's end was a tune, borrowed from the French, called Lights Out. In July of 1862, in the aftermath of the bloody Seven Days battles, hard on the loss of 600 men and wounded himself, Union General Daniel Adams Butterfield called the brigade bugler to his tent. He thought "Lights Out" was too formal and he wished to honor his men. Oliver Wilcox Norton, the bugler, tells the story, "...showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, (he) asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for Taps thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring Brigades, asking for copies of the music which I gladly furnished. The call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac."

This more emotive and powerful Taps was soon adopted throughout the military. In 1874 it was officially recognized by the U.S. Army. It became standard at military funeral ceremonies in 1891. There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air.

- from an article by Master Sergeant Jari A Villanueva, USAF.

VFW RESOURCES

National Headquarters

406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111 (phone) 816-757-6411
www.vfw.org

VFW Veterans Helpline

(VA Questions, concerns or issues)
call: 800- VFW-1899

The VFW Emblem & Supply

www.patrioticware.com

VFW National Home For Children

3573 South Waverly Road
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 (phone) 800-424-8360
www.vfwnationalhome.org

VFW Motto: "Honor the Dead By Serving the Living."

National Headquarters

Auxiliary VFW

406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111 (phone) 816-561-8655
www.auxvfw.com

1st AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise of thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

**2nd AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS (for Funerals)

Old Testament:

Psalm 1	Psalm 103
Psalm 6	Psalm 112
Psalm 8	Psalm 119: 9-16
Psalm 16: 8-11	Psalm 121
Psalm 19	Psalm 130
Psalm 23	Psalm 139
Psalm 25	Proverbs 31: 10-31 (wife)
Psalm 46	Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13
Psalm 90	Isaiah 40: 27-31
Psalm 91	Isaiah 43 (selected verses)
Psalm 100	Isaiah 55: 1-3, 6-13

Epistles:

Romans 8 (excerpts)
Romans 10: 8-13
Romans 14: 7-9
1 Corinthians 13 (selected verses)
1 Corinthians 15 (selected verses)
1 Corinthians 15 (selected verses)
Philippians 4: 4-9
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
1 Timothy 1: 15-17
2 Timothy 4: 6-8
Revelation 21: 1-7
Revelation 21 (selected verses)

Gospels:

Matthew 10: 27-33
Luke 6: 36-38
John 3: 14-16
John 5: 24-29
John 11: 25-26
John 14: 1-11, 15-16, 25-27

GENERAL SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11a	For everything there is a season
Isaiah 26: 3-4	Trust in the Lord forever
Isaiah 35:1-10	Restoration of all that is broken
Isaiah 40:28-31	The weak shall renew their strength
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25	When you pass through the waters
Isaiah 53:3-5	With his stripes are we healed
Isaiah 61:1-6a	Good tidings to the afflicted
Psalms 13	Trust in the midst of suffering (A prayer of pain and sorrow)
Psalms 23	You have anointed my head with oil
Psalms 27	God is the strength of my life
Psalms 30	Recovery from grave illness
Psalms 41	Assurance of God's help
Psalms 42	My soul longs for You
Psalms 51:1-12, 15-17	Create in me a clean heart
Psalms 91	Refuge under God's wings
Psalms 103	God forgives all your sins
Psalms 121	My help comes from God.
Psalms 130	Out of the depths
Psalms 138	Fulfill your purpose for me
Psalms 139	The inescapable God
Psalms 146	God lifts the bowed down
Matthew 5:1-12	Blessed are they
Matthew 8:1-13	The healing of a leper and a servant
Matthew 10:1-8	Jesus sends the disciples to heal
Matthew 11:28-30	All who labor and are heavy laden
Matthew 15:21-28	The Canaanite woman's faith
Matthew 26:36-39	Not what I want but what You want
Mark 1:21-28	Jesus heals man with unclean spirit
Mark 5:21-43	Girl restored to life; woman healed
Mark 6:7-13	Anointing of the sick with oil
Mark 6:53-56	People brought the sick to Jesus
Mark 8:22-26	The blind man at Bethsaida
Luke 5:17-26	Take up your bed and walk
Luke 7:11-19	Jesus raises the widow's son
Luke 17:11-19	Thanksgiving for healing
John 3:16-17	God so loved the world
John 5:2-18	Do you want to be healed?
Acts 3:1-10	Peter and John heal the lame man
Acts 5:12-16	Healings in Jerusalem
Romans 8	Nothing can separate us from God's love
Romans 14:7-9	We are the Lord's
Romans 8: 31-39	Nothing can separate us from God's love.
2 Corinthians 1:3-5	God comforts us in affliction
2 Corinthians 4:16-18	What can be seen is temporary
Colossians 1:11-29	May you be strengthened with all power
James 5:13-16	Is any among you sick?
1 John 4:16b-19	The confidence we have in Christ
Revelation 21:1-4	New heaven and new earth

GREAT BIBLE CHAPTERS ON

Abiding	John 15
Love	1 Corinthians 13
Faith	Hebrews 11
Heaven	Revelation 21
Peace	John 14

WHAT TO READ WHEN

In Sorrow	John 14
In Danger	Psalms 91
Good Seems Distant	Psalms 139
Discouraged	Isaiah 40
Faith Fails	Hebrews 11
Depressed	Psalms 34
Need Companionship	Psalms 23
You Are Worried	Matthew 6:19-34
You Need Forgiveness	Psalms 51
Life Seems Empty	John 15
You Feel Cheated	Psalms 103
Friends Fail You	Psalms 27
Sleepless	Psalms 4:4-8
You Are Angry	Matthew 5:9,22

WHERE TO FIND

Ten Commandments	Exodus 20
Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6, Luke 11
Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-12
Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5,6,7
Golden Rule	Matthew 7:12
Great Commission	Matthew 28:19-20
Prodigal Son	Luke 15
Good Samaritan	Luke 10