

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

“DEMONSTRATION OF A
REGULAR POST MEETING”

George Washington Post 1
Anytown, TX

BY

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DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE

George Washington Post 1
Anytown, TX

AGENDA
January 27, 2018

Post the Colors
Prayer
Pow/MIA Empty Chair
Pledge
Preamble
Memorial to a Departed Post Member
Establish Quorum
Roll Call of Officers

Post Commander	Dan Corbin
First Vice Commander	Butch Sparks
Second Vice Commander	Lynn Sparks
Post Adjutant	Bill West
Post Finance Officer	Ken Mueller
Post Judge Advocate	Rusty Herman
Post Historian	Bill Moore
Post Chaplain	Harvey Klee
Post Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Toohey
Post Service Officer	John McKinny
Executive Committeeman	James McNair
Executive Committeeman	Ron Cherry

Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting
Reading of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Introduction of Guests and New Members
Committee Reports

• Americanism	Tom Tyrdik
• Children and Youth	Vacant
• Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	John McKinny
• National Security	Vacant
• Membership and Post Activities	Butch Sparks
• Media and Communications	Gerry Hince
• Legislative	Vacant
• Finance	Ken Mueller
• Economic	Vacant
• House	Vacant
• Sons of the American Legion	Vacant
• American Legion Riders	Jim Fleming
• Graves Registration and Memorials	Vacant
• Uniformed Groups	Dan King
• VAVS	Gene Toohey

Balloting on Applications

Sick Call, Relief and Unemployment

Harvey Klee

Post Service Officer's Report

John McKinny

Unfinished Business

Initiation of Candidates

Correspondence

New Business

The Good of the American Legion

Closing Prayer

Retire POW/MIA Flag

Retire Colors

Adjourn

SCRIPT

COMMANDER: “The meeting is about to open. Officers shall take their stations. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall admit no one during the opening and closing ceremonies.”

ONE RAP OF GAVEL (Sergeant-at-Arms closes the meeting hall door.)

THREE RAPS OF GAVEL

COMMANDER: “The Sergeant-at-Arms will advance the colors”

(As the Color Bearers or Sergeant-at-Arms start to move forward...)

COMMANDER: “Hand Salute.”

(After the Colors are posted and the salute is rendered by the Color Bearers or Sergeant-at-Arms...)

COMMANDER: “Two”

COMMANDER: “The chaplain will offer prayer. Everyone shall remain standing with their cap removed and placed over their heart from the opening prayer through the POW/MIA ceremony, and concluding with the Pledge of Allegiance.”

CHAPLAIN:
(Prayer 1)

“Almighty God, Father of all mankind and Judge over nations, we pray Thee to guide our work in this meeting and in all our days. Send Thy peace to our nation and to all nations. Hasten the fulfillment of Thy promise of peace that shall have no end.

“We pray for those who serve the people and guard the public welfare that by Thy blessing they may be enabled to discharge their duties honestly and well. We pray for our comrades that by Thy help they may observe the strictest Justice, keep alight the fires of Freedom, strive earnestly for the spirit of Democracy; and preserve untarnished our loyalty to our Country and to Thee. Finally, O God of mercy, we ask Thy blessing and comfort for those comrades who are suffering mental and physical disability. Cheer them and bring them the blessings of health and happiness. Amen.”

POW/MIA Empty Chair

This ceremony is a suggested outline that can be followed when an American Legion organizations wants to call attention to Americans still unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts.

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th National Convention, encourages all American Legion organizations to implement the Empty Chair Program at all meetings as a continual physical symbol of the POW/MIAs and the cause for which we stand, namely their return or full accounting.

COMMANDER: “A POW/MIA Empty Chair is placed at all official meetings of the American Legion, as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor!”

COMMANDER: “Place the POW/MIA flag on the Empty Chair.”

The first and second vice commanders, or other designated individuals, approach the Empty Chair carrying a folded POW/MIA flag or chair cover. Upon reaching the Empty Chair, they reverently unfold the flag and drape it over the Empty Chair with the crest facing the membership. After the meeting is concluded the POW/MIA flag should be refolded and stored for future use.

The commander (or appropriate official) will lead the Pledge of Allegiance (Legionnaires will remove their caps) and may direct the singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

COMMANDER: “Please join me in honoring our nation’s flag.”

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Regular meeting opening resumes after the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMANDER: “Everyone will recover. Please join me in reciting the preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion.”

“For God and Country,
We associate ourselves together
For the following purposes:
To uphold and defend
The Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate
A one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents
Of our associations in the Great Wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation
To the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy
Of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and good will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity
The principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
By our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

ONE RAP OF GAVEL

COMMANDER: “I now declare George Washington Post Number 1,
Department of Texas regularly convened.”

Ceremony for Draping American Legion Charter

Post has option on choice of drape and length of draping period.

COMMANDER: “It is my sad duty to report that Comrade Ken Smith has
been called from our midst. He has gone to the
Commander of us all in post everlasting.

COMMANDER: “Before proceeding with other business of this meeting, we
will Drape the Charter in memory of Comrade Smith.
Sergeant-at-Arms, obtain the Drape in preparation for
Draping the Charter.”

COMMANDER: (Rap gavel three (3) times) “Members rise and face the Charter at the position of attention.”

COMMANDER: “Sergeant-at-Arms, you will now Drape our Charter in memory of our beloved Comrade Smith who has passed on:

COMMANDER: (While Sergeant-at-Arms is Draping the Charter) “By this act we, as members of George Washington Post 1, proclaim solemn tribute to our departed Comrade. Hand salute! (Pause) Two!”

CHAPLAIN: (Prayer 2) “Almighty God and Heavenly Father, who has dominion over life and death, grant to us the grace to remember with love and reverence our valiant and honored departed Comrade. Grant peace and eternal rest to those who have gone before us, and make us ready for that last hour. Strengthen and console those in sorrow and bestow upon us thy everlasting blessing...Amen.”

COMMANDER: (Rap gavel once) “We will continue with the regular meeting.”

1. Quorum/Roll Call

a. Quorum

COMMANDER: “A quorum is present.”

b. Roll Call of Officers and Executive Committee by the Adjutant.

COMMANDER: “The adjutant will call the roll of officers.”

ADJUTANT:	Post Commander	Dan Corbin
	First Vice Commander	Butch Sparks
	Second Vice Commander	Lynn Sparks
	Post Adjutant	Bill West
	Post Finance Officer	Ken Mueller
	Post Judge Advocate	Rusty Herman
	Post Historian	Bill Moore
	Post Chaplain	Harvey Klee
	Post Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Toohey

Post Service Officer	John McKinny
Executive Committeeman	James McNair
Executive Committeeman	Ron Cherry

2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

COMMANDER: “The Adjutant will read the minutes of the previous meeting.”

ADJUTANT: (Minutes of the Previous Meeting) (Exhibit A)

COMMANDER: “Are there any corrections to the minutes?”

[If there are no corrections:]

COMMANDER: “Hearing none, the minutes are approved as read.”

COMMANDER: “The Adjutant will read the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of January 20, 2018.”

ADJUTANT: (Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting) (Exhibit B)

COMMANDER: “Is there a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of January 20, 2018?”

CHERRY: “I move to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of January 20, 2018.”

MCNAIR: “Second.”

COMMANDER: “Is there any discussion?”

GENE TOOHEY: (Stand to be recognized)

“I think it is a waste of money to have a Valentine’s Day Party 2 days after Valentine’s Day. No one will come. I also do not believe we can get a decent band this late in the game. I move to divide the question.”

COMMANDER: "Is there a second?"

Hearing none. Is there any further discussion?

All those in favor, Say Aye. Those opposed say No.

The minutes are approved."

3. Introduction of guests and prospective new members.

COMMANDER: "We are privileged to have a special guest today. Please give a warm welcome to Department Commander John Hince."

(THREE RAPS OF THE GAVEL)

"Commander Hince, would you like to speak to our post?"

COMMANDER HINCE: "It is a pleasure to visit George Washington Post 1. I appreciate your hospitality. Keep up the good work on your membership. I won't take any more of your time so you can continue your meeting."

4. Committee Reports, including the finance officers report.

COMMANDER: "Now we will have our Committee Reports. Please turn in your written reports to the Adjutant and limit your presentation to three (3) minutes."

"Americanism - Tom Tvrdik"

TOM TVRDIK: (Read Report) (Exhibit C)

COMMANDER: "Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - John McKinny"

JOHN MCKINNY: (Read Report) (Exhibit D)

COMMANDER: "Membership and Post Activities - Butch Sparks"

BUTCH SPARKS: (Read Report) (Exhibit E)

COMMANDER: "Media and Communications - Gerry Hince"

GERRY HINCE: (Read Report) (Exhibit F)

COMMANDER: "Finance - Ken Mueller"

KEN MUELLER: (Read Report) (Exhibit G)

COMMANDER: "American Legion Riders - Jim Fleming"

JIM FLEMING: (Read Report) (Exhibit H)

COMMANDER: "Uniformed Groups - Dan King"

DAN KING: (Read Report) (Exhibit I)

COMMANDER: "VAVS - Gene Toohey"

GENE TOOHEY: (Read Report) (Exhibit J)

5. Balloting on applications.

COMMANDER: "The following individuals have applied for membership to this Post. Each applicant must be approved, rejected or referred for further investigation. The applicants are: Nancy Nunez and Mike Morrison."

BILL MOORE: "Mike Morrison has been barred from the VFW for fighting. He was recently convicted for beating his wife."

COMMANDER: "Is there any further discussion?"

All those in favor of accepting Nancy Nunez say Aye.
Those opposed say No.

All those in favor of accepting Mike Morrison say Aye.
Those opposed say No.

The application of Nancy Nunez is approved, the application of Mike Morrison is rejected.”

6. Sick call, relief and employment.

COMMANDER: “Chaplain Klee will now give his report on Sick Call, Relief and Employment.

HARVEY KLEE: (Read Report) (Exhibit K)

7. Post Service Officers Report

COMMANDER: “John McKinny will now give the Service Officers Report.”

JOHN MCKINNY: (Read Report) (Exhibit L)

8. Unfinished Business.

COMMANDER: “Is there any unfinished business?”

9. Initiation of Candidates.

COMMANDER: “We will now proceed with the initiation. The Sergeant-at-Arms will escort the following candidate into the meeting hall and place her properly before the Flag.”

“Nancy Nunez”

Sergeant-at-Arms salutes the flag and turning proceeds to get the candidates whose names shall be read.

COMMANDER: “You were privileged to serve your country during Wartime. Because of this service, you are today privileged to join the great service organization, The American Legion.

“Unlike the armed forces in which you served, there is no distinction of rank among us. We are composed of members of every race, religion, occupation and political

conviction. We maintain also, strict neutrality on all questions concerning religion, politics and industrial strife.

“The American Legion cherishes four great principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty. We are pledged to serve the disabled, the distressed, the widowed and the orphaned. We are devoted to the cause of service to the community, state and the nation.

“Are you now ready and willing to obligate yourself as expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion?”

CANDIDATES: “I am.”

COMMANDER: “The members will stand at attention while the candidates are being obligated.” (Gives three raps of the gavel.)

(The Commander steps to the right immediately next to the American flag and will raise the right hand and address the candidates.)

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

“I (here give your name)

“Do Solemnly pledge

“To uphold and defend

“The Constitution of the United States of America;

“To maintain law and order;

“To foster and perpetuate

“A one hundred percent Americanism;

“To preserve the memories and incidents

“Of our associations in the Great Wars;

“To inculcate a sense of individual obligation

“To the community, state and nation;

“To combat the autocracy

“Of both the classes and the masses;

“To make right the master of might;

“To promote peace and good will on Earth;

“To safeguard and transmit to posterity

“The principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;

“To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
“By our devotion to mutual helpfulness;
“To all of which I pledge myself
“For God and Country.
“I am not a member and do not subscribe
“To the principles of any group
“Opposed to our form of government.
“Hands down.”

(At the conclusion of the obligation, the commander will resume the designated station and seat the membership with one rap of the gavel. The chaplain arises and stands at some convenient location close to the emblem and calls the attention of the candidates to the emblem of The American Legion.)

CHAPLAIN:
(Prayer 3)

“There shines the emblem of The American Legion. It is your badge of distinction, honor and service. It stands for God and Country, and the highest rights of men and women. Of its several parts, each part has a meaning. The rays of the sun that form the background, are emblematic of the principles of The American Legion – for Loyalty, Justice, Freedom and Democracy will dispel the darkness of violence, strife and evil.

“The two gold rings around the field of blue bearing our name, typify two of our four main objectives; rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades, and care for the children and youth of America. Within the rings is placed a wreath for remembrance of those who died that liberty might live. Upon the wreath is set a star reflecting the glory of victory and promising to the world perpetuation of those cardinal principles of our organization. Set upon the star are two bronze rings which typify the other two of our main objectives; a better and more loyal Americanism, and service to the community, state and nation.

“The inscription demands the wearer shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions.”

(The commander steps down from the designated station and advances to the newly obligated members.)

COMMANDER: "I welcome you to The American Legion. It is my privilege to present to you the American Flag which is the emblem of freedom; a flag etiquette booklet; and the emblem of The American Legion, which you may wear as a badge of democracy and a symbol of your devotion to further service."

(The commander returns to his station and introduces each newly obligated member to the membership and requests the Sergeant-at-Arms to seat them with their comrades.)

(Attractive Certificates of Initiation suitable for presentation to new members of The American Legion after their initiation are available from the Department Headquarters. The Trophies, Awards and Ceremonial Committee strongly recommends such evidence of initiation be presented.)

10. Correspondence

COMMANDER: "The Adjutant will present any important correspondence."

BILL WEST: "The Military Order of the Purple Heart will hold its Spring Ball at the Convention Center at 6 PM on February 24th. Tickets can be purchased for \$25. See me if you are interested.

The Anytown Chamber of Commerce will have a seminar at 8 AM on February 17th for anyone interested in starting a business. See me if you are interested."

11. New Business

COMMANDER: "Is there any new business?"

12. The good of The American Legion

COMMANDER: "Is there anything for the Good of the American Legion?"

TOM TVRDIK: "The VFW will have a free BBQ for all veterans at 6 PM on February 17th."

COMMANDER: "Anything else for the Good of the American Legion?"

13. Closing Ceremony

COMMANDER: "Is there any further business to come before the meeting?
If not, the Chaplain will lead us in the memorial service.

THREE RAPS OF GAVEL

COMMANDER: "Rise and Uncover."

CHAPLAIN: "Our Heavenly Father, we deem this a fitting time to pay our respects
(Prayer 4) to our departed comrades. As we stand with bowed heads in reverence to them, let us remember the good deeds they accomplished. Let us revere them, as good soldiers who fought the good fight in a just cause, let us silently pray for peace, the peace that passes all understanding. And let us in mind and soul consecrate our hearts and lives to the real America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, the America worth fighting for. As we stand in silence to our departed comrades, may we sincerely say, "May their souls rest in peace." Let us also remember the POWs and the MIAs still unaccounted for from the Wars and Conflicts. Amen."

COMMANDER: "Cover. Till we meet again, let us remember, our obligations to our Country can be fulfilled only by faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our Country, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy."

COMMANDER: "Resolution 33, adopted at the May 2011 National Executive Committee Meeting calls for the retiring of the POW/MIA flag at the end of every meeting; at this time the Sergeant-at-Arms will retire the POW/MIA flag.

COMMANDER: "Hand Salute"

COMMANDER: "The Sergeant-at-Arms will retire the Flag of our Country."

COMMANDER: "Hand Salute"

After the Sergeant-at-Arms reaches the rear of the hall.

COMMANDER: "Two"

COMMANDER: "I now declare this meeting of George Washington Post 1,
The American Legion, Department of Texas adjourned."

ONE RAP OF THE GAVEL

GEORGE WASHINGTON POST 1
Anytown, TX
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 16, 2017

At 9:00 a.m. on December 16, 2017, after the opening ceremony, Commander Corbin called the meeting to order. A quorum was established and a roll call of officers indicated all present except for Executive Committeeman McNair.

Comrade Coleman moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2017 meeting, seconded by Comrade Klee and approved unanimously. The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on December 9, 2017 were read. Comrade Morris moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Comrade Smith. After discussion, a motion was made by Comrade Jones, seconded by Comrade Doe to sever the action of the Executive Committee to raise the price of beer from \$2.00 to \$2.50 and approve the remainder of the report; the motion was accepted. Comrade Jones moved to leave the price of beer at \$2.00, seconded by Comrade Doe, and unanimously approved.

The attached Committee Reports were presented.

The application for membership of Albert Allen was approved; the application for membership of Bob Baker was rejected; and the application for membership of Charles Curtis was referred for further investigation January 19, 2018.

Chaplain Klee reported that Comrade O'Hair was in the VA Hospital in Temple and encouraged members to visit him.

Service Officer McKinny reported that 6 veterans were referred to the County Service Office for help in applying for disability.

There was no unfinished business.

Eric Elkins and Fred Farmer were initiated as new members.

The Adjutant reviewed significant correspondence received since the last meeting.

There was no new business.

Under the Good of the American Legion, 2d Vice Commander Sparks reminded everyone to attend the Christmas Party at 2 p.m. on Sunday December 17, 2017 at the Post home.

After the closing ceremony, the meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Bill West
Post Adjutant

Dan Corbin
Post Commander

George Washington Post 1
Anytown, TX
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
January 20, 2018

The meeting of the Post 1 Executive Committee was called to order at 10 a.m. on January 20, 2018. The Adjutant read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved as read. The Finance Officer presented the finance report, which is attached.

The Committee approved the payment of the recurring ordinary expenses of the post.

First Vice Commander Sparks reported on the memberships.

Second Vice Commander Sparks reported on the plans for the Valentine party on Friday February 16 at 6 p.m. She moved that \$400 be approved for hiring a band. The motion was seconded by First Vice Commander Sparks and approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Bill West
Post Adjutant

Dan Corbin
Post Commander

Americanism

On Saturday, February 10 at 10 a.m., we will be interviewing applicants for Boys State at the High School. We have budgeted sending three boys and so far we have 6 applicants. If anyone is interested in assisting me on February 10, please see me after the meeting so we can score the applicants and determine how we want to do the interview.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

SUBJECT: Choice funding and community referrals for Veterans served by Central Texas Veterans Health Care System (CTVHCS)

As of December 15, 2017, CTVHCS exhausted all local Veterans Choice funding allocations. At this time, CTVHCS is doing everything it can to minimize patient impact.

Effective December 21, 2017, dental referrals that exceed internal capacity will be placed on the Electronic Wait List (EWL) due to local Choice funding being exhausted, which will ensure that other more critical categories of care can be sent to the community with remaining non-Choice funding. Veterans who are eligible for dental care and with immediate needs will be seen internally. Veterans who are eligible but have non-immediate needs will be placed on the EWL.

Beginning December 26, 2017, hospitalized patients currently at non-VA community facilities will be reviewed and expedited for transfer back to CTVHCS.

Membership and Post Activities

On Goal is 120

We have

Life Members 42

Renewals Are 61

New Members 15

Total Membership 118

I need some volunteers to help call those members who have not renewed. We need to let them know that their membership will be suspended effective February 1 and they cannot vote or hold office and that their membership can only be reinstated by a vote of the post.

Let's meet at the Post on January 30 at 5 PM.

Media and Communications

The Anytown Daily Herald has done a great job covering our Post's activities and other veterans' functions and I am clipping copies of the articles and notices they have published so we can submit the newspaper for a Media Award. The recommendation for the award must be received by the Department by May 31st.

Finance

A detailed Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, for the month of December 2017 is posted on the Bulletin board.

We started the month with \$10,422.13, received \$3,624.81 in revenue and spent \$2,413.29 leaving a balance at the end of the month of \$11,633.65.

American Legion Riders

The Riders had our 2nd Wednesday monthly social on January 10th at the Post home and invited the Riders from the Anywhere and Nowhere Posts. Joy Garcia won the 50/50 drawing and donated back to the Riders her \$27 winnings.

Uniformed Groups

Our Honor Guard has worked at six (6) funerals since the last meeting. Anyone interested in joining the Honor Guard is invited to come to our practices on the 2nd Tuesday of each month here at the post home at 6 PM.

VAVS

On January 4th, 2 Legionnaires, 2 Auxiliary members and 1 Son conducted Bingo at the Domiciliary at the Temple VA Hospital. 42 residents attended, \$100 in prizes were given and we spent \$100 for cookies, bananas and punch. We hosted 12 veterans from the Temple VA Hospital for lunch at noon on January 11th. Kentucky Fried Chicken was provided by the Smith Law Firm.

Sick Call, Relief and Unemployment

Comrade O'Hair is still in the VA Hospital in Temple and would appreciate visitors. Comrade Joe Stevens has hurt his back playing football with his son and can no longer work at his construction job. He could use some light work to supplement their family income.

Post Service Officer Report

Since the last meeting I have made appointments for 3 veterans to meet with the County Service Officer for assistance in filing claims for VA Disability.

Prayer 1

“ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ALL MANKIND AND JUDGE OVER NATIONS, WE PRAY THEE TO GUIDE OUR WORK IN THIS MEETING AND IN ALL OUR DAYS. SEND THY PEACE TO OUR NATION AND TO ALL NATIONS. HASTEN THE FULFILLMENT OF THY PROMISE OF PEACE THAT SHALL HAVE NO END.

“WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE THE PEOPLE AND GUARD THE PUBLIC WELFARE THAT BY THY BLESSING THEY MAY BE ENABLED TO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES HONESTLY AND WELL. WE PRAY FOR OUR COMRADES THAT BY THY HELP THEY MAY OBSERVE THE STRICTEST JUSTICE, KEEP ALIGHT THE FIRES OF FREEDOM, STRIVE EARNESTLY FOR THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY; AND PRESERVE UNTARNISHED OUR LOYALTY TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO THEE. FINALLY, O GOD OF MERCY, WE ASK THY BLESSING AND COMFORT FOR THOSE COMRADES WHO ARE SUFFERING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY. CHEER THEM AND BRING THEM THE BLESSINGS OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS. AMEN.”

Prayer 2

“ALMIGHTY GOD AND HEAVENLY FATHER, WHO HAS DOMINION OVER LIFE AND DEATH, GRANT TO US THE GRACE TO REMEMBER WITH LOVE AND REVERENCE OUR VALIANT AND HONORED DEPARTED COMRADE. GRANT PEACE AND ETERNAL REST TO THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US, AND MAKE US READY FOR THAT LAST HOUR. STRENGTHEN AND CONSOLE THOSE IN SORROW AND BESTOW UPON US THY EVERLASTING BLESSING...AMEN.”

Prayer 3

“THERE SHINES THE EMBLEM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. IT IS YOUR BADGE OF DISTINCTION, HONOR AND SERVICE. IT STANDS FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, AND THE HIGHEST RIGHTS OF MEN AND WOMEN. OF ITS SEVERAL PARTS, EACH PART HAS A MEANING. THE RAYS OF THE SUN THAT FORM THE BACKGROUND, ARE EMBLEMATIC OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – FOR LOYALTY, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY WILL DISPEL THE DARKNESS OF VIOLENCE, STRIFE AND EVIL.

“THE TWO GOLD RINGS AROUND THE FIELD OF BLUE BEARING OUR NAME, TYPIFY TWO OF OUR FOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES; REHABILITATION OF OUR SICK AND DISABLED COMRADES, AND CARE FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF AMERICA. WITHIN THE RINGS IS PLACED A WREATH FOR REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO DIED THAT LIBERTY MIGHT LIVE. UPON THE WREATH IS SET A STAR REFLECTING THE GLORY OF VICTORY AND PROMISING TO THE WORLD PERPETUATION OF THOSE CARDINAL

**PRINCIPLES OF OUR ORGANIZATION. SET
UPON THE STAR ARE TWO BRONZE RINGS
WHICH TYPIFY THE OTHER TWO OF OUR MAIN
OBJECTIVES; A BETTER AND MORE LOYAL
AMERICANISM, AND SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION.**

**“THE INSCRIPTION DEMANDS THE WEARER
SHALL EVER GUARD THE SANCTITY OF HOME
AND COUNTRY AND FREE INSTITUTIONS.”**

Prayer 4

“OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, WE DEEM THIS A FITTING TIME TO PAY OUR RESPECTS TO OUR DEPARTED COMRADES. AS WE STAND WITH BOWED HEADS IN REVERENCE TO THEM, LET US REMEMBER THE GOOD DEEDS THEY ACCOMPLISHED. LET US REVERE THEM, AS GOOD SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT IN A JUST CAUSE, LET US SILENTLY PRAY FOR PEACE, THE PEACE THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING. AND LET US IN MIND AND SOUL CONSECRATE OUR HEARTS AND LIVES TO THE REAL AMERICA, THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE, THE AMERICA WORTH FIGHTING FOR. AS WE STAND IN SILENCE TO OUR DEPARTED COMRADES, MAY WE SINCERELY SAY, “MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE.” LET US ALSO REMEMBER THE POWS AND THE MIAS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR FROM THE WARS AND CONFLICTS. AMEN.”