

☞ **Lodge of Military Tribute** ☞

A Masonic Military Memorial Service

by: W.:Alvin O. Benemerito ©

A.:D.: 2003

A.:L.: 6003

DEDICATED TO:


**My Mother Lodge
LONG PINE LODGE NO. 136
Long Pine, Nebraska**

AND TO

MY WIFE SHANDA



LODGE OF MILITARY TRIBUTE

W.:M.::  *Worshipful Master delivers his welcome address.*

-- INVOCATION --


W.:M.:: Since no Masonic undertaking should ever begin without first invoking the blessing of Deity, you will give attention while the Chaplain leads us in prayer. *Uncovers.*




Chaplain: *Offers prayer. Amen.*

All: So Mote It Be.

W.:M.:: Brother Senior Deacon, display the Great Lights of Freemasonry.
Senior Deacon displays the lights and returns to his seat. Master recovers.

W.:M.:: In the name of _____ Lodge No. ____, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, I declare this Lodge of Military Tribute open.  *Seats Lodge.*

-- FLAG CEREMONY --

W.:M.:: Bro. Marshal , under the escort of the Senior and Junior Stewards, you will present the flag of our country. *They retire to the preparation room.*

W.:M.::  *Uncovers.*

All salute as the colors enter the Lodge. The Marshal, flanked by the Stewards will proceed to the front of the Senior Warden's station. They face east; the Stewards form an arch with rods over the flag and march to the altar.

W.:M.:: You will now join me in singing the National Anthem.

All: *The National Anthem is sung.*


W.:M.:: Brother Marshal, post the colors in the East. *The Marshal and Stewards bears the colors to the East and places it in the flag stand. The Marshal then steps back, presents a hand salute and returns to his position between the Stewards.*

W.:M.: You will now join me in saluting the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance.

All: *The Pledge of Allegiance.*

W.:M.:  *Recovers. Lodge is seated. The Marshal and Stewards return to their seats.*

- - *RECEPTION of the GRAND MASTER and GRAND OFFICERS* - -

W.:M.: Bro. Senior Deacon , retire with committee to receive the Grand Master.

The Senior Deacon and the committee advance to the Altar. The Worshipful Master will acknowledge them, after which they turn right face and retire to the reception room. When all is in readiness the Junior Deacon makes the announcement:

J.:D.: Brethren, ladies and friends, will you receive the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master!

W.:M.:    *Uncovers.*

The Grand Master is escorted to the Lodge in an appropriate manner.

P.:M.: Worshipful Master, I have the honor and pleasure of introducing, Most Worshipful _____, Grand Master of Masons of _____.

The Worshipful Master delivers a short welcome to the Grand Master and appropriately receives and escorts him to the East.

W.:M.: All Freemasons will now join me in saluting the Grand Master with Grand Honors of three times three. Together Brethren. *Done.*


W.:M.: Brethren, ladies and friends, please join me in giving the Grand Master a hearty welcome. **Applause.**

G.:M.:  *Lodge is seated. The committee returns to their seat.*

G.:M.: *Introduces Past Grand Masters, Grand Officers and other dignitaries present.*


G.:M.: *Turns the Lodge over to the Worshipful Master. As the Grand Master uncovers, the Worshipful Master recovers. The Grand Master is then seated at the right of the Worshipful Master in the East.*

-- HONORING the LIVING BRETHREN --

W.:M.: Brother Senior Warden , you will read the names of the living brethren of this Lodge who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

S.:W.: Worshipful Master, the following are the living brethren of this Lodge who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces:

Reads the name of the living brethren of the Lodge that have served in the Military.

W.:M.: Brother Senior Warden, you will now call the roll of the brethren to be honored.
Brother Senior Deacon , you will conduct them to the East facing West.

S.:W.: Brethren, please rise as your name is called.

The Senior Warden calls the name of each brother and proceeds to read his Military record. The Senior Deacon will escort each brother to the East as his record is read.

-- PRESENTATION of CERTIFICATE or TOKENS --

(Any appropriate Presentation to the Brethren may be offered here.)

W.:M.: *The Worshipful Master will read the "Certificate from a Grateful Lodge".*

The Grand Master should be requested to present the certificate to the honorees. Presenting a hand salute is appropriate.

W.:M.: Brethren, ladies and friends, please join me in giving this gallant group of Freemasons our hearty appreciation for their service to our Country. **Applause.**

-- PRESENTATION of FLOWERS --

W.:M.: *The Worshipful Master will now read the story of The Blue-Forget-Me-Not.*

In Early 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became evident that Freemasonry was in danger. In that same year, the "Grand Lodge of the Sun" (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges, located in Bayreuth) realizing the grave dangers involved, adopted the little blue Forget-Me-Not flower as a substitute for the traditional square and compasses. It was felt the flower would provide brethren with an outward means of identification while lessening the risk of possible recognition in public by the Nazis, who were engaged in wholesale confiscation of all Masonic Lodge properties. Freemasonry went undercover, and this delicate flower assumed its role as a symbol of Masonry surviving throughout the reign of darkness.

During the ensuing decade of Nazi power, a little blue Forget-Me-Not flower worn in a Brother's lapel served as one method whereby brethren could identify each other in public, and in cities and concentration camps throughout Europe. The Forget-Me-Not distinguished the lapels of countless brethren who staunchly refused to allow the symbolic Light of Masonry to be completely extinguished.

When Past Grand Master Beyer reopened the 'Grand Lodge of the Sun' in Bayreuth in 1947, a little pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was officially adopted as the emblem of that first annual convention of the brethren who had survived the bitter years of semi-darkness to rekindle the Masonic Light.


At the first Annual Convention of the new United Grand Lodge of Germany AF&AM (VGLvD), in 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem in honor of the thousands of valiant Brethren who carried on their Masonic work under adverse conditions.

The following year, each delegate to the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington, D.C., received one from Dr. Theodor Vogel, Grand Master of the VGLvD.

Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a symbol of the fraternity, and become perhaps the most widely worn emblem among Freemasons in Germany; a pin presented ceremoniously to newly-made Masons in most of the Lodges of the American-Canadian Grand Lodge, AF&AM within the United Grand Lodges of Germany. In the years since adoption, its significance worldwide has been attested to by the tens of thousands of brethren who now display it with meaningful pride.

TAKEN FROM A PRESENTATION CARD ISSUED BY THE AMERICAN CANADIAN GRAND LODGE, AF&AM
WITHIN THE UNITED GRAND LODGES OF GERMANY



W.:M.:: Brother Senior Warden , you will now call the name of each brother's Lady. Brother Senior Deacon you will conduct them to the West of the Altar.

The Senior Deacon will escort and arrange the ladies in a line parallel their Mason.

W.:M.:: Brethren, ladies and friends please join me in welcoming these distinguished ladies.
Applause.

The Senior Deacon will now distribute to each Lady a Blue-Forget-Me-Not Pin. The Senior and Junior Stewards may assist.

W.:M.:: On behalf of these distinguished ladies, Sister _____ will now make a presentation. *The sister delivers a short oration.* **Applause.**

W.:M.:: Ladies, you may now present the pin to your Mason and return to your line. *The Senior Deacon will assist the Ladies and escort them back to their line.* **Applause.**

The Senior Deacon will now distribute to each honoree a rose or any appropriate token. The Senior and Junior Stewards may assist.

W.:M.:: On behalf of these valiant brethren, Brother _____ will now make a presentation. *The brother delivers a short oration.* **Applause.**

W.:M.:: Brethren, present your Lady her token, escort her back to her seat and be seated.
Applause.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries - May she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for when "we 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."

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the One who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mothers, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, for it has been through faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he too has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in their eyes the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we trust."

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to inspect the flag--after the inspection, resume reading.)


After the flag is folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under our Masonic brother George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under another brother Mason, Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms that we enjoy today.

FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY ADOPTED FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

W.:M.:: My Brothers, you will display the flag at the Altar, in remembrance of our departed brethren.

The flag is reverently laid on the Altar, take a step back and present a hand salute. They turn about face and return to their seat.


-- HONORING the DEPARTED BRETHREN --

W.:M.:: Brother Senior Warden , you will now call the roll of our departed brethren of this Lodge who have served in the Armed Forces.

S.:W.:: *Reads the names of the departed brethren that have served in the Military.*

W.:M.:: Brother Marshal , you will drape our Charter.

The Marshal reverently drapes the Charter and return to his seat.

W.:M.:  *Uncovers.* Let us place ourselves in the attitude of prayer, and observe a moment of silence in memory of those who have gone before us.

The lights are lowered.

W.:M.: Amen


All: So Mote It Be.

The Worshipful Master recovers, leaves his station and advances to the East of the Altar. At the same time the Deacons and Stewards also approach the altar, then create an Arch with their rods, under which the Worshipful Master delivers the following oration:

W.:M.: Our heavenly Father, will fold the arms of His love and protection to those who put their trust in Him. Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our brethren. Bright and glorious be their rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia sprig, which shall flourish them. And in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may their souls spring into newness of life and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, Dear Friends, Dear Brothers. *Uncovers.* Until then . . . Farewell. *Bow.*

As the Worshipful Master uncovers, the Deacons and Stewards drop their rods slowly to a carry. They simultaneously bow their heads reverently.

The Low Twelve is rung.

The Worshipful Master recovers and turns about face simultaneously with the Deacons and Stewards. All return to their seat. Master seats the Lodge. 

-- OTHER PRESENTATIONS --


(A speaker or appropriate presentation may be offered at this time.)

-- ADDRESS of the GRAND MASTER --

W.:M.: Brethren, ladies and friends you will now give attention for the address of the Grand Master. *All rise.*

G.:M.: *Delivers his address.*

-- CLOSING --

W.:M.: We will now close this Lodge appropriately with prayer, which will be given by our Chaplain.  *Uncovers.*

Chaplain: *Offers Prayer.* Amen.

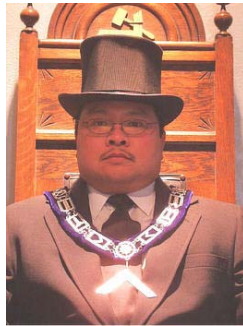
All: So Mote It Be.

W.:M.: Brother Senior Deacon, attend the Altar.
Senior Deacon attends to the lights and returns to his seat.

Taps is played.

W.:M.: *Recovers.* I pray you have a safe journey back to your homes and family. May you continue to spread the light of Masonry from generation to generation, until time shall be no more.

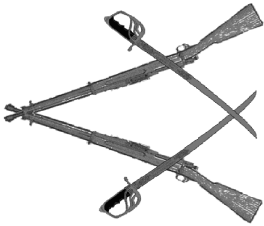
I now declare this Lodge of Military Tribute closed. 



W.:ALVIN O. BENEMERITO
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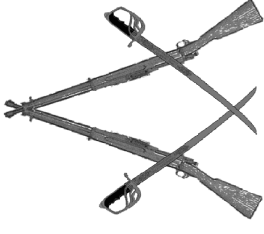
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Long Pine Lodge No. 136
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Presents this

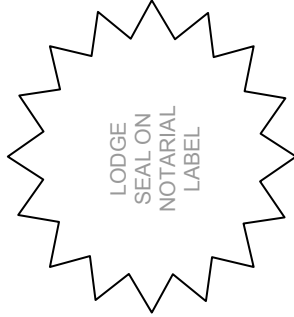


Certificate from a Grateful Lodge to

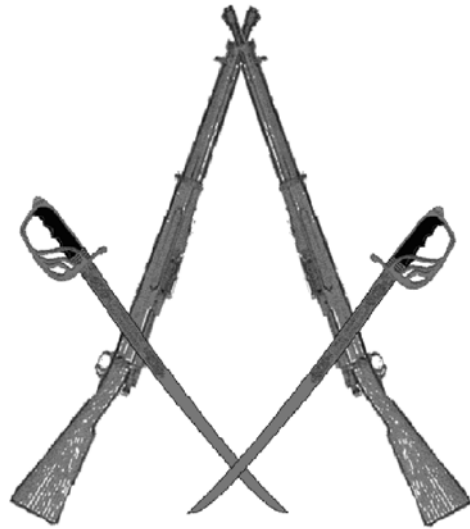
Bro.: John Doe

*Who served in the Armed Forces of the
United States of America
Against nations which ruthlessly sought to destroy the sacred principles
Of American Liberty, Justice and Equality*

*Given on the 18th day of January
A.:D.: 2003 A.:L.: 6003
During the Lodge of Military Tribute
Long Pine, Nebraska*



*W.:B.: Alvin Benemerito
Worshipful Master*



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