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WDVA Bulletin No. 972

TO: County Veterans Service Officers

SUBJECT: Military Funeral Honors Flag Presentation Phrase Standardized

This bulletin is to notify military funeral honors providers that the Secretary of Defense has established uniform verbiage for all branches of service in regards to what is said when the American flag is presented during a military funeral honors ceremony.

The phrase is as follows:

"On behalf of the President of the United States, (the United States Army; the United States Marine Corps; the United States Navy; or the United States Air Force), and a grateful Nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service."

The Defense Department document is attached.



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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APR 17 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD
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GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Establishment of Uniform Military Funeral Flag Presentation Verbiage

Effective immediately, flag presentation verbiage for military funeral honors ceremonies conducted by the Department of Defense will be standardized. The following verbiage will be used when presenting the American flag during the funeral service:

“On behalf of the President of the United States, (the United States Army; the United States Marine Corps; the United States Navy; or the United States Air Force), and a grateful Nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one’s honorable and faithful service.”

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will ensure that this guidance is incorporated in the next revision of Department of Defense Instruction 1300.15, “Military Funeral Support.” The United States Coast Guard is invited to use the same verbiage.



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