

FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY

Each ceremony has to be tailored to the location, conditions, and number of members present to assist. Commander and participating members should arrive early to determine set-up and do a walk-through. Once the set-up is determined and members are in place, ceremony begins with the posting of the colors.

COMMANDER: "Color Guard, Post the Colors. Honor Guard, TEN-HUT! Present Arms"

(after colors are posted)

COMMANDER: "Order Arms. Parade Rest."

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: "Commander, we wish to present a number of unserviceable Flags of our Country for inspection and disposal."

COMMANDER: "Advance with your detail and present the Flags for disposal and inspection."

Sergeant-at-Arms calls his/her detail to attention and marches them by the most direct route to a position in front of the 2nd Vice Commander. Sergeant-at-Arms salutes the 2nd Vice Commander.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: "Sir/Ma'am, we present these unserviceable Flags for your inspection."

SECOND VICE COMMANDER: "Is the present condition of these Flags the result of their usual service as the Emblem of our Country?"

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: "These Flags have become faded and worn over the graves of our departed comrades and the Soldier, Marine, Sailor, and Airman dead of all our nation's wars."

SECOND VICE COMMANDER: "Present these Flags to the First Vice Commander for his inspection."

The Sergeant-at-Arms salutes, takes charge of his/her detail and marches them by the most direct route to a position in front of the First Vice Commander. He salutes the First Vice Commander.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: "Sir/Ma'am, we present these Flags which have been inspected by the Second Vice Commander, for your further inspection."

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: "Have any of these Flags served any other purpose?"

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: "Some of these Flags have been displayed in various public places."

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: "Present them to the Commander for final inspection and fitting disposal."

The Sergeant-at-Arms salutes, takes charge of his/her detail and marches them by the most direct route to a position in front of the Commander. He salutes the Commander.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: "Sir/Ma'am, we have the honor to present for final inspection and proper disposal these Flags of our Country."

COMMANDER: "Have these Flags been inspected by the First and Second Vice Commanders?"

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: "They have."

COMMANDER: "Second Vice Commander, what does your inspection show and what do you recommend?"

SECOND VICE COMMANDER: "Commander, since these Flags have become unserviceable in a worthy cause, I recommend that they be honorably retired from further service."

COMMANDER: "First Vice Commander, what does your inspection show and what do you recommend?"

FIRST VICE-COMMANDER: "Sir/Ma'am, since these Flags have become faded and worn in a tribute of service and love, I also recommend that they be fittingly destroyed."

COMMANDER: "We have presented here these Flags of our Country which have been inspected and condemned as unserviceable. They have reached their present state in a proper service of tribute, memory and love.

"A Flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our comrades have worked for and lived for, and died for: a free Nation of free men, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

"Let these faded Flags of our Country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new Flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldier or sailor dead be unhonored and unmarked. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the detail bearing the Flags and destroy these Flags by burning. The members shall stand at attention."

Sergeant-at-Arms takes charge of the flag detail and marches them to a position near the fire. They stand at attention for the prayer.

COMMANDER: "The Chaplain will offer prayer."

CHAPLAIN: "Almighty God, Captain of all hosts and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour.

"We thank Thee for our Country and its Flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. To clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Thy Holy Light spread over us and bring to our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen."

COMMANDER: "Honor Guard, TEN-HUT. Present ARMS"

Color Guard executes Present Arms. All officers and members except those on the Flag detail salute.

Members of the Flag detail march in single file to drop their flags in the fire. After depositing the flag, member steps back and salutes, then marches off to a pre-determined position on the side.

Bugler sounds TAPS

COMMANDER: (after TAPS is finished and all flags have been relinquished to the fire)
"Order ARMS"

Commander waits a few minutes for distinguished silence as the flags continue to burn. Then Commander orders the Color Guard to retire the colors, and orders the members to salute as required.

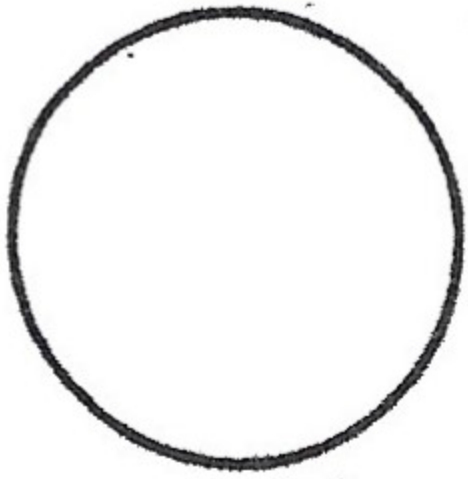
COMMANDER: "Color Guard, retire the colors. Honor Guard, Present ARMS."

Listen for the color guard to dismiss, then,

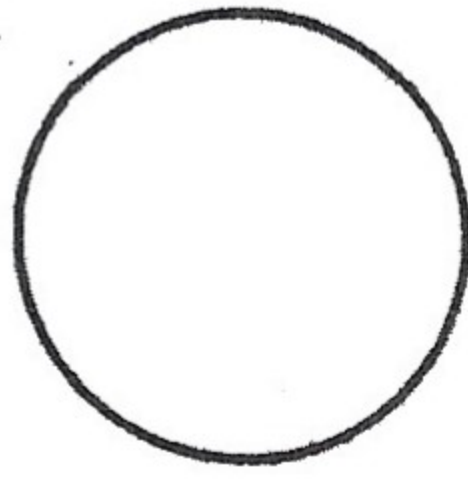
COMMANDER: "Order ARMS. Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes our service. Thank you for coming. Honor Guard, DISMISSED."

Chaplain

Commander



National Colors



Post Standard

Membership

1st Vice-Commander

2nd Vice-Commander

Membership

Sergeant-at-Arms

Fire