

Address Family Members and Friends:

Begin by calling the names of the widow and children. Then say, family, friends, and fellow Marines.

Introduction:

The members of the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Detachment 924 of the Marine Corps League, and the active-duty members of the United States Marine Corps wish to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of our fallen brother at this difficult time.

We also wish to express our appreciation for inviting us here today to help honor the service of Rank and Name, United States Marine Corps. Our brother served with honor as MOS, Period of Service and Conflicts, Recipient of any Major Awards.

Meaning of the Service:

In a moment from now, you will hear three rifle volleys; stemming from an ancient tradition that goes back to Roman times. When a Roman soldier was killed in battle, his comrades would pass his grave and throw in a handful of dirt while shouting his name three times at the top of their voices. This was to let everyone know within hearing distance that a warrior had fallen and was coming home.

The rifle volley will immediately be followed by taps. Taps is played on every American Military base in the world at the end of the day. It is a tradition that has been with us since the Civil War, and it signifies the end of the workday, the sun is setting, and that it is time to rest. Since the 1880s, it has been played at military funerals to signify the **soldier's final rest**.

Text:

"...a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the **sun going down he died."** 2 Chronicles 18:34

Eulogy: Sunset

The setting of the sun suggests to us a departure in life. Wherever we go over land, sea, and air, **death's ravages are seen**. Regardless of the year or hour of the day that we visit the places where men have trod, death has preceded us. **"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."** General Douglas MacArthur in his farewell address to the United States Congress said, "Old soldiers **never die; they just fade away.**" Death is typified in the fading flower, in withering grass, in falling leaf; it is like the dissipating smoke of a campfire and is pictured by the setting sun.

In the United States Marine Corps, all our deceased are referred to as fallen Marines whether they die in combat, perish as a result of an accident, succumb to the ravages of disease, or pass away of natural causes in the sunset of life. To a Marine serving in a combat zone the setting sun brings with it a measure of anxiety and oftentimes fear of what awaits in the darkness, as they **'saddle-up' to 'move-out'** into their night ambush location.

And yet, the sunset is not to be feared, because...

1. The Sun Goes Down by the Appointment of God. For He maketh night and day, and ruleth the heavens. To God belong the issues of death... **"...And it is appointed unto man once to die...."** An appointment we all shall keep!
2. The Sun Goes Down for the Benefit of Humanity. Though tears and bereavement shadow the earth, death attracts His creation to heaven. God has provided a portal through which we may enter by grace through faith; made possible by His death, burial, and resurrection. The Lord said, **"...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...."**
3. All would probably agree; The Sun Often Goes Down to Soon for Us. **Despite life's** trials and sorrows, we cling to life that he might enjoy more of its beauties. Furthermore...
4. The Sun Has His Natural Time for Setting. This setting is expected and prepared for by mankind. Everyone expects the accustomed length of days of three score and ten, but death is **unpredictable and comes to humanity at various stages in one's life**. We are here today because a Marine has fallen, and we must carry on the fight to preserve our freedoms till the consummation of this age. May each heart here embrace courage knowing that...

5. The Sun Goes Down to Rise Again. Only a brief interval of darkness and he appears again, climbing the heavens in majesty and strength. A time will come when this orb of day will set, **nevermore to rise, but the godly shall live on, where the "sun shall never go down."** Finally consider that...
6. Taps will give way to Omnipotent Reveille. God is the Father of Lights and does all things well. Whether the sunlight of our loved ones depart in the morning, at mid-day, or in the evening, it will have a glorious rising in that perfect day, in which there shall be no night. The sounding of the Divine trumpet is well-nigh!

Today however, our world is under the dark clouds of tyranny and wars. Our military works to remove the evil and brighten our existence by preserving the freedoms that we enjoy every day. At this very moment, we are exercising the freedom of speech, the freedom of assembly, and the freedom to worship God. We owe this all to our veterans like Name of Deceased, and to our serving military personnel for which we are eternally grateful.

League Members and other Veterans Salute the Casket: Request that all stand as we honor a fallen Marine.

Chaplain Salutes Casket or Urn:

Tis sundown my brother. Rest easy and sleep well, for the line has held and thy duty to God, Country, and Corps is done. Semper Fidelis, always faithful. **"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."** May ye **dwell eternally in the Son's Light in Heaven.**

Chaplain Salutes Honor Guard Leader: Rifle Volley followed by Taps.

Folding of the Flag by Active-Duty Marines: Presentation to Family Member

Commandant Presentation: Fallen Marine Certificate and Sympathy Card

If there is no procession to the gravesite the chaplain may give committal verse and benediction (given below) at this time.

Presentation of Spent Shell Casings to Family: Presented by Honor Guard Member.

Chaplain Will Salute Widow, Shake Hands with Family, and Leave Chapel:

If there is a procession to the gravesite...

The casket will leave the chapel first, followed by widow and other family members. The chaplain will pre-arrange for widow to be escorted from the building immediately behind the casket. This may be a family member, funeral home director or the chaplain.

Words of Committal: At Gravesite

Unto the mercy of almighty God, we commend the soul of our departed brother, and we commit his remains to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

Benediction:

Please uncover for the benediction.

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen

Cover

This concludes our services.