

COMMANDER: I am honored to be a member of this team of veteran volunteers with Indy Metropolitan Military Honor Guard. We are assembled here today to pay a lasting tribute of respect to our departed comrade in arms, (name). When the call to arms came at the onset of World War Two John joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. As brave young man he marched away with an abiding faith in his God, his country and a desire to preserve our freedoms. (About his service) His valor and sacrifice are well appreciated. Will you bow your heads, as our Chaplain leads us in a prayer?

CHAPLAIN: O God, Father of us all, we extend these final earthly tributes to our beloved brother. Accept our prayers on behalf of the soul of your departed servant. Welcome him into Your House to rest in peace. Look with mercy upon the loved ones saddened by his passing. Comfort and console them through your infinite tenderness and mercy. These things we humbly ask in Your Precious name. Amen.

COMMANDER: One by one, as the years pass by, we are called upon to fulfill these sad duties of respect to our departed comrades and their families gathered here. The present seems to fade away as we look back on the day John left home to defend his country. Motivated by a spirit of devotion and inspired by an undying love for his homeland, he gladly went forth and joined with other comrades, both young and old, from numerous nations to preserve our heritage of freedom. As the years roll on, we too will have finished our fight; will be laid to rest, and our souls follow that long column to the realms above. Let each of us so live, that when the Keeper of the Eternal Record shall have called our name for the last time, those we leave behind may say of us, as we say now for this brother, *“He was indeed a*

true hearted comrade and a defender of his country and our freedoms.”

CHAPLAIN: The march of our brother is over and as he lays down in the house appointed for all the living, we are reminded of the frailty of human life, and the brief tenure by which we hold our own lives. In such an hour the final summons will come, which no one disobeys. It seems fitting that we should leave our comrade to rest under the arching sky, looking to the heavens for that lasting peace and solitude. May each of us, when our voyages are over, our battles of life complete, and our missions are ended, find a welcome in that region of the blest where there are no more storm tossed seas, no scorching battlefields, or dangerous skies. Our Brother is in the hands of our Heavenly Father and *“God gives him His beloved sleep.”* He will be laid to rest but let us cherish his values and learn to imitate them, reminded by the place he fills no more. Let each one be so loyal to every virtue, so true to every friendship, and so faithful in the remaining march that we will be ready to fall out and take our place in the great review to come. Not in doubt, but with faith, that the merciful Captain of our Salvation will call us to that fellowship, which on earth and in Heaven remains unbroken.

COMMANDER: As a final tribute to our fallen brother the rifle team will now fire three volleys, followed by Taps and the presentation of the flag.

All veterans are welcome to stand and render the hand salute during Taps on my command.