

## Flag Retirement Prayer

Heavenly Father we ask that you bless these Flags that your faithful have diligently flown with respect.

I ask that you protect all those in our armed forces who serve to ensure the we continue to have the right to fly these Flags.

Bless all the Veterans who put themselves in harms way to protect these rights.

We ask that you receive into your Kingdom all those who have died in our military, so that we may have the freedom to live in a country that allows us to fly these flags.

Bless all of the Knights gathered here along with the people of the Parish Community today as we proceed to retire these flags in accordance with the laws of our country.

We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

- DM: "Please stand for the posting of the colors"
- DM: "Color Guard ... CCC: post the colors" POSTED."
- DM: "Please join me in the pledge of allegiance."
- DM: "Introduce the person giving the invocation."
- Father \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer...
- DM: "The purpose of this Ceremony is to encourage proper respect for the Flag of the United States and to provide a dignified disposal of unserviceable flags. Shortly flags worn to a condition in which it should not be used to represent the Nation will be retired from service.
- DM: "We will now begin our formal flag retirement ceremony"
- DM: "I request that Scouts, Members of the Military in uniform, and Color Corps please salute, while the rest, place your hands over our heart as we retire each flag." And the  
DETAIL WILL PRESENT SWORDS FOR EACH FLAG RETIRED.

•

- **DM: As WE prepare to SALUTE these flags of our Country for the last time we prepare the fire by adding four symbolic pieces of wood to the fire:**
  - **REDWOOD, "for those who fought and died for this nation";**
  - **OAK, "for the strength to carry the flag across the nation";**
  - **CEDAR, "to protect and preserve the American way of life"; and**
  - **WALNUT, "to remind us of America's Rich Soil and Beauty, and the Brotherhood of the Nation's Founders"**

- DM: "CCC: Advance with your detail and present the Flags for inspection and disposal"
- CCC: "It has been concluded, that this flag, and all other flags have become unusable and I request approval to retire them."
- DM: I agree please proceed.
- CCC; Salute, taking one flag the Retirement Group moves to already lighted barrel and places it in the barrel.
- "CCC, Returns with Group, then unfolds each flag and respectfully taking each to the fire barrel and dropping it in," until all have been retired.
- CCC: "DM, the Flags have been retired as you directed our duties here are finished."
- DM: "This concludes our US flag retirement ceremony. As we go home, let us not forget the importance of our country's most precious symbol, the US flag. Thank you for attending."
- DM: " COLOR CORPS Dismissed"