

Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony
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REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY SUGGESTIONS

(A Printed copy of the program, including the texts of the rituals and names of the participants should be distributed to those present. A registration table to record chapters and officers present will be helpful, as will be a designated protocol person to arrange wreaths and seating)

SAR Official:

- Welcome and Greetings
- Presentation of the Colors: SAR Color Guard, Military Unit, ROTC, Scouts or other appropriate group
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- SAR Pledge (by SAR members)
- Introduction of the assembly to the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
- Life of patriot and his/her revolutionary patriot service
- Decoration of the grave with wreath or other floral arrangement
- Introduction of descendants of patriot in attendance or identify those that could not be at the service
- Dedication of the marker:

Leader: If the past is indeed prologue, then a glimpse into the past can provide a source of wisdom and inspiration for the future. As we honor this patriot today, let us be mindful of his/her service to our nation, and let us rededicate ourselves to the principles for which he/she held sacred.

Chaplain: As we gather, O God, for this dedication today, we ask your blessing upon each of us. We thank you for this occasion as we honor the memory of ; we esteem his/her patriotism and courage, his/her faith and loyalty, and his/her willingness to sacrifice to make our world a better place. We thank you, too, for America and all patriots who have given us the liberties and privileges that we enjoy. May we be willing to serve you and our nation even as he/she did. May the ideals that we remember from the past sustain us today and safeguard us tomorrow. Amen

Leader: We, the members of the Chapter, _____ State Society, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution dedicate this marker to the glory of God and in recognition of the memory of, a patriot of the American Revolution.

Speaker: (Appropriate 10-15 minutes for eulogy of the Revolutionary War patriot or a patriotic speech.)

Chaplain: Almighty God, as we go from here, may this marker remind all who pass by of the devotion and dedication of all who have made our nation great. May all be humbled and encouraged by this marker to esteem and perpetuate these virtues with our lives. May the peace of God, which surpasses all, guard our hearts and minds in the ties of friendship and unity of love. Amen.

Comments by any of the patriot's descendants

- SAR Recessional by SAR members.

(Notes: 1.) Use of musical instruments, bands or choirs in the ceremonies is always encouraged. 2.) If the service is jointly conducted with D.A.R. and or C.A.R. their rituals should be included at the beginning and conclusion of the program. 3.) Their leaders should also be given equal and prominent parts of the program as available. To avoid controversy over precedence of the societies, listings and protocol should always be alphabetical, i.e. C.A.R., the D.A.R., then S.A.R. This also follows the gentlemanly manners of "children and ladies first.")

PROTOCOL

Observance of established rules of protocol will increase the prestige and dignity at SAR functions. The basic principles of protocol are to:

1. Observe the rules of ranking of office.
2. Practice courtesy.
3. Use good judgment.

President General: The President General is the ranking officer of the National Society and should be regarded as the honored guest at all SAR functions. The State Society President is the highest-ranking officer in his State Society and should be accorded such recognition. He outranks a Vice President General in his state. The chapter president is the ranking officer in his chapter.

President General Title: All former presidents general retain their title for life and will be addressed as President General. They should identify their years of office when corresponding or signing their name. It is proper when writing about them to identify them as (for example) former President General Jones (1994-95) using small "f" with former.

Sequence of Seniority: The sequence of seniority is National Society, State Society and Chapter.

Ranking of National Society Officers: The following may be used as a guide for state societies and chapters: President General, Vice President General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Chancellor General, Genealogist General, Registrar General, Historian General, Librarian General, Surgeon General, and Chaplain General.

Ranking of State and Chapter Officers: The ranking of state and chapter officers is the responsibility of the state and chapter.

Ranking at SAR Functions: When National Society officers and State Presidents and/or officers of other organizations are present at SAR functions, their ranking may be determined by the office held and the organizational date of the respective society. The following may be used as a guide of precedence for a possible State Society function: State Society President, President General, Governor of State, or his Representative, United States Senator, United States Congressman, Mayor of City, former Presidents General, National SAR Officers in order of seniority, visiting State Society Presidents, active Host State Society Officers, Former National Society Officers, National Presidents of other organizations and state presidents of other societies.

Seating at National Society functions: The President General occupies the place at the center as presiding officer. The order of precedence is as follows: The place on the right of the President General is the next highest seat. The place on the left is the next highest seat, and on down the line alternating right to left.

Seating at State Society functions: The State Society President occupies the center place as presiding officer. The highest, ranking officer present is on the right. The next officer is on the left, following the precedence. The number of people attending luncheons and banquets should determine the size of the head table in a reasonable ratio to the assemblage. Ladies and gentlemen should be alternated in seating at the head table. If possible, a lady should not be seated in the last chair at either end of the table. A reserved front table can serve for a minister, musician and lower ranking officers.

Greetings and Recognition: The highest-ranking guest should be introduced for any greeting, with others greeted in order of precedence. It is wise to limit the number of greetings. It is unfair to the speaker and to the audience to have lengthy and many greetings. In most cases a quick recognition will suffice. When introducing the head table, or other special reserved tables, announcement should be made to withhold applause until all are introduced.