



DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY



PRAYERS
FOR
EVERY
OCCASION

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
EIGHTH WESTERN RIVERS REGION**

PRINTED by Second District Western Rivers 1985
REPRINTED Eighth Western Rivers Region 2011

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Eighth Western Rivers Region
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

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This Prayer Book is designed to assist those entrusted with conducting or leading a group prayer service. It is equally suitable for personal prayer when needed. The prayers were written for specific occasions. But, by substituting key words for others (such as meeting instead of conference), they can be made suitable for other occasions.

This version of the Prayer Book has been prepared by Robert Haverfield and Susan Haverfield of the Past Captains and Commanders Association for use by the members of the Eighth Western Rivers Region of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and members of Team Coast Guard. These prayers have been taken from the 2nd Western Rivers Prayers for all Occasions, the Chaplains Resource Board, and the Prayers for the Coast Guard. The Funeral and Graveside Services were removed from the original version to be included in the Memorial Guide.

PRAYER BOOK COMMITTEE

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*This prayer book is dedicated in
the memory of
Frank M. Caughey Jr.
and
Frederick W. Reece.*

Frank Caughey was a retired Military Chaplain and member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 31-09 8WR and a RCO of the former Second Western Region.

Frederick Reece was a Chaplain and member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 7- 4 in the former Second Western Region.

They created this manual in 1985 to form a resource for Auxiliary meetings. This is to thank them for their hard work and dedication which was in the true tradition of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

THEY WILL BE MISSED!

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INVOCATIONS

SPRING BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM INVOCATION 1

Almighty and Eternal God, send Your Holy Spirit upon each of us as we plan our activities this year.

Help us prepare for the challenges, which we may face in this boating season. Sharpen our skills for our own well-being and for the safety of those whom we serve.

And now, bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts which we are about to receive from Your bounty. Amen.

SPRING BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM INVOCATION 2

God, our Father, we wish to thank You and those who planned and guided the activities of our meeting and all those who contributed in any way to its fruition.

May Your Holy Spirit bide and strengthen us in this coming year. Make the knowledge and skills we have gained be effective in promoting good seamanship.

Bless these gifts, which we are about to receive and see us safely home. Amen.

FALL BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

Opening Prayer 1

Come, Holy Spirit, upon all of us gathered at this meeting.

We are grateful for this opportunity to honor and thank those who are leaving office; first, for their dedication to the ideals of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and secondly, for the personal sacrifices they have made to bring these ideals to many others.

Finally, give wisdom, vision and courage to those who will be elected to office this year. Reward their work and ours, renew us in recreation and keep us always in Your care. Amen.

Opening Prayer 2

Come, Holy Spirit, upon all of us gathered at this meeting. We are grateful for this opportunity to honor and thank those who are leaving office; first, for their dedication to the ideals of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and secondly, for the personal sacrifices they have made to bring these ideals to many others. Finally, give wisdom, vision and courage to those who will be elected to office this year. Reward their work and ours. Renew us in recreation and keep us always in Your care. Amen.

Opening Prayer 3

In this our harvest season, let us give thanks for the bounty that we have received during this year. We are from many walks of life, yet we are in unity, for we have the same goals. We ask Thy blessings upon this meeting that we may sense anew our responsibility as citizens and as Auxiliarists in our homes, communities, and on the lakes and rivers. We praise Thee for this good land of ours and for the heritage which has come to us through the efforts of those to whom freedom, justice and righteousness meant more than life itself. Give us inspiration to meet the needs of the future. Give us wisdom to make the right decisions, persistence to support them, and radiance that will win others to work with us. We are grateful for this opportunity to honor and thank those who will be leaving office; first for their dedication to the ideals of the Auxiliary, and second for the personal sacrifice made to bring these ideals to many others. Finally give wisdom, vision, and courage to those who will be our new leaders. We continue to pray for those members of the Armed Forces that are serving both at home and abroad and ask for peace in our troubled world. We thank You for Your presence with us and for the bonds of friendship which will be strengthened.

This we ask in Thy name. Amen.

Opening Prayer 4

May we bow our heads in prayer?

Heavenly Father as we are gathered together for this special time of carrying on the work and programs of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, we are thankful for Thy presence. Strengthen our courage with a greater faith in Thee and help us complete our assigned tasks. We thank You for Your presence with us and for the bonds of friendship strengthened. I would ask each of you to take a quiet moment to include those who are no longer with us, in your thoughts and prayers. All of this we ask in our Father's name. Amen.

Opening Prayer 5

May we bow our heads in prayer?

As we gather together during this holy season let us pause to give thanks for our many blessings. In this moment of stillness may we better commune with Thee. Bless us we pray and the Coast Guard Family. Give us inspiration to meet the needs of the future. Give us wisdom to know Thy will and the courage to perform our duties. We ask Thy blessings upon those assembled that we may sense anew our responsibility as Auxiliarists, in our homes, our communities and on our lakes and rivers. We praise Thee for this good land of ours and for the heritage, which has come to us through the efforts of those whom freedom, Justice, and Righteousness meant more than life itself. We ask for the safe return to our homes of all those assembled here today. We ask Thee to sustain our hearts with true friendship and our souls with truth. Bless us and these gifts which we receive from Thy bounty, through Your goodness, now and forever. Amen.

BOATING EDUCATION
CLASS GRADUATION DINNER

INVOCATION

Let us Pray:

Gracious Father, we thank You for bringing us together today (tonight) to celebrate the successful completion of a Boating Safety Class of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Bless and protect the graduates, their families, friends and teachers. May their efforts and those of our Auxiliary members be directed toward protecting and saving life, particularly through our good example, diligence and skill while boating.

And finally, Lord, bless us all here present and these Your gifts which we are about to receive and those we have received from Your goodness. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

BLESSINGS

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

Blessing:

(Chaplain) Our Help is in the name of the Lord.

(All) Who made heaven and earth.

(Chaplain) The Lord be with you.

(All) And also with you.

Let us Pray:

O Lord God, listen favorably to our prayers and with Your Divine Graces, bless these boats. Send Your holy angels so that all who sail in them may be delivered and guarded from every danger to life or limb and from all perils of the lakes, rivers and seas from sudden storms and rocky shoals.

And, as You chose the fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John to be Your first followers, so now we also ask their guidance and protection, as well as that of Your Saints for all those who navigate these vessels, especially their captains, crew, and passengers.

By Your guiding light, both day and night, may they, helped by Your grace and pursuing good works, arrive safely at all ports of their choices, and may they finish their pilgrimage and life on earth safely.

Amen.

BLESSING OF AUTO AND OTHER VEHICLES

(Chaplain) Our help is in the name of the Lord.

(All) Who made heaven and earth.

(Chaplain) The Lord be with you.

(All) And with your spirit.

Let us pray:

O Lord God, listen favorably to our prayers, and with Your right hand bless this car (other). Send Your holy Angels so that all who ride in it may be delivered and guarded from every danger. And as You granted faith and grace by Your apostle, Philip to the man from Ethiopia who was sitting in his chariot and reading holy Scripture, show the way of salvation to Your servants, so that helped by Your grace and always intent on doing good works, they may after all the trials of their pilgrimage and life on earth, attain everlasting joy, through the blessings of our Holy Father. Amen.

BLESSING OF A HOUSE

(Chaplain) O Lord, hear my prayer.

(All) And let my cry come to You.

(Chaplain) The Lord be with you.

(All) And with Your spirit.

Let us pray:

Hear us, Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and eternal God, and graciously send Your holy Angel from heaven to watch over, to cherish, to protect, to abide with, and to defend all who dwell in this house. We thank You Father, and welcome the shelter of Your Holy Angel as a most benevolent gift. Amen.

LUNCHEON PRAYERS

GENERAL LUNCHEON

Dear Heavenly Father, as we come together for this luncheon, may we be mindful of the service of those leaders who have gone before us. May we ask Your blessings on the present leaders. May their decisions help our organization during this time of change. We are reminded of our great mother earth, our land and sky, and always of our waters. As we patrol these waters, may we realize their beauty. May we protect them and their habitants.

As we go forth from this meeting to our homes and communities, keep us safe in our activities on land and water. Bless this food to our use and our bodies' nourishment. Amen

PAST CAPTAINS' AND COMMANDERS' ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON

As we come together for this luncheon, may we be mindful of the service of those leaders who have gone before us. May we ask Thy blessing on the present leaders and wisdom for the new Officers. Let us give thanks for the friends we have made and kept, for the lives we have saved and the accidents we have helped prevent, and for the opportunity to serve our country and our fellow boaters. Give us eyes to see the beauty all around us. Bless our association together, our ideals and our work, and bless this food to the nourishment of our bodies and strengthen us in Thy service. Amen.

GRACE FOR MEALS 1

Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and us to Thy service; and make us ever mindful of the needs of others. In God's name we pray. Amen.

GRACE FOR MEALS 2

We thank You for the food we are about to eat: it is the daily bread You give us to sustain our bodies. We thank You for the gift of Your word – the bread which has come down from heaven to refresh our spirits. May we share the table of Your heavenly banquet where we shall never hunger and always be satisfied in knowing and loving You. Amen.

GRACE FOR MEALS 3

O God, we thank You for the food and friendship we share today. The food which nourishes our bodies is Your gift to us. It comes to us through the labor of our farmers who bring Your bounty forth from the earth. We thank You for the friendships that are our gift to each other. They are the food for our souls that sustain our spirits. Be with our families this day. Be with those who have no bread or no one with whom to share their meal. Be with our colleagues in far away or lonely posts on land, in the air, and those on and under the sea. Be with us now and always. Amen.

GRACE FOR MEALS 4

O God, You alone have no beginning or end. You are eternally without change. We welcome You as our unseen guest at this meal as we think about what change means to us. Bless the food we are about to eat that it may strengthen us to bring changes in our lives to a successful ending. Bless our companionship at this table, that it may strengthen us to begin to see the new opportunities our changing world is about to offer us. Amen.

GRACE FOR MEALS 5

Eternal Father, for the continued blessing of Heaven, we give You thanks. As you feed our bodies, so may our minds partake of that which is wholesome and pure. With this physical and mental nourishment, grant that we may so live in a way that brings honor to the Coast Guard, our country, and ourselves. Amen.

GRACE FOR MEALS 6

Our Father, we are mindful of those who have friends, but no food ... and those who have food, but no friends. We thank You this day that we have both. Help us to befriend the friendless and to share our substance with those who hunger. Amen.

GRACE FOR MEALS 7

Bless us, O Lord, our food and drink, which we are about to receive from Your bounty. Bless this house and those who live in it, granting them health, peace and progress: For You are good and to You we ascribe in glory now and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

MORNING PRAYER 1

Teach me, O God, not to hold on to life too tightly. Teach me to hold it lightly; not carelessly, but lightly, easily. Teach me to take it as a gift, to enjoy and to cherish while I have it, and to let it go gracefully and thankfully when the time comes. The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 2

Heavenly Father, thou hast graciously blessed us with a rich, wonderful and good world. We thank Thee for all the blessings of this life, our families, our homes, our jobs and our friends. All this has come from Thy benevolent hand. Remind us of the fragility of our existence and help us to remember that life is a gift and that each day is a new one – never mundane or routine – but given to us by the gracious hand of God. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 3

God, give us the will and the desire to launch out into deep waters and to aim for the goals that are high and difficult. Make us responsive to great things when we are called. When our own powers are inadequate, show us where to turn for the help we need. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 4

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
awaken in us a new appreciation of our land, that we may apply
ourselves to the great work of keeping alive a sense of freedom.
Enkindle within us a flame of selfless unwavering devotion to duty; that
we may never be found wanting in those qualities of spirit which alone
are able to preserve hearth and home, the peace of our nation, and the
tranquility of the world. This prayer we ask in the name of God. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 5

Help us this day, Lord, to transform our day so that we may work
eagerly and honestly, and know that everything we do has a place in
Your purpose. We pray that You also transform our family life, so that
we may learn in our homes the peace, love and generosity we should
show to all people. Help us in our national commitment to help
transform society. Inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right, to
work against injustice wherever we find it and to treat our coworkers
with justice and respect, by taking everything we do and turning it to
good ends. We pray this in Your name. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 6

Heavenly Father, this day we pray that You turn our hearts and our
minds to You, that we may listen to Your message whenever it comes.
Help us to never despise any person; to fight against every hurt or
degradation of a human being; to give our love and service not only to
those who need rescue, but also to the poor, the suffering, and the
oppressed, for we are all worthy of Your protection because of the
dignity You have bestowed upon us. We pray this in Your name.
Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 7

Father in Heaven, You have given us a mind to know You, a will to serve You, and a heart to love You. Be with us today in all that we do, so that Your light may shine out in our lives. Help us to be today what You created us to be so that we may praise Your name in all that we do when we serve. Help us to be prepared to search for what is true and right so that our freedoms may be ever secured and a source for loving You. Help us to be secure in Your love so that we might serve our fellow citizens well this day. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 8

Spirit of God, as we begin this day we ask for the sure hope that Your love is stronger than the doubts which assail us. Help us to see the Coast Guard as one family and that harmony comes not only from our common call to serve those in need, but also in the wisdom of leadership. In Your name we pray. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 9

Give me the courage this day, O Lord, to do those things I know I should be doing ... give me the ability to properly tell which is which. Be with us all. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER 10

Lord, may what we begin today in effort and cooperation, be done with Your inspiration ... continued with Your help ... and be completed with Your guidance. Heavenly Father, guide us in our efforts ... help us to persevere with faith, courage and sincerity. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER 1

We pause at the ending of the day to thank Thee, O God, for life itself, for the wonders of existence, for our family, and friends, our food and shelter, and all the necessities of life. We thank Thee, also, for the unexpected things that make life happy and bright and for the common things like water and light. We are also grateful for the difficulties of life, the sorrows and hardships, for by them and through them we enter more and more deeply into the meaning of existence. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER 2

God, when the winds are against us, help us to keep our spirits and our wills serene and strong. We know that all things are not arranged for our comfort and our convenience. We know that there will be times when things will go against us, but we know, too, that Thou hast given us the spirit whereby we may be the master of our lives. Help us to put our trust in Thee, so that we may go steadily on our way. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER 3

Give us, O God, the courage to do the things we talk about and to practice the faith we preach. Let us never withdraw into the cloister for our own safety; but let us be there long enough to find our true center in Him who will give us strength to keep our eyes on the distant goal and to navigate as well as we can. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER 4

God, it has been a busy and demanding day for many of us. Others will just be starting their watches and working hours. Help us to stop and catch our breath – to give you thanks for these moments in our lives. May we feel a sense of accomplishment for a difficult and dangerous job, done well. Tonight, give us a very special sense of personal pride in ourselves, our jobs, and our Coast Guard. May that pride be obvious to all with whom we come in contact. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER 5

As we retire to our beds for rest unto our bodies, we turn to Thee for rest unto our souls. We are not tired by labor, but restless with anxiety and uncertainty. May the calm of Thy spirit smooth the rough seas of our lives and give us refuge from all the crosscurrents and winds, which we encounter in the new day. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER 6

Pardon, O Lord, we beseech Thee for all we have done amiss in hasty actions or speech. Warm our hearts with holy fellowships, that we may be able to find nurture for our highest resolves and hope for their reality. Help us to give words of encouragement, that a shipmate may not despair. Lead us out of this night into a new day, when we can try again. Amen.

BENEDICTION 1

Lord, be with us to strengthen us; outside us to keep us; love us to protect us; be beneath us to uphold us; be before us to direct us; behind us to keep us from straying; be round about us to defend us. Amen.

BENEDICTION 2

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection, we commit ourselves. The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace, both now and forevermore. Amen.

BENEDICTION 3

Almighty God, help us to remember that freedom does not automatically perpetuate itself, that we have to work at it, nurture it, protect it, and pray for it. Let us be ever mindful that freedom needs our attention and our cooperation. Be with us now as we go about our daily lives and let us never forget to reflect your loving kindness on all those with whom we meet. Amen.

BENEDICTION 4

May our days be filled with laughter and love,
May our lives overflow with fulfillment and satisfaction,
And may God give us a song for our hearts, peace for our souls,
And many years of good health to our lives. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE STUDIES

Holy Spirit, true Fountain of Light and Wisdom, guide my search for knowledge. Give me a sharp mind and a vivid memory, a spirit of docility and openness in my reading. Help me separate the wheat from the chaff, the important from the unimportant. Grant that what I store away for future use may be of value to me and to others that I may be a brighter reflection of Your Image in my daily life. Amen.

PRAYER FOR INSTRUCTORS

Almighty God, give us insight and understanding, a retentive memory, and the patience to ponder and reflect upon the subjects we are teaching. May Your Spirit guide our presentation and the reception of our students. Give us wisdom and joy in the use of our skills and responsibility in safeguarding the lives of those entrusted to our care. Light our charted course in its beginning, direct our progress, and bring us safely and surely to its completion. Amen.

PRAYER FOR BOATING SAFETY WEEK

Blessed are you, Lord God, ruler of all creation. You have placed us in this world to give glory to You, to use and enjoy the mountains, forests, rivers, lakes and seas.

Watch over us all this summer at work and play, and especially in our travels.

Keep us alert in our Auxiliary activities, that our knowledge and skill may be helpful to us and to those we try to help.

For all Your gifts we thank You. Amen.

BEFORE TRAVEL

Let us pray:

Lord, be with us as we travel this summer, by day and by night, in heat and cold. Send Your guardian angels to protect us on the waters and on the highways, in storms and in good weather. See us home refreshed, in safety and in peace. Amen.

CONSERVATION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You created a Universe of harmony and beauty and gave the earth to us as a home to care for and a place to grow up in. We have often recklessly consumed our natural resources and squandered Your gifts.

Forgive us, Lord, for being wasteful. Guide us to restore the beauty and harmony of creation. Help us respect the things You have given us. Teach us to conserve, to protect and to nurture. Teach us to be thankful and help us to restore what we have destroyed. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE COAST GUARD

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch over those who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from Thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of thy love.

PRAYER FOR THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

When I am called to duty, God,. whenever storms and
waves may rage,
Give me the strength to save a life, whatever be the age.
Help me embrace a little child, before it is too late,
or to save an older person from the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert and to hear the weakest shout,
Help me God to quickly and efficiently get the people out.
I want to fulfill my calling and give the best in me,
To guard my every boater and protect his property.
According to my fate, if I am to lose my life,
Please bless with Your protecting hand, my children and my wife.

HOLIDAY PRAYERS

MEMORIAL DAY 1

O God, our Heavenly Father, You who would not willingly bring suffering to humanity, Your creation, You have brought us to this place today

.... That our sensibilities might be shaken

.... That we might weigh the peace of this garden setting against the pain and terror which brought thousands who died in wars to rest here and in countless other gardens.

The contrasts are so stark that we would like not to see, much less experience them.

But it is for us the living to bear remembrance. To remember first Father, then rejoice, that it was not we who sacrificed self before the enemies of each age of war, but some other son, daughter, brother, father. Few are the names we know on the gravestones, but they read not with our names imprinted and we are glad.

And then to remember, that those who sacrificed could well have been us. That all too soon the gifts of war – the torn body, the early grave – could have been ours, a price that we would have paid, were it not but for fate. **WE WERE WILLING**, not cowards of heroes, **BUT WILLING**.

And finally, to remember that time underscores the futility of wars

.... That foes become friends

.... That friends become foes

until the confusion of friend and foe makes us wonder at it all and recognize the mindlessness of warring.

Dear God, help us to remember the significance of a “Memorial Day” and pray indeed for the implements of war to be forged anew into the plowshares and pruning hooks of our great-grandchildren. This is our prayer that we offer in your Holy Name, in memory of those of the past and in the hope for a future of peace, O God our Father. Amen.

MEMORIAL DAY 2

God, tomorrow is our nation’s Memorial Day. There was a time when people in small towns all across our land gathered in parks or cemeteries and heard the flowery oratory, felt the stirring marches, stood in silence at the crack of rifles and the haunting notes of taps that spoke an Amen to the list of local heroes while some elderly relative sat teary-eyed on the stand. We were there to remember our nation’s history and her heroes. But that is a part of another age. We don’t live in small towns anymore and high school bands no longer march five miles to stand among the graves of men they never knew. So why bother You with a prayer for Memorial Day. Because You know how badly we need a sense of both heritage and destiny, at least a hero or two we can call to mind, an event that stands out because it was the point at which those values, which nourish us, were preserved. We can be no greater than the men and women we most admire. So keep our memories alive with our gratitude and gratitude alive with faithfulness. Amen.

MEMORIAL DAY 3

At times, Lord we wonder at the mystery of nature ...
The height of great mountains ...
The vastness of the sea ...
The complexity of an insect ...

The simplicity of season's spring ...
... and forget, Lord to wonder at ourselves.
Help us to remember. Amen.

MEMORIAL DAY 4

Lord our God, we give thanks to You for the great land of our birth
with all its liberties and many blessings
Today we especially give thanks for those who served their country in
its hour of need, and for our fallen comrades, who have given their very
lives in that service. May we never forget their sacrifice.
Lord, watch over those military men and women on American and
foreign soils this day, who knowing the real and potential dangers of
their work, stand ready to preserve the cause of freedom with the
devotion to duty and those who served before them.
Grant Your continued Divine care over the family members who are
called upon daily to watch and wave good-bye to their loved ones as
they go to their duty as members of our nation's Armed Forces. Honor
their devotion and sacrifice.
This prayer we offer in Thy Name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Gracious Lord of the harvest, in love You give us this day to be our joy
and our delight. We thank You for the goodness of the people of our
country and for the spirit of justice that shapes our nation. We thank
You for the beauty and the bounty of our land and for the challenge of

our cities. We thank You for our work and for our rest, for one another, and for our homes. For all we have spoken and all that we keep in our hearts, accept our Thanksgiving Day. In Your name we pray. Amen.

PATRIOTIC OCCASION

O Lord, grant us freedom with discipline, motivation with understanding, and determination with compassion.

O Lord, give us the will for self-preservation, and the strength and power to help those who are willing to help themselves.

O Lord, give us insight and patience, wisdom along with a sense of duty and ability coupled with restraint to adjust to the changes in nature and men.

O Lord, show us Your ways, and never deliver us into the hands of any enemy.

Bless us with Your heavenly and earthly bounties, and never let us be in want.

Guide us in being friendly and generous toward one another.

Instill in us faith and knowledge, and let all of us have the ability to live at peace within ourselves.

O Lord, show the people of our nation the right way to serve and guard the sacredness of all orderly freedoms. Let us realize that You have given us riches not given to any other nation under the sun. Let us be ever grateful, and accept the responsibilities, which they entail. You are our God and to You we would ascribe glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

ARMED FORCES DAY

Who are we, Lord ?

Why are we here ?

We are American fighting men. We stand vigil over the free world. We are held together by a common bond , our love of life and liberty for ourselves and our loved ones and our right to worship You without fear of oppression. Whatever is said about us and our ship, when the chips are down, we pull together. It is this that makes us a team set apart. We are a floating fortress of men and machines, striving to make the world a better place. Keep us aware of our heritage. Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 1

All men enjoy the gift of life; many enjoy the privilege of freedom; some enjoy the quality of courage. Life without freedom is intolerable. Freedom without courage is impossible. The Navy and the Marines have made courage a way of life. The courage of the past is in the hands of history. The courage of the future is in our hands. As we recall those who have fallen, let us rededicate ourselves to the tradition of courage. Give us a deep sense of reverence for life, a passionate desire for freedom. Continue in us the courage of those who have woven this tradition into the history of our country. Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2

Lord God Almighty, in Whose name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lofted the torch of freedom for nations then unborn, grant that we and all the peoples of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace. Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 3

Lord God Almighty, You have made all the peoples of the earth for Your glory, to serve You in freedom and in peace. Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with Your gracious will. Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 4

As a nation, we were convinced early that we could not endure half slave and half free. No man can celebrate liberty as long as his brothers and sisters are in chains or shackled by poverty or ignorance or a denial of basic rights which enables them to contribute to the good of society. Our most elusive dream has been the pursuit of happiness, for no person can give happiness to another. It is a state which each must find for himself. Help us to discover the secret that happiness comes not from selfish pursuit of ingrown indulgence, but from sharing, not just what, we have but who we are.

Re-create in each of us the dreams of our founding fathers, who by Your grace, knew that where there was no dream there could be no destiny. Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 5

God, our Father, on this Independence Day, we pause for a few moments to give You thanks for a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the principle that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Life has been extended for rich and poor alike. Dread diseases that cut short human life in infancy have been virtually eliminated. Now we grapple with the killers of our technological age: death on the highways, disorder proliferating from stressful urban existence, heart attacks, hypertension and cancer, and the awful spectre of nuclear holocaust. In the pursuit of life help us to realize it isn't how long we live but how we live long that is important. Amen.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 6

God, our Father, on this Independence Day, we pause for a few moments to give You thanks for a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the principle that all men and women are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Give to the people of our country, a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with Your gracious will. Amen.

LABOR DAY

Almighty God, You have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives. Guide us in the work we do, that we may do it, not for self alone, but for the common good. As we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers and arouse our concern for those who are out of work. Amen.

VETERANS DAY

I pray this evening, O Lord, not as a political man, but as a pastor and a human being. For I am one of those who came back from Vietnam and now am committed to sharing the proud task of remembering my brothers and sisters who have fallen and who are memorialized in the land of our birth this day.

O God, how does one summarize the valor, pain, and eventual disenchantment of a generation of young, well-intentioned Americans, who fought and gave their life-blood to fight a war that has yielded little more than bitter fruit? Was their courage of less valor or their sacrifice less sacred than those who have gone before?

On this Veterans Day, O Lord, I pray for our dead and missing in Vietnam – 56,000 plus souls who went beyond the borders of self-interest and who continue to cry for more than stone-cold recognition. Their memory demands an honest acceptance that a man who follows his convictions from a clear sense of duty and love for his people represents the highest good a nation can offer – be he friend or foe. Those, O God, were our brightest and best – marked by the cynical and clever, but ever remembered by You.

O God, Vietnam remains, as it should, a matter of moral convention for all Americans. That suffering land has made dust of our innocence and caused us rightly to question our national intent. O Lord, lift the veil on this tragedy. Help us to work through the war – but never at the cost of refusing our fallen brothers the love and dignity they deserve. Grant us this right an ever peaceful rest. Amen.

FAMILY PRAYERS

TODAY

My life is a gift of God, given, not in years, but a day at a time. Today is the day the Lord has made for me and He planned it to be the most important day of my life.

Yesterday is gone, never to return. I must not worry about it, but leave it in the hands of God. Tomorrow and all that it holds is God's secret and it's coming is not assured.

Only today is mine. Each day, arranged by God with infinite wisdom and goodness, is his gift, his act of love for me. In thanksgiving I will offer Him every day the gift of myself, my prayers, works, joys and sufferings.

Dear Lord, receive them graciously.

FATHER'S PRAYER

Father of mankind, You have given me these children and entrusted them to my charge, to bring them up for You, and to prepare them for everlasting life. Help me with Your heavenly grace to fulfill this sacred duty. Make me gentle, yet firm, considerate and watchful. Grant, that by word and example, I may lead them in the ways of true wisdom and plenty, so that they too will know the joy of loving You. Grant that we all, some day, may be united in heaven, praising Your glory forever. Amen.

MOTHER'S PRAYER

My God, to You my heart is lifted up, as I commend unto Your protecting care those dearest on earth to me. Guard well my husband and my children, all the members of my family, and all the inmates of my home. Preserve them from sorrow and misfortune; hold suffering and ailment far from us, that we may bear neither the dangers of the day nor the terrors of the night.

Preserve me from idleness and foolish yearning for worldly pleasures; teach me that in my home I shall find my purest joys, my most pleasurable emotions in acts of womanly devotion, self-forgetfulness and simplicity. Bless me and those I love with health and cheerfulness; shield us all from temptation and sin.

Preserve forever the tranquility of our happy home and the peace that dwells in our hearts. For this I beseech You, for this I have set my heart before You, my Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.

INVOCATION AND MEMORIAL PRAYER SUGGESTION
FOR
DIVISION "CHANGE OF WATCH"

God and Father of us all, we ask Thy blessing to be upon this Change of Watch and Division Board Meeting. We pray that Thy Holy Spirit will be upon us and guide us that all plans and decision which are made will be in accordance with Thy will and pleasure for us and for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary which we represent and in which we proudly serve.

We would pray Thee to watch over the men and women of the United States Coast Guard as they perform their missions of vigilant service, for the Holy Scriptures remind us:

"They that go down to the sea in ships,
that do business in the great waters;
These see the works of the Lord,
and his wonders in the deep
He maketh the storm a calm,
so that the waves thereof are still.
Then are they glad because they be quiet;
so he bringeth them unto their desired haven".
Psalm 107: 23-24; 29-30

We would remember before Thy throne of grace, those of our shipmates within the Auxiliary, who have passed on during this year to be with Thee, their God, the Supreme Admiral of the Universe.

In a moment of silence, let us reverently remember together
Name _____ Flotilla _____ Death Date _____
Name _____ Flotilla _____ Death Date _____
***** SILENCE *****

O Almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these Thy servants, recalling their friendship, their courage, and their strength, we would hold before Thee in love, those who especially mourn their passing, those who were closest to them, families and loved ones. As this day brings memories of those whom they have lost, may it also bring Thy consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are forever in Thy loving presence for Thou hast brought them unto their desired haven, through our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Frank M. Caughey, Jr.
Frank M. Caughey, Jr.
Chaplain, LT. COL., USAF, Retired

MEMORIAL PRAYERS

MEMORIAL PRAYER 1

May the Lord our God bless all present here to memorialize those who died to preserve liberty and freedom in our nation and in the world.

May the Lord our God remember all those whose sacrifice gave this nation its greatness, progress and richness.

May our memory of those who served be an honorable one, full of thanksgiving to the Lord, who accepted them into His kingdom.

The Lord is for all and in Him we believe, and to Him we pray.

Remember all who died in the service of their country, whether in the air, on land and sea.

O Lord, be gracious and merciful unto them and let Your light shine upon them, for You are our God, and unto You we ascribe glory, now and forever. Amen.

MEMORIAL PRAYER 2

We pause now in the busy routine of this new day to pay our last respects to the memory of a shipmate (name) who died (when). Be particularly close, O Lord, to those who loved him/her most in this their hour of greatest need. Help them survive and enable them to bear-up under the burden of their pain and loss. Be with us all. Amen.

MEMORIAL PRAYER 3

Eternal God, the Source and Giver of life, the destiny toward whom all life flows, we have gathered in this memorial service to remember (name). Sanctify every good memory and cut short every vain attempt to treat his death lightly. In his death, give us the honesty to appreciate him/her simply for who he/she was among us. In the awful waste of death for one so young, we are dismayed at how transient and fleeting

life is. Give us the grace to give to him/her the integrity of his/her death. Comfort those who knew him/her well and mourn his/her loss. Bring peace to the troubled spirits of all those who have the courage to face their own death. Let his/her death be a bond between us as we are never far from death. Speak comfortingly to us that we need never fear the terror of death nor flee from the rare privilege of life. Amen.

MEMORIAL PRAYER 4

In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help?
From You alone, O Lord, who by our sins are justly angered. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

Lord, You know the secrets of our hearts; shut not your ears to our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

O worthy and eternal Judge, do not let the pains of death turn us away from You at our last hour.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

Eternal Lord God, You hold all souls in life.

Give to Your whole Church in paradise and on earth, Your light and Your peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served You here and now at rest, may at last, enter with them into your unending joy. Amen.

MEMORIAL PRAYER 5

Almighty God, we remember before You today Your faithful servant (name) and we pray, that having opened to him/her the gates of larger life, You will receive him/her more and more into Your joyful service, that with all who have faithfully served You in the past, he may live and reign with You, forever and ever. Amen.

MEMORIAL PRAYER 6

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead, we give You thanks for all Your servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them the mercy and the light of Your presence and the assurance of Your peace. Amen.

TURN AGAIN TO LIFE

If I should die and leave you here awhile,
be not like others, sore undone,
who keep long vigil by the silent dust.
For my sake turn again to life and smile,
nerving thy heart and trembling hand
to do something to comfort other hearts than thine.
Complete these dear unfinished tasks of mine
and I perchance may therein comfort you.

Author: Mary Lee Hall

THE CUTTER

When she steams into the harbor
People don't flock 'round like bees,
For she ain't no grim destroyer,
No dark terror of the seas.
And there ain't a load of romance
To the guy that doesn't know,
In a ship that just saves vessels
When the icy northers blow.

But men that sail the ocean
On a wormy, rotten craft,
When the sea ahead is mountains
With a hell-blown gale abaft,
When the mainmast cracks and topples
And she's lurching in the trough,
Them's the guys that greet the "Cutter"
With the smiles that won't come off.

When the old storm signal's flyin',
Every vessel seeks a lee,
'Cept the "Cutter", which ups anchor
And goes ploughing out to sea.
When the hurricane's a-blown'
From the Banks of old Cape Cod
Oh, the "Cutter", with her searchlight,
Seems the messenger of God.

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