

## **BENEDICTIONS & CLOSING PRAYERS**

O God of people and nations, we pause at the close of this meeting to acknowledge again Your sovereignty over our lives and our Country. We remember before You our comrades now departed this life. We honor them for their loyalty to God and Country, for their good deeds, and for their friendship. May they rest in peace and may the good works You have begun in them be brought to perfection, that our Nation may be strong and our people secure and happy. Give to us safe journey to our homes. **Amen.**

Almighty God, receive us in this evening hour as we offer ourselves over to You in body, soul and spirit for the blessings of this day. We thank You for those who have led us so well in this dinner/banquet. As we invoke Your blessing upon us, give us a still and quiet heart and mind. We thank You, O God, for this food which reminds us of Your care over us and pray that it will strengthen us for the doing of Your good pleasure and give us power to render better service to You and our fellow veterans. **Amen.**

Our Heavenly Father, we ask for Your benediction to rest on us this day. As You have graciously preserved our nation through the years and have led us in wondrous ways, grant that we may be worthy of our high calling a Nation. Make us reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, and generous in the protection of weakness. Inspire the men and women who direct our nation, that they may guide it wisely and well. Especially do we pray for our Commander-in-Chief (Commander), as he moves forward with the program for the Veterans of Foreign Wars this year. Grant him and us that in all our duties, Your help; in all perplexities, Your counsel; in all danger, Your protection; and in all sorrow, and Your peace. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world in peace and dedicated to Your service, O Lord. Let us hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and the afflicted, and honor all people. Let us love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of His Spirit. And may God's blessing be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Nation, peace and concord; to us all Your servants the promise of everlasting life, light to guide us on our way, courage to support us, and Your blessing to unite us in service to You our God and this our Country. **Amen.**

Almighty Father, 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. Freedom, like faith, needs our attention and our cooperation. Lord, be with us now to strengthen us; about us, to keep us; above us, to protect us; beneath us, to uphold us; before us, to direct us; behind us, to keep us from straying; and 'round about us, to defend us. Blessed are You, O Father, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty and Merciful God, we remember before You in this moment our departed comrades. We recall with reverence the good needs they accomplished. We honor these who fought a good fight in a just cause—comrades both in war and in peace who have served this Country with dignity and with honor.

May they rest in peace. (*a moment of silence*) May we consecrate our hearts and lives to You our God and to this our Country; and to the ideals and principles and hopes of those whom we honor, who have served faithfully and are now at rest. **Amen.**

Our Heavenly Father, with heads uncovered and bowed in tribute to our fallen comrades, we bring this meeting to a close. Before we part our separate ways, we pause to think of our members who are experiencing difficult times. For them and their families, we pray for strength and courage. In the silence of this moment, we dedicate ourselves anew to our God and our Country. **Amen.**

Glory be to You our Lord and our God as we behold the blessings You have given us as citizens of the United States of America. We thank You Lord, for this blessed and bountiful Land. Help us to renew our loyalty to this great Country and enable us to rededicate ourselves in faith to Thy service. We pray Lord, in Your Holy Name. **Amen.**

May the Lord our God bless us all present here, to memorialize those who lived and died to preserve liberty and freedom in our nation and in the world. And may the Lord our God remember all those whose sacrifice gave this nation its greatness, progress, and riches. May our memory and all of those who served in the armed forces, be an honorable one, full of thanksgiving to the Lord; and remember with much love and mercy those who died in the service of our Country, whether on the air, or on the land or in the sea. Be with us all and provide us with traveling mercy as we return to our homes. **Amen.**

Let us depart in peace, and in love and charity with our neighbors. May we be joined together in the common goal of service to our God and our Country. Let us drive safely and carefully to our homes, and may God's blessing be with us all. **Amen.**

May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hands of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us this day (night) and forever. **Amen.**

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, this day (night) and forever more. **Amen.**