

**United States Marine**  First Name Last Name

**Almighty God, Supreme Father of all, we come to Thee in this solemn hour with a realization of our utter helplessness. We are brought face to face with the inevitable fact of death. God of the Universe be with us now, Helper of the helpless, Giver of eternal peace, Consoler of the disconsolate, take into Thine arms the soul of our departed brother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and mend the wounds of his bereaved family. Surround them with Thy loving kindness, give to their troubled hearts that peace and comfort which only Thoucanst give. Amen**

**We recognize that all people are God's children and that his power and authority extends beyond man's universe. We know that our ways are not always His ways, and that by reason of the frailty of human kind, we frequently depart from His way. It is not always given to us to understand His purpose and we often see as through dark colored glasses. Often we do not subordinate ourselves to divine power and teachings; nevertheless, from time to time, occasions like this bring us to a clearer understanding of our dependence upon God, and the futility of existence without Him.**

**He has seen fit to call our brother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to his final reward at this time. Why it should be now rather than later we cannot understand. We must bow in submission to the divine will and learn to say with a humble and contrite spirit *"Thy will be done*". As a symbol of the comradeship which grew from our common service for Our Nation he loved so well, we have placed the Marine insignia of the Eagle, Globe and Entwined Anchor upon this document that we will leave with his family. We shall ever cherish this symbol and what it stands for, with a memory that is lasting, until we, along with him, take our places in the silent halls of death.**

**All those of you within the sound of my voice, think deeply and well concerning the things which you have heard. Give heed unto the promises and assurances of the Heavenly Father. Let them not be to you words without meaning. Ponder the inevitable fact that you surely will, and may soon be, called to your reward. Let, the devotion of our departed brother, serve as an example to you in your association with your comrades, and your fellowmen. As he enters the Great Unknown may you resolve to so govern your life that you may, and I am sure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will, hear from the Heavenly Father these words of commendation, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of thy Lord."**

**O God, we come to Thee in prayer for our departed brother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and once more we beseech thee to receive his soul into the joys of Thy Kingdom. Bowed down with grief and a sense of the futility of human existence apart from Thee, we are not always able to understand Thy divine purposes. It has pleased Thee to take from us our departed comrade and to leave his loved ones without his loving companionship; nevertheless, help us to say with resignation and faith, "Thy will be done. Give us the strength and courage to complete the life we have yet to live; to fight the good fight with strength and courage. Give us the faith to believe that through Thy grace we shall one day stand in the light of Thy love, face to face with Thee, when Thou shalt make all things known unto us. Grant us to know what is right and to do what is right. Bring to the hearts of the bereaved ones the peace and comfort which passeth all on understanding. Guide them and direct them in all their days, enable them to understand and to believe that this is not goodbye, and that they will one day reunite with him who has gone before, in happiness and peace, forever. As we depart to go our separate ways, continue to watch over us, and if it be Thy will that the time of our departure is delayed a while, may we be granted the strength and courage to face the coming days with fortitude. And now to Him who hath given, and taketh away, we give honor, power and glory. Amen.**