

## **INVOCATION**

Our heavenly father, today we pray for the memory of those who have perished to protect.

We pray for those whose rest with you began with the defense of our freedoms. And we pray for those who serve today, as they place their safety in peril to ensure our own safety.

Be with us today, Lord, as we remember. Be with the families of those who have served and those serve now. Let them know the calming peace of your presence, and the comfort of your loving arms. You are the shepherd we turn to in times of need, and we know you will lift us up and protect us.

Be with our leaders, as they offer guidance and counsel in our trials. Give them the presence of mind and heart to do their work, and keep them close to you as they make their decisions.

For it is in your name we pray, Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

Father, the sounds of the salute and the notes of the music remind us again of the sacrifices that have been made to protect the principles and the freedoms of our nation. We know those sacrifices were not made in vain. Keep those who made the ultimate sacrifice always in our hearts and minds. Keep us mindful of the dedication to duty of those who serve us now.

We know that death is not an ending, but a beginning, and that those who have fallen in the service of their nation live with you today.

And now, Lord, be with us as we leave this place. Keep the knowledge of this day and the reason we observe it always at the forefront of our thoughts. And may your blessings always be with the soldiers here today and the soldiers in service around the world.

For it is your name we pray, Amen.