

Service of dedication and/or rededication for a Civil War Memorial -

Taken from the 1917 GAR Service of Dedication, this ceremony has been modified to be used as a service of rededication by the SUVCW. Of course, if your Camp or Department is dedicating a *new* memorial, this service would need to be adapted for such a ceremony. *The ceremony can also easily be modified to include Sister members of the Allied Orders.*

Although these ceremonies are solemn and emotional in their own right, it is even more so when you can include groups who participated in the original dedication ceremony, in your rededication service; it is a way of connecting the past to the present.

MEMORIAL SERVICE OF REDEDICATION

(The Camp will escort the city or town officials and invited guests from some designated place of assembly to where the exercises will be held. The Camp is drawn up in front of the place of dedication as near the site as possible.)

Music - By choir or band.

(The mayor, chairman of the selectmen, or the president of the day, in a few words, surrenders the memorial to the Camp for rededication.)

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROGRAM (person serving as a representative of the City or group that owns the memorial):

"Commander, I have been authorized to invite you at this time to accept from _____ *(the name of the City or group that owns the memorial)*, at the hands of its accredited representatives this Memorial, and to request that it be rededicated by you to the noble purpose for which it has been set up."

COMMANDER:

" _____ *(name of the representative)*, in the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War *(Allied Orders if Sisters are present)*, representing as they do all the soldiers and sailors who defended the integrity and authority of the nation, I thank you and those whom you represent, for this Memorial."

"This Memorial assures us that our dead are held in remembrance - those dead who gave their lives for the security of the citizen and the union of the states. It is significant of brave and loyal obedience to the command of the nation always and everywhere, since the obligations of citizenship are not restricted to time or place, or to the conflict of arms. It gives encouragement for the future, since the recognition and approval it gives of patriotic fidelity and heroism will be an incentive for the display of public valor and virtue in all coming time."

"There can be no doubt that the honor you pay to the patriotic dead, and to their memorable deeds will serve not only to make American citizenship in these days more reputable, but also to maintain and perpetuate, through all future generations, the union and authority of the United States of America."

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard, you will direct the Camp Guard to station the Rifle Detail near the Memorial."

(The Rifle Detail will take their positions)

COMMANDER:

"Holy Scripture saith: The Lord gave the word; great was the Army of those that published it. Declare ye among nations, and publish, and set up a standard. In the name of God we will set up our banners."

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard, you will order the Guard of Honor to post their colors."

OFFICER OF THE GUARD:

"Colors - post!"

(Music - Band or choir, "Star Spangled Banner", if available)

*****OPTIONAL*****

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard. Do you have the records of these honored veterans service in the cause of our Country?"¹ (note - or use GAR Post information as circumstances dictate).

OFFICER OF THE GUARD:

"Commander, I have."

COMMANDER:

"Will you read them?"

Officer of the Guard reads the report(s) of the honored Veteran(s)

*****END OF OPTIONAL SECTION*****

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard let the Honor Guard set up the symbols of the soldier, and let a soldier be detailed to guard it"

[A musket with fixed bayonet, canteen and haversack hanging from it, knapsack leaning against the stock, is setup. A Brother in full uniform, armed with a musket with fixed bayonet, stands guard.]

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard, what proclamation from the Holy Scripture can you make?"

OFFICER OF THE GUARD:

"A proclamation of peace - Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us for Thou also hath wrought all our works in us. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who bringeth good tidings; that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

COMMANDER:

The Chaplain will now offer the prayer of rededication. Uncover."

CHAPLAIN:

"Almighty God, we thank Thee for Thy sovereign care and protection, in that Thou did lead us in the days that were shadowed with trouble, and gavest us strength when the burden was heavy upon us, and gavest us courage and guidance, so that after the conflict we have come to these days of peace. We thank Thee that the wrath of war has been stilled, the brother no longer strives against brother, that once again we have one country and one flag."

"May Thy blessing be upon us as a people that we may be Thy people, true and righteous, in all our ways, tender and patient in our charity, though resolute for the right; careful more for the downtrodden than ourselves, eager to forward the interest of every citizen throughout the land, so that our country may indeed be one country from the rivers to the sea, from the mountains to the plains. We pray Thee to make our memories steadfast, that we may never forget the generous sacrifices made for our country. May our dead be enshrined in our hearts. May their graves be the altars of our grateful and reverential patriotism."

"And now, Oh God, bless Thou this memorial. Bless it. Oh God, in honor of the mothers who bade their sons do brave deeds; in honor of wives who wept for husbands who shall never come back again; in honor of children whose heritage is their fallen father's heroic name; in honor of men and women who ministered to the hurt and dying."

"But chiefly, oh God, in honor of men who counted not their lives dear when their country needed them; of those alike who sleep beside the dust of their kindred or under the sea salt, or in the nameless graves where only Thine angles stand sentinels till the reveille of the resurrection morning. Protect it and let it endure, and unto the latest generation may its influence be for education of the citizen, for the honor of civil life, for the advancement of the nation, for the blessing of humanity, and for the furtherance of Thy Holy Kingdom."

"Hear us, oh our God, we ask it in the name of Him who made proof of the dignity and who consecrated the power of sacrifice in His blessed life and death, even in the name of Jesus Christ, the great Captain of our salvation. Amen!"

COMMANDER:

"Attention! In the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (*Allied Orders*), I now rededicate this memorial. I dedicate it to the memory of the individuals it represents. Brothers (*and Sisters if so present*), salute the dead!"

(Each Brother will present arms.)

(The Rifle Detail will then fire three volleys.)

(Taps are played.)

COMMANDER:

"Attention! In Place, Rest"

"Our service of rededication is ended. In the name of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War *(Allied Orders)*, I thank you, and those you represent, for your courtesy in permitting us, who are bound by special ties to them, to honor our dead."

COMMANDER:

"Attention! Brothers *(and Sisters)*, as we close these services, the Guard of Honor is withdrawn, the symbols removed, the flags retired; but the memorial we have dedicated remains; guarded by our dead. So long as it shall endure, it shall speak to us and to all of the loyalty and heroism in the army and navy, and of the significant national authority of which our flag is the symbol to every true American heart."

COMMANDER:

"Officer of the Guard, Remove the symbols! *(pause)* Retire the Colors! *(pause)* Dismiss the Guard!

COMMANDER:

"Chaplain, pronounce the Benediction."

CHAPLAIN:

The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen."

(All) - "Amen!"

(The Commander will then, if necessary, escort the city or town officials and invited guests to the Camp Hall or other suitable place, and then dismiss the parade, or dismiss the parade immediately at the close of the exercises. The special circumstances of the occasion will suggest what is best to be done, preserving in as far as possible a soldierly method)

COMMANDER:

"In conclusion, let me assign back to _____ *(the City or group that owns the memorial)* this memorial and I thank you for permitting us this opportunity. Parade Dismissed."