
Prayers for the Unit Ministry Team



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
FORT MCPHERSON, GEORGIA 30330-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFCH

1 December 1986

SUBJECT: *Prayers for the Unit Ministry Team*

TO: FORSCOM Chaplains

1. Public Prayers are among the most significant encounters chaplains have with people. Individuals who do not request counseling or are not involved in worship are often the listeners to our prayers at a variety of occasions. And the multicultural context of our prayers demands an appreciation for the pluralistic religious environment in which we serve.
2. The purpose of this prayer book is to inspire, instruct and assist chaplains in their preparation of such public prayers. It is intended only as a tool to be used in a variety of ways. You may wish to use some prayers as they are written and you may want to use others to inspire original thoughts more appropriate for your particular occasion. Every prayer was contributed by a FORSCOM chaplain or chaplain assistant, and many of them embody the feeling, compassion and commitment which accompanied their use in crises, celebrations and worship.
3. I am totally committed to the idea that excellence in public prayer is essential to quality ministry. Our chaplains have the training, professional demeanor, spiritual commitment, and responsibility to insure that every opportunity for public prayer is an occasion for spiritual renewal.

MATTHEW A. ZIMMERMAN
Chaplain (COL), USA
FORSCOM Staff Chaplain

CONTENTS

A Preface by the FORSCOM Chaplain

1. Field	1-4
2. Chapel and Chaplain Activities	5-36
3. Military	37-90
4. Civil Observances	91-119
5. Holy Days, Holidays, and Family Observances	120-147
6. General	148-157
7. Index	
8. Additional Prayers	
9. Notes	

(

Field

(

FIELD

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your marvelous mercy and grace. We thank You that no matter where we are You are always with us. We thank You that You want every one of Your creatures to enjoy the fellowship and blessing of Yourself. As we perform our duty in the field we ask Your divine protection upon each soldier and trust that You, Oh God, will see us through. We pray also for the peace of God during these times. And for these things we give You thanks. Amen.

Ch (CPT) William M. Fox
Fort Campbell, KY

* * *

God, our Father, we praise You for the blessings You give to us every moment of every day. All that we have and all that we are comes from You. We especially thank You for Your presence with us. No matter where we are, we know that You are there. We are never beyond the reach of Your love. Through times of separation, loneliness, fear, and despair, may we draw our strength from Your presence with us. Give us faith to know that You care about every need we have, and faith to believe that You are already working to meet them. Amen.

Ch (ILT) Russell S. Duncan
Fort Campbell, KY

* * *

Almighty God, Who made the earth, sea, and sky, we are surrounded by the work of Your hands. And each of us is one of those works. It is natural for us, then, to seek for and long for our Parent. The Psalmist asks our question:

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills; where does
my help come from?”

So we cry for our help.

Show us today the source of our strength.

Guide us to the fountain of life.

Bring us to You!

We pray for the Peace of the Messiah. Amen.

Ch (ILT) Steven H. Zinser
Fort Campbell, KY

Lord God, our Father, Jehovah Jira, our God of protection, we worship You in our petition. We exalt You above all other defenses because You have the ultimate control. Only You hold the life of the sparrow in the palm of Your hand, and only You care enough to count our steps. See that our feet lead us onto paths of safety. Guard our minds that they be alert to any danger yet ready to bow in prayer before danger comes. Be with our souls so that we are comforted in the distress of separation and hard work. Help our hands to be quick at every task and ready to praise You for our successes. And we do praise You now for Your intervening love. Amen

Ch (CPT) Michael C. Punke
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Every day, O God, is an FTX for those who have faith in You. Our strength, endurance, confidence and knowledge are often tested living day to day. Our preparation — spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual — is demonstrated by our capacity to accept the marching orders You give us. So it is, Lord, with our preparation for this unit/ company/ battalion/division FTX. As we put our learning and preparation to the test, sustain us, strengthen us, and remind us, O God, that we are never beyond Your love and concern — no matter how fierce the wind, rain, cold, mosquitoes or enemy fire. Amen.

Ch (CPT) James G. E. Williams
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Almighty God, we acknowledge Your presence in our lives. We pray that Your eternal mercy and joy will be with us as we continue to accomplish our mission as soldiers in this field environment. We pray for the officers, NCOs and enlisted soldiers as we continue to co-exist in the field. We ask that You will watch over us, protect us and strengthen us with Your eternal truth. Watch over our families as they wait for us to return home to be with them once again. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Garlin Jones
Fort Carson, CO

Ever present God, whose love and mercy is always with us, let us draw close to You during this FTX. Be our strength and our hope. Give us grace to live this day and this week in the calm knowing that You are caring for each of us every moment. As we draw close to You, make us aware of the need to confess and forsake all sinful ways. Give us the strength and encouragement to walk as innocent children, trusting and relying on You to direct, support, and uphold us. Give us the Spirit of forgiveness, the joy of loving, and the satisfaction of accomplishment as we endeavor to know You as the one and only God. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas C. Blair
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Help us Father. We don't ask for the light load and path of least resistance. These will not help us exercise the skills we've learned. It is not the easy road that helps us appreciate You. It is seeing You at work in the hardest things we do. So we do ask, Father, for strength to help us over the rugged hilltop and across the swift moving stream. We ask for that special inspiration that comes from You which makes us overcomers in every difficult situation. And let us return with positive memories of what You have done on the FTX. Thank You Father for doing this for us. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Michael C. Punke
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Lord, Whose earth this is and the fullness thereof, we gather in gratitude that we have been given this opportunity to come together for the purpose of worship. We pray that Thy presence, protection and blessing would be upon us during our time here in the field, and upon our families as they watch and pray for our safe return. Help us to worship now in fullness of spirit and truth as we join with those numerous other soldiers who, together with us, look to God as the source of strength and salvation for their own souls, their families, and their nation. Amen

Ch (CPT) Bruce Wakeman
Fort Riley, KS

Gracious heavenly Father, we thank You that this is the day that You have made. We acknowledge You as our maker and thank You for Your bountiful provisions in these days. As the stress and challenges of our mission increase we pray that this would cause us to grow in You. We pray for alertness, quickness of mind, spirit, and safety in all that we do. Give us inner stability, peace and a very real sense of Your presence even amidst these turbulent times in the field. Protect our families while we are absent. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Ch (CPT) Karl O. Kuckhahn
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

Glorious Father, God of our Lord Jesus Christ, give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation that we may know You better. Cause the eyes of our heart to become enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which You have called us, our glorious inheritance among the Holy ones and Your incomparable great power exercised on behalf of us who believe.

God, fill us with the knowledge of Your will, complete with spiritual wisdom and understanding that we may live a life worthy of You and please You in every way bearing fruit in every work. Help us to grow in Your knowledge and be strengthened with all power according to Your glorious might. Give us, as a result, great patience and endurance, that we may be able to joyfully give thanks to You, Father, who have qualified us to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.

Ch (CPT) Roger W. Sapp
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

Chapel and Chaplain Activities

(

(

(

CHAPEL AND CHAPLAIN ACTIVITIES

Benediction (Spanish)

Que Jehova' te bendiga y te guarde.
Que Jehova' haga resplandecer su rostro sobre ti'
y te de su gracia.
Que Jehova' vuelva su rostro y te traiga la paz.
Amen.

From the Book of Numbers
Chapter 6, verses 24-27

* * *

Chaplain Anniversary

Almighty God we give You thanks for the capacity we have for remembering and for anticipating. We call to mind with both thanks and pride, the service and sacrifice of other chaplains who have gone before us, who served the nation well, and whose example and advice serve us well today. Help us today, years after our beginning, to continue to bridge the gap between the "ought" and the "is". Help us to live in the knowledge that You have matched us to this hour in history; and that the place and time of our service to You and to our country is not random, but by Your wisdom and direction. As we anticipate the future, we lay claim on Your promise of inspiration, assurance and direction. Bless the men and women of the Army who serve as chaplains and chaplain assistants and the families who sustain and support them. Bless now this food to us and us to Your service. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
Fort Sam Houston, TX

* * *

Thank You, O Lord, for the privilege of a call to minister to soldiers in Your name. Today, as we recognize the beginning of this great ministry and its continuation, we ask that You continue to provide all chaplains with a deepened sense of commitment, courage and sacrifice to serve soldiers in both field and garrison, overseas and at home. May we faithfully proclaim You as Lord and God in all that we do and say. As we do so, grant us always Your peace and assistance. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Stephen L. Nagler
Fort Stewart, GA

Loving Father, God of all times and ages, Lord of all that has been, all that is, and all that is yet to be. As we gather to celebrate the anniversary of the Military Chaplaincy, we praise and thank You for all Your blessings of the PAST; for Your love and Your grace and Your presence in the lives and the careers of those chaplains who have gone before us; for the moments and years of generous service, of shining courage, and of proud history that bring us to this day.

We bless You for that FUTURE which You hold out before us; for its promises, for its challenges, and for its opportunities of service of Your people and of our country.

And we thank You for the PRESENT moment; for this anniversary, and for this celebration. Bless this food which we are sharing. Bless our chief and the words he will direct to us. And bless each one of us, in whatever way that will enable us to serve You better and bring glory to Your holy name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) John Francis Ulm
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Confession

Almighty Father, We admit to being Your children. We admit to often acting like Your very small children. We do not play well together, and often cry when we do not get our way. Help us to grow up to be more like You. Help us to develop into Your adult children, that we may acknowledge You as our Father, and also take on the responsibilities of Christian adulthood. Forgive us for failing to emulate You. Forgive us for failing to live as Jesus lived. Grant that we would daily look into our mirror, and ask, "What would it take for me to look more like my Father in heaven?" Help us never to be satisfied with looking our earthly best. Motivate us to deport ourselves as children of the Eternal King. May we truly care about all of our Father's Children. May we work to bring about what You know to be best for us and them. Now hear the petitions of Your people. (Pray for special requests.) And now we pray together as Christ taught his disciples: LORD'S PRAYER

Ch (LTC) Clyde M. Northrop
HQ, Third Army

For the Country

Almighty Father, we ask that You stand by our side in righteousness and guide us in Your wisdom. We pray for our president and other members of government that they may seek Your wisdom and knowledge as they serve the people of this great nation. To this end we seek Your blessing on our guest: (Congresswoman/Man (Name)) as (he/she) continues to serve. In Thy name we ask. Amen.

MSG Will W. Rogers
Fort Meade, MD

* * *

Our Father, we pray for this land. We need Your help in this time of uncertainty, when men who can fight together on the field of battle seem strangely unable to live together at home. Help us to see that all true Americanism begins in being faithful and obedient to Your Word.

We pray that all over this land there may be a return to the Father of those men and women who trusted in God as they faced the perils and dangers of the frontier, not alone in crossing the continent, in building their cabins, in rearing their families, in eking out a livelihood, but in raising a standard of faith to which men have been willing to repair down through the years.

You blessed their efforts; You have blessed America. You have made her rich. By Your Grace we pray that You will make her good. Make us, the citizens of this land and members of the Armed Forces, want to do the right things. Make us have right attitudes. Make us willing to seek moral objectives together, that in united action, this nation may be as resolute for righteousness and peace as she has been for war.

Bless this land that we love so much, Our Father, and help her to deposit her target, not in armies, navies, and material resources, or in achievements of the human mind, but in that righteousness which alone exalts any nation, and by which alone peace can finally come to us — this we ask in that name which is above every name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Walter D. Forsythe
Fort Lewis, WA

Almighty God, You have given us this good land for our heritage. We humbly ask that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Bless this land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many nations and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to Your law, we may show forth Your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in You to fail; all of which we ask in the name of our Lord. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Clyde M. Northrop
HQ, Third Army

* * *

Dedication of Facility

Our Heavenly Father, we lift our hearts in sincere thanksgiving for the bountiful evidence of Your rich blessing upon our nation.

We thank You for the opportunity to serve our country, whether as soldiers, as part of the civilian work force that supports our military training, or as family or community members.

As we dedicate this facility, we pray that it will be an instrument of peace; and that we who are present may rededicate our energies individually and collectively to live out our nation's creed, one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.

And now, may the blessings of almighty God rest and abide upon us all. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Our Father who art in heaven, we acknowledge that You are involved in the affairs of men. And if a little bird cannot fall to the ground without Your noticing, how can we think that You are indifferent to this dedication that is taking place this morning and the persons that are involved. It is with this in mind, O God, that we come to You with

thanksgiving in our hearts for those persons who through their labors have made this facility a reality. We dedicate it today as a completed building but fully aware that it cannot be a completed facility until it has been fully staffed with the personnel needed to carry out the different services that will be rendered here. We ask Your blessing to not only be with those who have made this day possible but most especially let Your blessing be upon those who will be involved in the future operation of this activity. They will need Your strength, wisdom and patience in order to let this be a place of service for them rather than just a place of duty. This prayer has been prayed "O God" out of the faith that You have not only heard but will answer it out of Your mercy and love. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

O God, by whose light we see and by whose provision we live, we thank Thee for the occasion which brings us together today. We dedicate this building to the purpose of freedom, and as we dedicate it, may we do so in the spirit with which King Solomon dedicated the temple of his people. May we be more concerned to see that we are on Your side, O Lord, than to convince You to be on our side.

We pray, our Father, for grace to use this building in ways that shall be pleasing to thee. May it be used in the effort to keep the fountain-head of freedom open, that its waters may flow down through the earth and quench the thirst of those who starve for righteousness and long for liberty.

As we dedicate this building to the preservation of freedom and the combat of false and devastating ideologies, help us at the same time to dedicate ourselves to unselfish service and to pledge ourselves to walk in the paths of righteousness. Thus may we effectively serve our fellowman, our country and our God. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Clarence L. Reaser
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

O God, our greatest provider, who knows our needs before we understand them ourselves, we ask Your blessings, guidance and protection upon this building project that will one day provide for the health

and welfare of our soldiers and their families. In the days ahead, many men and women will give of their sweat and talents to construct buildings that will benefit untold thousands in the years beyond the lives of us here today. Keep them safe and faithful in their labor, and may the work of their hands bring them pride. May future generations look back to this day of beginning and understand, and thankfully say, it was a good thing their forebearers did in providing for us. We thank You for the foresight of our leaders and planners who made this day possible. We pray in thanks and gratitude in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Lawrence A. Kelly
Fort Drum, NY

* * *

Child Center

Lord, we invoke Your blessing upon this ceremony. We are grateful that You have blessed us with skills that can conceive, design and construct an edifice such as this for a purpose such as this — one of the signs that we are made in Your image is our desire to create. We recognize that children are important to You for You said, “let the little children come unto me.” We are grateful that the Army recognizes the importance of children in Your sight. We dedicate this building to the betterment of our children and thus the quality of life on this Post. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Learning Center

Lord, we invoke Your blessing upon this ceremony. We are grateful that You have blessed us with skills that can conceive, design and construct an edifice such as this — one of the signs that we are created in Your image is the desire to create. Your word tells us that happy is the man who finds wisdom. Lord, we dedicate this edifice to that purpose of finding fulfillment in this life through knowledge and wisdom. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

Medical Center Organizational Ceremony

O God, our Heavenly Father, we thank You for the beauty of this day and for Your presence with us today as we come together to celebrate the organization of this Medical Center. We thank You for the person for whom it is named and for all the persons who have worked very hard to make it what it is today. Our prayer is that You will continue to lead and bless in the operation of this facility and that You will bless the activities of this day. Now accept our thanks for this food and bless us who partake of it and those who have prepared it. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

Personal Dedication of Building

Lord, today we are gathered here in respect for the memory of a great soldier by giving his name to these quarters. We do this because he was a soldier in the truest sense of that word — a man dedicated to his country, to the men he led and to victory on the field of battle. It is our prayer this day that what he was as a soldier we may become. We invoke Your blessings upon this occasion and pray that leadership ability and dedication live on through us. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Recreation Center

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose eyes are ever toward humankind and whose ears are ever open unto our cry; we invoke Your blessings upon this ceremony of the reopening of our Recreation Center. We recognize that community life is of primary importance. As individuals, we need relationship and fellowship with one another. Lord, we are grateful for the skills that are evident in the finished product. Our prayer this day is that You will be glorified in the activities that bring us together, a sharing, caring and living community of friends, co-workers and yes, Lord, as family. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

Unit Memorial

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, we ask Your blessing as we join together for a time of honor. We remember the soldiers of the (unit by name) who have served before us, whom we trust now rest in peace in Your dwelling place in Paradise, and honor the (unit by name) now serving our nation and to the (unit by name) of the future.

Inspire us, with renewed faith, greater devotion and courage as we face the uncertainty of world conditions. Strengthen our military forces and use them to maintain peace and goodwill throughout the world.

Grant to each of us a consuming desire to promote the brotherhood of mankind, pleading for the acceptance of cooperation and international understanding throughout the world, that dignity and freedom might become available for all mankind.

May our honored heritage as soldiers inspire us as we take our stand as (unit by name) Fighting Men in dedication to life and duty, to raise high the flag that men have fought for and died to preserve. For this high and noble purpose we dedicate our lives to God and country. May we continue to be faithful and true.

In the name of our Lord we pray. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Jim M. Phelps
Fort Sam Houston, TX

* * *

Family

O God, we lift up before You our families. Forgive us when we get so caught up in doing the urgent that we forget the important. Forgive us when we don't keep our priorities straight and then fail to honor our families. Father, give us strength and motivation to honor our responsibilities in the home, whether as husband, wife, parent or child, and give us the courage to go forth to live as we have prayed. Amen.

Ch (CPT) James F. Schnorrenberg
Fort Carson, CO

O Lord, in Your creation, You created a family long before You ever built a temple or a church.

From that lesson may we learn the value of family.

Lord, help us to make love a priority in life, something that we value.

So often we feel Your presence through others. Thank You for those we love and for those who love us.

Tonight, accept our gratitude for family, food, fun, faith, and fellowship.

Bless our time together this night and the remainder of this week.

And Lord, keep us looking forward with lots of hope. Amen.

Ch (COL) William Bagnal

Retired

* * *

O God, You know how much I love, appreciate and need my husband/wife. He/she sustains me in my mission for You and the Army. Thank You for the gift of his/her love. Free me to show my appreciation and to be sensitive to his/her needs. Fill our relationship with Your spirit, so that filled with Your love, we may love one another fully. Keep us mindful of Your claims on us and open to Your guidance. Amen.

Ch (CPT) James G.E. Williams

Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Funeral

Father God, we turn to You in trust and confidence in this time of sorrow.

For only You give balance and meaning to our lives.

It is so easy for us to see only injury and death at this time.

To see that which separates families and those who were joined in friendship; which leaves the bunk empty next to ours and it seems so final.

Yet, Paul reminds us that those who have died with You also live with You.

Help us to remember, Father, that we do not belong to ourselves but to You who have created and restored us.

We ask to be able to pray honestly and truly that Your will be done, and that the sentiments of Job be ours also when he said that You gave and You took away.

May Your name be blessed.

In that same light, we pray now for the injured and for those who have died.

And even though we walk in the dark valley, help us not to fear, for You are with us.

And to You we give, honor and glory. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas P. Ozanne
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

Lord Jesus Christ, You are our way, our truth, and our life. Look kindly on us today as we come together to bury our brother (). During the () years that You gave () life here on earth, he believed and trusted in You. He lived a life that gave evidence of his deep love for You and for God our Father. He loved his Country as well, and served it with devotion and dedication for () years. He was committed to his wife and to his children, and was a faithful husband and a good father. We pray that You console () (spouse), now, and that You give strength to ()'s children. Bless () today with a place in Your Father's house. May () enjoy eternal life in Paradise forever, and may he rest in peace. Amen.

Ch (CPT) John Francis Ulm
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Home

We praise You our Lord for the gift of our homes. We give thanks to You, because You have made this dwelling place a home. Let our homes be reflections of Your love, joy, peace, kindness, care, and acceptance to all people who enter. We dedicate our homes to You. Let our homes serve You and minister to our family and community needs. We ask these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

We thank You, Lord, that You are with us in all the moments of our lives. We need that reminder from You, Father, because there are times when life closes in around us, and we feel afraid, and alone. We need to hear You say to us, as to Your disciples of old, "...I am with You always."

In this moment of memory we ask for that assurance of Your presence:

- Your presence with the one departed from us in whose name and memory we gather here for this occasion.
- Your presence with his parents, moving on through life with confidence and faith, in the needs of their loss and pain.
- Your presence with his school friends who in these past days have learned hard lessons about dealing with life and loss.
- Your presence with each one of us gathered in warm and solemn recollection of the life of a friend.

May each of us, in this Eastertide, see beyond the tragedy of a Good Friday to the victory of an Easter Sunday, in the name of the Living Lord, we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Clarence L. Reaser
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Installation of New Chaplain

Almighty and loving God, grant Your wisdom, guidance, and presence on Chaplain () as he/she accepts new responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities for ministry. Grant those to whom he/she ministers the willingness to follow and the grace to accept his/her leadership. Bestow upon him/her the sensitivity of love, the thirst of seeking Your will, and the desire to be Your servant in all that he/she seeks to accomplish. May his/her life be characterized by servanthood so that those to whom he/she ministers may see You through his/her words and deeds. We thank You that You called him/her to be Your servant and in turn may we be ones who share in the celebration of his/her gift to us and our gift to him/her as we serve You and Your kingdom in this place. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Larry R. Wedel
Fort Carson, CO

Memorial Ceremony/Service

Almighty God, the foundation of all life, who art our refuge and strength and our help in trouble; whose nature and name is love; as we give recognition and thanks for the courage and the strength of these Your servants who have paid the supreme sacrifice that their brothers in this land and other lands might live in honor and human dignity we would remember before You their families and friends who are here today. Look in mercy upon them, and as this day brings them memories of those whom they have lost may it also bring them consolations from You, quickening in them the sense of communion with the world unseen. Grant them grace to return with courage to their homes and work, and to discharge their duties with fidelity to You and loyalty to those whose trust and affections they share. We thank You for the life (lives) of this (these) other man (men) we honored here today. We are grateful for his (their) dedicated service to God, country and his (their) fellowman. Grant him, we pray, many years of opportunity out ahead in which he (they) may continue to be channels of blessing to humanity. Guide us all, we pray, from moment to moment that in all times we might remember that we are called to be men of God through serving our fellowman. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

We thank You, O God our Father, for all who by brave commitment have given their lives for their country. We realize that none of us cherish the thought of having to pay the supreme price of death for our country which these Young men have had to pay. Nevertheless, we still find Young men like these who, each knowing the price they might have to pay, have been willing to put on the uniform of their country and go into battle. We are thankful for men of bravery like these who have been willing to even give their lives for the peace of the world and the freedom we enjoy here this morning. Look down with compassion upon these loved ones, O God, give them the comfort and understanding needed in this dark time. Help them to know that You love them and in the midst of their sorrow, they may find Thy presence. We are thankful also for the men who were able to be with us to receive their honors. We are grateful for their dedicated service to their God, their country, and their fellowman. May Your spirit of guidance go with them that they

may continue to be a channel of service to others. Impress upon us all, as we depart from this place, the importance of the sacrificial giving of ourselves in service to our God, our country and our fellowman. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

Almighty God, gracious Lord and Father of us all, we bow before You in humble recognition of our dependence upon You. We give You praise and thanksgiving for Your continuous love and abiding presence in our lives. We praise You for the lives of those we honor here this day who paid the supreme sacrifice that their brothers in this land and other lands might live in honor and human dignity. We thank You for the homes from which they came, for the love of home which sustained them and for the love of God which upheld them. We pray for their families, friends and loved ones. We pray that Thy love will continue to guide and strengthen them. We thank You for the lives of these other men we have honored here today. We are grateful for their dedicated service to God, country and their fellowman. Grant them, we pray, many years of opportunity ahead in which they may continue to be channels of blessing to humanity. Guide us all we pray from moment to moment that in all things, at all times, we might remember that we are called to be men of God through serving our fellowman.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

O Lord, our God, help us as we seek to raise our thoughts from this changeful life to the calm eternity in which You dwell and to those things which know no change.

Lead us to the rock that is higher than where we stand. Lift us out of disappointed purposes and broken hopes into the peace of Your Holy and blessed will.

We turn to You in humble trust. Amid the decay of the visible, things draw nigh to us, O God, our invisible Comforter. As the changes of life leave us poorer and sadder, may we know more of the constancy of Your love, and the unfailing riches of life eternal. Reveal Your love in comforting ways to each of us in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas C. Blair
Fort Carson, CO

Heavenly Father, we come to You at this hour when we feel the anguish of our loss. Our hearts are heavy and our spirits are low. The separation is painful and we hurt at the deepest levels of our being. It is so comforting for us to realize that You know what we are experiencing. For You, too, have experienced the separation and the death of Your Beloved Son. May You fill the emptiness in our lives with Your divine presence and bring us the assurance and peace that we need in order to face the reality of death and the hope of Eternal Life. Amen.

Chaplain (CPT) William K. Knudsen
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Almighty God, we ask You to be with us this morning as we come together with heavy hearts and confused minds for this memorial service. We know we cannot think of life without measuring it between birth and death. Still, the death of loved ones and friends does bring grief. We ask You to bless and protect the families of (), their friends and fellow soldiers. Comfort them, strengthen them at this time, and bless them by helping them to keep beautiful memories uppermost in their minds. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Heavenly Father, we dedicate this service to the memory of (). We ask that You keep us alert these next few moments to the reality of our human frailty. Allow us to see beyond the passing pleasures of the day to the depths of life's meaning which You have prepared for us. Through Your power and obedience, open in each of us a deeper appreciation of the gift of life and hope which You allow us to share together. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Curt Pedder
Fort Polk, LA

Almighty God, You have led our fathers to lay the foundations of civil and religious liberty. Today we remember with honor the prayers, the heroic deeds and the ultimate sacrifice of those who were known as the "Dogface Soldiers" of the Big Red One. They have demonstrated, even as Your Son has, that "... greater love has no man than this, than to lay down his life for his friends." They fought, bled, and died in far-flung battlefields of the world. In their memory, grant that we who remain, will have wisdom and power to protect the peace and to defend liberty and justice of all. Help us to obey You with integrity so that this country will always be the home of peace, freedom, and true brotherhood. Help us in all our daily duties to "Be not overcome with evil but to overcome evil with good." Your Word has declared, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Amen.

Ch (LTC) Eumid N. Freeman
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

(Invocation for the memorial ceremony in honor of the MFO troopers killed from the 101st Airborne (Air ASSAULT) Division in Gander, Newfoundland)

Merciful Father, Thou comforter of the sorrowing and helper of all who are in need, give we beseech Thee, the comforts of Your grace. We commit unto Your keeping the lives of the soldiers who were killed. We pray that Your spirit will comfort and give strength to their loved ones in their time of grief. May this time spent in the memorial ceremony remind us of all they have contributed to life and our great loss. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Theodore W. Hepner
Fort Bragg, NC

* * *

O Lord and Master, we know that You understand and are touched by our sorrow and heartbreak during this time, because the scripture says even You wept as You stood by the grave of Your friend Lazarus. May Your promise not to leave people comfortless be fulfilled as You reveal Yourself to the wife, children, relatives, and friends of the one we remember here today. Cause us to hear You say, "I am the resurrection and the life." Help us, O Lord, to turn to You with true discernment, and to abide in You through living faith, that finding now the comfort of

Your presence we may also have a sure confidence in You for all that is to come. Fill all our hearts with trust in You that, by night and day, at all times and in all seasons, we may, without fear, commit those who are dear to us to Your never failing love for this life and the life to come. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

Almighty God, in gathering together to pay tribute to our fallen comrades, we wrestle with minds that are bewildered and hearts that grieve. These soldiers have been called upon to pay the supreme sacrifice. Why it should be them or why it should be under these circumstances is known only to You. We rest those questions in Your hands of providential care and mercy.

We are eternally grateful for the hope of the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life. In time, that will become a comfort to the grieving family and friends. But immediately, there is anger, fear, despair, doubts, the loneliness, grief and hopelessness. Lord, may these be replaced by the miracle of love and care. May we all become instruments of that love and care. As soldiers and members of a grateful nation, may we dedicate our lives to continued service as a tribute to our fallen comrades.

For those of us who yet live, we are forced now to reflect upon the uncertainty of life. We thus commit our lives to redeeming every waking moment, to bring peace and happiness to our home and family, our nation, and our world. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Gaylord T. Gunhus
Fort Lewis, WA

* * *

Announcement of Soldier's Death(s)

Dear God our Father, we are touched deeply this morning by the tragic news of the death of our soldiers. We pray that You will comfort their families and friends as they have to face this tragic news. We pray, O Lord, that each one of us might examine our hearts and be sure that we are prepared to face eternity ourselves, for we know that life is a

vapor that appears for a short time and then vanishes away. Teach us to value each day as a gift from You and help us to live each day of our lives to Your glory. Grant us forgiveness for our failures and courage for our future, for it is in the name of our Lord that we pray, Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Benediction

Father, we ask Your blessing as we conclude this memorial service for (). In love and concern, let us remember his family and friends in our prayers.

Bless us with a realization of how precious life is and help us fill each day with beautiful memories of sharing with and assisting others, and of using the talents You have given us.

This we ask with confidence in Your Fatherly love. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Invocation

O Lord help us to see that a time of grief is a time of love, a time of faith and a time of hope.

Our faith in You, God, supports us as we suffer the loss of () and (). Our hope is strengthened by trust when we don't understand. Our love for each other reaches a new high as we come together today to remember () and () and to give thanks that we have been privileged to share life together. Amen.

Ch (COL) Michael J. Yunk
Fort Polk, LA

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, we give Your thanks for the American way of life we enjoy today. Let us not forget, O God, that the rights and privileges we enjoy have blood on them and that every good gift was bought and paid for in human sacrifice. These men whom we honor this morning have had to pay the price and make the sacrifice with their lives. It is with humble and thankful hearts that we pay our tribute and offer our prayers for them this morning. Amen.

* * *

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, we give You thanks for the American way of life we enjoy today. Let us not forget, O God, that the rights and privileges we enjoy have blood on them and that every good gift was bought and paid for in human sacrifice. These men whom we honor this morning have had to pay the price and make the sacrifice with their lives. It is with humble and thankful hearts that we pay our tribute and offer our prayers for them this morning. You are a compassionate visitor in the time of sorrow. Therefore, in this hour and in the days to come, may Your loving spirit console and sustain the families and friends here this morning who mourn the loss of their loved ones. May they look beyond the darkness of this hour for Your will and purpose for all of life, not just in this part of life. We are grateful for the men that were able to be here to receive their rewards this morning. We are grateful for their lives and the sacrifices they have made in the fight for peace. May Your blessings go with them in the days ahead that their lives may continue to be a source of blessings for others. Make us all aware, O God, of the responsibility that rests upon us to create peace in our own hearts, in our homes and in every association with our fellowman. Lead us, inspire us, make us Your people to walk in Your way, that this land may become in a new and deeper way, God's own country. In the name of the God of our Fathers, who is still our God, we pray. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

Death of a Commander

Father of all mercies, we remember before You this day the life of () commander, soldier and friend. In living, he instilled the values that he cherished: service, dedication and integrity. In our grief, we are reminded of the esteem in which we held him. Console us, Lord, with the knowledge that in life he transformed us by giving us a vision of what leadership could be. Give Your peace to his family, who mourn with a depth that only You can know. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Ronald N. Johnson
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Death of a Chaplain

Gracious God, today You have called Your servant to his place in Your heavenly home. In this life he served You faithfully as a pastor, teacher and friend to countless soldiers and their families, bringing them to goodness in Your Love. Even in mourning, we remember his days among us, and we thank You for his calling and his life. Comfort, Father, those to whom he was special: his family, his co-workers and the casual acquaintances whom he touched. Grant that we understand that even in death his prayers and his goodness remain with us. Let us recall him as the model of Your love. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Ronald N. Johnson
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Suicide

O Lord, Our God, we come to You today in our sorrow. We grieve the loss of a fellow soldier. The Scriptures encourage us to come to You in our pain and despondency. For some, the sense of lostness seems too great and the loneliness too vast to turn even to You for comfort and strength. Take, we pray, the soul of this troubled one and give the rest and peace that only You can give, the rest and peace this soldier so often sought and did not find in this life. We thank You that even when it is difficult for us to reach out, You nevertheless are ever present in love and mercy. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Michael E. Reynolds
Fort Carson, CO

Suicide

God our Father, You have sent us Your only Son so that we might realize that we are never alone. We never stand by ourselves. We join St. Paul in declaring that "we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." And so we pray confidently, Lord God, that () will find that peace in Your loving arms, and that we will be a little more aware that our own lives are not meant to be lived in isolation, aware that our lives cannot be lived without conflict. Rather, Lord, through the challenges we face, with You as our helper, guide and shield, may we continue to grow, to deepen, to develop into the people whom You have called to be Your own. This we pray in Your holy name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas P. Ozanne
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

Unit Tragedy

Our Heavenly Father, in this hour of stunned grief, our first reaction is silence. But in our silence, as many soldiers before us have done, we turn to You and ask for Your presence and reassurance and guidance. By our prayers, we also seek to reach out through You to our fellow soldiers and their families. But, especially, we pray for the soldiers who lost their lives; and for their most valued, dedicated service to the Army and to their country by helping to maintain peace in the world. Comfort those who loved these soldiers longest and best with Your Fatherly reassurance that You "will never leave them nor forsake them." Challenge us, Father, to use the time You have appointed yet to us to bring wisdom, justice, truth, healing, assurance and peace into the lives of others with ever greater singleness of mind, as we go about doing the important tasks that are ours as men and women of the United States Army. Hear us, Father, for the sake of Your most faithful promises. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth U.S. Army

Unknown Soldier Ceremony

This flag-draped casket causes us to pray with tears in our eyes; for here lies in state an American soldier killed known but to God.

In a very real sense we gather here, and in a few days at Arlington National Cemetery, others will gather, as next of kin to this Unknown Soldier.

Painful questions echo through the corridors of lonely hearts, whose loved ones never returned home from that faraway land. We wonder and ask: Is this my son? Is this my father? Is this my brother? Is this my friend?

And to those whose loved ones died in and lie buried in cemeteries all over this land, memory brings renewed sadness and pain. Some hurts heal ever so slowly. Some broken hearts seem never to mend.

Lord, thou hast promised to wipe away all tears from our eyes. Thou hast promised to bind up our wounded spirits. Thou hast promised to be with us always. Even now we claim these promises.

Remind us, O Lord, that soldiers who die in service to this great nation do not fade away. Rather, we honor them, we remember them, and we receive inspiration from them.

May all who gather here and at Arlington hear the call to nobler living and get on with the task of building a world of lasting justice and peace.

Help us all to be ministers of mercy, defenders of freedom, and ambassadors of righteousness that this soldier and others like him will not have died in vain. Amen.

Ch (COL) Williams Bagnal
Retired

* * *

Young Child

Our Father, God; today we are before You with hearts filled with sadness, hopes dashed, and emptiness. For we are suffering the loss of (). He had brought us so much happiness, his life was filled with joy, but now he is gone from us. We try to understand but can't. We just feel the loss, the hurt, the loneliness. We know Jesus said the Kingdom of God belongs to those like little children, and we thank You that he is with You. We thank You that he is experiencing the fullness of his creation in Your presence. And we thank You for the Resurrection and Eternal Life, and that we shall see one another again on that Great

Day. But now we need Your presence, Your strength, and Your wisdom. Our grief is so real. But so is Your truth and Your love and Your hope. Fill us with Your love and hope; comfort us in our loss for we need You. May Your grace be ours today, in the name of Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

Ch (LTC) John H. Reed
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Operation/Sickbed

As I face this operation, Lord, I have many misgivings and fears. I put my burdens into Your hands and ask You to grant me the peace and courage I need to face this surgery. Allow me to feel Your presence and protection.

You are the guardian of Israel and the Church, praised from of old because You neither slumber nor sleep. I entrust my keeping to You every night when I sleep, and now I ask You to keep me from harm during the deep sleep which this operation requires. Do not let me be afraid. Forgive me my sins, and set my heart and mind at ease.

Grant competence and compassion to the surgeon and the operating room staff that they may perform their jobs well. Allow my family the faith to feel peace and assurance in Your presence. Keep them from fear also, and give them patience to wait through the day.

Into Your mighty hands I entrust my life and my healing. Amen.

Ch (CPT) D. Francis Bishop
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

The time is quickly coming, O God, and the nurse will begin the medication which will render me without feeling. I seek Your support as this surgical procedure is about to begin. Create in me a calmness from Your still small voice. Guide the hands of the doctors, nurses, and technicians so that the knowledge they possess will be properly put to use. Comfort my loved ones that the time will not pass too slowly and that a successful message will be theirs to hear. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas V. Sell
Fort Stewart, GA

Thank You, Lord, that I have come through this operation. Often I awaken from sleep to a new day and forget to praise You for life. Now I have awakened from a deep sleep and I am reminded that life flows from You, and I praise You, I know all went well because You were present.

Remain with me through my time of healing. Grant me faith in Your continued presence. Ease my pain and distress and help me to endure. Grant my family a firm faith in Your healing power. Free them from distress and impatience.

Guide the doctor as he continues to treat me. And watch over the nurses and technicians who care for me.

Allow me to sleep and have quiet nights; allow me to rest in heart, mind and body at all times that my healing may be speedy. Abide with me, Lord. Amen.

Ch (CPT) D. Francis Bishop
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Creator God, You have laid me on a sickbed and I am in pain. Do not abandon me. Have mercy on me, and relieve my suffering. Grant me the patience to know that You do all things with definite purpose. And when Your purpose is fulfilled, deliver me entirely from this distress. Keep me from relapsing and make me whole again.

Guide and keep the doctor who is treating me, and the nurses and professional staff who are attending me. Work through their efforts to restore my health.

Make this illness a growing experience for me. Draw me closer to You, allow my faith to grow, (and help my attitudes to become more Christ-like). Deliver me from temptation. Allow me to look differently at the future, to know that You are the author of my life and being, and that through You I have no cause for fear. Amen.

Ch (CPT) D. Francis Bishop
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

O Divine Master, guiding light at all times and hours, place the reality of slumber and rest within me. Help me to realize that I am in Your constant care so that I may relax and fall asleep in Your gentle care. Guide the healing processes within me that while I sleep, strength

will increase and my body will become repaired. Refresh me during this time that at awakening the new day will be filled with Your possibility. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas V. Sell
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Lord God, if You are for us who can be against us? I am grateful for the knowledge of Your presence and power, and for Your strength which has been promised from days of old to all who call on Your name.

I need Your strength. I ask You to help. Today I am deeply afraid and not ashamed to turn to You in prayer. In the past I have avoided difficult problems or I have depended on my own power to solve difficulties. Forgive my little faith. Put Your loving hand on my shoulder as I face this difficulty from which I cannot turn or hide. Let Your might overcome my fear; let Your strength give me confidence. For now I am weak, yet in weakness You make Your power known. Grant me the faith to trust that You will deliver me.

Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, and follow me truly to fear no evil, because You are with me. Amen.

Ch (CPT) D. Francis Bishop
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Ordination

Almighty God, who hast called our brother (sister) into the chaplain ministry, confirm that call now by Your Holy Spirit. With prayer and the laying on of hands we proclaim him (her) to the office and the work of the chaplaincy. Grant him wisdom to understand this unique and wonderful ministry and the power to proclaim Your Holy Word. Cause him to be a chaplain whose love is as Thine own, a teacher whose store of truth is gladly opened to the needs of soldiers and their families. Keep him (her) faithful to Your high calling, so that he (she) may one day hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." To this ministry we consecrate him (her) that You may be given the praise and glory, now and forever, in Your precious name. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Roger C. Welsh
Fort Ord, CA

Our Father, we are gathered here to acknowledge the call of Chaplain () to the ministry of the chaplaincy and to set him (her) apart to this office of service. So fill him (her) with Your life that by both word and good example he (she) may faithfully serve the soldiers and members of the military community. Grant him (her) the integrity of the Christian Church to pursue Your Holy will. May he (she) be faithful in prayer and in the reading of the Holy Scriptures. Help him (her) to lead others in the joy of Christian love, and to thus live in the power of the Holy Spirit. In Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Roger C. Welsh
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Prayer Breakfast

O Lord Our God, we give You thanks for this early morning hour which gives us the opportunity to reflect upon our lives, our freedom and our faith. Bless each person here this morning and the time that we share together. Please nourish us with the physical and spiritual food of which we are about to partake. We ask these blessings in the name of our Lord. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Almighty Father, we pray that You will bless this Prayer Breakfast and the food that we have provided to nourish both our bodies and our minds. Help us to pause for a few moments and to realize our need for Your help in our lives. We pray that You will bless this fine battalion, its commander, its officers, its NCO's and all the soldiers that work so hard to make the battalion what it is. We pray that You will give them success and that You will keep them safe. Help us all to have a good day, a bright day, a cheerful day, beginning even now. For it is in the name of our Lord we pray. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

In the morning, O Lord, we lift up our hearts and prayers to You. To the One who is infinite in goodness and wisdom, we pray that You give us the courage and strength to meet the tasks ahead. Open our hearts that we might receive Divine guidance upon which to base our decisions. Teach us to be humble, patient, and loving in all our dealings with others.

And now, we ask Your blessing and guidance upon this activity, and offer our thanks for daily bread and for every good gift which comes to You. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas C. Blair
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Bless us, Lord, as we gather together for food and fellowship this morning, Lord, let us be about the business of being soldiers today. May our lives reflect a contentment in our work resulting from a knowledge that what we do helps our nation and our people pursue Your business of peace. Keep us from striking angrily out at others who cross us by what they say or do. Keep us from allowing our feelings for others to be formed by our daily training. Let us never lose sight of our peaceful purposes. Help us to read Your Word as the training manual on how we should live. Guide and direct those who have authority over us: the President, the Congress, the Secretary of the Army, our Commanding General, and all the Officers and NCO's in our units. Keep our nation "one nation under God." Amen.

Ch (CPT) Jimmy L. Rucker
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

God, early in the morning we gather together to give praise to You for Your great love and care for us, Your children. We know our lives are not always what they should be and we hope by Your grace to do better. Take us through this day with a feeling of Your presence going with us and watching over us. May the nature of our work never diminish the value of human life in our sight, because we are all created in Your image, Lord. We're not perfect people but soldiers attempting to keep our world at peace. Bless our efforts and help us to be true peacemakers. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Jimmy L. Rucker
Fort Ord, CA

Father, life is so full of things and situations that grab our attention and try to keep it.

Thank You for a time like this when we can pause, when we can focus on You and reflect.

Please forgive us for leaving You out of our day.

Help us, Father, to think of You, to hear what You have to say, and to let You in.

In the name of our Lord we pray. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Clyde M. Northrop III
HQ, Third US Army

* * *

Blessed be You, God, our Father. Blessed be You, the God of all creation. You are the giver of every good gift. For all the many gifts You have given us we thank You. This new day is another promise of Your love. Each fresh beginning is Your gift to us.

The bread which we break together this morning nourishes our bodies.

May this fellowship which we share together at this table nourish our spirits and enable us to recognize You in our presence.

Live in us this day. May You be pleased with our lives today as we ask Your special blessing on our friends and our families and on all of us, the Desert Lions of Battalion () Armored Regiment.

To You be love, honor, and glory, this day and forever. Amen.

Ch (CPT) John Francis Ulm
Fort Stewart, GA

Benediction

Our Heavenly Father, as we close this occasion on which national and military leaders here and all over the world have gathered to express their faith in God, we ask Your blessing and guidance on the service to our country which we may be privileged to give. And, having asked for Your guidance publicly, let us not run along, ignoring it privately. We know that a different world cannot be built by indifferent people. So add to all other gifts You have bestowed on us, the blessing of direction and drive. Give us the vision to see the sometime wide gap between the ought and the is, and even more, the determination to bridge that gap. Finally, Father, let us not imagine that the mere hearing of words and listening to prayers will suffice to achieve the righteousness that exalts a nation. Inspire each one here to seek You and find You in daily private prayer. Watch over us, Father, this day, and always. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth U.S. Army

* * *

Table Grace

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your many blessings upon us
For the surfeit of freedom we enjoy
For the abundance of material blessings
Help us to be truly concerned for those less fortunate
And to rededicate our talent and energies to their benefit.
Bless all those assembled here today.
And as we eat food together, be among us as the Bread of Life.
For the glory of Your Name, we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

In this moment of quietness of reflection we pause to acknowledge You, O Lord. We thank You for all You have done, for clearing the way of obstacles we never saw, for not abandoning us when we didn't even recognize Your help; for keeping the unseen hand of trouble from falling upon us. We are thankful to You for providing to our minds ideas and thoughts we never knew came from Thee, and for giving unto us Your love and care even when we didn't ask for it. Help us all to recover an awareness of Your interest in us and Your presence with us. We truly have been most favored by all the things You have given us. Help us to recognize it. Thank You, O Lord, for the food and all the physical and spiritual sustenance You have so faithfully provided. In Thy name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

Praised are You, O Lord, our God, Ruler of the Universe. You have created a world that can produce food for everyone, if we will use Your gifts wisely and justly. Father of us all, inspire us to share what we have so that none will go hungry on the earth.

Ch (CPT) Stanley H. Schwartz
Fort Campbell, KY

Dear Lord, we are grateful for the privilege of living and serving You. We thank You for the opportunities and challenges of life that make us better and more useful people. We thank You for the inspiration of love and friendships that lift us above the level of selfishness and greed. We thank You for the blessings of freedom and peace that sustain us everyday; for the happiness and laughter of life that enrich us; for the fruit and bounty of our land that we enjoy in this meal tonight. May Your divine blessing continue to be upon us now and forever more. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

Gracious God, we acknowledge that You have created this world and all that is within it. You have given the sun and the rain, the seed and the wisdom to plant and nurture the young plants. You have also demonstrated Your love by providing those who have prepared this food. We thank You for all this and ask You to help us act responsibly with this food, the energy gained from its nourishment, this fellowship and our relationship to those who are not so blessed. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Billy M. Hayes
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Dear Lord, as we pause to thank You for the food, we also express our appreciation for all of life's blessing. You have allowed us to have a great deal. Help us, Lord, in the midst of our affluence never to forget the source of our privilege. May the bounty of our blessing not make us little and selfish. May we guard against the use of position and power unjustly or unworthily of the trust You have placed in us. Thank You for systems that care for people more than things. Grant unto us wisdom in the commerce of the world that all things which thou has given us be used for Your honor and glory. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

We are thankful for the food You provided, O God. May we be strengthened physically as we share the meal. May our conversation and time together strengthen us emotionally and spiritually. Thank You for all the gifts of life and especially for those who participated in the preparation of this food. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Willie P. Peacock
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

O God, thank You for the critical intervention of the right friend, the right book, the right thought, the right leader, and the right place to be at precisely the right time to change our lives for the better.

So many wonderful events have occurred around a table. Peace treaties have been signed, world changing decisions have been made, laughter and tears have been shared, families have developed healthy ways of sharing themselves with the ones they love, and people who work together have come to appreciate each other even more. Also, Jesus celebrated His last meal with His disciples at a table.

Bless () who traveled so far to share this time with us. Bless General and Mrs. () who so generously share their home and lives that we may enjoy this good time together. Bless this food to our use and us to useful service. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Frederick R. Smith
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

O Lord, we ask that You bless this food we are about to share for the nourishment of our bodies. May it fill us with the energy to do Your will. We ask also that as we gather around this table You will bless our fellowship with one another. May our love for each other grow as we share in this time of refreshment and renewal. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* * *

O Lord, the middle of the working day is a fitting time for us to pause and seek Your blessing.

We recognize that we are not always grateful, generous, or good. Yet in our better moments we acknowledge how blessed we really are.

It is so easy to practice one's faith in a land that's free. Therefore, may we not lightly regard the privilege of praise of the power of prayer.

Deliver us, O Lord, from sins of dullness, complacency, and neglect.

Fan the glowing embers of faith, hope, and love that the flames will melt the ice of indifference.

Bless service members and their families everywhere.

Bless this food to useful service. Amen.

Ch (COL) William Bagnal
Retired

* * *

O Great Provider, thank You for this meal that You have given us. Bless, we pray, the hands that have prepared it. Bless us as we eat, and may this time be not only a time to replenish our need for energy, but also a time to replenish our need for fellowship with one another and with You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Frederick R. Smith
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

O Lord, we soldiers are trying to be faithful in carrying out our duty. As we work to get ready to go to war against physical forces, help us also to be ready to do battle with the evil forces within us which try to storm the very citadel of the soul. We are probably in more danger than we think! We are not very good, but we want to be better and we will be with Your help. Bless this food today. We thank You for all things. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

"O Lord, we thank You for this time of food and fellowship. Your giving deserves our thanksgiving. Grant us physical strength from this meal, encouragement from our friends, and spiritual nourishment from You. This we ask in Your name. Amen.

(
Military

(

()

()

()

MILITARY

ANOC Opening

On this opening day we bow to reflect on the meaning of our lives and on the providence that has kept us for this moment.

We are immensely thankful for all of Your bountiful gifts to us. Looking forward to weeks of difficult training, we thank You for physical health. Anticipating greater responsibilities in new and challenging positions, we thank You for the vision of service.

In Your name we bless the members of this class, and ask for Your benediction also upon their family members.

And bless all of us, our nation, our leaders, and our fellow citizens.

Direct our national dreams toward freedom for all peoples, and talents, energies, and commitment toward that hope.

For the glory of Your name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

ACS Luncheon

Almighty God, Eternal Father, Creator of the universe and Source of all our creations, it is with great joy and gratitude that we gather here for this occasion. We offer up to You this time and these moments from grateful hearts. We are thankful for those who we honor today — for their selfless service; for their dedication to making this community a better place in which to live; for their helpful spirit and for the joy of living they share through this service.

We thank You for this food of which we are about to partake. Bless it now to the nourishment of our bodies. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

Almighty God, bless us with a fresh sense of Thy divine presence. We do truly need You in so many ways.

We thank You for the precious heritage of a bountiful, beautiful and free land, and for the patriots of every time and age who have helped to purchase for us the priceless possession of liberty. We thank You for these who serve today as friends of the Army and for all our leaders in government. Bless them with a sense of Your partnership in all their worthy efforts. Allow not their trust and faith in Thee ever to fail. Link us all together in harmony with one another and with Thy divine purpose and plan, because all our efforts are incomplete without Your blessing. You, O Lord, are the giver of life and all our sustenance, and we are the fortunate recipients far beyond what we could ever deserve. Bless this food we enjoy, and keep us in Your care all the days of our lives. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

Anniversary of the U.S. Army Chaplaincy

Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, in this anniversary celebration we bow in prayer, not out of habit, or mere formality, but humbly and sincerely, to claim Your presence, and to honor Your name.

We Thank You for the goodly heritage of our country, for its proud history, and noble achievements.

We are grateful that the dangers which confront our nation today receive the constant vigilance and dedication of our soldiers.

We thank You for the privilege of serving in, and being associated with the U.S. Army, and pray that Your rich blessings will be upon us all.

Enable each of us to renew our commitment to serving with efficiency and honor.

Grant us the determination to individually and collectively live out our country's creed — "One Nation Under God, With Liberty and Justice for All."

As we eat together, please be among us as The Bread of Life. For the glory of Your name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

Association of the U.S. Army

Heavenly Father whenever and wherever we gather, help us to remember that You are in our midst. Our relationship to the U.S. Army has called us to this place. Help us to understand that it is our relationship with each other and with You that makes life worth living. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Gaylord E. Hatler
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

O Lord, as we gather as members of the Association of the United States Army, we are grateful for the fraternity which brings us together.

We pray this day for our Commander-in-Chief and for all leaders of our military forces that they may rightly use the trust committed to them for the good of all people.

As we reflect on the dangers and challenges faced by the men and women in uniform, we are grateful for those who with blood, sweat, toil, and tears forged on the anvil of their own sacrifice all that we hold precious and worth dying for.

May we never take for granted that which has been purchased at so great a price. Show us clearly what we can do to make this a better nation and a better world.

Bless the soldiers who keep themselves always fit and grant them safety, strength and blessing as they carry the hopes and prayers, and sometimes, the destiny of this nation in their mission.

May we realize that it takes courage to win freedom and it takes character to keep it. Remind us that false freedom does what it wants to do and that true freedom does what it ought to do. Amen.

Ch (COL) William Bagnal
Retired

Lord, we know that You are watching over us as we endeavor as an organization and have our best interests at heart. May we have the interest of others at heart as we meet together today. Help us to seek the good of others especially if it seems there is an easier way which might profit us at another's expense. May we always work to bring about the best that can be done in every situation in which we are involved. May we be faithful stewards of the resources we have at our disposal. Bless, O Lord, our leaders, the President and Congress, and all who help us to serve the Army and its goals. In Your gracious Name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Jimmy Rucker
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Lord, we want to be of service to others. We have chosen to unite together as an organization to serve the Army and its personnel. Help us to be successful. Help us to accomplish the tasks we have before us today. May we be reminded of our responsibilities to serve others faithfully as an organization. May we never abuse our position for selfish gain. We thank You for our present lot and pray that You will lead us into the future! In Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Jimmy Rucker
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy benevolent grace shown us, for Thy rich blessings bestowed upon us personally, and nationally, and for the surfeit of freedom our people have enjoyed.

We gratefully acknowledge the sacrifices of all military members and their families both active and retired, paying special tribute to the former POWs. We pray especially for the still missing servicemen, and for their families and friends for whom the anguish and bitterness of war are enduring realities. Bless them, O Lord. Enrich their lives with Thy presence and help them in this time of need.

We also thank Thee for the good and helpful work of the AUSA. We acknowledge the critical importance of corporate members working with individual members, in supporting the military's mission of defending liberty, and human dignity. May Your rich blessings rest upon each member, dear Lord.

And bless us, our nation, our leaders, and our fellow citizens.
Direct our national dreams toward freedom for all people, and our
talents, energies, and commitment towards that hope.
For the glory of Thy name, we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Lord, we are grateful for Your many blessings. We ask that You bless
our presence here and our purpose for this gathering. We are grateful for
the forces that defend our nation and those who actively support them.

Lord, may we have a good fellowship here this evening. Bless the
food for our bodies' use as we serve and protect others. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Almighty God, as we take leave we are refreshed in body and mind.
We feel the support of one another and the backing of the Association
of the United States Army. No vocation could continue without that
support.

We are specifically aware that life is Your gift to us — what we make
of our life is our gift to You.

The blessing we ask is that You assist us to be all that we can be.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Almighty God, Creator of nations, Lord of history, Healer of souls;
We thank Thee for Thy benevolence and grace toward us.
We thank Thee for the gifts thou has bestowed, especially the most
precious gift of freedom.

We bow to ask for Thy blessings:
Be with those who suffer the pains of illness, poverty, and distress.
Bless our community, and all of those who work in and with the
military to make it better.

May Thy rich blessings be upon our national leaders, those who carry the heavier burdens of command and leadership.

And may Thy presence guide our thoughts and attitudes as we sit down together to eat.

Make us truly thankful for these Thy gifts we are about to receive. For the glory of Thy name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Almighty God, Who has given us our great land for our heritage, we humbly pray that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Bless our land and its leaders, our President, our Congress, and all those in power over us. Give them wisdom in guiding the destiny of our nation, that we may continue to be a light of freedom shining in a world where people continue to try to enslave others. We pray especially that You will be with our Army and its leaders as we go through these perilous times. Help us to awaken those Americans who are blinded by lack of concern; those who would stand idly by while more and more of our world is engulfed by those who would enslave us. Be with us here today as we fellowship together and share our common concerns. Bless the food and keep us ever mindful of Thee. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Charles T. Clanton
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Awards Ceremony/Dinner

Eternal God, whose awesome power causes nations to tremble and whose tender compassion marks the fall of the tiny sparrow.

We lift our hearts in sincere thanksgiving for the bountiful evidence of Your rich blessings upon our nation.

We thank You for the opportunity to serve our country as soldiers.

Bless those who will be rewarded today for their proficiency in soldierly skills.

Enable each of us, whether military or civilian, to renew our commitment to serving with efficiency and honor.

As we prepare to express our national thanksgiving, help each one of us to personally give humble appreciation for Your benevolent grace.

Grant us the determination to individually and collectively live out our country's creed — "One Nation Under God With Liberty And Justice For All."

For the glory of Your name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Almighty God, You must have a special love for all who are gathered here this evening. We know the only reason You created our world — and us — was to share Your goodness with others. You have given us that same power to share ourselves and to experience the true happiness that comes to us through that sharing.

We ask You to continue to award Your blessing to the beautiful people who so generously give their time and talents in serving others. Bless them with continued health of body and mind. Sustain them with the sense of fulfillment in their undertakings. We now ask You to bless this food we are about to receive and all our efforts to serve You. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Branch Prayers

Airborne/Air Assault

Dear God, Your ancient prophet has told us that, "...they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint." (IS. 40:31)

Flying on the wings of eagles is exhilarating. It is the running and the walking that are difficult. Teach us to wait upon You so that we might yet run the race of life, and walk the path of faith in true service to You and all humanity.

Ch (CPT) Daniel J.G.G. Block
Fort Ord, CA

Artillery

Almighty and eternal Father of us all, we give You thanks for this evening's festivities which bring us together as members and friends of the Artillery Corps. As soldiers, help us always to be aware of our need for Your providential care and protection, in the calm of peace as well as in the terror of war.

We pray that You will continue to protect us as individuals, to protect our families, to protect the Artillery Corps, to protect our Armed Forces, and most of all to protect our nation, which we have pledged to defend with our lives. If need be, help us to walk into the valley of the shadow of death and to fear no evil because we know that You are with us, even in the face of death itself because You are our God and we are Your people.

We pray, O Lord, that You will bless the celebrations and the events of this evening's festivities. Bless the food which is ours to enjoy. Bless our distinguished guests and commanders. Be with us and bless us all, for it is in the name of our Lord that we pray. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Oh Lord, bless this time of festivity, food, and fellowship with Your divine presence. Be with all the soldiers of artillery. Grant unto them, like St. Barbara, the qualities of courage and faith that they, like her, would be able to face danger without the surrender of principles. Equip us for the daily battles in the spiritual warfare we must wage. Oh, Lord, we do readily accept our firing mission against all the enemies of the soul. Whether with hip shot or long shot, give our rounds the true azimuth and elevation to bracket and destroy the targets of selfishness, hatred, and greed. Sustain us with the strength to fire for effect on every habit that would enslave us. Give us the courage to level our aim for direct fire against every threatening temptation that seeks to storm the citadel of the soul. Grant us victory and peace in our lives. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth Army

Aviation

Dear Heavenly Father, in Your great wisdom and power You watch over every one of us each day. All praise, honor, and glory be given to Your name. And now in the daily responsibility we have as an aviation unit, we ask for a special guidance now. We ask for a strengthened trust between our pilots, crew chiefs, and other maintenance personnel as they rely on each other to have the helicopters (planes) in excellent working condition for the safe transportation of people and equipment. We ask for a special guidance for the other personnel in the various categories of support needed to accomplish the mission; that they respond to the best of their ability. And that in the final outcome of all missions, the men, women, and machines will protect our country successfully and safely. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Robert Swalve, Sr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Engineer

O Lord our God, we are thankful for this occasion which brings us together as professionals and as friends. We pray that You will reinforce the ties which bind us together through the Engineer Branch as a whole and through the organizations we belong to as individuals. Grant us the faith, stamina and courage we need to carry out our mission in times of peace as well as in times of war. Bless our time together and the food that is ours to enjoy. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

Infantry

Dear God in Heaven, bless Your holy name. May Your kingdom soon come, and Your will daily be done on earth as it is in heaven. Help me to be grateful for today's MREs and the purified water in my canteen; they will see me through. Forgive me for the times I've not talked or acted like Your son; I'll work hard on improving my language and behavior along with my light fighter skills. In every area of my life help me to really be the best that I can be. And help me not to fall for some slick lie and make a fool of myself. I know there is no better self in any substance, controlled or uncontrolled, than the one You gave me. When I'm down, lift me up. I trust Your leadership above all and will by Your grace, climb to glory, to the top. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Dennis Camp
Fort Drum, NY

* * *

Lord, life isn't easy in the infantry. The field is often less than ideal. It's too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry. The work is often demanding, but more often the fatigue of waiting overtakes us. Lord, provide us assurance of Your presence with us in the down times as well as the battle. Help us to seek Your face. When we have walked miles with rucksack and gear, may the feeling of release we experience at the removal of our loads remind us that You offer rest, an easy yoke, and a light load if we will follow You. No, Lord, life isn't easy in the infantry. Help us to continue our vigil for peace. We don't want war and we pray You will keep the world at peace. If, in Your plan we must fight, may we do so in accordance with Your law and for the good of others and of our nation. Thank You, Lord, for Your presence with us today! In Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Jimmy Rucker
Fort Ord, CA

Lord, we are infantry soldiers. We know that You help us as we go about the job of protecting the citizens of our nation and the world. Keep us mindful of our responsibilities to be dedicated professionals. Often we feel discouraged and need the encouragement of Your Spirit. Keep us from allowing cynicism to rob us of the joys of life: family and friends, work and worship. Keep us mindful of the value You place on human life Lord. Help us to have that same respect for life. Grant us peace, Lord, in our time. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Jimmy Rucker
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Transportation

Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we give humble thanks for Your rich blessings on our country and our military services.

We are particularly thankful for the thousands of men and women who have served in, and support the Army Transportation Corps and we pray Your rich and continued blessings upon them.

We thank You for the progress made in the Corps, for the good work of its present and past chiefs, and pray that the months and years ahead will bring continuing divine assistance.

We humbly pray that, in addition to our military and technical skills, we will be enriched by the eternal and foundational values upon which our nation is structured, and by which our people are strengthened. Enable each of us assembled to renew our commitment to serving with efficiency and honor. And as we eat food together, be among us as the true bread of life; so that our collegial fellowship will not be only with one another, but also with You, dear Father. For the glory of Your name, we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ FORSCOM

Change of Command Ceremony

Lord our God, as we say farewell to one commander and greet our new leader, we ask Your blessing on each of them. They are each about to take on new responsibilities and opportunities. Those who know them best and love them pray with us that You will inspire the best that is in them. We who have served and will serve with them ask Your blessings on them, on ourselves, and on soldiers everywhere who risk their lives to defend the world's freedom in the days and years ahead. Lord, inspire us to do our best each day and lead us to serve our leaders with energy, enthusiasm, and effectiveness. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Stanley H. Schwartz
Fort Campbell, KY

* * *

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, remind us as we gather together at this important ceremony, that although times may change and people may come and go, Your presence in our lives and in our work remains forever sure. We offer You our thanks for the professional leadership of () as the commander of () during these past months, and pray for Your continued blessing upon him in his new assignment as he continues to show his concern for soldiers. We also ask that Your Holy Spirit rest upon and direct () as he assumes command and continues the tradition of excellence expected in (). Inspire us all to be the best soldiers that we can be, not just soldiers of our country pledged to defend her freedoms, but especially soldiers of our God, dedicated to the increase of Your divine kingdom, wherein true freedom may be found. In our Lord's name we pray. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Richard E. Lanning
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

O God, we ask for Your blessings and give thanks for the leadership and service of (). Deliver him and his family safely to their new assignment.

We thank You for the safe arrival of our new Commander, () and his family. May he continue to lead this unit with wisdom and strength.

Bless the leadership of the (), and our Commander-in-Chief.

Continue to guide and protect these men and women of the ().

This we ask in Your Divine Name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Ruben D. Colon
Fort Bragg, NC

* * *

Lord, on this day we recognize the gift of leadership. We thank You for the leadership of () and the direction and guidance he/she has provided this company/battalion/brigade. May You give him/her continued wisdom in assuming his/her new assignment. We also ask that You give the new commander (rank/name) continued wisdom, strength, and courage to provide the leadership necessary to the soldiers of this company/battalion/brigade. Be his/her constant source of support and inspiration in the days and months to come. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Stephen L. Nagler
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

O God, our calling in life has put us in very important places. Our assignment here is one of them.

Give us, we beseech You, the qualities necessary to serve our country well. Strengthen us with courage, endurance, and steadfast resolve to be prepared to accomplish our mission to deter war. Grant that our people, powers, and resources may be used in defense of freedom, justice, and order in our world. We do desire to keep a just and lasting peace. Father, we may be busy every day but let us never forget You in the barracks, field, ranges, office or in our homes.

Now at this time, O Lord, especially bless, protect, direct, and guide our new commander, (give name), and (family), and may we of the (unit) feel Your love as we work, serve, and live together as one family.

Come to our aid, Lord God of Hosts, and help us always to "drive on." Amen.

Ch (LTC) Dwayne L. Ferguson
Fort Meade, MD

O God, the weight of command is great. Be with those upon whom the mantle is cast. Give them the wisdom to know the right path, and the courage to follow that path, even in the worst of times. Be also with those of us who are called to follow. Teach us loyalty and trust. By our unity, grant us a glimpse of the unity of Your kingdom. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Daniel J.G.G. Block
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Loving Father, Lord of all times and people, of all that has been, all that is, and all that is yet to come. We praise You today for those many blessings You have lovingly bestowed upon us in the past, and for those we confidently expect from You in the future.

For (), our Commander, we give You thanks. We are grateful for his challenging leadership, his professionalism, his dedication. Thank You for his committed concern and authentic caring for his soldiers. Continue to bless him and his wife () in whatever future You hold for them.

We ask You to grant our incoming Commander, (), the gifts of wisdom, courage, and strength. May his time of command in our Battalion be one of blessing for him and for all the soldiers of the ().

And to You, Lord God, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

Ch (CPT) John Francis Ulm
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Lord God of hosts, You have made known Your authority and given Your orders for the day in Your Holy Law; You have given persons authority to exercise leadership over us and have bidden us to obey them and to pray for them. We beseech You, fill our officers with zeal for the tasks delegated to them and with understanding and concern for those who, serving under them, must carry out those tasks. May they serve You with pure, exemplary lives and thereby give those whom they lead an ideal to follow. Give them wisdom to judge justly, and compassion to deal with their subordinates, so that we may be ready to follow their leadership with a willing spirit. Those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall march on and not faint. In our Lord's name we pray. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Joseph P. Miller
Fort Campbell, KY

Our Father, as we pause during this Change of Command to give praise to You, illuminate our hearts with the warmth of Your grace.

We ask Your blessing on our departing commander and his family. As they travel to a new home and assignment, give them a safe journey and an excitement for the possibility of new duties.

We also ask Your blessing on our new Commander and his family. We pray the acceptance of this unit will be a challenge for ministry and leadership of these soldiers. Each of us is grateful for Your continued presence and guidance in our lives. Help us to be accepting of Your love and strength in our lives. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Michael E. Reynolds
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Almighty God, our gracious and caring Creator, Father, we invoke Your presence and Your blessings upon this significant moment in the life of this unit when the mantle of leadership is passed from () to ().

For the outgoing Commander, (), we ask Your continued blessings as he goes on to other responsibilities. For the incoming Commander, (), we ask for wisdom and courage to make wise decisions and then for decisiveness of action. Help him to create an environment in which working is pleasurable and the challenges are fair and rewarding.

May he always strive to assist every member of this unit to grow and develop so that each can be the person that You intended that one to be. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

O Eternal God, we invoke Your blessings on this ceremony, those who are participants, and those who are gathered here to witness the passing of the colors. As () comes to the end of his tenure as commander, we look back and are thankful for his concern for his troops, for his example as a leader and for his loyalty to his superiors, his peers and his subordinates. Lord, it has been a privilege working with him. Thank You for allowing him to come our way.

As () assumes command, we pray for guidance for him. Give him wisdom, understanding, patience and may he always be fair. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

O God, we ask for Your blessings and give thanks for the leadership and service of (). Deliver him and his family safely to their new assignment.

We thank You for the safe arrival of our new commander, () and his family. May he continue to lead this unit with wisdom and strength.

Bless the leadership of the () and our Commander-in-Chief.

Continue to guide and protect these men and women of the ().

This we ask in Your divine name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Freddie L. Hall
Fort Bragg, NC

* * *

Father, You have been our helper in times past. We pray that You will continue to be our helper in these days. We thank You today for those brave persons in our land who are more interested in being right than in being popular. We thank You, Lord, for our freedom — freedom to choose our religion, freedom to choose our profession, trade or career, freedom to travel from state to state without having to pass armed border guards.

We thank You for the leadership that we have experienced during the past (period of time). He has taught us lessons in honesty, honor, integrity and care for soldiers and civilians alike. We pray Your blessings upon him and () as they depart our ranks for a new assignment.

We pray Your special blessings upon him as he assumes the awesome responsibility of commanding (). Guide him as he leads us.

Bless this land we love so much. Help us to remember that righteousness alone exalts a nation. You have blessed America in the past. You have made her rich. We pray that You will also make her good. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Joe R. Colley
Fort McPherson, GA

Holy Father, almighty and gracious God, we know so little about the breadth or the depth of Your power and responsibility. Yet as Your instruments, we have some small part in that greater splendor, Your scheme of divine method and order. May this exchange of power, authority, and accountability be a reflection of Your will. In this change of command may the mantle of () (old commander) fall on () (new commander) with the portion of power and divine direction that God has always shown to those servants who call upon His name and seek His face. Amen.

Ch (ILT-P) Kurtes Quesinberry
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Holy Father, God of power and might, our limited authority and power is dwarfed in the presence of Your omnipotence. In Your plan for this world, complex beyond comprehension, You have given us each a personal gift to share. As each soul is different, each gift is varied. Today we plead for Your direction in the application of these new gifts being presented. We also ask that the worth of the old gifts not be laid aside with the departing of their bearer. Give us wisdom to meld what we have learned with what is yet to be experienced. And we will certainly give You praise, in the name of the God who loves us. Amen.

Ch (ILT-P) Kurtes Quesinberry
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your presence with us today and come to You asking for Your divine guidance and protection as we serve our nation. Let each one of us never forget the tremendous cost soldiers' in our nation's history have paid for the privileges we enjoy.

Your wisdom has provided us with a new leader — one to enhance our mission by providing the leadership and guidance necessary to maintain the critical balance of communications. As we speak to You in prayer, we ask that Your steady hand be upon () as he assumes his duties. May You grant him the wisdom and knowledge necessary to carry out his awesome responsibilities fairly at all times.

It is not easy to command. May we remember that as soldiers, we can make his job more tolerable as You grant to each of us the proper

maturity and attitude that we might be obedient to the one You have placed over us, so we might not make his task any more difficult than it is already.

Heavenly Father, we have confidence in our commander and in our nation — and especially in You as we boldly make these requests trusting in You that they will be accomplished. Amen.

* * *

Chaplains' Training Conference

Heavenly Father, as we gather together for the purpose of learning, help us to see that all of our learning is to give glory to Your Name. Help us to use the knowledge gained at this conference to more ably and confidently minister to soldiers and their families wherever we may be with them. You have equipped us all in various ways through particular gifts and abilities. May our continued learning, that will happen at training conferences such as this one, also be used to enhance our gifts and abilities to achieve Your purposes. This we pray in Your Name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Stephen L. Nagler
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Great God, You have been in the process of raising up leaders from among Your people since the beginning of time. Indeed, it was You in the pillars of fire and cloud who led the nation of Israel across the wilderness into the promised land. Be with these who have been called to positions of leadership. Help them never to forget that the most important asset for any leader is dedicated followers. Help us to be dedicated followers of Yours. Challenge us toward that end. In Your name, Amen.

Ch (LTC) Gaylord E. Hatler
Fort Carson, CO

Civilian Employee Recognition

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the blessings of life, occupation, family, and country.

We are mindful of the importance of our nation's military strength. We pray that at this post we will be enabled to work efficiently as one team, and never be splintered into compartments of military or civilian, nor divided by any other measurements.

To this end, help us as supervisors to inspire in our workers the highest ethical standards and a greater sense of cohesion.

We seek these blessings so that our nation can be successful in its quest for peace.

We sincerely pray that Your kingdom will come, that Your will be done, so that the day will come when all men and women will be able to live together as brothers and sisters.

We ask these things for the glory of Your name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Almighty God, our coming together has a very special meaning. In honoring our civilian employees, we are reminded of how important it is for each of us to use the talents You have given us and to recognize the talents of one another.

We pause to ask Your blessing. Bless us with a commitment to use our gifts of body and mind with responsibility and dedication, trying always to make our world a better place to be.

Bless us with a sincere appreciation for the abilities and dedication of those around us. Help us never be so taken up with our own anxieties and need for recognition that we pass up the many opportunities of being aware of the goodness of those around us, and to take time to thank You for their contributions to our lives and the lives of others. We now ask You to bless this gift we are about to receive and our time together. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

O Lord our Creator, we thank You that there is no assembly line monotony in Your creation. Each of us may be different politically, economically, biologically, or spiritually; but regardless of these differences, we love and care for each other and know that we are never lost from Your sight. Through most of the history of our civilization women have been the victims of prejudice; yet they have been the givers and nurturers of all life, the cradle of the universe. May we substitute love for prejudice in our daily lives and thus learn the true meaning of the moral law.

We are grateful for these women of today, and for this meeting. May they truly attain their identity in political, economic and religious freedoms. Continue to bless us, make us human, dignified, happy and give us love, unity, and peace. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Dwayne L. Ferguson
Fort Meade, MD

* * *

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your benevolent grace towards us. For Your rich blessings upon us; for life and health, for family and friends, for occupation, for growth.

Bless the Federal Women's Program. Inspire and enable its leaders in their continuing efforts to improve the quality of life, and enhance the rewards of work, for American women.

As we dine, let us remember that we don't live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

As we eat food together, please be among us as the bread of life. For the glory of Your name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Almighty and ever-present God, we pause for a moment to center our thoughts on You and Your creation. We thank You for the fact that You have created each of us in Your own image, equal in Your sight. Give us the grace and courage at times to be the male and female of Your creation. Sustain us in all our endeavors as we grow individually, as we seek to reach the potential of our abilities. Give us patience when roadblocks and obstacles seem to hold us back. Encourage us in times of

doubt, frustration, and fear with a practical knowing of who You are in our lives, for no matter how things may appear, You indeed are the director of our careers and our lives. And now, we ask Your special blessing upon this activity, that it may nourish us today, and throughout the days to come. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas C. Blair
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

O God, in the beginning You made Your creatures to be male and female equally. However, through the injustices of time, the domination of one sex over the other has become the norm of social interaction.

We thank You that in our day we are recognizing the need to reestablish in home and marketplace equal value of all Your creatures.

We pray that You bless this assembly of Your people today as they meet to strengthen their identities and to carve for themselves their rightful contributions to our modern society.

And finally, dear God, we are grateful for, and beg Your blessing upon, this food we are to share. In sharing food, may we also learn to share ourselves, as the true basis for full human development.

We pray through Your Holy Spirit who gives us the fullness of life and love. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Gerald P. Pincince
Fort Drum, NY

* * *

Heavenly Father we give You thanks for Your presence in our world and in our lives. That presence gives us the strength to carry on amid the challenges we face, and gives us an inner peace knowing You love us. We pray today especially for the leaders of our nation, our President, our Senators, and Congressmen and for our leaders here who are able by their decisions to make life better for so many people under their command. We pray that You will be with the leaders of the Federal Women's Program as they seek to improve the opportunities for women here at Fort (). Continue to give them courage as they seek to eliminate any discriminatory treatment which may remain in the way of complete equality for women.

Now Father, we also pray that You will bless this food and keep us always mindful of those who are less fortunate than we. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Charles T. Clanton
USACHCS

Lord, God: today we especially remember and honor secretaries who are valuable, necessary members of the team and essential to getting the job done. They are a group of people who do more than asked, who have a strong sense of personal loyalty, pride in professional performance, and satisfaction from accomplishments by their team. Today, in this way, we recognize and honor their commitment and service, not only to their bosses, but to their country and to You. For secretaries, for food, for all those who work together with us — we give You thanks, and ask for Your blessing. Amen.

Ch (LTC) George R. Hattle
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Combined Federal Campaign

O Lord, as we gather for this Combined Federal Campaign Awards Luncheon, remind us and enable us to remind others that worthwhile activities and service cannot be provided with small change and spare time.

Accept our gratitude for prosperity that enables us to share with those in need. Teach us to be responsive and responsible.

As we gather from numerous counties, towns, cities, and communities throughout the () area, we reflect on our contributions last fall. Our response to those who cared enough to share is "Thanks for saying "yes".

Open our hearts, minds, and eyes and resources to meet the needs of people all around us now and also in the future.

Teach us the multiplying ministry of cooperation and sharing.

Lead us forth under the banner of possibility and hope.

Bless the food, fellowship, and recognition to purposeful use now and in the future. Amen.

Ch (COL) William Bagnal
Retired

* * *

Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and lift our hearts to You in thanksgiving for life and health, for family and friends, and for our rich political, religious, and personal freedom.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gives food for the body, truth for the mind, and life for the spirit: Be present at these tables, we pray, and bless our daily bread and fellowship together. With gratitude we acknowledge every good gift which comes from You — bread from the earth, fruit from the vine, and the privilege to share it together here as friends and comrades. And teach us, O Lord, to return our thanks, not just with the words we say at this time, but also in the lives we live each day. And to Him who, in the breaking of bread, brought us near to You, be the glory and the praise for ever. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Richard E. Lanning
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Almighty God, gathered here this evening are men and women who daily touch the lives of our soldiers. We thank You for the countless contributions they have made to our military. We are mindful that many of their peers have sacrificed their lives for the cause of our country.

We are in need of Your guidance as leaders who want to be strict enough in training as to save lives, to be fair in the decisions we make, to respect each human being as Your son or daughter. Guard and watch over us and our soldiers. Finally, Bless this food we are about to receive, our time together and our efforts to serve You. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Almighty and everlasting Father, we pause for a moment to acknowledge Your power and presence in our lives and in our world. At this special time of the year, we come together as a proud unit, as friends, as families, knowing we have worked hard and accomplished much. We ask Your special blessings upon us and our families, as we continued to work for peace. Throughout the coming year, continue to guide and strengthen us in all our activities. Keep us and our families in Your care, giving us encouragement to endure hard times, patience when frustration seems to have the upper hand, and renewed joy when families are reunited after separations.

And now we offer our thanks for this meal, and for every good gift which comes from You. Let our fellowship be joyous, and our continued success a tribute to You. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas C. Blair
Fort Carson, CO

We pray for those who have suffered loss in the recent earthquake at (); for all of those caught up in wars and strife. We pray for all who are less fortunate, who suffer from disease and hunger.

As we begin the CFC, we pray for great success. Bless the many volunteers and the thousands who will give, attesting to their compassion, and commitment to a better America. Help us to do more than we thought possible, so that more people will be helped, more sick healed, more old folks assisted, more children given opportunity, more research successful, and more people having renewed hope.

As we eat food together, help us to remember that we don't live by bread alone; and be among us as the Bread of life. For the glory of Your name, we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Dedication of Memorial

Our Father, as we dedicate this plaque to Your glory and in memory of General Patton, a man who was called to a great task in troubled times, we cannot help but think of the times in which we live and of the fact that so many today are looking for life without trials and work without difficulties. Remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds, and that diamonds are made under pressure. May we find in every difficulty an opportunity, and not give way to the pessimism that sees in every opportunity a calamity. As we reflect on how Your Hand has molded history and guided individuals in history, may we be bold to ask for that great Hand upon our shoulder, to give inspiration and guidance in these our difficult times. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ch (COL) W.M. McMillan
Fort Sam Houston

* * *

Heavenly Father, at the dedication of this memorial to the soldiers who have died while serving in the () Bde, we pause to give thanks and ask Your blessing.

We thank You that they lived and served among us — and that we have the opportunity to continue that service.

Enable us, Oh Lord, to dedicate, not just a stone monument this morning, but our very lives.

To Thee, O Father and to family, country, duty, honor. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ FORSCOM

* * *

Dedication of Military Dining Facility

Almighty Lord our Father, we ask for Your blessing on this Consolidated Dining Facility of the (). Let it be a place where we are nourished with Your gifts as we continue in the tasks that lie ahead.

That it stand in time, for every soldier that comes through, as a place where Your people are satisfied.

Thank You for the hard work of all those making this moment possible.

Always feed us Lord, with the bounty of Your presence and let this place forever stand as a sign of the many gifts You desire to share with us.

Accept this dedication and prayer of Your children. Let it be acceptable in thy sight, Oh Lord, Our Strength and Our Redeemer. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Thomas J. Naughton
Fort Bragg, NC

* * *

Dining In/Out

You have told us in Your word, O God, that "A cheerful heart does good like medicine." May the festive joy of this occasion help us to release tension, heal strained relationships, and gain new vigor for life. May this food we are about to receive strengthen our bodies, while reminding us of those less fortunate than we. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles E. Mallard
Fort Stewart, GA

Father in Heaven, as we are about to leave we ask Your blessing. This evening portrayed life, celebrating and joyful sharing. Also, a serious reflection on those who have gone before us brought about by the helmets and weapons on the table, the eternal flame and the taps.

We ask You to help us live this evening, celebrating the life and opportunities You have given us sharing our lives with those around us so that our love and goodness and concern may live on through those who come after us.

Protect us and our families as we journey home until we come together once again. We ask this with confidence in Your Fatherly love. Amen.

Ch (COL) Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

We came together, O God, to seek the blessings of laughter and fellowship. These we have received. Now may we go out to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles E. Mallard
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Our Heavenly Father, we ask for Your divine blessings upon this evening's festivities. We pray that the time we share together will draw us closer together as individuals and as an organization. May we be filled with pride because of the units and commanders we serve, the country and freedom we defend, and the God — the Creator — in whom we trust. We pray that You will give our commanders wisdom, our officers (and NCO's) courage, and our wives (spouses) understanding to help us accomplish the mission that is ours. We give You thanks for the food and the fellowship that is ours to enjoy. We ask these blessings in Your holy name. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

Almighty God, Father in Heaven, we thank You for this nation we cherish. For the rich heritage passed down to us from our Founding Fathers, and for those who have so bravely defended the freedoms we enjoy and prize today. Help each one of us, and the leadership of our country and armed forces to keep a clear vision of what is right and to place our trust where it rightfully belongs "in Thy righteousness which alone exalts a nation." Thank You, too, for the laughter, good food, and comradeship which we will enjoy. In Thy strong name, we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Walter D. Forsythe
Fort Lewis, WA

* * *

O God, we are grateful for all Your blessings. You have given us so much. We thank You for the liberties we enjoy in our land, and for all those who have, with great sacrifice, preserved for us such a precious possession. We thank You for the opportunities and challenges of life that help us to develop character, courage and conviction. Our efforts are insufficient without Your help and our achievements are incomplete without Your blessing. You have woven into the fabric of life Your eternal design. Let our lives be the threads that brighten and beautify it. We thank You for the fruit and the bounty of our land that we enjoy in this meal tonight. May we continue in Your care and keeping all our days, in Thy name we ask it. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

Heavenly Father who is always ready to bless us far beyond our expectations, cause Thy wonderful blessings to be on this special occasion tonight. Grant that Thy goodness will be abundantly evident to all who have come to this dining in/out. May the humor tonight give us a sense of being linked to one another as friends and comrades. Thank You for Your steadfast love and faithfulness to us as Your creation. May we enjoy this event with the purpose of having a memorable evening. In Your holy name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Michael C. Punke
Fort Ord, CA

Heavenly Father, bring Your blessings to this occasion tonight. May Thy love, fellowship and refreshment warm our souls. May our enjoyment and laughter heal the wounds of the pressures and stress of this life. Bind each of us in the bond of friendship and may the memories of this evening contain Your goodness. Thank You for these friends, the food and the fellowship. In Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Michael C. Punke
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Farewell Banquet

Our Heavenly Father, we lift our hearts and minds in prayer to gratefully acknowledge the bountiful evidence of Your rich blessings upon us.

We are especially thankful for Your servants () and (), and happily acknowledge their many contributions to this community, the U. S. Army, and the nation. We bless them in Your name and ask that You prosper their transition to the new duties, and enrich their future with happy successes.

With St. Francis we pray: "O Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace. Where there is hatred let us bring love; where there is injury, healing; where there is sadness, joy."

And may Thy holy presence guide our thoughts and attitudes as we sit down together to eat.

Making us truly thankful for these Thy gifts we are about to receive. For the glory of Thy name.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ FORSCOM

* * *

O Lord our God, we come into Your presence this evening with hearts full of gratitude for the time which You have permitted General and Mrs. () to be with the () Division. We know that throughout the pages of history You have always raised up great leaders to fulfill Your Divine Will. We give You thanks this evening, O Lord, for having granted the opportunity for General () to command the () Division. We are thankful for the leadership he has

demonstrated to us and for the example he has set for us to follow. We pray that You will bless General and Mrs. () as they prepare for the new mission which You have given them. Please be with us all as we seek to be a powerful Army under Your control. Grant us the faith, stamina and courage we need to carry out our mission to be peace-makers in a terror-plagued world. Bless this evening which we have to share together and the food that is ours to enjoy. In the name of our Lord, Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Graduations

Almighty God, we ask Your blessing on all of us this afternoon. If we may single out one request — we would ask You to help us realize all that this ceremony signifies:

- The opportunities afforded by our country.
- The gifts of the mind and body You have bestowed on us.
- And, the charge You have given us to make Your world, our world, a better place in which to live.

We are grateful for these opportunities for development within the framework of our military. We ask Your blessings on all who are involved in administration and teaching capacities of ().

In special way we ask You to bless and protect our graduates by helping them to make their areas a better place to be and to touch the lives of those around them especially the less fortunate.

We ask these blessings with gratitude for all that You have given us. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Lord our God, the leader stands apart, for he is challenged to give direction rather than to merely follow the crowd and to show by his life that he listens carefully to Your spirit within.

Help us, Lord, in the days and years to come, to face the challenges we encounter with determination and clear insight. Strengthen us toward right ways and accepted responsibility and away from the empty popularity of the "cop out".

In all ways, Lord, be our light and our source of confidence. Keep us close to You in all that lies ahead. We ask this, confidently, in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Almighty God, we are thankful for this ceremony. We are especially grateful to all who have made this occasion possible. As we leave, we ask Your blessing on all of us, especially our soldiers who have worked so diligently towards this goal and their instructors who have assisted them along the way.

Give our graduates a continued desire to grow intellectually, for their own personal fulfillment, and to enable them to continue working for the good of our world and mankind.

Bless the staff and faculty of () with health of mind and body so that they can continue to assist young soldiers in their educational pursuits. Guard and protect all of us in our efforts to serve You. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Lord, we ask Your blessing on this very special occasion. We offer thanks for the course of instruction which has increased the knowledge, skills and confidence of these graduates today.

Our prayer is that these graduates may take what they have gained here and use it with honor in defense of our nation, the greatest on the face of the earth. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

Our Heavenly Father, we pause this moment to acknowledge our need of and dependence upon Thee. We ask Thy presence to be with us in these procedures today. Strengthen these officers who will be leading others in the effort to defend the principles of freedom and the resistance of oppression. Give them a greater sense of duty to uphold the sound principles by which our nation was established, and by which it can long endure. Help these leaders always to set the right example before the men and women they command. Guide, guard and direct them in the profession of arms, that we all might always honor Thee. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

O God, we humbly ask for Your blessing to be upon all who are graduating today. We acknowledge our debt to all those who have with their courage and dedication made our flag fly with honor. Grant unto these leaders a true sense of direction and purpose, that they may lead in the right way. May their spiritual leadership be filled with a knowledge and understanding of thee, committed to be caring for people, and guided by a sense of what is right and the courage to do it. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

Dear Lord, we are grateful for this school, and the people in it. We thank You for the people with vision, courage, tenacity and for the hard workers and those who have overcome difficulties and differences.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

We thank You for those who in the past have labored without recognition; they are like the salt of the earth, which sacrifices its own identity in flavoring the food. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

We thank You for those who served in the places of leadership, in the places of prominence and exposure; they are like the light on a hill providing illumination along the way. Bless these new chaplains as they begin their ministry. Suffer their courage and faith never to fall. Guide this school into the future. Thank You, Lord, for Your loving care and sustenance, and do abide with us all our days. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ Fourth US Army

* * *

Our Father, the moment of graduation is here, and we ask You to share it with us. We thank You for all the things that have made this day and this ceremony a reality. For the splendid minds and abilities of these graduating students, for the enthusiasm and dedication of the faculty, for the helpfulness and concern of the staff, we give You thanks. We pray that what has been absorbed in this time of orientation may help these soldiers to maintain the flexibility and creativity which their jobs will demand. Be present now and bless each of us on this happy occasion. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth US Army

* * *

As these graduating students depart, we ask You, O God, add to their knowledge the humility, energy, and zeal to continue to do both the routine and the exciting to the best of their ability. In the days, months, and years ahead of them, give them Your divine gifts of patience, compassion, and the drive to excel. Give them and us the mind-set and the humility to continue to see our dependence on You, and to ask You for these and all other blessings. Dismiss us now with Your blessing. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth US Army

Our Father, the beginning has now been made. Give each one here patience and a spirit of cooperation that will make it easier for those who instruct and more pleasant for those who learn. Supply those qualities of mind and spirit that will enable these new students to assimilate attitudes as well as learn procedures, and so be better able to serve those who may need them. Let Your presence go with us each day; make us ready and willing to do what we can with what we have; crown our efforts with success. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth US Army

* * *

Airborne/Air Assault

Bless O Lord these soldiers who have succeeded in facing the challenge of Air Assault School. Restore, refresh, and renew their bodies and souls. In all their missions may they remember the words of Isaiah:

“They who wait for the Lord shall
renew their strength
They shall mount up
with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary
they shall walk and
not be faint.” Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Jim M. Phelps
Fort Sam Houston, TX

* * *

God and Father of us all, Your prophets told us that our young men would dream dreams and that our old men would see visions. Those who stand before us today have dreamed and seen visions too. They have trained hard and reached out toward their goals, training to become the best that they could be. Lord our God, bless them and their fellow soldiers everywhere as they are ready to guard the world’s freedom and peace. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Stanley H. Schwartz
Fort Campbell, KY

Drill Instructor

We are grateful, Almighty God, for the American way of life we enjoy today. We thank You for it; for our country great and good, for freedom, for our heritage, for the stars and stripes and for all they stand for. We realize, O God, that what we have today is the result of great patriots in times past who pledged their lives that ours should be a country of freedom and concern and faith in God. Make those of us here today worthy of their wise leadership and steadfast courage. The men that we honor here today will be, to a degree, taking their place along with the great leaders who have gone on before them. Add Your blessings to their lives as they put on the hat of a drill instructor. Help them to see their jobs of working with young men in the same light as a potter sees his as he sits down at a potter's wheel with a ball of clay in his hand, with the power to shape it as he desires. Bestow upon them, O God, the wisdom, patience, enthusiasm and endurance needed to perform the tasks given them. Help their spouses and families to understand the nature of their duties and the demands placed upon them by these duties. Give all of us, O God, a new vision of not only our earthly task but also our heavenly task that we may be able to better perform them and be more pleasing in Your sight. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

Our Father who art in Heaven we acknowledge that You are involved in the affairs of people. And if a little bird cannot fall to the ground without You noticing, how can we think that You are indifferent to the graduation that is taking place here this afternoon and the people that are involved. It is with this thought in mind, O God, that we pray for these graduates who have successfully completed their training and as they walk across this stage will be walking into a new life as a drill instructor. In the months that lie ahead they will need the strength, wisdom, patience, understanding, and self-control that only You can give. There will be times when the duty will be very discouraging, causing them to want to give up and because they cannot, they may be tempted to take their frustrations and tensions out on those they will be training or even their families. It will be at these times especially, O God, that they will need added strength from You. Give them a new vision and a new purpose for their own lives as they venture out into this new life. Cause them to keep the words of a quiet teacher ever before them: "It is better

to give than to receive." Give them the grace to think not of what they can get but what they can give and how they can make better soldiers out of those they will be called upon to train. We ask these things in Your name and for Your sake. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

O God, our Heavenly Father, look upon these persons with mercy who are graduating. May they be able to take what they have learned and apply it as they go out to be leaders. However, may they realize that the most important thing in being a good leaders, whether it be in military subjects or in the religious life, is their example. O God, give them the strength, patience, understanding and wisdom to set the example they should before the soldiers they will be leading. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

O God, who has made us members of one commonwealth, and has bound us together through a common loyalty and danger. We pray for these graduates who have been trained to be leaders and by being leaders will give help to their fellowman and their country. Grant them wisdom, strength, and courage for the task they will be called upon to perform. Also direct and further the work of others who are fulfilling the needful tasks of education and training in the military. Even though we train for war, through Your divine will, may there be peace for our own hearts and the world. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

Almighty God, the Father of all mankind, we ask Your blessings upon the lives of men who are graduating. O God, may You give them the strength to do the job they have been trained to do. Give them wisdom,

understanding, and patience, as they go out to train others and a love and concern for the soldiers they will be working with. O God, may they look at their duties not merely as a means of financial support but as a great opportunity to work with and even form the lives of the young people of our country. Bless us all, our Father, as we work together, and may our actions bring honor and glory to Your name. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

NCO Academy (Invocation)

You have surrounded us from our earliest days with those who have taught us the meaning of responsibility and caring. We grew to realize that the world should not revolve around us, but that it could progress because of us. As we gather here today, celebrating graduation from all different phases of the academy, we give thanks for the awareness we have from that education. Awareness of the potential we have for leadership and thanks that our great nation is giving us the privilege of exercising that leadership in her service.

Lord, as we gather with family, friends and companions in arms, we give You the thanks and the praise. Amen.

* * *

God our Father, we thank You for this time of celebration and recognition, for from the time we were infants until even now, You have given us the love, the direction and the example we needed at each stage of our development. We thank You for the gift of those people and institutions in whom that direction was embodied, and, Lord, we thank You for our nation, where we grew and developed that potential for leadership which is being recognized and commissioned this night.

Help us now, to give You the praise and the glory, for You are Lord, now and forever. Amen.

* * *

Lord our God, be with us now as we go forth, confident in our skills, to take on our responsibilities. Help us be worthy of the trust of our nation, and always, Lord walk with us, and go before us, for without You we are nothing. We ask this in Your holy name, Amen.

Practical Nurse

Oh God our Heavenly Father we come together this morning for this very special occasion. These persons who come for graduation come after having a very difficult year both physically and mentally. We thank You for being with them and their families through this difficult time and for bringing them to this great day. They have been trained and we recognize and honor them for that today. But yet we know the real test of their training is to come after this day as they change from being students to being full fledged practical nurses.

Our prayer for them today Oh God is that You will give them the wisdom to be able to put their training into practical use, and also to have the caring which will cause their duty to become ministry. This we ask in Your name. Amen.

* * *

O God, we give You thanks for the gift of life and this occasion of celebration and recognition. You have created each of us with abilities and skills to share in our great adventure of living together. We especially thank You today for blessing and strengthening our military community through the lives of these men and women who have given themselves to the demanding task of developing their leadership skills and potential. Keep them strong through a belief that what each has to give is good and worth giving. Keep them humble through the knowledge that their powers and skills are limited. Keep them courageous through a strong belief in the need to defend human rights and freedom. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Dennis Camp
Fort Drum, NY

* * *

May the Lord God Almighty richly bless each one of us today with commitment, competence, candor, confidence, and courage.

May He deepen our commitment to Him, to our nation, to our leaders, and to the people we serve.

May He assist us in achieving competence, so that we might be fit to lead with professional excellence.

May He find in us candor, openness and honesty in all our dealings, with our superiors with our subordinates, and with our fellow officers.

May He endow us with confidence, making us humbly aware of our weakness yet unquestionably sure of our strength.

May He empower us with that courage which reflects both the depth of our inner strength and the extent of our unfailing trust in His power. Amen.

Ch (CPT) John Francis Ulm
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Heavenly Father, we thank You for life, and for the joy of living. We thank You for friends, and for the happiness they bring. We thank You for Your love, and for what it means to each of us. Thank You for this food. Bless it that we might be consecrated unto You. Nourish us that we might do Your will. Strengthen us that we might mount up with wings like eagles; that we might run and not grow weary, that we might walk and not faint. Lead us that we might follow. We ask it all in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Benjamin D. Richardson
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Installation of Chapel Officers — (PWOC)

O God, our Heavenly Father, we thank You for these women who will serve as officers in the PWOC this year. Give them a keen sense of Your call to ministry and of their dependence upon You for leadership wisdom. We pray that they will not take their offices casually but may come before You, through scripture reading and prayer, to learn how to do Your work. All of our new officers lead busy lives, days filled with the commerce of life. In these moments of pressure to plan to lead, help them to experience an extra measure of Your comfort and grace. May Your blessing be theirs as they faithfully serve. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Ch (LTC) Robert G. Lokkesmoe
Fort Ord, CA

Leadership

Almighty God, we ask You to be with us this afternoon. Help us to be conscious of one another's responsibilities in leading our people, training them and correcting and encouraging them.

Help us to reach out to one another in the spirit of support — sharing our resources and working to bring about the best quality of life at this time.

Continue to bless us with health of mind and body. Bless this food we are about to receive and us in our efforts to serve You. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Almighty God, Whose will it is that we be leaders of men and women, hear us as we come to You for guidance in this awesome responsibility. Let us never forget our duty to the people we lead. May we instill in them the qualities of loyalty, integrity, and duty. Grant us patience in dealing with the mistakes of our fellowman. Let us never forget that no man is perfect, but that perfection for fragile humans means trying each day to be better than the day before. Give us courage, O Lord, in the face of danger. Keep us pure in heart, clean in mind, and strong of purpose. Remind us that wisdom is not found in an hour, a day, or a year but that it is a process that continues all the days of our lives. Keep ever before us our goal, which is not to perpetrate war but to safeguard peace and preserve Your great gift to man — freedom. May You always be near, to guide us in our decisions, comfort us in our failures, and keep us humble in our successes. We ask Your divine blessings and leadership as we discharge the honor and responsibilities of leading men in the service of our country. Walk close to us always, our Father, that we may not fail. Amen.

* * *

Heavenly Father, grant our leaders that insight and the courage to lead. Knowing that one day their subordinates will be leader's of men. By Your grace. Amen.

Marksmanship Competition

Eternal God, whose awesome power causes nations to tremble and whose tender compassion marks the fall of the tiny sparrow.

We lift our hearts in sincere thanksgiving for the bountiful evidence of Your rich blessing upon our nation.

We thank You for the opportunity to serve our country as soldiers.

Bless those today, who by entering this competition, will test and enhance their soldierly skills.

Enable each of us, whether military or civilian, to renew our commitment to serving with efficiency and honor.

Grant us the determination to individually and collectively live out our country's creed — "One nation under God with liberty and justice for all."

For the glory of Your name we pray.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

O Lord, Thou Who dost guide our lives, every competitor in this match will offer his individual prayer for Thy guidance, that his fire will be on target. May it be Thy will that not only our pistol shoots, but also our complete lives be on target. May we recognize that our sins are but missing the mark, errors that we are will able to correct by necessary adjustment of our lives. Praised be Thou, O Lord, Who fashions for us our targets.

Ch (COL) Richard E. Dryer
Fort Hood, TX

Multicultural

American Heritage Week

Senor de todo el mundo, Elohay kol hoolom, Lord of all the world,
You have created all the nations and languages.

Though a human being stamps many coins and all are the same, You
in Your glory and greatness have stamped each person with the stamp of
Adam, yet not one of Your creatures is like another.

This morning we have gathered to open a week dedicated to the
appreciation of the cultures and contributions of the different groups that
make up our great country. Lead us as we go forth from here to a
renewed understanding of the unique contributions of all Your children.

Ch (COL) Richard E. Dryer
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Black History

Lord God of the universe, who made the mighty mountains, shaped
the great waters, and commands the winds of change, we thank You for
this good and free land, that it is governed by laws created by the
people, and not by the whims of a ruling elite.

We thank You for the opportunities to learn and grow, to seek
employment and worldly gain, but will not rest until all of Your children
are equally rich in these opportunities.

Create in us a sustaining hope and strengthen us to be agents of
change. Where there remains prejudice and hatred help us to be militant
so that we can be one united people, under God, living as brothers and
sisters, with liberty and justice for all.

Now, as we eat food together, acknowledging that no one lives by
bread alone, we pray that You will be among us as the bread of life.
Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ FORSCOM

Hispanic Heritage Week

Dios todopoderoso, de quien procede todo bien, siembra en nuestros corazones la plenitud de la ley en el amor a Ti y al prójimo para que alcancemos la libertad verdadera. We know too God, that You are the supreme being over all nations and all peoples; bless our food, bless us and bless our efforts during the National Hispanic Heritage Week that we may continue to grow as one people under You, Our God. Amen!

Ch (COL) Michael J. Yunk
Fort Polk, LA

* * *

National Prayer Breakfast

Almighty and eternal God, whose hand has made the sun and sea and land and who made we humans for fellowship which reaches to the ends of the earth; we thank You for every gift which becomes richer as we share it and more secure as we guard it for one another. O God, we praise You for the spirit of liberty You have entrusted and established through our fathers before us. Grant that we, their children, may be worthy of the heritage and challenge they placed in our care as a nation and as individuals. Lord of all, give us the grace to treasure the diversities of gifts within our nation. And, unite us as Americans, as defenders of liberty and justice for all, in Your cause of righteousness, love of our neighbor, and our starvings for a lasting peace. Save us from hatred, confusion and war. And yet let us stand firmly against cruel and heartless discriminations and racial or religious prejudice. Preserve us from arrogance and bigotry which lead blindly into intolerance and mindless obedience. O Lord, as a nation, and for us here at () a tiny molecule of Your vast creation enrich and bless our meeting of minds and hearts this morning. Help us to catch a vision of a greater destiny and the call of holy responsibility. May the moral fibers of duty, honor, and country be seen in us in every act in every word in every thought. O God, truly bless America and us. In Your holy name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Lawrence A. Kelly, Jr.
Fort Drum, NY

Officers Wives Club

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege of living in a great and free land, for the high standard of living that we enjoy, and for fellow citizens who care about one another.

We lift up to You the many members of the Officers Wives Club and especially their officers who have volunteered their time and talents, to improving the quality of life for this community. We bless them in Your Name, and ask that You prosper their lives and families, and enrich their futures with happy successes.

For those officers who are beginning their watch, we pray for the blessings of creativity, enthusiasm, and perseverance.

As they address the challenges of a new beginning, we pray that You will inspire them to pursue noble dreams. Help them to give dedicated service to You, and to this community, so that all will be encouraged to work in greater unity to accomplish the tasks ahead.

For that purpose we ask that You bless us and keep us. That You make Your face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us, and give us peace. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Heavenly Father, during this holy week we bow our heads and lift up our spirits to You in sincere thanksgiving.

We are truly grateful for the blessings of citizenship in a free country, for the joys of family and friends, and the spiritual gifts of faith, hope, and love.

We pray for those with special needs, the victims of famine in Africa, and for those caught up in wars around the world. Help us to respond individually and collectively to alleviate suffering. Make us generous in our commitment to the needy.

For that purpose we ask that You bless us and keep us; that You make Your face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us, and give us peace.

We lift up to You in prayer the Officers Wives Club, and pray Your rich blessings upon their service to the community.

As we prepare to eat food together make us truly thankful for these Your gifts we are about to receive. For the glory of Your name, we pray, Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
Fort McPherson, GA

Organization Day

Almighty God, we give You thanks for the blessings of rational minds and the capacity for remembering. May Your presence grace our activities this day, as we remember the service, sacrifices, and accomplishments of those who have worn with honor the () patch before us. Help us to see that You have matched us to this hour in history and that responsibility to You, to our nation and to our fellow soldiers, demands dedication, living service of us all — now. We know that this kind of service cannot be given by people who are only coupon-clippers on the original costly investments made by brave soldiers who served in the () over these past () years. So give us faith God, love for our nation, and concern for fellow soldiers that we may have something of value to deposit today on which they can draw interest tomorrow. To this end, bless us all with Your continued inspiration and guidance. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth USA

* * *

POW/MIA

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy benevolent grace towards us, for Thy rich blessings upon us personally, and nationally, for the surfeit of freedom our people have enjoyed.

We lift our prayers to gratefully acknowledge the sacrifices of former prisoners of war and their families, and to pray especially for the still missing servicemen, and for their families and friends, for whom the anguish and bitterness of war are enduring realities.

Bless them, Oh Lord. Enrich their lives with Thy present help in this time of need.

And bless us: Our nation, our leaders, and our fellow citizens.

Direct our national dreams toward freedom for all men and women; and our talents, energies, and commitment towards that hope.

For the glory of Thy name we pray, Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
Fort McPherson, GA

PCS

Great God, my life is filled with changes and challenges. A PCS move brings anxiety, grief, and hope. I am anxious about what lies ahead. This type of change is disruptive and stress is building. It hurts to leave friends and situations which I know well. I grieve our broken relationships. Yet I am filled with Your spirit of hope and adventure. New opportunities abound with each step in my life. I trust the promise that nothing in all of creation can separate me from Your love, and dare to move forward boldly, secure in Your love, support and presence. Keep me mindful of Your permanence in my time of transition. Amen.

Ch (CPT) James G. E. Williams
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Our Father, we are profoundly grateful for the benediction of Your protection which has surrounded us for the past year, and we pray its continuance upon the "Brave And Bold" (unit) who continue to serve. We are also richer for the impact of the personalities who have gathered and who gather and will gather around these rough tables. And while we are thinking long, serious thoughts tonight, Father, help us to realize, above all, that our life itself is not a gift, but a trust. A gift we may do with as we please, but with a trust we must give account. Guide and direct us daily so that when we surrender the books of our lives for eternal audit, we may do it with confidence and not fear. Bless us now and these Your gifts which we receive through Your mercy. Amen.

Ch (COL) W.M. McMillan
Fort Sam Houston, TX

* * *

Heavenly Father, make us daily aware of, and thankful for, Your great gift of life, and of all the things, great and small, material and spiritual, that sustain life, enrich it, and make it meaningful and memorable. Especially, we ask Your blessing on the () who have become very much a part of our lives and our community. Continue to bless and inspire them, and let the spirit of considerateness, concern and community continue among us, and be preserved through the efforts of us who

remain, those who will join us, but above all through Your presence and blessing to guide us all. Accept now our thanks for this food, these moments of fellowship and Your love which truly sustains all our lives. Amen.

* * *

Promotion Ceremony

O Lord God, our most gracious Heavenly Father, as we gather here on this most happy occasion, we invoke Thy presence. We give thanks for () and (). We are glad that You sent them our way. We thank You for the wisdom of the promotion board that saw fit to select () for larger responsibility. Now more soldiers can benefit from his leadership. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Holy God, Father of power and might, we who are commissioned with authority in this earthly realm seek Your wisdom. We need Your mind in the delegation of that power and Your compassion in the administration of justice. Teach us to honor You and Your precepts in all our leadership tasks. Help us to take on the added responsibility of promotion with recognition that true promotion doesn't come from the South, East or West but from above. Let us not be lords over God's heritage but good stewards, accountable to conscience as well as those over us. Then shall we be pleasing to You, valuable to our leaders, and worthy of those we lead. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Michael C. Punke
Fort Ord, CA

Promotion to General Officer

Heavenly Father, we invite You into our presence this day asking for Your comfort, strength and grace to surround us. We are here with mixed emotions. We are proud and happy for our commander (name). We have learned to love, respect and honor him during the time he has shared himself with each of us. Together we share in his joy to promotion (rank). We also share in his sadness as he leaves this brigade. May we remember that we could never know joy if we didn't know sadness — so we invite You into our midst this day.

We acknowledge Your presence among us and praise You for Your mighty works of creation and redemption. We thank You for the opportunity and responsibility we all share as servants of our nation. May we never lose sight of the truth that has been given us.

We commend one of our own, our commander (name), to You for further service in the calling of our country. Your wise providence has again shown through in his selection for promotion. May You continue to grant him wisdom for his new duties, a spirit of sacrifice for the common good, and mercy and justice for the soldiers placed under his command.

Grant him and his family safe travel. For his integrity and caring for the welfare of others we give You thanks and for his touching of our individual live we will always be grateful. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Glenn C. Pedder
Fort Polk, LA

* * *

Reactivation

O God, You who art the source of all wisdom and strength, help us know Your presence and Your truth. As we celebrate reactivation and recognize our units today, renew in us a right spirit of challenge and responsibility. Remind us of our heritage of brave soldiers and their sacrifices. Guide us, today as You have throughout our history. We pray for those who must make great decisions, and for those who are called upon to carry out those decisions. Empower us with intellect to comprehend, with the compassion to be concerned, with the dedication to achieve, and the faith and fortitude to follow each task through so that all our labors support peace and freedom for all mankind. May the banners of this unit be under Your constant care and protection now and forever more. Amen!

Our Heavenly Father, we humbly beseech Thee this day because we believe in Thee. We recognize our need and dependence upon a power greater than ourselves. We ask Your blessings upon this newly activated military police unit. We pray oh Lord, now for these who uphold the law. Give them an inward sense of right and justice. May they have a sense of duty not only to their fellow man but most of all to Thee. Give them Thy grace and protection in the enforcement of law for the common good of all. Amen.

* * *

Regimental Affiliation

Our Father, we thank You for this special occasion that brings us together. We are grateful for the values of patriotism and devotion to duty which bind us together in a common mission. As we think about the proud history of this battalion, we know that the credit for our success ultimately belongs to You as the Creator and Sustainer of life. As we make this regimental transition, we pray that our purposes and values now and in the future may be Your own. May You direct the activities of each of our soldiers, their families, and those who lead and serve them. Thank You for this food prepared for us now. We know it represents many other blessings that have already been ours. Bless each person here tonight and our time together — for Your Glory, Amen.

Ch (CPT) Douglas Williams
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Retirement

Oh God our Creator, Father and Friend, we give Thee thanks for the wonderful gift of life, with all its joys and responsibilities. We thank Thee for work honestly done, for good health, and for the love and the loyalty of our friends. Enable us to have a strong vision of the future that is built upon the precious memories of the past. We beseech Thee that our hearts may continue in service to our nation, our friends and Thee, our Lord and Master. This prayer we offer in Thy holy name. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Jerry L. Mize
Fort Ord, CA

Our Heavenly Father; for the brief moment invade our thoughts with a strong awareness of Your presence. Give us a clear recognition of Your priorities amidst the many demands upon us. Provide us with a distinct vision of what we ought to be and do and the strength to accomplish it. Open our minds to the many needs we have that only You can fill. Help us to hear Your voice among all the noises that blast at us. Suffer our faith in Thee never to fail and attune our purposes in military life and mission to Your divine design. We ask Your special blessings on our friends, as they depart from us. Guide their footsteps along the new and uncharted paths before them. And provide them with a full measure of Your care and keeping. Thank You allowing them to pass our way. We thank You for this food. Bless us with physical mental and spiritual health. Assure us now of Your abiding love. Accept our gratitude for all the gifts that enrich our lives. Amen!

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth Army

* * *

O Lord we invite You to be among us. We thank You for () who, retiring, has turned in his sword to make war no more. May he truly live in peace of mind and heart. We thank You for both him and his wife who have shown us the path of the patriot and the conviction of the Christian. Thank You for sending them our way. They have enriched our fellowship and elevated our professionalism. O God, under Your care every end is a new beginning. Go with our friends into their new beginning enrich it with joys and blessings and the fulfillments they so richly deserve. Amen!

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth Army

* * *

As life makes yet another transition, O Lord, I pray that we will permit You to be active — to guide these days of change. Thank You, God, for the past times of accomplishment, even for the times of difficulty and trial which eventually resulted in growth and learning. Thank You for the partners in work, and friends, who have been willing to share, to teach and to learn. And now, O Lord, let growth and learning and serving not end, but let it find yet another avenue in this time called "retirement." We pray this in Your Spirit, whom we trust to guide us. Amen!

Ch (LTC) Billy M. Hayes
Fort Ord, CA

Loving Lord God, creator of life, author of friendship, inspirer of selfless service, look with Thy favor upon this gathering. Give to Thy servants, (Name),

enough happiness to keep them thoughtful,
enough trials to keep them strong,
enough hope to keep them happy,
enough failure to keep them humble,
enough success to keep them eager,
enough friends to give them comfort,
enough wealth to meet their needs,
enough enthusiasm to make them look forward
to tomorrow,
enough determination to make each day better
than the day before.

Bless our time together this evening with good memories well shared, good food thankfully received, and good friends in thoughtful conversation.

We pray Thy blessing on the command and staff of (unit), and all who serve beside us that decisions will be made in the larger interests of our nation and in the quest for peace for human-kind. Bless our soldiers and their families, through separation and unity, and inspire us all to selfless devotion to duty and service to all. In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

Ch (LTC) Jimmie C. Spiller
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Almighty God, please grant Your blessings upon this assembly. We give thanks for all Your gifts and blessings. Especially for those gifts of () and () here at () and with the ().

We ask dear Lord that You commit them to Your love and keeping as they enter a new time in their lives.

And as the old prayer goes () and (): May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall soft on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.

Ch (COL) Michael J. Yunk
Fort Polk, LA

Lord of the seasons of life, we come honoring two men who have entered our lives in various ways and soon hang up their uniforms to begin still another of life's seasons. Their departure makes us reflective and grateful, Lord — grateful for youth's enthusiasm and goals toward which to work.

Grateful for fellow soldiers and their families who have been our teachers and our students, and who encouraged, corrected and sustained us in good times and bad.

Grateful for work to do, energy and skill to do it, and the high calling of a great nation to serve the cause of peace through strength and preparedness.

Grateful for Your presence, Lord, even when we have taken You for granted and thought little of our need for You.

Grace our tables today, Father, with the warm conversation of friendship, the honest reflection on careers of service, the nourishment of good food, and the shared concern for continued service to our country and to all humankind.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

Ch (LTC) Jimmie C. Spiller
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Father, we thank You for these soldiers, our comrades, who are retiring, we thank You for their selfless service to their country, and for their dedication and untiring devotion to duty. May they be justly proud of their accomplishments and the part they played in keeping America free. Give them a long life to enjoy the fruits of their labor. May they leave full-time service with head held high knowing that, though their place on line will be filled by another, they can never be fully replaced. Amen.

Ch (CPT) James E. Schnorrenberg
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Dear Lord, our God, today we come before you with mixed emotions; for those who are retiring, we thank You for their lives and their great contributions to our country. We are glad for their successes, but we are sad for we will miss them and their friendships as they move on. And Lord, we pray for them. There is a part of them that is rejoicing and

looking forward to another chapter in their lives; but there is also another part of them that is feeling the loss of all the good things that their careers have meant. On this day give these men the delight of their successes, and the continual promises of Your blessings as they continue to be great people in the path that lays before them. May the challenges of the future give them the zest and energy to succeed even as we celebrate their success today through this ceremony. We thank You for these friends, in the name of Jesus, we offer this prayer of thanks. Amen.

Ch (LTC) John H. Reed
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Safety

Heavenly Father, as we begin this worship service, to explore ways that we may work together more closely to insure the safety of our citizens, we bow to ask Your blessings.

Help us to understand that safety is both a practical and spiritual value. Bless our efforts to reduce the carnage brought about by drunk drivers, and unsafe vehicles.

Help us to function as one team, whether we are military or civilian, so that our resources will not be wasted by duplication or fragmentation, and so that our energies can be focused on the common good.

We sincerely pray for the time when all men and women will be able to associate as brothers and sisters in a just and safe society.

We ask these things for the glory of Your name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Unit Deactivation

Creator of all, You have stated in Your Holy Word that there is "a time to be born, and a time to die... a time to break down, and a time to build up..." Today we begin the process of breaking down (unit designation). We humbly ask Your help, Lord, in this process. May we anticipate our accomplishments and build a strong esprit de corps which will include friendships and events which will bring honor upon ourselves

and our nation. We express joy that today we can be part of this new unit which we can help shape and develop. Thank You, Lord, for the promise of the future. We ask Your blessing on our endeavor today, in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Jimmy Rucker
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

USMA

Our heavenly Father, as we depart with an added sense of gratitude for the friendship and comrade we have remembered and experienced today, we ask that You would inspire us with dedication and determination to use all our talents, gifts, blessings and our marvelous capability of encouraging and inspiring others. In the days and years ahead, help us to be ever more aware of each other and to remember each other in our prayers to You. As this day brings memories of those whom we have lost, may it also bring Your consolation and the assurance of Your everlasting, living presence. We anticipate the future with reassurance as we ask You to go with us lovingly, purposefully and protectively through all the rest of our lives and service, wherever Your leading may direct us. And just now, today, as our lives intersect for a moment, we ask that all we do the rest of this day may enrich our appreciation each of the other and enhance our closer walk with You. By all our aspirations, by all our fears, by all our joys and sorrow, by life and death itself, teach us and lead us nearer to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whit McMillan
Fort Sam Houston, TX

* * *

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, we give You thanks for the blessed capacity we have for remembering and for the equally marvelous ability we have for dedicating ourselves today, and creatively seeking what we may do tomorrow for the good of our beloved Army and Nation which are so much a part of us and of which we are so much a part. May Your presence grace our words and activities and song this day as we remember the heroic service and sacrifice of all the members of the "Class of ()" who wore so well both "cadet gray" and "Army

blue." Help us also today to see that You have matched us to this hour in history and that responsibility to You, to our nation and to our fellow soldiers, demands dedicated, living service by all of us — now. Give us strong faith in God, hope for the future, love for our nation and concern for fellow soldiers and fellow Americans, that we may daily deposit things of value on which those who follow us can draw interest tomorrow. To this end, bless this Memorial Service and each one of us here with Your continued inspiration and guidance. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whit McMillan
Fort Sam Houston, TX

(

Civil Observances

()

()

()

CIVIL OBSERVANCES

Armed Forces Day

Almighty God, we thank You for this opportunity to come together this afternoon. You have given each of us a need for support in our lives and a need to be assured that what we are doing is appreciated. We are especially grateful to those who have concern for the men and women in our military and wanted to express their concern by attending this luncheon.

We ask You to bless them with continued health of mind and body and reward them for their efforts. We in the military are thankful for this occasion and ask that You deepen our appreciation for all who support us. Help us to show our gratitude by a sincere willingness to make whatever sacrifices necessary to do our part in preserving the gifts You have given each of us and our country.

Accept this occasion as our way of saying we are Your people, united in keeping Your peace and spreading Your kingdom. Bless this food we are about to receive and our efforts to serve You. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Eternal Father, we are gathered here to remember the selfless service of those who are honored today. I pray that You will bless them in their new endeavors. Give them the strong sense of Your presence and leading in their futures. May their example spur us on to greater accomplishments. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Ch (LTC-P) Gaylord E. Hatler
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Father in heaven, as we conclude this enjoyable social time, we find it hard to believe that many of our young people are walking along the DMZ in Korea, the edge of freedom, or along the Berlin wall. They probably feel alone, unsupported, fearful.

It's hard to believe that some in this room may be called to direct their people into combat. They too, will feel alone, unsupported, fearful.

Most of us here will be called upon to make decisions that will affect the careers and lives of others. At those times we will also feel alone, unsupported and fearful. Bless us with a constant awareness of Your presence in our lives. Let this occasion, and occasions like this, give us the support we need from our fellowmen and women to lessen our fears. This we ask with confidence in Your fatherly care and providence. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Eternal and ever blessed God, who has been our helper in times past, continue to be our help in these days. On this Armed Forces Day we offer to You our praise and thanksgiving for the blessings of the past, the challenge of the present, and the hope of the future.

Make us ever mindful of the sacred trust we have received from our fathers. Instill in our hearts a deeper sense of righteousness and justice. Enable us to rededicate ourselves to the heritage and principles that have made our nation great. Keep us ever alert and ready to seize the opportunities of today and give us the ability to take a hard look at the future and a willingness to accept the challenge of tomorrow.

We pray for the men and women who constitute the fabric of our military strength. We would especially remember those who are exposed to danger and peril in the defense of our nation, those who are prisoners of war or missing in action and their families, who wait in loneliness and sadness of heart. Be near to each one of them and give them a sense of comfort of Your presence.

Finally, we pray for Your fatherly benediction as we join with those round the world who work toward the end that righteousness and peace shall prevail among all the nations of the world. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Joe R. Colley
Fort McPherson, GA

O God, we pause to acknowledge You as the Lord and Giver of life. We thank You for all Your blessings upon us. Be with those who serve in the armed forces today, especially our leaders. Endow them with courage and conviction. Add wisdom to their knowledge, and flavor their ambition with a sense of service. Do not allow us to be victorious without first being right; may we not have greatness without goodness. May our motivation for might be our love of peace; peace in our world, among all people, within ourselves, and most of all we pray for peace with Thee. We ask You not for tasks more suited for our strength, but strength more suited to our tasks. Give us a positive faith that we may see in every difficulty an opportunity, in every blessing a responsibility, and in every protection a purpose. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

Almighty God, we thank You for Your many blessings upon our great nation. You have given us a bountiful land in which to live. Your hand has ever been upon us to sustain us in adversity and to guide us in prosperity. We thank You for the gift of dedicated people who have served in the armed forces of our country; for each person in every level of responsibility who has loved and defended our nation, who has helped to pass on to us the blessings of freedom and peace. You have given our nation great strength and wealth. We humbly pray for great wisdom to use aright the mighty forces at our disposal for the defense of that freedom and the preservation of peace in our world. Help us always to trust in Thee, to honor and to value highly the qualities of faith, character, and moral integrity that provide the ultimate source of our strength. Provide all those who serve today in the armed forces a full measure of Your care and protection. You, O Lord, are our strength and shield. We thank You for the food we will enjoy tonight and all the sustenance You have provided. Bless us with Your abiding presence now and forever. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

Boy Scouts

Dear Father, we pray for all the scouts assembled at this court of honor. Through hard work and perserverance they have reached their goal. Give each scout great satisfaction in his accomplishment, not only for personal gain but also in his service to others. Thank You for the scouts' commitment to honor You, to be reverent and kind. May the love You have for us be seen through their willingness to reach out in our community, making it a better place to live, work and serve You. In Your holy name. Amen.

Ch (LTC) G. Lokkesmoe
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Almighty and loving Father, we are aware that it takes a lifetime to make a tree, that fruit does not ripen in an afternoon, and that even You took seven days to create the universe. We are encouraged when we see progress. Whenever we can see young people who are close to us making progress in achieving maturity, we do well to mark those points in their lives. This is what we plan to do this evening. Bless this occasion and help us to honor these Scouts rightly that they may continue to grow and that we may be inclined to help them grow. Amen.

* * *

Our Father, as this Court of Honor comes to a close, accept our thanks for our sons and for this happy moment in their, and our, lives. Help us to stand beside these young men and guide them as they gradually, but surely, take their places of responsibility. Now let Heaven's benedication descend upon and abide with us all. Amen.

Ch (COL) W.M. McMillan
Fort Sam Houston, TX

O God, Builder of lives, be present as we recognize the achievements of these scouts. Help us to celebrate the victories over the tasks that have been achieved with great joy. Help us to realize that those who have gained scouting skills are now responsible for passing these to those who are unskilled. We give thanks, O God, for the programs, the people, and the possibilities before each scout family as they continue in their tasks and preparations. Hold them fast to the ideals set forth by scouting. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas V. Sell
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Dear God our Father, we acknowledge Your presence among us as we experience Your creation around us. Our prayer is for guidance and growth; to mature in wisdom, stature, and spirit. Build character in our lives through courage, commitment, and compassion. Direct our paths in life as we seek to fulfill Your purpose in love and brotherhood. Amen.

Ch (CPT) James E. Agnew
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Heavenly Father, Who watched Your own son progress into adulthood, growing in favor with God and man, bring Your rich blessings upon Scouting. Bless those who lead and those who participate in the Scouting program.

We thank You for the fine work of Your servant. We appreciate the good that has been accomplished through his service projects, and rejoice in his personal growth during the whole process. Bless him tonight, and always. May his whole life be inspired by the values he has learned in his successful quest for Scouting's highest award.

Bless young people everywhere, and we who are their elders, with a future rich in opportunity, where peace on earth, and good will among all people will be realized. For the glory of Your name, Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ FORSCOM

Chamber of Commerce

Lord, grant us Your blessing as we gather to share this meal in Your sight. Strengthen and nourish our mind and spirit as this food will nourish our bodies. For the blessings of food, friendship and the challenges we share for our common good we give You thanks. Encourage us in our endeavors to live above the common level of life. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. In Your name, Lord, we pray. Amen.

Ch (LTC) George R. Hattle
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Death of a President

In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer. Today our nation grieves the passing of our leader. Fear and confusion cloud our mourning. Concern for our nation's future rests heavily in our hearts. Grant, Father, the mantle of Your wisdom upon our new president, that he may provide stability and leadership in the days ahead.

And let us honor the memory of President (name) by our commitment to his principles of freedom, peace, justice and love for this our land. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Ronald N. Johnson
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

O God, our Heavenly Father, at this time of national grief over the death of our president we pray that You will comfort us with the strength and consolation of Thy love. Send Your peace upon us as we struggle with the uncertainty of human life. Increase our faith, hope and love and enable us to comfort one another by our common sorrow. In the midst of this darkness may we continue to see Your will and have the courage to overcome our doubts and fears and accomplish Your mission for our world. This prayer we ask in Your name. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Jerry L. Mize
Fort Ord, CA

Merciful Father, You are the comforter of all who sorrow and the helper of all who are in need. Our hearts are full of sadness as we mourn the death of President (name). Give, we pray, to his family, and to us, the blessing of Your grace in this hour of grief. We thank You for his patriotic, unselfish leadership of our beloved land. May his unwavering love of country stir us to a deeper dedication of those principles upon which our nation was founded. We thank You, Heavenly Father, that in Jesus Christ we have hope. Help us all to hear anew the words of Jesus, "Because I live You shall live also." Through Jesus Christ our saviour and Lord. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Robert G. Lokkesmoe
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Fraternal/Sororal Gatherings

Lord Jesus, You have said where two or three are gathered in Your name, You are in their midst. We ask Your kind presence upon this gathering of Your children, that as they endeavor to have fun and enjoy each other's company, they may always see Your guiding hand upon them. Direct them in all their undertakings to Your heavenly kingdom and bless them with the generosity of Your gifts, and let them realize that in this gathering, it is only in Your service that the real satisfaction comes. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

* * *

Good Neighbor Luncheon

Almighty God, it is evident by the spirit in this dining room that You made us social beings. You have given us the ability to experience the genuine happiness that comes from sharing our lives, our talents, and our possessions with those around us.

From our earliest years You have helped us realize that one of our most precious possessions is a friend who is generous in sharing himself/herself with us. We warmly call that friend a "Good Neighbor."

Today, as the Fort () family we ask You to bless () with continued health of mind and body as we honor Him as *our* good neighbor. Bless all our good neighbors represented in him.

We also ask You to bless this food we are about to receive and our efforts to serve one another. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for this opportunity of being together. It gives us the time to evaluate our purposes in life and to remember that we are Your instruments in assisting those around us and in making our world a better place to be.

Thank You, too, for the examples of all our good neighbors. We do appreciate them and ask You to bless them in their lives of service.

Finally, as we leave, let our lives be gifts to those around us as we try to be good neighbors. This we ask with confidence in Your fatherly help and care. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Independence Day

Heavenly Father, we invoke Your presence and ask Your blessing as we pause to remember the many blessings You have showered upon our nation since the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed in 1776. We seek inspiration for our lives, and for good and unified relationships with others in our community and in our nation. Grant each one of us the opportunities and the abilities to do our part in building a great state and a great nation. Make us see that this cannot be done by people who are mere coupon-clippers on the original costly investments made by brave soldiers and statesmen who have gone before us. Give us faith in God and love for our fellowmen that we may have something to deposit on which the young men and women of today can draw interest tomorrow. We know that a different world cannot be made by indifferent or cowardly people; so provide us with the energy to challenge, question, initiate, always investing our concern and pledging ourselves to try to bridge the gap between the "ought" and the "is". Help us to live in the knowledge that You have matched us to this hour in history, and that the place and time of our service to You and to our country is not random, but by Your wisdom and direction. Finally, Father, let us not imagine that the mere hearing of a prayer on the Fourth of July will suffice to achieve the righteousness that exalteth a nation. Inspire each one of us here to see You and find You in daily, private prayer. And then, as You strengthen us individually, also make us collectively aware of what we can accomplish together — as a team that believes that "unless the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh, but in vain." Watch over us and all the members of our armed forces this day and always. In Christ's name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth US Army

O Lord God, our Father, we are grateful for the abundance You have provided our land so that we could become a great nation. Lord, help us to realize that all You have given us is but a trust to be shared. Father, grant us the unselfishness and ingenuity to make Your abundance available to all people everywhere.

As we face these exciting days as a nation, grant us the vision to see Your will and the courage to attempt it. May the faith and service and love that strengthened our forefathers so inspire us that we may serve the needs of our day without counting the cost, even as they did not count the cost in theirs.

O, Lord, our prayer for our nation is that You will give us faith for today and hope for tomorrow. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

O God we pray for our beloved land. We need Your help. We need Your guidance, for our folly has clearly and repeatedly demonstrated that we can't get along on our own wisdom.

Help us, Lord, to see that all true Americanism exists only in being Your men and women; that patriotism can have no other foundation; that it has no other roots.

We pray, O loving and merciful God, that all across this land there may be a return to the faith of those men and women who trusted in You as they faced the danger and peril of the frontier, not alone in crossing the continent, in building their cabins, in rearing their families, in eking out a living, but also in raising a standard of faith to which people have been willing to return down through the years.

Help us, the citizens of this nation, to want to do the right things. Instill within our hearts the right attitudes. Impute to our lives the right motives. May all that we say and do, spring from compassionate and understanding hearts. Make us willing, as individuals and as a nation, to seek as resolutely for righteousness as we have sought for riches, for You have told us that righteousness exalts a nation, but that sin is a reproach to any people — even a people whom Your grace and favor have spared the ravages of whistling bombs and whining mortars.

Bless and guide those who nationally bear the brunt of responsibility for making our prayer of this day come true. Bless the President of the United States. Lift him above the claim of politics. Fill him with the Spirit of God that shall make him fearless to seek, to know, and to do right — whatever that may be.

Strengthen and empower his cabinet, his advisors and the members of the Congress. May it become a fact that we have a government composed of persons who know the Almighty God as the Commander and follow him as their Leader. May they place Your will first in their prayers and in their lives.

Bless — and save — this land that we love so much, O Lord, and help her to deposit her trust, not in armies and navies alone, not alone in stocks and banks, nor only in the achievements of the human mind, but may she trust in that righteousness which alone exalts any nation and by which alone peace can finally come to us. This we ask in Your name, which is above every name, O God. Amen.

Ch (COL) Clarence L. Reaser
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Almighty God, our Loving Father, we approach Your throne of grace this morning with hearts full of thanks for the two centuries of freedom our nation has been allowed to enjoy. We know that our nation stands because it is Your will for us to stand and not because of our power or because of our technology. We pray, O Lord, that if it is in accordance with Your Divine will that You will cause our nation to withstand the forces that would destroy it. Protect us, O Lord, from external attack and from internal decay. Remind us constantly that it is righteousness that exalts a nation. Empower us with Your Holy Spirit so that we will act as salt in our society to preserve and purify it by melting the hearts of many which have been hardened by sin. We pray, O Lord, that You will use us as beacons to shine the penetrating light of truth and justice into the darkness of sin wherever we find people who are oppressed by the shackles of Satan and his servants.

We praise You, O God, for granting us the most precious freedom of all — freedom from sin through the death, burial and resurrection of Your Son and our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever else may happen to us, we know that the victory is ours through the blood of our Savior. Purify our lives of whatever evil is present. Wash us in the blood of the Lamb and cause us to stand pure and spotless in Your sight. Grant us the determination to resist the Devil and his influence upon us. Cause him to flee from us as You have promised that he will if we will resist him. Draw near to us, O God, as we draw near to You.

We pray, O Lord, for those whose hearts are burdened today with grief with concerns of any kind. We know that You love us and understand our needs better than we do ourselves. Comfort our hearts in the face of trouble. Give us the strength we need to go on with life. All of these blessings we ask in the name of our Savior. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Almighty and eternal God, we give Thee thanks for this nation's freedom and for those individuals throughout history who have lived and died for our independence. We bless Thee for those who work today for justice and peace. We praise Thee for the many opportunities this nation provides and for the pride we share in our accomplishments over the centuries. Grant that we may be faithful citizens always mindful of Thy Lordship. This prayer we offer in Thy holy name. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Jerry L. Mize
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Most gracious Father, in Your name our nation came to be. Through Your guidance freedom has flourished, the dignity and worth of all people have been made known. From our shores the hope of liberty has been broadcast, and America is that inspiration of all who desire democracy, justice and peace. Grant, Most Holy God, that the people of this nation never hold unprized the achievements of our fathers. Give us grace to maintain our liberties and our vision. Strengthen in us a commitment that in obedience to Your law this nation shall not flounder, and that we shall show forth Your praise among all the nations of the world. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Ronald N. Johnson
Fort Carson, CO

O Lord God, Almighty Creator, accept our praise today. For generation after generation You have shown forth Your almighty power. Your blessings have been ours from our very beginning as a nation.

We thank You for the freedom that was won over 200 years ago. Help us to appreciate that freedom as we celebrate it today. We pray for those nations whose people are oppressed. Where they thirst for freedom, Lord, may their thirst be quenched. Where they hunger for peace, Lord, may their hunger be satisfied.

We remember today how we have grown from thirteen states to fifty. We thank You that liberty is enjoyed, tyranny is abhorred, justice is practiced and hate is being conquered. Help us to remember what You have commanded, that we should act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. May we show forth those characteristics as a nation for the next 200 years.

Help us, O Lord, to trust in You, to remember the lessons of our past, to be responsible in the challenges of the present, and to be resourceful with the prospects of the future. Let freedom ring in our lives, our nation and our world. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas L. Day
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Law Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we praise You for Your mighty act of creation in which You made a good earth and peopled it with Your creatures. You built natural laws into the universe that it might sustain life; You told Your world to abide by those laws — and it was so.

Then You created people in Your image and told them to abide by Your laws. But they did not! And people ever since have suffered the consequences of refusal to obey those laws.

As we meet today in recognition of the role of law in our society, we ask for a new awareness both of the importance of lawfulness and of how it may be achieved. Help us, we pray, truly to achieve a "Generation of Progress" in the achievement for all people everywhere of that expression of law called "justice and human rights." In Your name we pray, O'God. Amen.

Ch (COL) Clarence L. Reaser
Fort Ord, CA

March of Dimes

Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege of living in a great and free country, for the high standard of living that we enjoy, and for fellow citizens who care for the less fortunate.

We lift up to You, with grateful hearts, the thousands of volunteers across our nation, and the hundreds in this area, who are attesting to their compassion and commitment by joining the March of Dimes' Walk America.

We look forward to a day when dreaded illnesses are conquered, and when children will not be born with crippling defects.

To these noble goals we direct our efforts, asking for Your rich blessing upon us.

For the glory of Your name, we pray.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Martin Luther King Day

Creator God, Master and sustainer of all life.

Today we worship You in our gathering as we honor a great leader, Martin Luther King, Jr.

On this holiday we are reminded of marches, boycotts and sit-ins. We are also reminded that many gave their lives so that all people could enjoy the freedoms of this great Country.

O God our Father, thank You for making this day a reality. Thank You for building within our spiritual and moral fiber a thirst and hunger to confront social injustices and institutional wrong doings.

We praise You God for allowing this day to point towards an even higher tomorrow.

We praise You for being in complete control of our past, present and future. And we adore You for allowing us to help make this world a better place for all people everywhere. May we follow the leading of Your Spirit forever. Amen.

Ch (ILT) Rickie Holmes
Fort Hood, TX

May Thy spirit go forth as a right wind smashing down all the barriers to brotherhood and all the enemies of Thy divine love. Oh Lord, grant unto us the vision to see each other as You see us. To complement each other, to love and help each other and to fulfill Your purpose for the kingdom. Open, O Lord, the eyes of our understanding to the past that we may see right the present hour and the future. Help us to establish a city whose builder and maker is God, whose light of liberty and beacon of brotherhood shines to the whole world forever. Oh God, only Your plan will work. Help us to truly be Your people. In Thy name we ask it. Amen.

* * *

Divine Creator, who did fashion man in Your own image and who also made him of one blood with his fellows, on this day we remember the birthday of Your servant, Martin Luther King, Jr. He struggled throughout his life and finally suffered martyrdom in the cause of making brotherhood a reality. We as soldiers have known and experienced the common humanity of man in times of great stress, danger, need and crisis in our lives. Then, our largely artificial barriers of class, of creed, of color gave way to the divinely implanted impulse to protect and defend each other, to share with our fellows the crust of bread, the cup of water, and the word of reassurance. Hasten the day when elemental brotherhood will be the continuous order of the day, rather than seen only in times of catastrophe and disaster. To this end, bless all that is said and done in this Memorial Service today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ch (COL) W.M. McMillian
Fort Sam Houston, TX

* * *

Our Heavenly Father we thank You for the contribution of Dr. King and all those who follow in his steps. We thank You for the beauty of their uniqueness, the vitality of their faith, the nobility of their sacrifice, and the inspiration of their accomplishments. We thank Thee for their contribution to the American way of life their love of freedom, their eternal hope, unfolding dream, and their unshakable and undying faith. Help us, God, to be aware of Your presence within all people of faith. Open our hearts to Thy divine influence, eliminate our prejudices and hardness of heart.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
Fort Sheridan, IL

Our Father in Heaven, You surround our daily life with familiar things and well-known faces. You not only instruct us, but also command us to love others as much as we love ourselves.

We pray You will help us to remove all that divides us from one another. Teach us what it means to truly love one another in deed, and not by word alone. Teach us to practice kindness instead of hindrance, love instead of hate, helpfulness instead of destruction. Use us to give life meaning and purpose and hope, instead of trampling down, crushing under and destroying that life.

Our Father, we are grateful for the man whose birthday we remember today. Accept our thanks for giving us, even for a little while, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Help us to practice what he lived and died for. May the world be a better place because he lived. Thru Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Joe R. Colley
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Almighty God, we acknowledge Your presence during this national birthday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his non-violent approach to love, freedom and justice for all humanity. We ask that You will continue to guide and lead us through Your wisdom and knowledge. Thank You for Your eternal understanding and mercy when we fail in our benevolence toward one another. May we remember the dream of Dr. King as we continue to interact with one another in society. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Garlin Jones
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

A day to celebrate the life and dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. A day to reaffirm the American ideals of freedom, justice, and opportunity for all. A day for love not hate, for understanding not anger, for peace not war. A day for the family: to share together, to reach out to relatives and friends, and to mend broken relationships. A day when the community rids itself of the barriers which divide it and comes together as one. A day when people of all races, religions, classes and stations in life put aside their differences and join in the spirit of togetherness.

A day for our nations to pay tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., who awakened in us the best qualities of the American spirit. A day for nations of the world to cease all violent actions, seek non-violent solutions, and demonstrate that peace is not just a dream, but a real possibility. If only for a day, if for only one day, each of us serves as a "Drum Major for Justice and Peace," then we will bring to life the inspiring vision of freedom which Martin Luther King, Jr. dreamed."

And when this happens, and we allow "freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up the day when all God's children "...will be able to join hands and sing... 'Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last'."

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Medical Meeting

Oh God our heavenly Father, we thank You for this day and for Your presence with us. We come together today for the purpose of discussing health care for the people of this area. Our prayer is that You might bless the activities of this hour and also bless each person involved, help us not to be so concerned for the health of others that we neglect our own physical, mental and spiritual health. With that thought in mind, Oh God, we thank You for this food and ask You to bless it as we partake of it and bless us in Your service of delivering health care. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

MEMORIAL DAY

O God of Eternity, our times are in Your hands. The reading of the names of our fallen heroes have reminded us of that. And the tribute to them symbolized by the laying of the wreath in their memories reminds us that even more important than how long we live is how well. In this quiet moment of meditative memory, we think of them each and remember them before You. We think also of their families and ask that

Your great heart of love may sustain them all in the times of deep sadness, loneliness, and even of anger, which break their hearts from time to time.

We also think today of other heroes, who inhabited other times, who like our fallen friends, have helped to build a nation based upon Your principles of justice for all and freedom for all — freedom from want, and from tyranny and from fear, and freedom to worship You as they choose. You blessed America and made her strong. Help her also to be good.

Bless and save this land which we love so much, O Lord, and for which any of us would die if necessary. Help her to deposit her trust not alone in armies and navies, not alone in stocks and banks, nor only in the achievements of the human mind, but in that righteousness which alone exalteth any nation and by which alone peace can finally come. May it be O God, that the words "In God we trust" is not just a motto inscribed upon our coins, but a rule of life emblazoned upon our hearts. In Your name we pray, O Lord. Amen.

Ch (COL) Clarence L. Reaser
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Eternal God, as we celebrate the events of this all American week, we pause to remember those who have gone before and the sacrifices they made so that we may have the freedoms we enjoy this day. Let us in this moment rededicate ourselves to the highest ideals our fallen comrades lived and died for. Help us to maintain the fitness, develop loyalty, cherish the integrity that is essential to accomplish the missions that are yet before us. Grant that the division may always be an instrument of Your peace in a world that is all too familiar with war. This we ask in the name of the great friend and master of all, our Lord and our God. Amen.

Ch (COL) Clarence L. Reaser
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

O Lord our God, we remember before You this day the men and women of our Armed Forces who gave their lives that freedom and justice could live. We recall their sacrifices and offer them anew on the alter of liberty. Grant, gracious Father, that their deaths not be in vain, and that liberty and peace continue in America through our efforts. Give us an abiding sense of the heritage our veterans have bestowed, and the grace of Your presence in our ranks, now and evermore. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Ronald N. Johnson
Fort Carson, CO

Great God of the Universe, as we turn our thoughts to the past sacrifices of those who died so that we might live in freedom, grant us hearts and minds that are truly thankful.

Help us to fully appreciate the price that was paid at places like Bunker Hill, the Battle of New Orleans, The Alamo, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, The Ardennes, Omaha Beach, Two Jima, Pork Chop Hill, and most recently Lebanon and Grenada. Thank You for those who gave the "last full measure of devotion" and laid down their lives for this country.

As we remember these fallen comrades-in-arms who died in both distant and recent conflicts, fill us with resolve that we might be willing to lay our lives on the line to defend the precious freedoms we still enjoy today. But most of all, enable us to trust You, the Living God, and to entrust to Your keeping ourselves and our country. For we know that no man or nation can enjoy the blessings of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness without Your gracious intervention in the affairs of men.

Ch (CPT) Daniel A. Larson
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Our Heavenly Father, on this Memorial Day, we stand in grateful acknowledgment of our past history. We thank Thee for those who have lived and worked to bring us to this present hour. We acknowledge our debt to those of our nation who have given their lives for their country, for freedom, justice, and liberty. May we never forget the value of their sacrifice, nor the nobility of courage nor the tenacity of endurance, which have purchased for us peace, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Now, O God, help us to prize and keep this heritage that we may be true as they were true, loyal as they were loyal. Grant unto us the wisdom to weigh and evaluate the greater issues of life and forever live, fight and die for these great causes. We humbly pray for peace. Not only among nations, but among and within ourselves. Amen!

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
Fort Sheridan, IL

O God, You are our Father and the Father of all mankind, which means that we are all members of the same family — brothers and sisters. We would speak to You now, Father.

What we have to say to You is that we are mindful today that we are standing in the sacred place of the armies of the faithful, countless souls that passed and left no name. We remember that each who decided within himself that freedom is worth defending and if need be dying for, is known to You and valued by You even if others forget.

We want to remain sensitive God to the high price that others before us, in whose shoes we now stand, paid for the priceless gift of freedom, for the right of home, the church, the school, for the open door to personhood in a land the people rule.

God of Justice, save us from the awful sin of forgetting those who died for our sake and our children's sake. Lord, we want our children to be free to live and grow up and have the opportunity to experience the good gift of life You give. We pledge our lives in the service of eternal vigilance for the cause of peace. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Dennis Camp
Fort Drum, NY

* * *

Almighty God, You have given us this good land for our heritage; We thank You for the natural majesty and beauty of the land, for the great resources of this nation and for the men and women who have made this country strong.

We thank You especially for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. Although we have sometimes failed to follow its clear light, give us strength to maintain its promised freedoms for all people.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and abolish poverty and crime. Haste the day, we ask, when all people in our nation will lift their voices in one united chorus of freedom and liberty for all.

We remember before You, O Lord, with grateful hearts all those men and women of our country who in the day of decision were not wanting and gave their full devotion to preserve the freedom and liberties of our nation. May we in our day give honor to their sacrifice as we continue to preserve, protect, and enlarge those ideals for which they gave their lives.

We acknowledge the sacrifices of soldiers, and members from other military services, whose names are unknown, but whose heroism is not

forgotten. We pray that today, as the remains of an unknown soldier from the Vietnam war are implaced in our nation's capitol, alongside those of unknown soldiers from other conflicts, the fierce passions, antagonisms, and pain of the past will be assuaged, and our nation will be inspired to a nobler and more diligent quest for national unity.

We pause, not to give meaning to their deaths, but to know the true meaning of our lives. Let them be our teachers as we seek to rediscover the sources of courage, dedication, patriotism, and sacrifice.

May we not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. Grant us courage and strength to preserve as we seek to carry out Your holy purpose of brotherhood for all mankind, that Your name might be glorified in all the world. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Father, we thank You for the sacrifice, the ultimate giving of their lives of these men and women we honor today. Without their willingness to give totally of themselves, we would not continue to remain free. There are men and women who lie in unmarked graves all over this world who gave of themselves. There are families still mourning the deaths of husbands and brothers, wives and sisters given in the wars of our nation and we continue to seek Your mercy, grace and care for each of these.

Thank You Father for them in the name of Your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

* * *

Lord our God, as we stand here today, thousands of miles away from home, we stand proudly, for we gather to remember comrades in arms who have given us our legacy of freedom of greatness and our niche as a nation of history. And we stand Lord, remembering in their deaths Your own words so silently loud this day. No greater love have any than those who give their lives freely, out of love, out of commitment to something greater than themselves. Dedicate us today, Lord, to those same principles. Help us rise above our own narrow lives to recognize the blessings You have given us in our American heritage. And Lord, help us to remember above all else Your hand in our destiny, for without You we are nothing. You are Lord of all nations now and forever. Amen

Almighty Eternal God, in whom all generations of mankind live and move and have their being: Today we remember with deep gratitude, pride and esteem these men and women who have given their lives in the cause of freedom — these who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Lord, we are proud that their wishbones were not where their backbones should have been, that they did not choose the path of ease and comfort, but accepted the challenge of difficulty. They were men and women whose hearts were clear and whose goals were high — men and women who mastered themselves.

Lord, our prayer today is also for the living — not only those gathered here but for our nation as a whole. May no forgetfulness or indifference of ours make them to have perished as though they had never been.

To the end that these dead shall not have died in vain, may we receive with fit humility the fruits of their sacrifice, and carry on to further fulfillment their deepest hope for their land and ours that freedom may continue to live. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Parent/Teacher Association

Dear Lord, we thank You for our children knowing that truly they are a heritage from You. Help us to realize by this association that You as the Master Teacher have tasked us all with teaching the little ones in the way they should go. In Jesus name. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Dennis Camp
Fort Drum, NY

* * *

Our Father, we sincerely appreciate You in that You have blessed us, enriched our lives and entrusted us, both parents and teachers with these little ones. We pray that You will guide and direct our paths in the way we should go in order that we may know the truth as we attempt to train up our little ones in the way they should go according to Your divine will, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ch (MAJ) Dennis Camp
Fort Drum, NY

O God, as we come together as parents and teachers, we pause to remind ourselves that You are the master teacher in life and that You are parent to everyone.

We also call to our awareness and sensitivity that effective teaching and effective parenting have the same ultimate goal, to assist individuals in the process of becoming. Increase our commitment to be faithful midwives to that process and decrease our temptation to try to control it. We are Yours. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Dennis Camp
Fort Drum, NY

* * *

Pearl Harbor

O Lord, on this the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor 42 years ago, we are reminded this day of some 45 nations involved in some 40 conflicts or wars around the world.

Reassure us that there is "more to peace than the absence of war," and help us to learn lessons from the past. We gather often like this for fellowship. Bless our time together. Help us to be good people that we may become good leaders. Remind us that a different world cannot be built by indifferent people. Let us never give up hope of the possibility of change. Remind us of Thy love which will not let us go and will not let us off. Bless this food to our use and us to purposeful service. Amen.

Ch (COL) William Bagnal
Retired

* * *

Pre-Citizenship Class, ACS

Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and lift up our hearts to thank You for the many rich blessings You have bestowed upon us.

We thank You for the benefits of living in this free and great land.

We bless, in Your name, those who have been preparing for citizenship, and pray that their future will be enriched with many happinesses.

Help us all to experience that greater unity in spirit under God, that knows no limitation of national boundaries or creeds, and that promises a peaceful and satisfying future.

As we enjoy food together we pray that You bless those who prepared it, and all others who have given of their time and abilities to make this evening's event a reality.

For the glory of Your name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Red Cross

Almighty God, we ask for Your presence and invoke Your blessing upon these volunteers who have completed a period of instruction and preparation. We thank You for the voluntary desire of these Your servants to help fellow human beings in need, and for their willingness to give of themselves. Grant them in their service to be imaginative, kindly, and always helpful. Now let us not imagine that the mere exercise of listening to a brief prayer at a graduation ceremony can take the place of individual private petitions. May there arise from every heart here frequent, silent, daily prayer that lays personal claim on Your promises, so that above all, Your will may be done and that these ladies may be blessed in doing it. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
Fort Sam Houston, TX

* * *

Heavenly Father, we bow to thank You for the many volunteers who devote time and energy in service to this community, and to those who provide leadership and coordination for their efforts.

We are especially thankful for the American Red Cross, and bless, in Your name, its many workers in this area, and around the world.

We remember that You taught us in Your Holy Word that such volunteers are really workers together with God.

We ask Your blessings on our entire community, that each member will know and do Your will, so that we all can live in true brotherliness. For the glory of Your name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

Sports

Eternal God, we are thankful for the gift of life and Youth. As we open this new basketball season, grant us the best reward in all of the contests of skill that are entered. As the games are played may the players play up to their abilities, may the coaches be good examples, may the officials be wise, and may the parents be helpful and good sports. Lord, keep all from spite and the harboring of grudges. Make us considerate winners and gracious losers. Enable us to be doer's and not always mere spectators in athletics, as well as all of life, so that we may enjoy the clean joy of all life. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Our Father and Our God, we are reminded of that biblical account of Jacob and how he wrestled with You Lord, and how that having laid hold upon the promise of his forefathers refused to loose his hold until he had received Your blessing. Teach us Father, this commitment to achieve; let us run the race with such a conviction as this. As we sport with our fellow man may we demonstrate deep devotion to You above, that all will clearly see those attributes so desperately necessary among men below. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who has faced so great an opponent, and has gained the prize even our salvation. Amen.

* * *

God our Father, we thank You for being the creator and sustainer of all that we know, as in Your creation You have given us diverse abilities. Help us O Lord to "Run the Good Race" to Your glory and the best of our ability. In Jesus Name. Amen.

* * *

Time of National Concern

Oh God, thank You for all our citizens who have honorably served their country. We honor and remember those who gave their lives in battle or in training such as those who died at Gander, Newfoundland or at the hands of terrorists, and others such as the crew of the Challenger.

Help us to comprehend the unexplainable "why." But Lord, there are some we can't account for, those who may yet be prisoners and those who are missing in action. We humbly pray for them. For those who are alive, we ask that You bring them home. We pray for the families who wait and hope. Strengthen them in their vigil; suffer their courage and faith in Thee never to fail. Provide You comfort and strength to all the families who have lost their loved ones. For those comrades in arms who are missing, we do so need to be able to make an end of it that the long night of darkness might be over. Help us, Lord, to never forget the value of the ultimate sacrifice, the giving of life, for the sake of others. We ask that You guide, guard and bless all our soldiers, for You are our God and we are Your people. Accept our moment of silence as the heart felt prayer for those we honor. Amen!

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
Fort Sheridan, IL

* * *

O Lord, who is ever present and always loving I ask for strength and courage in this moment and for the task before me. Courage I request and not protection for I know that with Your power I am able to do all things. My witness is born and my faith increased not by safeguards, but by a willingness to face any danger with Your divine presence. Strength I request and not a lightening of my burden, for I know that others will look to me for Thy ability to transform humanlife. Through Your strength, not only will I gain the ability to face difficulty, but others will be strengthened even in my midst. This petition is made in the name of Him who faced death and the burden of the cross victoriously, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Ch (COL) Robert G. Friend, Jr.
Fort Drum, NY

* * *

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted". . . We come to You in this hour, O God, in solidarity with our fellow soldiers and families of the thousands who acknowledge our loss and our grief in the tragedy which has come.

We come to grieve, but also to honor the memory of those fallen friends who have served with us in the common good and mission to preserve the freedom and security of this our beloved land.

We give You thanks for their honored and faithful service to our nation and to the cause of peace in the whole world.

You have promised comfort for those who mourn. Claiming that promise, O God, we come to You with prayerful assurance that You will comfort, heal and restore the families and all who grieve the loss.

In this season which celebrates the gift of faith and the hope it brings to a dark world, bring a special measure of Your supportive love to those who in a fiery crash have been deprived of the love of sons and daughters, of husbands and lovers, of fathers and friends.

Thus in the sure and certain hope that You have conquered death, give us courage to continue in life.

Comfort our hearts, give us Your light and help us to press on to do our duty, knowing that the eternal God is our refuge, and that underneath are the everlasting arms.

In Your name we pray, O Lord. Amen.

Ch (COL) Clarence L. Reaser
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

United Way

Our Father, we invoke Your presence and ask Your blessing on this group of community leaders as they pause to recognize the achievements of caring men and women throughout our city. At this beautiful time of year when the warm sun begins to return and draw from the earth the matchless beauty of nature in springtime, we are reminded of the drawing power of Your love in our lives. May that love bring forth in our lives thoughts of true concern for others, words of loving encouragement for each other, and actions of dedicated service for those who need us. We remember the words of Dag Hammarskjold's inspiring sentence: "In our era, the road to holiness and greatness necessarily passes through the world of action." So give our faith feet and hands, voice and heart, that will transform common and ordinary tasks and provide the vision and dedication which we need to undertake extraordinary tasks. In as much as sharing a meal may help to unify the thoughts, words and deeds of all of us, bless what we say, think and do here today. Bless now this food and us to Your service. Amen.

Ch (COL) W.M. McMillan
Fort Sam Houston, TX

USO

Almighty God, Father of us all, creator, sustainer and friend; we ask Your blessing on our meeting here this evening. We thank You that You are the helper of helpers. Since we are helpers we claim You as our special source of strength and help. We thank You especially this night for those in our military service who are called to be our defenders. We are grateful for their dedication, service and sacrifice by which we remain free. This can only be expressed through our efforts to help them as we strive to make their lot easier. Lord, bless the food we are about to eat and bless us in our service. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Almighty God, we ask You to be with us this evening; all of us present have a common bond to one another and to You.

That bond is our concern, especially for those in our military family. We ask Your guidance and the health and strength of mind and body to continue to express that concern.

Bless in a special way those who have hosted this evening, our time together and the good we are about to receive. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Veteran's Day

Gracious Father, we come into Your Presence asking that You bless this worship service in which we seek to pay tribute to our veterans — past and present — for their many contributions to the freedom we enjoy today. But Lord, most of all we want to pay tribute to You, our Almighty Father, for we know that it is by Your decree that nations rise and fall. Open our eyes, O Lord, so that no matter how alone we may feel, that like Elisha's servant in the long ago, we may look around us and see that we are surrounded by chariots of fire and an army more powerful than any on the face of the earth. To Your great and holy name we give thanks for the freedom we enjoy — a freedom which allows us to worship You even now. For it is in the name of our Lord that we pray, Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomss E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

Our God, and God of our ancestors, as we look backward on this Veterans Day, let us recognize the dedication of those soldiers who served our Armed Forces before us. Help us to make their sacrifices for freedom our guide in our daily duties. Uphold high the standard of service they set so that we will do our best each day. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Stanley H. Swartz
Fort Campbell, KY

* * *

Father, we give thanks to You for the courage and sacrifice of the men and women of the Armed Forces. It has been through their dedication to duty and Your bounty that our country has continued to remain free. As we celebrate this particular day of emphasis in our country we come to realizing that You are the one who has given to us courageous individuals to lead and to serve in our military forces and for that we are thankful and grateful. Amen.

* * *

Volunteers

Almighty and everlasting God, we pray Thy blessing upon these volunteers who have given of themselves for the service of others. Guide them by Thy wisdom and fill them with Thy love. Grant that they may freely receive as they have freely given. May we all remember that what is given in love is retained in eternity. So, we pray, guide and direct them in order that those who look to them and are taught by them may be in the way everlasting. This prayer we ask in Thy Holy name. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Jerry Mize
Fort Ord, CA

None of us works alone. We are part of a team. We need each other. Thank You for the service of those who help — sometimes seen, sometimes unseen, often unrecognized. Without them we would be unable to accomplish our mission in an effective manner. Volunteers help make us more productive in the quality of life we live, and in the work and ministry to which we are called. May feelings of worth and accomplishment be theirs. Thank You for those recognized today and those not here, perhaps even now contributing to our mission. Bless the contributions made by all of them. They are significant members of our team. Amen.

Ch (LTC) George R. Hattle
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Gracious and eternal God, You have given us the gift of life and blessed us with Your love and communion with You. But You have also blessed us with community and thereby with the opportunity for each of us to contribute our unique gift to the great adventure of living together. Remind us that although we share many things in common, a community's greatness lies in its ability to recognize, receive, and value what every individual brings to it. We especially recognize and thank You just now for the singular beauty You express in and through each of the volunteers we are here to honor.

Continue to bless our community with such gifts of value and grace as they. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Dennis Camp
Fort Drum, NY

()

()

()

Holy Days, Holidays, and Family Observances

()

()

1

()

HOLY DAYS, HOLIDAYS and Family Observances

Advent

Almighty Father, since You sent Jesus to be our Savior, we know that You dearly love us. For this we give You thanks.

Sometimes we act so selfishly, Father, and after we have done it we stop and ask ourselves why we behave that way. We are ashamed of our behavior and ask You to forgive us.

May we want to see You and be with You. May we want You so much that we see You in every human being around us. May we see You in some because they are strong in the faith. May we see You in others when they are strong in their need. Come to us, Lord Jesus, through our sisters. Come to us, Lord Jesus, through our brothers. Come to us, Lord Jesus, through our own joy and sorrow; through our own pain and peace.

Come to us, Lord Jesus, in any way You can. But, do help us to want You to come so much that we will continue to look for You with eager expectation.

Come to us in the meeting of the need of . . . (pray for requests).
Come to us in this Advent Season, Dear Jesus. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Clyde W. Northrop
HQ, Third US Army

* * *

O Lord, how soon we forget the reason for the season which we so recently celebrated.

We know that the Advent of a new year does not erase all difficulties or old problems.

Help us, however, to face life with new courage, new enthusiasm, and new assurance.

May we renew ourselves in the basics of our faith.

Remind us that the property of newness runs through the whole economy of grace.

May we face this new year with clear eyes and firm faith.

May this new year be a new beginning — a beginning filled with order, meaning and purpose.

Bless soldiers and their families all over the world. Bless this food to our use and us to useful service. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) William Bagnal
Retired

Chanukah (Festival of Rededication)

O God, on this festival of rededication, we are awed by the reminder of the courage and forthrightness of the Maccabees.

How great must have been their faith — in You, in their purpose, and in themselves.

Help us, in our day, if not to be Maccabees, at least to find inspiration in their example and encouragement in their deeds.

Make us to know that when our hearts and hands are in the right, our aims are godly. Make us to believe that we, too, can accomplish what we set ourselves to do, providing Your stamp of sanctity is on our purposes.

May we, then, succeed in all we strive for, in every act which exalts and hallows Your holy name. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) William A. Greenebaum, III
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

The lights of Chanukah recall to mind the strength of faith. It is the rekindling of the spirit which enables us to purify our thoughts and sanctify our deeds.

Aid us, O God, in this season and at all times, to keep aglow the awareness of Your spirit within us. Fire us with zeal to fulfill Your purposes, not only for ourselves, but for our world, as well, and all its inhabitants.

So may the flaming menorah be for each of us inspiration and encouragement to do Your will and fulfill Your sacred ends.

Thus, by our lives and deeds, may the spirits of all human kind be rekindled to sanctify all life and praise Your name. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) William A. Greenebaum, III
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

God of might and redeemer of all humanity, show our generation too that tyrants are disappearing. Let us triumph as the Maccabees did over injustice and oppression so that we can worship You in a world that sees all its people free. Renew in us the confidence that our decisions, our dedication to work for justice, our devotion to duty can save the lives of oppressed people everywhere. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Stanley H. Schwartz
Fort Campbell, KY

Christmas

Lord, gathered together amidst all this abundance, how grateful we must be for all Your blessings.

At this season, Christians rejoice in celebration of the birth of the infant, Jesus; Jews delight in remembering the victory for religious freedom of Judah Maccabee over the Syrian tyrant, Antiochus.

We gather at this holiday season also to celebrate our association with our departing Commander. As we bid a fond farewell to them, we pray that You will watch over them and see them safely to their new assignment, and that You will likewise watch over all of our soldiers as they travel during these holidays and see them safely back to us.

Praised be You, O Lord, who brings us food and every blessing. Amen.

Ch (COL) Richard E. Dryer
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Dear God, during this busy Christmas season help us pause and truly find the humble Savior in our hearts and in our lives.

Ch (MAJ) Gary E. Mayer
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Our Father, once in a while it is as though a light goes on and we perceive more clearly a truth, a relationship, an emotion we didn't realize ever existed, but which was there all along. As we of the First Army family gather for a meal and fellowship at this festive time of year, bless us with keen perception of all the marvelous blessings that have come to us this year and for which we are privileged to give You our most hearty thanks. And, simultaneously, Father, as we are drawn closer to You, may we be drawn closer to each other. Make this meal and this evening be indeed a "lighting-up" time for us. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth US Army

Our Father when You made Your invasion into the world as a baby born in a barn at Bethlehem, You took us all by surprise. Help us to hear the dying echo "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." Remind us again Heavenly Father that there is no peace until we make peace with You. As we gather together tonight in this place to celebrate Christmas, ignite our minds with the strong symbols of Christmas that our hearts may be warm toward You. Bless our homes, family members, distant friends, soldiers, nation, Commander in Chief, with Your Christmas spirit. Thank You for Your splendiferous gifts to us without which life would have no meaning. In the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Ch (COL) Walter D. Forsythe
Fort Lewis, WA

* * *

We are especially thankful during this holy season for the gift of Your love, and for the hope that fills our hearts, as we reflect on the event of Bethlehem nearly 2,000 years ago.

We pray that the true spirit of Christmas will permeate our souls until we are generous in our concern for the welfare of all of Thy children, and until we can really love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray for our fellow citizens who serve our country in distant and dangerous places.

We lift up those who have experienced death, suffering, or loss in recent tragic events.

Grant us their protection during this Christmas season. Be with our Commander, and all of the members of this special community, and keep us from harm or injury.

Sanctify this meal to our good, and our lives to Thy service for the glory of Thy name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Dear Heavenly Father, we bow our heads to give thanks to Thee for all of Thy gifts to mankind.

We are especially thankful in this holy season for the birth of the baby in Bethlehem, and for the hope that floods our lives as a result of that event.

We pray that the true spirit of Christmas will permeate our souls, until we are generous in our concern for the welfare of all of Thy children, and until we can really love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray for our fellow citizens who serve our country in distant and dangerous places.

We lift up those who have experienced death, suffering, or loss in recent tragic events.

We pray for Thy protection during this Christmas season. Be with our Commander, and all of the members of this special community, and keep us from harm or injury.

Make us a nation of good and honest citizens so that we can glorify Thy name in deed as well as in word.

For the glory of Thy name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

* * *

Almighty God, at a time when "Star Wars" has ignited the imagination of many, we thank You for the bright star which appeared over Bethlehem to signal to the world Your invasion of this planet. Thank You that Your assault meant peace and joy and for the many strong symbols of Christmas which have continued to repeat through the centuries.

As we stand before You tonight we are grateful for a hushed battlefield. We would much rather be here than out there in tents cold, muddy and alone with our MREs.

Thank You for a meaningful Christmas in the name of the One who made it happen. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Ch (COL) Walter D. Forsythe
Fort Lewis, WA

O, Lord God in the midst of:

Abundance and abuse,
Bright lights and beautiful colors
Carols and candy
Dining and dancing
Exaltation and espionage
Fancy clothes and fine jewelry
Gifts and gaiety
Hangovers and humor
Kris Kringle and kisses
Lovely ladies and loud music
Money and merry making
Nibbling and nuts
Oceans and old fashions
Presents and parties
Quality and quantity
Rank and regulations
Saint Nicholas and self-interest
Tinfoil and tinsel
Ultrasonic and unconcern
Vacations and vitality
Wardrobes and waste
X-rays and X-enogamy
Yule logs and year-end
Zero bank accounts and zestful living

O, Lord, help us to sort out the true message of this season which is the message of love, peace and joy. Because a Savior is born. We ask You to bless this food to our bodies' use and our bodies for use in Thy kingdom's work. Amen.

Ch (COL) Wayne C. King
Fort McPherson, GA

Invocation

Almighty God, You are with us this evening. Your presence is evident in the spirit that fills this room. Of Your many gifts we are grateful for the joy that comes from sharing our lives, especially in this holiday season. Help us welcome into our family those who were hailed this evening. Continue to protect those who will be leaving us. Bestow on us Your spirit of giving, especially of our time and energies to those around us. Bless this food we are about to receive and our being together this evening. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CA

* * *

Lord of Christmas,
We ask You to reign over this special season and over our lives.
Light of Christmas,
Let Your light shine through us that Christ Jesus may be seen in us.
Love of Christmas,
May Your love make us bold to risk loving our family.
May Your love give us courage to reach out to those who truly need love.
Life of Christmas,
May the vibrance of Your life energize us to be Christ-like all year round.
In the name of the King of Kings we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Clyde Northrop
HQ, Third US Army

* * *

O Lord, how grateful we are for the joys of this season.
Enable each of us not to limit our joy, excitement, and anticipation to one season or one day of the year.
Help each of us to keep this spirit alive in our hearts and in our homes, that it may continue to glow, to shed its warmth, to speak its message all year long.

Teach us to care and share. Give us generosity and concern for others. Save us, O Lord, from speculation that does not become obedient action. Too often, O Lord, we are tempted to idolatry. We are fascinated by glamorous stars. We are taken in by propaganda.

May we renew our allegiance to You. May we respond to life with faith and joy.

May our faith have feet and hands, a voice and a heart, that it may minister to others.

Teach us to live in daring faith and humble trust.

Now bless soldiers and families.

Bless this food to our use and us to purposeful service. Amen.

Ch (COL) William Bagnal
Retired

* * *

On this festive occasion, O Lord, we thank Thee that we can share food, fun, faith and fellowship.

We thank Thee for the return of the wondrous spell of this special season, many of us call Christmas — a season that brings sweet joy into our busy lives and troubled hearts.

Help us once again to see the star and hear the song of glorious promise.

May we find realistic ways to keep Christmas all year long.

Change the mirror of life into a window that we shall look through it to the needs of others.

Help us to be voices and not echoes.

Remind us that we do not need to be rich in order to be generous, nor have all wisdom to be understanding.

Our influence may not be great but it can be good. Stimulate our faith, hope, and love.

Bless this food and all of us to useful purpose. Amen.

Ch (COL) William Bagnal
Retired

Our Father, as we hear the music carols, our hearts are stirred by the thought of the coming of Christmas. We thank You for all the ingredients, past and present, that make this season of the year so special. Above all, we thank You for the spiritual ties which bind us to You, to our families, and to each other. As we light this tree today, may we be reminded of the challenge to be the "light of the world." And help us to remember that the world begins with the person next to us. May the joy and loving-kindness of this special season not only come into our hearts, but abide there so that after the glitter and tinsel of the season have been packed away, there may remain an underlying spirit that will make us easy to live with all year long. In Christ's Name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield McMillan
HQ, Fifth US Army

* * *

Christmas Formal/Holiday Ball

Dear God, hear our prayer, we thank You for creating all the light of the universe. We thank You for giving unto us the knowledge to create light in our world to dispel the darkness. We thank You for making Your Holy Light available to us to illuminate our way. May the brightness of Your love drive away all the shadows of the soul. As we enjoy the lights of Christmas and Chanukah help us to share with others the light of love and peace and joy. Help us to send forth in this world beacons of brotherhood and goodwill to all people. Bless our celebration with Your presence and this food to our well being. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ocie I. Courtney
HQ, Fourth US Army

* * *

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

We would like to make this a most meaningful ceremony in preparing to make our requests of our Heavenly Father.

Let us be conscious of all that is involved here this evening:
— The time of year when we celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

— A tree — which has one life flowing from its roots through its many branches.

— The lights our commander, (), is about to illuminate to radiate brightness and warmth to a world suffering from threats of darkness.

— Our band with many different instruments united in harmony.

— The people gathered here — some at home — many way from home — all with the same mission of preserving peace. Let us pray:

Almighty God, we ask You to be with us this evening to bless us by bringing about all that we try to express in this ceremony.

Grant that we may be conscious of the beautiful gift You have given us by creating our world and giving us a share in Your life . . . life that unites us as brothers and sisters with You as our Father.

By giving us a free will You allowed mankind to dim the radiance of Your presence.

As we join with our commander about to illuminate this tree give us the strength and motivation to radiate Your presence through our love, sharing and dedication.

Though we are many distinct and unique individuals help us live and work in harmony with one another.

Finally, help us show our appreciation for the infinite gift of love You bestowed upon us when You sent Your son to become one of us on that first Christmas Day, to enable our human life and to join us to himself in spreading Your kingdom.

We ask You to bless all of us — our families and friends in our efforts to spread Your love and peace. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Lord, we gather around the evergreen, the symbol of eternal life, the symbol of Your constant living presence among Your people. As we light this symbol of joy, of salvation, let its light also illumine our hearts and those of all mankind. Let that light be love itself. We ask it in Your Holy name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas P. Ozanne
Fort Riley, KS

As we meet together this afternoon for the lighting of this Christmas tree, we are mindful, O God, that there are many around the world who do not know the meaning of the word "Christmas" or if they do know the word, they are not allowed the opportunity to gather for an event such as this. We have this privilege because some of us and many of our forefathers paid the price of freedom.

So teach us good Lord, the values of this blessed time when heaven stands low over the earth; when our ears are attuned to celestial music and the spirit of wonder and self-giving again are found among all of us. Deliver us, good Lord, from being so caught up in the bustle of preparation of food and sending of cards, the wrapping of presents, the preparing of food — even the giving of gifts — that we forget the coming of the Christ. May the day when we celebrate His birth renew in our hearts the assurance that all persons are as precious to You as was the Holy Infant to Mary and Joseph in that far off Bethlehem. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Joe R. Colley
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

Our Heavenly Father, we bow to ask Your blessing on this Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

We recognize the rich symbolism of the tree, as something that bespeaks life, that endures the changing seasons, the ravages of nature and mankind and yet continues to grow, pointing the way to a more hopeful future.

May this ceremony be much more than our dedicating a tree. May we dedicate ourselves, more sincerely, and personally, to bringing true peace to all of the world.

May the Christmas lights penetrate our deepest souls until we experience the True Light that shined at Bethlehem. May that light shine brightly from within us until all of the darkness of fear, ignorance and prejudice is dispelled, and all of the world's people are free to live out the noble creed of brotherliness and true equality.

Finally, Father, we pray that the entire Ft () Community may know the joy and peace that this Holy Season proclaims, and receive Your rich blessings throughout the New Year. For the glory of Your name we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Henry L. Hunt
HQ, FORSCOM

Easter

Almighty God, who brings new life back again out of the deadness of the winter, we thank You for the symbol of everlasting new life You have given to us, the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In Him we see hope of new life in the midst of our despair over not being the people we would like to be. We pray that through Your son, Jesus Christ, we might be able to die to our old life of hurts, frustration, and sin, and rise to a new life of love, joy, and peace. May we be able to rejoice with the disciples that Jesus Christ is risen indeed, and because of it, we can live also. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Frederick R. Smith
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Our Father we come to You for Your blessing to seal within our hearts the inspiration and memories of this Easter Day. You have demonstrated Your great power in raising Jesus from the grave. Forgive us O Lord, for doubting such power in the midst of our small problems and many frailties. Forgive us for our lack of faith that begs for pennies when we could write checks for millions; that strikes a match when we could have the sun. Give to us the faith to believe that there is no problem before us that Your wisdom cannot solve. Especially do we ask that as the Easter sun has risen upon us, may the warmth of Easter's message also shine upon those who cannot worship with us because they are missing in action, or remain behind bars in prisoner of war camps. Let them know Your Power, too; may they soon be released. Now, for ourselves, our loved ones for all mankind we ask a stout heart to bear our own burdens, a willing heart to bear the burdens of others, and a believing heart to cast all our burdens upon You. Hear our prayer and accept our praise and worship this day. In Christ's Name. Amen.

Ch (COL) Whitfield M. McMillan
HQ, Fifth US Army

To You, all powerful God, ever-present Father, we turn our thoughts on this special morning. Yes, on this day we are impelled to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his death, has destroyed death; who by his rising again has brought us everlasting life.

We give thanks this morning for Jesus' atonement for the world's Sin, and we pray that You help each of us personally understand more fully what Jesus' life, his death, and his living again, means in our lives today. Through every sharp pain of repentance and suffering we feel; for every effort to put aside all sinful ways; for every Christ-like thought and action we share with those around us, help us to come to know that Your kingdom of heaven reigns within each of us here, now, to the degree that Your Christ reigns within our hearts, and minds and lives.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas C. Blair
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Almighty God our Father, who showed Your love for us by giving Your son to atone for our sins and who promised us new life through our Lord's resurrection, hear us now as we humbly approached Your throne of grace. We give You thanks and praise for the life, death and resurrection of our Lord, for in Him we are given hope; in Him we find purpose; in Him the power of sacrificial love is revealed. For the gracious love that reaches beyond the tomb and call us to life, we give You all glory and praise.

As we reflect on the glory of the resurrection morning, we are mindful of situations which need Your life-giving power today. We ask that You would restore order to our disorganized world so that we can stop living from crisis to crisis and from war to war. Help our world know the peace of Your leadership rather than the tensions of selfish human striving.

Our country is very much a concern of ours today. In a time when many of our people are disillusioned with government, we ask that You would give wisdom to our president, the congress, and the supreme court so that their decisions would be acceptable in Your holy sight and would lead America in the Christian principals upon which it was founded.

Finally, Father, we pray for ourselves. Life has dealt harshly with many of us, leaving us with the idea that we are unworthy of respect, even self-respect. Some of us have had professional difficulties that have

attacked our dignity, and others have suffered personal trials that test their ability to keep on going. In our darkest hour we pray for Your light and in our moment of failure we pray for Your strength. Whenever we stand on the precipice of life's canyons, uplift us with Your abiding presence so that we may not fall. Reach beyond the death-like grip of this world's hold on us and bring us to the new life of living each day in Your love.

Hear our prayers gracious Lord, and if it be Your will, grant their requests, for we pray in the name of him who taught his disciples to pray saying, (the Lord's Prayer follows).

Ch (MAJ) Lowell G. Roddy
Fort Campbell, KY

* * *

Father's Day

Our Heavenly Father, You call us Your children and provide for us, as even our own father's have done. We ask that You will bless all fathers here and elsewhere as they seek to provide for their families. May You grant them patience and kindness, mercy and grace, and faithfulness and love for the awesome responsibility they bear. Stand beside them and strengthen them, so that they know that they do not stand alone, but are sustained by Your presence. May we seek today to honor our fathers and show them we care for and appreciate them, just as we care for and appreciate You as the one who gave us life and created this world with all of its joys and possibilities. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Frederick R. Smith
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Heavenly Father, You have promised to "restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers." We pray that on this special day Your reconciling love would be in the hearts of all who are present here today. Give our fathers the wisdom and grace for effective leadership in our homes. May each child see in their father a reflection of You, our heavenly father. To this end grant us peace. For Your name's sake, we pray. AMEN.

Ch (MAJ) Dan C. McCall
Fort Lee, VA

Our abiding Heavenly Father with Your silent strength You fill us with feelings of joy and wonder. You watch over every move and gesture we make, like a loving father watching his child to grow and develop into the reflection of his own values and dreams. On this special day we set aside to honor fathers throughout our land, instill in us a gratitude for the care we have received and for the poignant memories of special times when our earthly fathers have etched on our spirits a higher meaning of love and devotion. Through their examples we have come to understand and accept Your world and Your ways. They are our teachers, our companions, our friends. And You, in Your infinite wisdom, give us fathers to bless our lives and encourage our growth in every way.

Eternal God and Father, we praise Your life-giving nurturing, Your patience, Your love. And we ask Your blessing on all fathers as they seek Your help and guidance in this awesome task of self-giving. In Your holy name we pray. AMEN.

Ch (CPT) Steve Doan
Fort Knox, KY

* * *

Good Friday

As we come together for this Good Friday prayer breakfast, we are especially conscious of Your love for each one of us. In that love Your Son died for us and has given us the gift of experiencing the happiness that comes when we share our lives with others.

Help us realize that we learn of You through one another, and that we grow closer to You as we grow closer to one another. Help us to make Your presence more evident by our concern for those around us.

Finally, bless this food we are about to receive and our efforts to serve You. Amen.

Ch (COL) Thomas J. Downes
Fort Carson, CO

Mother's Day

Almighty God, You care for us as a mother cares for her children. You see that we have all our needs met and You comfort us when we are suffering. We ask, O God, that today You would bless all the mothers here and elsewhere as they strive to care for their children in the best way they know how. May You grant them patience and kindness, mercy and grace, and faithfulness and love for the awesome responsibility they bear. Be present with them so that they know that they are not alone, but You are always there, ready and able to support and strengthen. Also, may all of us take today as an opportunity to give thanks for our mothers and seek in some way to show how much we care for them, as we also seek to thank You and show You our appreciation for Your everlasting love. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Frederick R. Smith
Fort Carson, CO

* * *

Dear God, life is filled with important people who show concern and love to us. Yet there is none quite so special as Mother. Thank You for giving her the desire to hold us and the will to direct our steps while we were young. Grant that her compassion and friendship shall always remind us of Your love for us Your children. May she experience peace and grace on this Mother's Day. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Willie P. Peacock
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

New Years

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father and Provider, we come before Your throne of Grace this morning very much aware of our need for Your Providential care during this New Year. We pray that You will provide for us as You have so graciously done in the year which is now past. Help us not to be bogged down by anything which has happened in the past year. For the sins we have committed, we pray that You will provide us with forgiveness. For the mistakes and failures of the past,

we pray that You will renew us with hope and optimism for the future. For those who can't seem to let go of the past, we pray that You will break their hold and help them to look to what lies ahead. For those with broken hearts and tearful eyes, we pray that You will provide true friendship and bring back joyful smiles. For those with confused minds and endless problems, we pray that You will provide clear judgement and the strength to endure. For those with physical injuries or bad health, we pray that You will provide Divine comfort and speedy recovery. For those parents who need help in raising their children, we pray that You will fill them with love and understanding for each other. For those couples whose marriages are in trouble, we pray that You will help them to see the good in each other instead of the bad. For our soldiers who face danger in times of peace, as well as in times of war, we pray that You will provide safety and protection. For those in positions of power whose decisions effect the lives of others, we pray that You will provide wisdom from above. For our country which was founded on trust in You as our God, we pray for peace and a renewal of our faith. We give You thanks for our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life. Help us to move boldly into the future knowing that our Lord will be with us every step of the way, for it is in His precious name that we pray, Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Pentecost

Almighty God, on this day of Pentecost, may we be filled with Your Holy Spirit as Your followers were on this day. May You help us to open the doors of our hearts to the indwelling of Your Holy Spirit. May the Spirit show us Your truth, so that we do not wander from Your side.

May the Spirit also enrich us with those gifts that You would have us use to help glorify Your name here on earth. Let the Spirit rule our hearts in all things and lead us to the way everlasting. In the name of Jesus, who along with the Spirit, reign with You forever, One God. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Frederick R. Smith
Fort Carson, CO

Dear Lord, when Your Spirit came upon the apostles on the first Pentecost he brought change. Peter the braggart was changed into Peter Your rock. Thomas the doubter was changed into Thomas the apostle to India. James and John who once had imperiously sought places of glory in Your kingdom were changed to serve You through martyrdom and witness. A rabble was changed into the Church. Let Your Spirit blow upon the earth again, and let him bring change. Change our doubts into faith and our fears into courage. Change the conflicts of the world into the peace of Your kingdom. Like Peter, Thomas, James, and John, mold our weakness into the form of Your strength. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Daniel J.G.G. Block
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Dear Lord and Father of us all, we give You thanks this morning for sending Your Holy Spirit to dwell within us. We are thankful for the power, strength and help that the Holy Spirit brings to our lives individually and to the life of the Lord's Church collectively. We are thankful that the Spirit speaks to You on our behalf, that He searches our hearts and our minds and knows our thoughts and our feelings, our hurts and our struggles, our problems and our sins better than we do ourselves. We are thankful that the Spirit expresses the thoughts of our heart when we can't seem to find the right words to do so. We pray, O Lord, that You will cause the Holy Spirit to search our hearts at this very moment. Cleanse us of our hidden sins. Purge us of our wicked thoughts. Strengthen us with our inner struggles. Comfort us with our broken hearts. Help us cope with our painful moments.

Give us, O Lord, "a steadfast heart, which no unworthy thought can drag downward; an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord, understanding to know You, diligence to seek You, wisdom to find You, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace You."

We pray, O Lord, that Your Holy Spirit will bless this () Chapel congregation. Fill us with Your Spirit and Your power. Cause us to grow in faith, in love, and in numbers. Bless our ministry together in this community. Help us to do our part in spreading the good news of our Blessed Savior's redeeming love. Help us to grasp how blessed we are to be children of Yours. Somehow, cause us to realize how selfish it is to keep this wonderful news to ourselves. Teach us to share it daily

through the example we set by our lives and through the conversations we have each day. All of these blessings we ask in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Reformation Sunday

Almighty God, as we enter into the Fortress of Your Presence for this period of worship, help us to feel surrounded by Your steadfast love which shields us and protects us. Remove from our minds the storms and struggles of life so that we can worship You at this hour. Help us to find in this service the rest, forgiveness and strength that we need to face the week that lies ahead. We pray in the name of our Lord. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Thanksgiving

O Lord our God, most merciful and mighty, fill our hearts with joy and our tongues with praise as we enter into the Holiday Season. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our eyes that we too may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our eyes that we too may sing with uplifted hearts, "glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Bestow upon us, of God, that most excellent holiday gift of charity, to all persons. Help us to overcome darkness with light, selfishness with love, and perform faithfully our appointed duties. Send forth among all nations the spirit of good will and reconciliation. Let those who are offended forgive, and those who have offended repent, so that all Thy children may live together as one family, in truth, strength and love. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Dwayne L. Ferguson
HQ, First US Army

“Our Heavenly Father on this Thanksgiving Day, we pray that we may not be numb to the many blessings for which we ought to be thankful. Give us Your gift of contentment, that we may not always waste our time desiring more, but learn to use, enjoy and be thankful for, what we have. Bless us in all that is right and correct us in all that is wrong. Give life to our thankful and good intentions, lest they be stillborn. May our hearts now truly reflect thankfulness for the meal we are about to eat, the appetite which enables us to enjoy it, but most of all for You, The Provider of both. Amen.”

Ch (COL) Whitfield McMillan
Fort Sam Houston, TX

* * *

Oh Lord, make this hour a time in which we are graced with Your presence. Let our fears be replaced by our hope in the future things to come; so that we may be witness of Your promises. Make this moment a time in which a family gathers to support each other.

Bless all here gathered and this bounty we are received to the nourishment of our bodies. Amen.

Ch (COL) Ruben D. Colon
Fort Bragg, NC

* * *

Our Father who art in heaven, we give You thanks for this Holiday Season, and especially for this Thanksgiving Day. A day which is meaningful to us as a nation because of our heritage, and a day which is equally meaningful to us as individuals because of the closeness it brings to our families and because of the memories of good times spent with those that we love in days gone by.

Help us to be grateful for the freedom that we so often take for granted. Keep us mindful that thousands upon thousands of soldiers gave their lives that we might be free.

Help us to be grateful for our families and our friends and our loved ones. Keep us mindful of how precious those relationships are and of how quickly they can be changed because of the suddenness of death or the length of separation caused by our jobs.

Help us to be grateful for this fine Thanksgiving Dinner that has been prepared for us. Keep us mindful that many thousands of people in our world are starving to death at this very hour.

Bless the ones who have worked so hard preparing this very special meal for us to enjoy. Help us to have the courage to take the time to say "Thank You" to them for their work and their concern for us on this special day.

Most of all, help us to be grateful for Your steadfast love for us regardless of how rebellious we become. We ask these blessings in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Our most gracious and loving Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You this day for the bounteous gifts which You have bestowed on our country. We are thankful for all the blessings of riches, of strength, of freedom but most of all we are thankful for the Christian Heritage and foundation that we have from our Fathers, those men and women who sought a new land where men could be free to worship You. Thank You Lord for all that You have given us and will continue to grant us in Your loving mercy. We come to You in the name of Your Son and our Savior, Amen.

* * *

Oh Lord, make this hour a time in which we are graced with Your presence. Let our fears be replaced by our hope in the future things to come; so that we may be witness of Your promises. Make this moment a time in which a family gathers to support each other.

Bless all here gathered and this bounty we are to receive to the nourishment of our bodies. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Thomas J. Naughton
Fort Bragg, NC

* * *

O God, our most merciful Heavenly Father, who made us in Your image and loved us before we knew You, we give thanks to You for the life and the spark of love You created in us. We thank You for the fierceness of anger, for it helps us to recognize and appreciate love as it overcomes anger; we thank You for those who dare to doubt because they help us grow by causing us to reevaluate our beliefs; we thank You for people with insight, for they show us the folly of our ways; then, O Lord, we thank You for the grace which makes all gifts possible — not cheap grace but grace bought by Your Son's shed blood, given for us in love. We raise this prayer of Thanksgiving in the name of the risen savior. Amen.

Lord Our God, often we see holidays merely as breaks in our routine as times to lay back and take it easy, to withdraw within ourselves and escape from the hassles of life. Lord, we do indeed need those kinds of breaks. But help us too, Lord, to catch the deeper meaning of this holiday. To sense the richness of the blessings which surround us. To rejoice in the great gift of our country and the freedoms within which we live, freedoms we have pledged our lives to protect. Help us to experience gratitude, Lord, for those around us, our families, our friends, our comrades in arms. Help us, especially, Lord, to understand Your part in all of this and to give up the praise and the glory. We ask all this in Your holy name. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas P. W. Ozanne
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

Almighty God, You have abundantly blessed American and its people. We give You thanks for this great country and the liberty we enjoy. We give You thanks for forefathers with wisdom and a vision for freedom. We give You thanks for families and friends. May this Thanksgiving remind us of our past blessings, and may it cause us to recognize Your work in our land today. Thank You for loving us and enabling us to work and produce the fruit of the land. We give thanks. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Willie P. Peacock
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

Our Lord and God, we give thanks to You this day. We give You thanks for the abundance that You have bestowed upon us. We are thankful not only for the abundance of material possessions, but also for Your faithfulness in times of joy and grief, laughter and sorrow, health and sickness, assurance and doubt, peace and war, life and death. We are able to do Your will and give thanks in all things, because You are with us in all circumstances. We thank You in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ch (1LT) James L. Griffin
Fort Carson, CO

The paraphrased prayer of David, I Chron 29:10. O Lord, You are the God we have known all our lives. And we pause to offer our Thanksgiving and praise. Everything in the Heavens and on this earth belongs to You and all that we have is really Yours. We are so privileged to live in Your kingdom. We recognize that You are in control of everything and You are the Divine Commander over us all. All our riches and honor come from You alone. It is at Your discretion we have been so greatly blessed. It is from Your hand that all our power and strength all our greatness and goodness have come. Bless now this food and our fellowship together tonight. Help us always to stay in Your favor, for we do honor and bless Your Holy Name. Amen.

* * *

Our Heavenly Father, on this Thanksgiving Day, we paused to praise Thy name, accept our humble thanks for all Thy blessings. Help us to be aware of all that thou hast done for us through the offer of Thy grace and the extension of they provision and providence. We ask for a continuance and an enlargement of the mercies thou has already shown to us, for we acknowledge our need and dependence upon thee. Shed Thy light upon all those in the armed forces who defend our freedom, preserve our heritage, and live and die for peace in our world. Comfort those who may be away from home on this day; yet, assure them not only of the presence of love from home but also from thee. Bless this day we reserve and this food we eat for the good and glory of Thy wonderful and matchless name. Amen!

* * *

Almighty God, we humbly give You thanks for all Your goodness and loving kindness, and all the blessings of this life. But above all, we thank You for Your unspeakable gift of love in the redemption of the world through Your Son, Christ Jesus — the source of hope and the means of grace. Instill in us an awareness of all Your goodness, that our hearts may be overflowing with gratitude, that we might show forth our praise, not only with our lips, but also with our lives, giving ourselves to Your service and walking in Your sight with all holiness and righteousness: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas C. Blair
Fort Carson, CO

Almighty God, our Father, we approach Your throne of grace this morning with hearts full of thanks for the many ways in which we are so richly blessed. We give You thanks for our food, our clothes and our warm homes. We give You thanks for our families, our friends and our neighbors. We give You thanks for our wives, our husbands and our children. We give You thanks for our jobs, our possessions and the conveniences which we take for granted. We give You thanks for life, for health and for the good times we enjoy. We give You thanks, O Lord, for even the hard times, the difficult times and the sad times, for we know they help us grow in faith, in love, and in character. But most of all, O Lord, we give You thanks for loving us as You do with a steadfast love. We give You thanks for not leaving us alone to die in our sins, but instead providing forgiveness through the gift of Your only Son, the Lord Jesus, through whom we have eternal life to be thankful for. Cause us to grow in faith as each day passes. Help us to love You and to serve You, regardless of what the storms of life may shower upon us. We ask these blessings in the name of our Savior. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Dear Heavenly Father, source of our blessings, we come expressing our thankfulness for our good fortune as Americans, Soldiers, and family members, for the bounty of our land, for the freedoms we enjoy, for responsibilities with which we have been charged. Make us mindful today of those who do not know these blessings, those who are hungry, homeless, hostage, or helpless. Keep us grateful for the service of our brothers and sisters who are on duty today, those on unfriendly borders, in remote ammo and signal sites, those on staff duty, and especially the cooks and others fore fathers and our comrades have paid dearly for our right to be free and have a country worth our defense. Bless the food prepared with such care and quality today. May it prepare us for You, our God, to our fellow citizens, and to the peoples of the world. In the name of him who blessed the world through prophets and saints, and through examples of selfless living in every age. Amen!

Ch (LTC) Jimmie C. Spiller
Fort Hood, TX

Rosh Hashanah

Heavenly Father, as a new year affords us new opportunities, urge us on the nobler deeds, greater accomplishments, and deeper understanding. Let us comprehend that there is a potential inside each one of us to become Your partner in the perfection of the world, if we will each do our small part of the work. Help us when we falter on the path, inspire us when our dedication weakens, and lead us onward when we lose our way. As a father teaches his children, Lord, show us how we can do more for others so that this year will bring all Your children closer to the messianic era of peace. Amen.

* * *

Lord God, on this birthday of the world, when we remind ourselves of the mighty act of Your creating, we turn to You in awe and reverence. Instill within us an abiding appreciation of Your great majesty. Help us to know the limitlessness of Your glory and the greatness of Your all-encompassing love. As creatures, created by You, make us ever to understand that we are also co-creators with You. Aid us in comprehending that all that inspires us with awe and reverence for You is not only the world, which You created, but also Your spirit within each and every one of us. So may we, through our lives, reflect Your majesty and glory, and epitomize Your love. Thereby, may You be praised and each of us be blessed. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) William A. Greenebaum
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

God and Father, on this day of remembrance, we recall the sacrifice of Abraham, our Father, and the willing devotion of the Young Isaac. We, too, would answer Your call to service and to offer ourselves willingly in duty to You and to our fellow human beings. Help us to hear Your call; give us the strength and courage to respond, and provide our weak spirits with the will and determination to carry through on our responsibilities. Whether the demands on our own lives appear great or small, whether what is asked of us seems to require all or very little, make us willing, even eager, to give ourselves to Your sacred purposes. Thus, may our lives, too, like those of our fathers, be counted for blessing. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) William A. Greenebaum
Fort Ord, CA

Sin, we have been taught by our tradition, is not categorical failure. Neither is it depravity nor irrevocable shame. Sin, we have learned from our teachers, is missing the mark. It is the tarnishing of that which is otherwise pure, the soiling of what was beforehand unsullied. O Lord, firm in this knowledge and confident in our faith in You and Your forgiveness, help us to remove the tarnish from our thoughts and wipe clean the soil from our deeds. Renew in us purity of spirit and purpose, that all we consider and all we do may be directed toward loftier aims and more human purposes. Add greater sanctity to our strivings in mind and heart and hand. So may it be, through us, by Your spirit, that sin will be removed from our world. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) William A. Greenebaum
Fort Ord, CA

* * *

Father of mercies, we turn to You contrite in heart, crestfallen in spirit. We know that we are hardly worthy of bearing Your name, much less Your blessing. And yet, we come to You, not seeking for our few righteous acts nor recompense for any deeds of loving-kindness we may attribute to ourselves. Rather, we come to You in the knowledge that however many our shortcomings, however manifold our misdeeds, however far we have missed the mark, we may be confident of Your acceptance and reassured of Your compassionate forgiveness. Be merciful, O God, toward us; accept us and forgive our sins. So may our spirits be uplifted and our faith renewed. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) William A. Greenebaum
Fort Ord, CA

Yom Kippur

Aveenu Malkenu, our Father, our King, on this Yom Kippur, as we fast and afflict our souls in repentance, help us rededicate our lives to the highest standard that we can reach. After this holy day has passed, keep us mindful of our sacred goals and of the inspiration of these hours of prayer. Remind us, Lord, in the days and months ahead of our intentions for the energy, the intellect, and the opportunities this year of service will give us. Help us make this year a period of accomplishment in which we join Jews around the world to bring the peace for which we pray to all the people of the earth. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Stanley H. Schwartz
Fort Campbell, KY

* * *

World Day of Prayer

Almighty God, we praise You, we thank You that You have founded Your Church in this world, that Your word is still proclaimed and that we experience Your presence in our midst. Give us courage to fearlessly proclaim our faith and thankfully bear witness to Your love. Keep us walking in the paths of righteousness for Your name sake. Give courage and comfort to those who suffer for the sake of the gospel, many of whom are imprisoned because of their faith. Strengthen them with the power of Your life giving word and keep them from weakness and despair. Help us to "pray without ceasing" in times of joy and hardship in order to be instruments of Your peace. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Robert B. Lokkesmoe
Fort Ord, CA

God, we are joining with all Your people to lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving. May this day of united prayer remind us of our "oneness" and our dependence upon each other. Unite us in our quest for peace in the world, and make us aware of Your presence in us that may produce internal calm. As our prayers reach up to Thy like a mighty wind, send Your Spirit among us to forgive our sins; open our eyes to see our neighbor's need and touch our emotions that we may be moved to share with the needy of the world. May all people be blessed on this day. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Willie P. Peacock
Fort Riley, KS

* * *

Almighty and eternal God, may Your grace enkindle in all of us a love for the many unfortunate people whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life unworthy of human beings. May those who are at peace with one another hold fast to the good will that unites them; may those who are enemies forget their hatred and be healed. Arouse in the hearts of those who call You Father a hunger and thirst for social justice and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth. Grant, O Lord, peace in our days, peace to our souls, peace to our families, peace to our country, and peace among nations. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Larry R. Wedel
Fort Carson, CO

General

(

(

()

GENERAL

Most merciful Father, we come into Your presence this morning aware of Your strength and of our weakness, aware of Your perfection and of our own imperfection, aware of Your wisdom and of our own foolishness, aware of Your steadfastness and of our own impulsiveness, aware of Your never ending patience with us and of our own easily lost patience with one another, aware of Your willingness to forgive us and of our own unwillingness to forgive each other, aware of Your Holiness and Majesty and of our own sin and tragedy. But we are also aware of Your Divine Help which You have steadfastly given to Your people throughout the pages of history. We give thanks, O God, because we know that in our Lord Jesus Christ we have a great high priest who understands us in our weaknesses and in our temptations, and who understands us in our hurts and in our struggles. And we praise Your name, O Lord, because we know that not only does Jesus understand, but that He also has promised to give us the grace and the help that we need in our time of need — whatever it may be! Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

We pray, O Lord, that You will help us to come boldly into Your presence knowing that You will grant us the help we need in our hour of need. In the hour of sin, grant us mercy and forgiveness. In the hour of temptation, grant us strength and determination. In the hour of pain, grant us comfort and hope. In the hour of decision, grant us wisdom and understanding. In the hour of discouragement, we pray that You will renew our spirits and give meaning to our lives. We give You thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who gives meaning, purpose and hope to our lives through His death, burial and resurrection. We praise Your name, O God, for loving us enough to give Your only Son as a sacrifice so that our burden of sin and guilt might be removed forever.

Lord, help us to follow the example of service which our Master gave us to follow. Help us to avoid getting caught up in the ambitions of life. Help us to remember that the pathway to greatness is found only by serving others.

Be with the leaders of our nation and our military. Give them the wisdom they need to make the critical decisions they are faced with each day. Be with our soldiers who are still deployed. Be with the families that are left behind. Grant them all safety and peace of mind. We ask all these blessings through the name of our Savior. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Thomas E. Cook, Jr.
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Here we are again, God, sitting in these pews of tranquility, not quite sure if we made the correct decision by coming this morning. Thy presence is often hidden from us in couched ways; we're not sure just how to respond to Thee when we experience something that might be Thy voice of reassurance. Our courage is waning; our thinking is muddled; our discipline is lax; and our direction is unsure. Perhaps this is why we come, because we need Thee. Grant us an awareness of Thy presence, we pray. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Joe R. Colley
Fort McPherson, GA

* * *

O Lord our God, Your greatness is unsearchable, and the glory of Your presence is around us. Our lives lay before You as an open book. Our imperfections, our secret thoughts, our wild impulses are read by You each minute of our day. And yet Lord You beckon us to You as an Eternal Friend, Counsellor, and Father. Your light brightens an ordinarily dark pathway. Your love warms our apathetic hearts. Your patience calms our impulsive spirits. Your gentleness soothes our hurts. You are truly our God.

And so we are united by common infirmities, similar transgressions, with unsure hope, much fear, heavy sorrows, and yet we rejoice because we approach You for a blessing in our lives. Open Your hands again and say to each of us, "Peace be to You."

There is within each of us a yearning for You. The flowers bloom, and yet they know not why, but we know it is because of the warmth of the sunlight that points them to the sky. And so, our hearts reach up to You, for love, purity, truth, strength, and goodness.

We pray, O Lord God, that You will grant us Your presence today: strength where weakness rules, patience where courage has failed us, and above all else, love when we are so very unlovable. Amen.

God grant that we may live in the faith of that which we cannot see now, in the hope of that which we desire for the future. Help us to populate the future with all the glories of things longed for but not seen. Grant to us a commitment to life and duty. May we pay the price for freedom, a commitment to others and to our country. Purify us. Make us strong in faith, wisdom, and love. Purify those around us. Teach us not to close our eyes when You reveal Your truth to us each day. Above all else, may we glorify You in the wonder of love, mercy, and gentleness through us, Your people. Amen.

* * *

Our Lord, You have blessed us already with the rising light both of the sun outside, as well as the sun within. In so doing You have again reminded us of Your presence, the joy of Your salvation, that peace which guarantees Your caring for us all. Help us this day to use our troubles and trials as stepping stones to success, and may we stand tall as sons and daughters of the King. May we always remain in close fellowship with each other. Let our bitterness and trivialities be dissolved, and, as children of light, may we experience true liberty this day. Amen.

Ch (CPT) David Rapske
Fort Lewis, WA

* * *

Most merciful and gracious God, You are the strength of all who put their trust in You. Prepare us now as we seek to lead others in worship. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may practice in our lives; so that being doers of the word and not hearers only, we may obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ch (MAJ) Joe R. Colley
Fort McPherson, GA

O God, my refuge and my strength, You who are constantly present in all times of trouble, how much I am in need of You now. I feel weak and depressed and scared. I need help in facing the hours and the days before me. I have heard Your promises of faithfulness and companionship to me. Grant to me the strength to bear the procedures which I face with calm resolve, knowing that my very being is safe in Your hands. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas V. Sell
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Eternal God our Father, our help in ages past, our hope for the years to come, we worship Thee. Thou hast been the strength of our life in all generations. We would return to Thee a portion of that strength in lives of service and faithfulness. Make Thyself real to us, Lord, and call us to duty by Thy still, small voice.

Our sins have been real to us; our passions and our prides — how we have loved them. O God, make our virtues real to us. We thank Thee for the divine fire that burns somewhere in every human life. Brush Thou the ashes and the cinders from that hidden flame and let it be rekindled in us today. Whatever is worthy of praise and is of good report, lift it up, we pray, and make it real.

Our troubles have been real to us. We have been rebellious and often pity ourselves. We have let loneliness get the best of us and we have turned easily to complaining about our lot. O God, give us a new perspective. Make our blessings real to us. Help us once more to count the benedictions which have made our lives worthwhile: the friendships and family ties which bring to us comfort and love; the unselfish sacrifice of men and women through the ages that has preserved for us a good land of freedom and opportunity. Calm our fears, lessen our anxieties, build up our courage.

* * *

Especially today we would pray for those who wear our country's uniform in areas of danger, and for those who prepare to go to such places. For all in every place who devote years of their lives to the safeguarding of liberty and justice for all, we pray. We pray for our president and his advisors, for the united nations, for those leaders of

countries whom we call our enemies, that their hearts and minds may earnestly desire and strive for peace among the nations.

And we pray for ourselves, that we may be peace-makers in our own small way, seeking more to build up than to tear down, more to praise the good than to condemn the bad, more to do honest work than to complain. We are but children who need a Father's love and correction, His strength and His instruction. Make our lives strong, Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ and His witness in the world. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Jimmie C. Spiller
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

O God, all-wise and merciful, help us not to foolishly sin against You. Amid the small details of our lives, show us in a true sense what is really important. Help us to revere our bodies, temples of Your Spirit, and yet not so preoccupied with ourselves. Help us to make provision for our daily bread, but not so much as to miss the best part of the day. Help us to live by Jesus' example who taught us that life was more than food and drink for the body, but involved spiritual food and drink for the soul.

As our lives touch others, give us true wisdom that we may discover and bring out the best in others. Keep us from being cynical. Protect us from our own sense of self-importance at the expense of others, but with love give us sound judgement.

Give us broad horizons, that we may never be at ease in our own little worlds while children die of hunger, while men and women live in fear and want, while wars devastate people of the earth. Help us always to resolve that these things must not linger, and give us wisdom to know where to place our gift of service. For as we do it to the least of these our brothers, we do it unto You.

Help us, O God, so to fix our eyes on You that we may always seek first Your Kingdom, and Your Righteousness which You have planted in our hearts. Amen.

* * *

O God, who is Ruler and Lord, impart Your spirit to those who lead the destiny of our nation. We rejoice that You have set us in this great nation. We thank You for our country which has nourished and preserved us. Help us always to recognize the responsibilities that flow from our citizenship, and most of all to perform them with integrity and

honor. Remind us often that to whom much is given, much will be required.

Grant Your grace, O Lord, to our leaders who daily make important decisions that affect the lives of us all. Give them strength of body, quickness of mind, and wisdom of the soul for their responsibilities. Bestow on them the will to act justly to all men and women. Purge them of self-indulgence. Remove from them lust for power. Broaden their vision to see that You have created a unique country where all people are considered equal and free. Through them save the people and bring the entire world to peace and harmony.

What we ask for our own leaders, we ask for all leaders. Mold their wills to Your will, and use them to prepare Your Kingdom of justice and love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* * *

O Lord, sometimes we are furnished with the turmoil of life. Like Abraham of old, we are torn away from our surroundings and communities. We say good-bye to friends and neighbors and are constantly called to new communities and new surroundings. Clouds of uncertainty continually veil our future.

Go with us, O Lord, that Your sustaining companionship may soothe our fear, our loneliness, our homesickness. May we learn to covet our soul's gratitude for old friends and, at the same time, anticipate new friendships. Help us to remember that we cannot have the intimacy of the years, in a moment. As we await new growth, save us from the suspicion of others or failure in ourselves.

Open our eyes to the wondrous opportunities of new life. Help us to explore the rich mines of friendships that are ours. Give us a spirit of adventure, that through faith we may discover in our new city and our new home, that solid foundation which is built on our faith in You. To You we entrust the future and all that it holds. In the name of Your Son who, though rich in friends, had no place where to lay His head. Amen.

* * *

May the Lord God of Hosts be mighty in His blessings of us and our country. May He challenge our minds with memories of the valiant patriots who have gone before us. May He inspire our wills with steadfast courage to follow the good paths where they have led. And may He strengthen our hearts with determination that we never falter in the honored service of our country and in faithful worship of our God. Amen.

Ch (CPT) John F. Ulm
Fort Stewart, GA

O Lord God, Giver of all good things, we bow in reverence to You. Thank You for the freedoms of the United States of America. We voice to You our gratitude for those gifts which sustain us: food, shelter, work, play, and friends. For the fact that you redeem the souls of Your servants and that those who trust in You will not be punished. We thank You for activities which give us fellowship with one another. Now bind us together and crown this gathering with Your peace, Your joy, and Your love. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Eumid N. Freeman
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Loving God, You know the desires I have to quicken the processes before me. Procedures and answers seem to come so slowly and I am tired of not being in familiar places. I am aware that those who care for me truly care but my impatience clouds this reality because I want these troubles to be resolved and to stop. Savior of my being, bring understanding to the forefront so that patience might abide within me. Grant me the ability to accept that which is outside my control and leave it to others especially You, O Healer. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Thomas V. Sell
Fort Stewart, GA

* * *

Glorious Father, You have ordained the powers that be. We often feel so small in our part of Your greatest plan. And with every promotion in responsibility and rank we are made more acutely aware of our limitations. That is why we pray. We pray for Your strength when we are weak, Your wisdom over our foolishness, Your compassion above our failing understanding of what justice is. Father, guide us in all that we do as we are elevated, and ever remind us where our reward really lies. Humble us before You so that we may be most effective in our Service to others. Amen.

Ch (CPT) Michael C. Punke
Fort Ord, CA

Eternal Father, as we depart from this place today, teach us the truth that the blessings and resources of life are in reality Yours, and are only loaned to us. Make us good stewards of Your peace and sacrificial love, and help us to live with eternity's values in view through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Eumid N. Freeman
Fort Hood, TX

* * *

Father, look down upon our hearts as we worship You. Penetrate us with the warmth of Your Spirit. Reveal to us that which does not please You, and give us strength to cast it out.

Father, fill us with Your Son, that we may be more than conquerors. Teach us to open our lives to receive Your power, that we may be bold in proclaiming the good news of salvation. Guide us by Your Spirit that we might have countless opportunities to share the joy which is ours in Christ.

Father God, Your presence comforts us like the sunshine following the rain. We are so thankful for You and Your revelation in our lives. Inside, our hearts burn with the thoughts of Your mercy, for precious life, for learning, for love, yet far above these, Your great redemption.

In great travail of pain, Your Son bore all of that which keeps us from You; He took upon himself that evil sin, totally alien to His nature, because of love.

In like manner, Father, let us each one love like Christ and in following Him bring those who are lost into God's presence through Christ.

Ch (CPT) Gregg L. Drew
Fort Polk, LA

* * *

Father, as You kept Your messengers safe from harm as they spread Your name throughout the land, in like manner, protect us in our present as well as our future journeys, for Your glory and by Your power. Amen.

Ch (COL) Lawrence A. Kelly, Jr.
Fort Drum, New York

Our Father who art in heaven, You in Your infinite wisdom made the world round. I wonder Lord, if that somehow should have taught us to plan to return, even as men ought to plan to return unto Thee. Father, as we travel in this life deal kindly with us, extending Your hand of protection upon us, for we know that Your desire for us is that we worship Thee in spirit and in truth. And we trust, in doing that, You delight in us and add breath to our life. We ask for journey mercies Lord, in order that we may continually bear testimony to Your loving kindness toward us. Thank You Father for Your watchful care, through our Lord Jesus we pray. Amen.

Ch (COL) Lawrence A. Kelly, Jr.
Fort Drum, New York

* * *

Wonderful God, we believe that our Redeemer, together with You, rules over us. Let us be assured that He will remain with us to the ends of the earth. He, who with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and rules from eternity to eternity. Amen.

* * *

Benedictions

Now may God go with you from this place that you may be able to share His warmth, His compassion and His love with those you go to serve. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

May the peace of God, which posseseth all understanding, go with you and keep you from this day forth. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may be able to set the aim He would have you set and abound in hope and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

May the Spirit of God be near you to defend you, within you to refresh you, around you to preserve you, before you to guide you, behind you to justify you, and above you to bless you, for evermore. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you; and may the God of steadfastness and encouragement go with you into your new life. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

* * *

We thank Thee for the life (lives) of this (these) other man (men) we honored here today. We are grateful for this (their) dedicated service to God, country and his (their) fellowman. Grant him (them) we pray many years of opportunity out ahead in which he (they) may pray from moment to moment that in all times we might remember that we are called to be men of God through serving our fellowman. Amen.

Ch (LTC) Charles M. Smith, Jr.
Fort McCoy, WI

(

(

INDEX

- ACS luncheon, 37
- ANOC opening, 37
- AUSA, 39-42
- Advent, 120
- Airborne/Air Assault Graduation, 69
- Airborne/Air Assault, 43
- America, 7
- American Heritage Week, 77
- Anniversary of the US Army Chaplaincy, 38
- Announcement of Soldier's Death, 20
- Armed Forces Day, 91-93
- Artillery, 44
- Aviation, 45
- Awards Ceremony/Dinner, 42,43
- Benediction (Spanish), 5
- Benedictions, 21,156,157
- Black History, 77
- Blessing (table grace), 24-28
- Boy Scouts, 94,95
- Branch Prayers, 43-47
 - airborne/air assault, 43
 - artillery, 44
 - aviation, 45
 - engineer, 45
 - infantry, 46,47
 - transportation, 47
- Chamber of Commerce, 96
- Change of Command Ceremony, 48-54
- Chanukah (Festival of Rededication), 121
- Chapel and Chaplain Activities, 5-36
- Chaplain Anniversary, 5
- Chaplains' Training Conference, 54
- Child Center, 10
- Children, 6
- Christmas, 122-130
 - general, 122-125
 - formal/holiday ball, 128
 - invocation, 126-128
 - Christmas tree lighting ceremony, 128-130
- Civil Observances, 91-119
- Civilian Employee Recognition, 55-58
- Combined Federal Campaign, 58-60
- Confession, 6

Country, 7
Death of a Chaplain, 23
Death of a Commander, 23
Death of a President, 96-97
Dedication of Facility, 8-12
 general, 8-10
 child center, 10
 learning center, 10
 medical center, 11
 personal dedication, 11
 recreation center, 11
 unit memorial, 12
Dedication of Memorial, 60, 61
Dedication of Military Dining Facility, 61
Dining In/Out, 61-64
Drill Instructor Graduation, 70-72
Easter, 131-133
Endurance, 4
Engineer, 45
FTX, 2,3
Family, 12,13
Farewell Banquet, 64,65
Father's Day, 133,134
Field, 1-4
Fraternal/Sororal Gatherings, 97
Funeral, 13,14
General prayers, 148-157
Good Friday, 134
Good Neighbor luncheon, 97,98
Grace (table), 24-28
Graduations, 65-74
 general, 65-69
 airborne/air assault, 69
 drill instructor, 70-72
 NCO Academy (invocation), 72
 practical nurse, 73,74
Hispanic Heritage Week, 78
Holy Days, Holidays and Family Observances, 120-147
Home, 14,15
Independence Day, 98-102
Infantry, 46,47
Installation of Chapel Officers (PWOC), 74
Installation of New Chaplain, 15
Invocation (memorial), 21

Jehovah Jira, 2
Law Day, 102
Leadership, 75
Learning Center, 10
Liberties, 8
March of Dimes, 103
Marksmanship Competition, 76
Martin Luther King Day, 103-106
Medical Center, 11
Medical Meeting, 106
Memorial Day, 106-111
Memorial Service, 16-25
 general, 16-20
 announcement of soldier's death, 20
 benediction, 21
 death of commander, 23
 death of chaplain, 23
 invocation, 21,22
 suicide, 23,24
 unit tragedy, 24
 unknown soldier ceremony, 25
 young child, 25
Memorial Service (benediction), 21
Memorial Service (invocation), 21,22
Military, 37-90
Mother's Day, 135
MultiCultural, 77,78
 American Heritage Week, 77
 Black History, 77
 Hispanic History Week, 78
NCO Academy Graduation (Invocation), 72
National Prayer Breakfast, 78
New Years, 135,136
Officers Wives Club, 79
Operation/Sickbed, 26-28
Ordination, 28,29
Organization Day, 80
POW/MIA, 80
PCS, 81,82
PWOC officer installation, 74
Parent/Teacher Association, 111,112
Past, Present, Future, 6
Patience, 4
Pearl Harbor, 112

Pentecost, 136-138
Personal Dedication of Building, 11
Practical Nurse Graduation, 73,74
Prayer Breakfast (benediction), 32
Prayer Breakfast, 29-31
Pre-Citizenship Class (ACS), 112,113
President, 7
Promotion Ceremony, 82
Promotion to General Officer, 83
Psalmist, 1
Reactivation, 83,84
Recreation Center, 11
Red Cross, 113
Reformation Sunday, 138
Regimental Affiliation, 84
Retirement, 84-88
Rosh Hashanah, 144,145
Safety, 88
Separation, 1,2
Sickbed, 26-28
Spanish benediction, 5
Sports, 114
Suicide, 23,24
Surgery, 26-28
Table Grace, 33-36
Thanksgiving Day, 138-143
Time of National Concern, 114-116
Tragedy (unit), 24
Transportation, 47
USMA, 89,90
USO, 117
Unit Deactivation, 88,89
Unit Memorial, 12
Unit Tragedy, 24
United Way, 116
Unknown Soldier Ceremony, 29
Veteran's Day, 117,118
Volunteers, 118,119
Wisdom, 4
World Day of Prayer, 146,147
Yom Kippur, 146
Young Child (memorial), 25,26

AUTHOR INDEX

Agnew, James E.	CPT	Ft. Carson, CO	95
Bagnal, William	COL	Retired	13,25,36, 39,58,112, 120,127
Bishop, D. Francis	CPT	Ft. McPherson, GA	26,27,28
Blair, Thomas C.	MAJ	Ft. Carson, CO	3,17,30,57, 59,132,142
Block, Daniel J.G.G.	CPT	Ft. Ord, CO	43,50,137
Camp, Charles D.	MAJ	Ft. Drum, NY	46,73,109, 111,112, 119
Clanton, Charles T.	COL	Ft. Hood, TX	42,57
Colley, Joe R.	MAJ	Ft. McPherson, GA	52,92,105, 130,149, 150
Colon, Ruben D.	CPT	Ft. Bragg, NC	49,139
Cook, Thomas E.	MAJ	Ft. Hood, TX	21,29,44, 45,62,65, 101,117, 136,138, 140,143, 148,149
Courtney, Ocie I.	COL	HQ, Fourth US Army	33,34,36, 38,44,63, 67,68,85, 93,104, 108,115, 128
Day, Thomas L.	CPT	Ft. Hood, TX	102
Doan, Steven B.	CPT	Ft. Knox, KY	134
Downes, Thomas J.	COL	Ft. Carson, CO	18,21,41, 43,55,59, 62,65,66, 75,91,92, 98,106, 117,126, 129,134
Drew, Gregg L.	CPT	Ft. Polk, LA	155
Dryer, Richard E.	COL	Ft. Hood, TX	76,77,122
Duncan, Russell S.	1LT	Ft. Campbell, KY	1
Ferguson, Dwayne L.	LTC	Ft. Meade, MD	49,56,138
Forsythe, Walter D.	COL	Ft. Lewis, WA	7,63,123, 124

Fox, William M.	CPT	Ft. Campbell, KY	1
Freeman, Eumid N.	LTC	Ft. Hood, TX	19,154,155
Friend, Robert G.	COL	Ft. Drum, NY	115
Greenebaum, William A.	MAJ	Ft. Ord, CA	121,144, 145
Griffin, James L.	1LT	Ft. Carson, CO	141
Gunhus, Gaylord T.	LTC	Ft. Lewis, WA	20
Hall, Freddie L.	CPT	Ft. Bragg, NC	52
Hatler, Gaylord E.	LTC	Ft. Carson, CO	39,54,91
Hattle, George R.	LTC	Ft. Stewart, GA	58,96,119
Hayes, Billy M.	LTC	Ft. Ord, CA	34,85
Hepner, Theodore W.	LTC	Ft. Bragg, NC	19
Holmes, Rickie	1LT	Ft. Hood, TX	103
Hunt, Henry L.	COL	HQ, FORSCOM	8,33,37,38, 41,42,43, 47,55,56, 60,61,64, 76,77,79, 80,88,95, 103,110, 113,123, 124,130
Johnson, Ronald N.	MAJ	Ft. Carson, CO	23,96,101, 107
Jones, Garlin	CPT	Ft. Carson, CO	2,105
Kelly, Lawrence A., Jr.	COL	Ft. Drum, KY	10,78,155, 156
King, Wayne C.	COL	Ft. McPherson, GA	10,11,37, 41,51,52, 65,82,99, 111,114, 117,125
Knudsen, William K.	CPT	Ft. Carson, CO	18
Kuckhahn, Karl O.	CPT	Ft. Riley	4
Lanning, Richard E.	CPT	Ft. Stewart, GA	48,59
Larson, Daniel A.	CPT	Ft. Carson, CO	108
Lokkesmoe, Robert G.	LTC	Ft. Ord, CA	74,94,97, 146
Mallard, Charles E.	LTC	Ft. Stewart, GA	61,62
Mayer, Gary E.	MAJ	Ft. Hood, TX	122
McCall, Dan C.	MAJ	Ft. Lee, VA	133

McMillan, Whitfield M.	COL	HQ, Fifth Army	5,24,32,60, 68,69,80, 81,89,90, 94,98,104, 113,116, 122,128, 131,139
Miller, Joseph P.	CPT	Ft. Campbell, KY	50
Mize, Jerry L.	LTC	Ft. Ord, CA	84,96,101, 118
Nagler, Stephen L.	CPT	Ft. Stewart, GA	5,49,54
Naughton, Thomas J.			61,140
Northrop, Clyde M., III	LTC	HQ, Third Army	6,8,31,120, 126
Ozanne, Thomas P.	CPT	Ft. Riley, KS	14,24,129, 141
Peacock, Willie P.	MAJ	Ft. Riley, KS	35,135, 141,147
Pedder, Glenn C.	MAJ	Ft. Polk, LA	18,83
Phelps, Jim M.	MAJ	Ft. Sam Houston, TX	12,69
Pincince, Gerald P.	MAJ	Ft. Drum, NY	57
Punke, Michael C.	CPT	Ft. Ord, CA	2,3,63,64, 82,154
Quesinberry, Kurtes	1LT	Ft. Ord, CA	53
Rapske, David	CPT	Ft. Lewis, WA	150
Reaser, Clarence L.	COL	Ft. Ord, CA	9,15,100, 102,107, 116
Reed, John H.	LTC	Ft. Carson, CO	26,88
Reynolds, Michael E.	MAJ	Ft. Carson, CO	23,51
Richardson, Benjamin D.	CPT	Ft. Stewart, GA	74
Roddy, Lowell G.	MAJ	Ft. Campbell, KY	133
Rogers, Will W.	MSG	Ft. Meade, MD	7
Rucker, Jimmy L.	CPT	Ft. Ord, CA	30,40,46, 47,89
Sapp, Roger W.	CPT	Ft. Riley, KS	4
Schnorrenberg, James F.	CPT	Ft. Carson, CO	12,87
Schwartz, Stanley H.	CPT	Ft. Campbell, KY	33,48,69, 121,146
Sell, Thomas V.	CPT	Ft. Stewart, GA	26,38,95, 151,154

Smith, Charles M.	LTC	Ft. McCoy, WI	9,11,16,17, 20,22,70, 71,72,106, 156,157
Smith, Frederick R.	CPT	Ft. Carson, CO	35,36,131, 133,135, 136
Spiller, Jimmy C.	LTC	Ft. Hood, TX	86,87,143, 152
Swalve, Robert, Sr.	CPT	Ft. Hood, TX	45
Swartz, Stanley H.	MAJ	Ft. Campbell, KY	118,121
Ulm, John Francis	CPT	Ft. Stewart, GA	6,14,35,50, 74,153
Wakeman, Bruce C.	CPT	Ft. Riley, KS	3
Wedel, Larry R.	LTC	Ft. Carson, CO	15,147
Welsh, Roger C.	MAJ	Ft. Ord, CA	28,29
Williams, James G. E.	CPT	Ft. Stewart, GA	2,13,81,84
Yunk, Michael J.	COL	Ft. Polk, LA	21,78,86
Zinser, Steven H.	1LT	Ft. Campbell, KY	1