

A Final Salute

What is the Final Salute?

An established end of life protocol honoring military veterans who have unselfishly served our country by providing a "Final Salute" immediately following their death.



Honoring Military Veterans

Veterans along with their families, have made many sacrifices to protect the rights and privileges we all enjoy. These men and women, whether serving during times of war or peace, are deserving of respect, gratitude, and appreciation by honoring them with a Final Salute.

Adding Value to Veteran Care

- Esteem for each Veteran
- Transform the culture
- Create a visual display of military heritage
- Serve those who have served
- Provide Veterans a chance to pay tribute to brothers and sisters
- Offer staff a moment to grieve

Mission

It is the mission of the National Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to spread the Honor Escort / Final Salute process to as many PA Nursing homes facilities & Hospitals as possible in order to respectfully honor each of our military veterans at their time of passing with dignity and excellence.

Getting Started

This can be done through a brief ceremonial procession to provide a dignified farewell to Veterans.

- Provide words of condolence to those present
- Include symbolism, American Flag, certificate of appreciation for service etc.
- Request staff to line hall for Final Salute from facility
- Invite Veterans, staff, and family to participate

What is Next

The VFW Auxiliary will be contacting leadership at each of Pennsylvania's Nursing homes inviting them to reverence Veterans by adding to their already established Veteran Centered Programs.

For more Information contact: VFW Auxiliary
Contact: _____

Phone # _____

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American Red Cross of
Greater Pennsylvania



STEPS FOR FINAL SALUTE

1. The leader will talk with family about the Final Salute Process.
2. Prepare Veteran to be transported through facility.
3. Position staff and family to prepare to walk through facility.
4. Call those that are present to attention in order to recognize Veteran that just passed away.
 - a. "IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE (VETERAN NAME) THAT JUST PASSED AWAY AND IS GOING TO JOIN HIS/HER FELLOW COMRADES IN A MORE PEACFULL PLACE, PLEASE PLACE YOUR HAND OVER YOUR HEART OR SALUTE AS HE/SHE PASSES BY"
5. Proceed through the facility until the end.
6. Leader will say the WORDS OF CONDOLENCE(on Back) to the family
7. After the condolence speech, the leader will give the family a token of appreciation (e.g., sympathy card)
8. Thank everyone for their respect and participation.
9. Everyone departs.

WORDS OF CONDOLENCE



LEADER:

"WORDS SEEM SO INADEQUATE TO EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND SADNESS AT YOUR LOSS. I ONLY HOPE YOU CAN FIND A SMALL BIT OF COMFORT IN KNOWING WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE SACRIFICE YOUR FAMILY HAS MADE. ON BEHALF OF (NAME OF FACILITY) WE GIVE YOU OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES."