

SAR PRAYER BOOK

3RD Edition



A Guide for SAR Chaplains

The SAR is a patriotic, historical, and education organization chartered by the United States Congress. Just as the religious beliefs of our patriot ancestors were not uniform, neither are the religious beliefs of SAR members. The Chaplains Committee encourages chaplains to adapt the prayers in this prayer book to accommodate the religious beliefs of those present at the events for which the prayers contained in this book are offered.

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The **SAR Prayer Book** was originally prepared by the Chaplains Committee of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, (1997-1998). Prayers in this book were adapted from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, the Book of Common Worship (Presbyterian), the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ, the Forward Movement Publications and from prayers submitted by members of the Chaplains Committee.

THAT WE MAY UNITE IN MOST HUMBLY
OFFERING OUR PRAYERS AND SUPPLICATIONS
TO THE GREAT LORD AND RULER OF NATIONS.

This revision of the **SAR Prayer Book** was prepared by a subcommittee of the Chaplains Committee whose members are the Reverend Dr. Randy D. Moody (chair), Wayne C. Eells, Dr. David E. Schrader, and the Reverend Dr. John C. Wakefield appointed by the Reverend Dr. James C. Taylor, Chairman of the Chaplains Committee (2015-2016).

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Invocations

General

Direct us, O Lord, in all that we do, with your most gracious favor, and continually help us; that in all the works of the Sons of the American Revolution, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for your gifts, and especially this good land that you have given us as our heritage, and for the fellowship of compatriots in this great organization. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service through our fellowship in the Sons of the American Revolution. Amen.

Giver of all good things, we thank you for the United States of America and its founders who gave us our freedom, for the air that gives the breath of life, and for the sun that warms us, for our homes and the friends we love, and for the food that fortifies our lives. Cause us to show our thankfulness by giving as freely as we have received, in service to our country and helping those in need. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Almighty God, be present with the members of the Sons of the American Revolution, that we may be alive to the opportunities and responsibilities of these times. Save us from complacency and from fear of new ways; inspire our minds with the vision of a new world where there is rebirth of freedom. Help us to work and pray until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts and minds. Increase in each of us the virtues of duty, honor, and loyalty, that we may serve our country, those who are dependent on us, and those in need. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

O Almighty Lord, who fashioned the hearts of your people, and who considers all their works, we plead with you to grant to us and to all people of this land, the spirit of obedience to your commandments, so that we may walk humbly in your sight, and, under your almighty protection, we may cherish our liberties in righteousness and peace. Amen.

O God, we ask your blessings upon the Sons of the American Revolution. Use the SAR, we pray, to open our eyes to your glory and to the opportunities that lie before us to serve you and our country. Grant the leaders of the Sons of the American Revolution wisdom and courage. Stir up in us the will to share joyfully in the work of our Society. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Almighty and Eternal God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, and control our wills, that we may be fully yours, and utterly dedicated to you. And then use us, we pray, as you desire, and always to your glory, and to the welfare of the members of this Society. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, we ask you to be present in this meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution, here assembled. Save us from error, ignorance, pride, and prejudice. Direct and govern us in our work by your great mercy, that we may serve our country with true patriotism, to your honor and glory. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

On this occasion, Almighty God, fill us with your grace and understanding as we conduct the business of our Society. Grant us words of wisdom, and direct our paths, as we fulfill our roles as guardians of our national heritage. Join with us as we endeavor to honor the dreams of our founders by holding aloft the light of liberty. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Almighty God, we give you our humble praise for the gift of the United State of America, for the vision of our patriot ancestors, and for your continued preservation of this great country. Guide and direct the leaders of our nation, that we may have peace at home and reveal your glory to the nations of the world. Give us a sense of all your mercies, that we may declare your lovingkindness from generation to generation. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray you to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that, in the work and activities of the Sons of the American Revolution, we may never forget you, but that we may remember that we are ever walking in your sight. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for our patriot ancestors who, guided by your providence, gave us this land of the free. Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that we are doing your will. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Chapter

Almighty God, we ask your blessing on this chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. As our purpose is to promote sound learning and true patriotism and to further all that is good in our community, so we pray that you will strengthen our hands in all that we undertake, that we may serve our nation to your honor and glory. Amen.

Charter Invocation

Almighty God, as we gather to charter a new chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, inspire us to follow in the footsteps of our patriot ancestors who founded this great nation. May we honor their memory and honor You by promoting liberty and justice for all through the activities of this new chapter. Bless this charter event; grant us wisdom and courage for the tasks ahead. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

Officer Installation

Almighty God, grant to the new officers of the Sons of the American Revolution such a measure of your grace that they may be able to serve in their positions of leadership with wisdom and courage. Inspire each of us with a renewed love of our country, and lead us into new fields of service, that all we do may be to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

State/District/Congress Meeting

Almighty and Everlasting God, source of all wisdom and understanding, we ask you to be present with the delegates to this convention of the Sons of the American Revolution. Teach us in all things first to seek your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive those things that are good for our country, and grant us the courage to pursue them, and the grace to accomplish them. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Almighty and Everlasting God, bless, we pray, with the presence of your Spirit, those who make decisions for the direction and work of our Society. Grant them guidance to perceive what is right, courage to pursue it, and grace to accomplish it. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Executive Committee

Almighty God, grant to the General Officers and Executive Committee of the Sons of the American Revolution the grace they need to carry out the demanding duties of their offices. Fill them with a love of country and of this Society committed to their care. Grant them the wisdom to know and to do your will. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Trustee Meeting

Almighty God, we ask you to direct the Trustees of the Sons of the American Revolution and guide their deliberations. Guide our General Officers who have the responsibility of planning and providing for the work of our Society. Grant wise judgment and adventurous faith, that we may offer greater service to our country and further your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

We commend to you, O Lord, the General Officers and Trustees, and all who are engaged in directing this Society. Grant to them integrity of purpose and unfailing devotion to the cause of righteousness. May all of their legislation promote the general welfare of our Society, to the promotion of sound learning, to the honoring of our proud history, and to loyalty to our country. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Almighty God, who gives to us all the talents to accomplish the tasks laid before us, we thank you for the faithful service of these, our Compatriots, that they have given in their several Chapters and Societies. Continue, we pray, your mercies to them, guiding them to decisions and actions pleasing to you, who lives and reigns forever, world without end. Amen.

Almighty God, direct the General Officers and Trustees of the Sons of the American Revolution in all its proceedings with your most gracious favor. Enlighten us by your Spirit as we consider together our program, our activities, and our obligations. Inspire our hand, so that we may not fail in the work that you have given us to do in the service of our country and to your honor and glory. Amen.

National Congress

Almighty God, who has sent your Spirit of wisdom into our hearts and minds, directing and ruling us according to your will, we thank you for guiding us your servants who have taken counsel in this Congress for our nation's good and that of this Society. We ask that you continue your mercy to our newly elected officers in the year ahead. Accept our thankful praise for the joy of friends remembered, and for friendships renewed, for the sake of your holy Name. Amen.

As we come to this final session of our Congress, we ask you, O great God, source of all wisdom and understanding, to be present now with us, as we take counsel for the good of this Society. Direct us with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Benedictions

General

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and the blessings of God Almighty, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Almighty God, grant us your mercies as we part. In the coming days, help us to reaffirm our roles as citizens of the United States. Keep before us the privations and sacrifices of our ancestors, who freely gave themselves in the cause of liberty and democracy. Endow us with their resolve. Strengthen us as we pledge ourselves to the preservation of the freedoms bestowed by your hand. Amen.

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people. Love and serve the Lord. And may the blessings of God Almighty be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

May God bless us all with a loving sense of his near presence, to guide us, to protect us, and to help us. And may we know what it is to walk close with him all our lives. Amen.

May Almighty God preserve you and keep you; may the Lord mercifully look upon you, fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, and protect you until we meet again. Amen.

May God bless and keep you. May the Lord grant us nobility of character and compassion for the needy, and bind us in fraternal love until we meet again. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for this opportunity to council together. Grant that we may return to our homes, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and love, of loyalty and patriotism. And may we, with one mind, glorify you. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord, God. As you have protected us in days gone by, so be with us now on our homeward journeys, and in the days to come, for you are our light and our salvation, and the strength of our lives. To you be glory for endless ages. Amen.

In your holy Name, we submit ourselves to your will, commit ourselves to your service, and offer our thanks to you for your abundant blessings. Amen.

The God of all grace, who has called us unto his eternal glory, make you perfect, stable, strong, and secure. And to God be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

May the blessing of God Almighty rest upon us and upon all our work done in name of God. May God give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us, now and evermore. Amen.

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit ourselves. The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and forever more. Amen.

Chapter Charter Ceremony

Gracious God, as we leave this meeting as a new chapter chartered to perform the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution, keep us focused on serving God and country the way our patriot ancestors served—willing to sacrifice our comfort for the good of all. Bless our service and bless the United States of America. Amen.

Congress

Almighty God, we thank you for guiding and directing us through the work of the (#) Annual Congress, for the fellowship we have enjoyed, and for the many friendships we have made. Now keep us in safety on our homeward journeys, and use us in the service of our country. Amen.

General Prayers for Various Occasions

PRAYER FOR SUSTENANCE.

My help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the latter end of that man is peace. Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed upon faithfulness. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid: for Jah (YAH) the Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.--O Sovereign of the universe, in your holy words it is written, saying, He that trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall compass him about; and it is written, And you give life to them all. O Lord God of truth, vouchsafe blessing and prosperity upon all the work of my hands, for I trust in you that you will so bless me through my occupation and calling, that I may be enabled to support myself and the members of my household with ease and not with pain, by lawful and not by forbidden means, in life and peace. In me also let the scripture be fulfilled, Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he will sustain you. Amen!

GRACE

- Before the meal

Blessed art you, O Lord our God, Sovereign of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

- After the meal

Blessed is the Lord our God, of whose bounty we have partaken, and through whose goodness we live. Blessed is he, and his name forever more.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Sovereign of the universe, who feeds the whole world with your goodness, with grace, with lovingkindness and tender mercy; you give food to all lives, for your lovingkindness endures forever. Through your great goodness food hath never failed us: O may it not fail us forever and ever for your great name's sake, since you nourish and sustain all beings and do good to all, and provide food for all your creatures who you have created. Blessed are you, O Lord, who gives food unto all.

SHORT BLESSING FOR FOOD

Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine. Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who created various kinds of food; for the tree and the fruit of the tree; for the produce of the field; for the desirable, good and ample land which you are pleased to give as an heritage unto our fathers, that they might eat of its fruits and be satisfied with its goodness.

Invocation with Grace

We thank you, O Lord, for these gifts provided for the nourishment of our bodies, and for all of the blessings of this life. Especially do we give thanks for our country, for those who laid its foundations, and for those who have sacrificed their lives in its service. Strengthen, we pray, those who now labor to keep it strong; and be our defense against all our enemies, so that peace and harmony may flourish among us, and spread throughout the world. Amen.

Bless, O God, your gifts to our use and us to your service. For your sake, amen.

Give us grateful hearts, O God, for all your mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, ruler of the universe. We have shared of your bounty, and through your goodness we live. Come, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

Prayer for Healing and Consolation

Let us pray, please save us! For the sake of true love; for the sake of blessings at all times; for the sake of rainfall, anytime; for the sake of paths and their rectification, for the sake of the mountains and their crossing, for the sake of encounters and their purpose, for the sake of lasting memories; for the sake of good dreams, for the sake of goodness throughout all possible worlds; for the sake of the beauty of life; for the sake of strength to the weary; for the sake of a caress for those in pain; for the sake of rest and restoring strength; for the sake of consolation and peace; for the sake of the measure between self-doubt and self-confidence; for the sake of conflicts and their resolution; for the sake of opening the heart; for the sake of healing pain; for the sake of yearning voices; for the sake of arousing compassion; for the sake of rest when its needed; for the sake of hope and fulfillment; O Lord Our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Please save us.

Travelers Prayer

May it be Your will, Eternal One, Beloved of our ancestors, to lead us in peace and direct our steps in peace; to guide us in peace, to support us in peace and to bring us to our destination in life, joy and peace. (One who intends to return immediately says: and return in peace.) Deliver us from the hands of every enemy and lurking foe, and robbers and wild beasts on the journey, and from all kinds of calamities that may come to and afflict the world; and bestow blessing upon all our actions. Grant us grace, kindness and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who behold us, and bestow bountiful kindness upon us. Hear the voice of my prayer, for You hear everyone's prayer. Blessed are You Lord, who hears prayer.

Prayers for the Government

General

He who granted victory to kings and dominion to princes, His kingdom is a kingdom of all ages; He who delivered His servant David from the evil sword, He who opened a road through the sea, a path amidst the mighty waters; may He bless and protect, help and exalt, the President and the Vice President (Governor and Lt Governor, Mayor, etc). and all the officers of the country (state, city etc).

May the supreme King of kings, in His mercy, sustain them and deliver them, from all distress and misfortune. May the supreme King of kings, in His mercy, inspire them and all their counselors and aides to deal kindly with us. May this be the will of God, *and let us say Amen.*

Almighty God, you have plans for us and power to make them happen. Give legislators, executives, judges, and government workers a knowledge of your will for the world. Let them remember that they serve a public trust, beyond personal gain or glory. May they see that they are responsible to you for peace and for the well-being of all citizens. Amen.

The President

Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting and whose power is infinite, have mercy upon this land, and so rule the hearts of your servants, The President of the United States, The Governor of this State, and all others in authority, that these public servants may above all things seek your honor and glory, and that we and all people, duly considering the authority that these servants bear, may faithfully and obediently honor them, according to your holy ordinance. Amen.

Congress

O God, fountain of wisdom, whose statutes are good and gracious, and whose law is truth, we ask that you so guide and bless the (Congress, Legislature), that it may ordain for our governance only such things as please you, to the glory of your Name and the welfare of the people of the United States. Amen.

Most gracious God, we humbly petition you for the people of the United States, and for their Senate and Representatives in Congress assembled, that you would be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations, to the advancement of your glory, and to the safety, honor, and welfare of your people. May all things be so ordered and settled on the best and surest foundations. May peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, be established among us. These and all other necessities, for us all, we humbly ask in your holy Name. Amen.

The Judicial Branch

Almighty God, you sit in judgment to declare what is just and right. Bless the courts and the magistrates in our land. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may perceive the truth and administer the law impartially as instruments of your divine will. Amen.

Voters/Elections

Under your law we live, great God, and by your will we govern ourselves. Help us as good citizens to respect neighbors whose views differ from ours, so that without partisan anger, we may work out issues that divide us, and elect candidates to serve the welfare of mankind in freedom. Amen.

The Armed Forces

Almighty God, by whose gracious providence our forebears won our liberties, we yield to you our thanks for all men and women of our country, who in the day of decision ventured much to preserve those same liberties that we now enjoy and especially those men and women who served in (name of war). May your heavenly grace strengthen them and all members of our armed forces in every trial and temptation, and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all of the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in their trials and temptations, and give them courage to face the perils that beset them. In your Name we pray. Amen.

O Eternal Lord God, our Creator, take into your most gracious protection the members of the armed forces of our nation. Preserve them from danger on land, on the sea, and in the air, and from the violence of the enemy, that they may safeguard the United States of America, that our citizens may in peace and quietness serve you. To the glory of your Name, Amen.

O Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm to strengthen and protect the members of the armed forces of our country. Support them in the day of battle; and in the time of peace, keep them safe from all evil; endow them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

In Time of War

Almighty God, the supreme Governor of all things, whose power no creature is able to resist, to whom belongs the power to punish sinners, and to be merciful to those who repent—save and deliver us, we humbly beseech you, from the hands of our enemies; that we, being armed with your defense, may be preserved evermore from all perils, to glorify you, the only giver of all victory. Through your holy Name we pray. Amen.

In Time of War

O God, merciful and compassionate, you are ever ready to hear the prayers of those who put their trust in you. Graciously hear us as we call upon you, and grant us help in this, our need. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

For the Army

O Lord, God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm to strengthen and protect the soldiers of our country. Support them in the day of battle. And in the time of peace, keep them safe from all evil. Endow them with courage and loyalty, and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

For the Navy

O Eternal Lord God, you alone spread out the heavens and rule the raging of the sea. Take into your almighty and most gracious protection our country's Navy, and all who serve in it. Preserve them from the dangers of the sea, and from the violence of the enemy, that they may be a safeguard to the United States, and a security for those who lawfully pass on the seas, so that we may in peace and quietness serve you, our God, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

State/Local Government

Almighty God, bless those who hold office in the government of this (state/city/town,) that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, kindness, and justice. Help them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote the general welfare. Amen.

Prayers for National Holidays/Patriotic Significant Days

George Washington's Birthday

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts and graces, we thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of the United States of America. We thank you for the men and women who have made our country strong, and especially for the life of George Washington, whose sacrifices and leadership brought our country through the struggle for independence. Help us to carry proudly the torch of liberty that our forefathers passed down to us, and enable us to continue the good work you have begun in our land. Amen.

Independence Day

Almighty God who inspired the hearts of our fathers to set forth the independence of these United States; we give all glory and praise to you, the Author of our liberty, and the sure Defense of our safety. We pray that by your grace we may be enabled to build wisely upon these foundations of freedom and peace; that we may hold our liberties in due subjection to your law and in all things seek that righteousness which exalts a nation. Kindle in our hearts the pure flame of sacrifice to our country's needs and grant that the fires of our patriotism may shine as beacon lights, O God, and may point the ways of all nations toward a universal brotherhood through your grace and mercy. Amen.

Almighty God, in whose Name the founders of our country won our liberties, and lit the torch of freedom, we pray that we and all Americans may have the grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace. Let us go forth into the world, and be of good courage, hold fast that which is good, and love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Patriots' Day

On this day, we pause with grateful hearts to remember patriot ancestors who stood firm on Lexington Green and the Old North Bridge. We give thanks for the Sons of Liberty; we give thanks for the midnight ride of William Dawes and Paul Revere; and we give thanks for each Minute Man who responded to the call to stand up for God given rights. May we remember what these brave souls began and dedicate our lives to preserving their legacy which is a free and independent nation known as the United States of America. Bless this nation, O God, and keep her strong. Amen.

Memorial Day

Almighty God, in whose hands are the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all your servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. We give special thanks today for the sacrifices of our patriot ancestors, who obtained our nation's independence. Grant to them your mercy and the light of your presence, that the good work that you have begun in them may be perfected. In your holy Name. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Almighty God, who has 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 our 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 those gathered here from throughout the world. Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home; and that, through obedience to your law, we may reflect your praise among the nations of the earth. In times of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in days of trouble, fill our hearts with trust in you. All this we ask in your holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for all of the blessings of this life, and especially for those that are ours in this free land—for the fruits of the soil, for the untold resources of the earth, for the opportunities of work and play, for liberty in speech and written word, for public education and regard for the welfare of all. We pray that you would make our nation great to your honor and glory. Amen.

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us. For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For those who serve in the armed forces of our country to bring peace to a troubled world,

We thank you, Lord.

For our patriot ancestors who gave us our nation of free men,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given us in Christ Jesus our Lord,

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Veterans Day

Holy God who created humankind to live in community, we pause this day to give thanks for men and women who have served our nation to preserve its way of life. We give thanks for veterans who answered the call to serve in time of peace and in time of war. Grant peace of mind to veterans who encountered the horrors of war and allow them to move forward with their lives. May all veterans experience the gratitude of the citizens whose lives are enriched because of the freedoms preserved by these brave men and women. Grant them your peace. Amen.

Prayers for National Emergency**When There Is Tragedy**

God of compassion: you watch the ways of men and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace. Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief may they find you and be comforted. Amen.

Prayers for Peace

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

Eternal God, our only hope, our help in times of trouble: move nations to work out differences. Do not let threats multiply or power be used without compassion. May your word rule my words, so that they may agree and settle claims peacefully. Restrain impulsive persons, lest desire for vengeance overwhelm our common welfare. Bring peace to earth, we pray. Amen.

Memorial Prayers

The following Kaddish is said by a Mourner.

And now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken. Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

Magnified and sanctified is his great name in the world which he has created according to his will. May he establish his kingdom during your life and during your days, and during the life of all the house of Israel, even speedily and at a near time, Amen.

Let his great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed, praised and glorified, exalted, extolled and honored, magnified and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed is he; though he is high above all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations, which are uttered in the world; Amen.

Let the name of the Lord be blessed from this time forth and for evermore.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life for us and for all Israel; Amen.

My help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He who makes peace in his high places, may he make peace for us and for all Israel; Amen.

For the Departed

Almighty God, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer, and in particular for your servant (name). Grant them, O God, your peace. Let light perpetually shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will. Amen.

O God, by whose grace your people gain courage through the heroes of faith, we lift our hearts in gratitude for all who have lived valiantly, and for all who have died bravely for truth and liberty and righteousness. Especially do we thank you for the heroes of the common good, who suffered and endured bitter sacrifice in achieving the freedom of worship and the measure of liberty we enjoy in this good land. God of our patriot ancestors, help us to prize very highly, and guard very carefully, the gifts that their loyalty and devotion passed on to us. Grant to us the gift of a living and vigorous faith, that we may be like the heroes; that we may be true as they were true; that we may serve our country and the cause of pure religion all the days of our lives; and grant that we, with all those who depart from this life in the faith of your holy Name, may wear at last the victor's crown. Amen.

Most merciful God, who has been pleased to receive the soul of your servant (name), grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage and who walk as yet by faith, that having served you with one constancy on earth, we may be joined from this time forth with your blessed saints in glory everlasting. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.

O Lord our God, who has removed the sting of death, grant unto us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length be peacefully at rest in you, and awaken in your likeness. Through your mercy, one God, world without end. Amen.

God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have died, and those most dear to us, especially (name) who rests in your loving and eternal care. Give us in time our portion with those who have trusted in you and have strived to do your holy will. To your Name, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer, and in particular for your servant (name); grant him peace, Father; let light perpetual shine upon him, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in him the good purpose of your perfect will. Amen.

Almighty God, we remember before you our departed compatriots. We thank you for giving them to us to know and to love on our earthly pilgrimage. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before. In you precious name we pray. Amen.

Almighty God, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberties for themselves and for us, we thank you for bringing us together to recall our great heritage. Grant that we, ever inspired by our patriot ancestors, may maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace. Even more, O God, we remember before you this day, all those of our Society who in this past year you have gathered unto yourself. Grant that they may rest in peace and rise in glory; and that we may ever thank you for the good examples of all those, your servants, who having finished their course, do now rest from their labors. Comfort, we pray, all those who mourn, that casting all their cares upon you, they may feel the consolation of your everlasting arms supporting them all the day long. Finally, we beg you to guide us in holiness and righteousness of life, so that, having served you in our own generation, we may be united with them and with you in the life of perfect service in your heavenly Kingdom. In your Name, who lives and reigns forever, world without end. Amen.

For the Bereaved

O God, you heal broken lives and bind up the wounds of your sorrowing people. Look in tender compassion on our friends whose joy has been turned into sadness. Comfort them with your eternal Word, drawing them closer to each other by their sorrow. Fill their souls with the peace of your presence. Grant them a vision of life where all sorrow and tears will be wiped away in the joys that you have prepared for us. So live with them until the day breaks and the shadows flee away. In your lovingkindness we pray. Amen.

Memorial Litany

We remember today, with thanksgiving to God, the lives of the (#) compatriots who so recently served God, our country, and our Society with devotion and loyalty and honor. They were members of (#) State Societies, and their names are reverently placed in the bulletin of this Memorial Service. They will always live in our memory as they continue to live in a world not limited by time or space. Let us remember them as we pray:

Help us to remember, Lord.

We pray that you would hear us, good Lord, and keep in our memory the noble example of the saints.

Help us to remember, Lord.

Keep in our memory our patriot ancestors who, guided by your Divine Providence, gave us this good land for our heritage.

Help us to remember, Lord.

Keep in our memory those who, through the years, have kept our country strong and served our nation to your honor and glory.

Help us to remember, Lord.

Keep in our memory those whose vision make possible the foundations of our Society, and have made it a channel of your good works.

Help us to remember, Lord.

Keep in our memory the compatriots we mourn today, from all over our nation, who were the lights of their generation and who now serve you in your eternal Kingdom.

Help us to remember, Lord.

Keep in our memory the widows and families of our departed compatriots that they may receive our love and affection.

Help us to remember, Lord.

Keep in our memory the ideals of our Society, so ably set forth in the lives of our departed compatriots, that we may continue the work they have started, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life.

Help us to remember, Lord.

GRAVE MARKING

SAR Official: Welcome and Greetings

Presentation of the Colors: SAR Color Guard, Military Unit, ROTC, Scouts or other appropriate group.

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

SAR Pledge by SAR Members

Introduction of the assembly to the Society Sons of the American Revolution.

Life of Patriot and his/her revolutionary patriot service

Decoration of the grave with wreath or other floral arrangement

Introduction of descendants of Patriot in attendance or identify those that could not be at the service.

Dedication of the Marker

Leader: If the past is indeed prologue, then a glimpse into the past can provide a source of wisdom and inspiration for the future. As we honor this patriot today, let us be mindful of his/her service to our nation, and

let us rededicate ourselves to the principles for which he/she held sacred.

Chaplain: As we gather, O God, for this dedication today, we ask your blessings upon each of us. We thank you for this occasion as we honor the memory of (name); we esteem his/her patriotism and courage, his/her faith and loyalty, and his/her willingness to sacrifice to make our world a better place. We thank you, too, for America and all patriots who have given us the liberties and privileges that we enjoy. May we be willing to serve you and our nation even as (name) did. May the ideals that we remember from the past sustain us today and safeguard us tomorrow. Amen.

Leader: We, the members of the _____Chapter, ____ State Society, Society Sons of the American Revolution dedicate this marker to the glory of God and in recognition of the memory of (name), a patriot of the American Revolution.

Speaker: (Appropriate 10-15 minutes for eulogy of the Revolutionary War Patriot or a patriotic speech.)

Chaplain: Almighty God, as we go from here, may this marker remind all who pass by of the devotion and dedication of all who have made our nation great. May all be humbled and encouraged by this marker to esteem and perpetuate these virtues with our lives. May the peace of God, which surpasses all, guard our hearts and minds in the ties of friendship and unity of love. Amen.

Comments by any of the Patriot's descendants

SAR Recessional by SAR Members

(Use of musical instruments, bands or choirs in the ceremonies is always encouraged.)

Quotes

"Morality is a necessary spring of popular government. Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to be the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

George Washington
From his Farewell Address

"Let us humbly commit our righteous cause to the great Lord of the Universe. Let us joyfully leave our concerns in the hands of Him who raises up and puts down empires and kingdoms of the earth as He pleases."

John Hancock

"We have appointed a Continental fast. Millions will be upon their knees at once before their great Creator, imploring His forgiveness and blessing; His smiles on American Council and arms."

John Adams

PRAYER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Almighty God, We make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Amen.



Prayer by George Washington which he used as the closing paragraph of a letter to the Governors of all the States on the disbanding of the Army in 1783.

SAR MEMORIAL HYMN

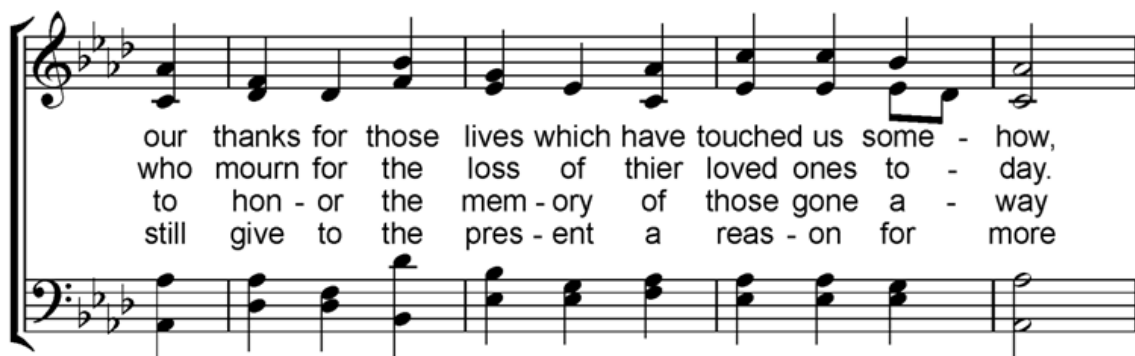
ST. DENIO

Welsh Hymn Melody

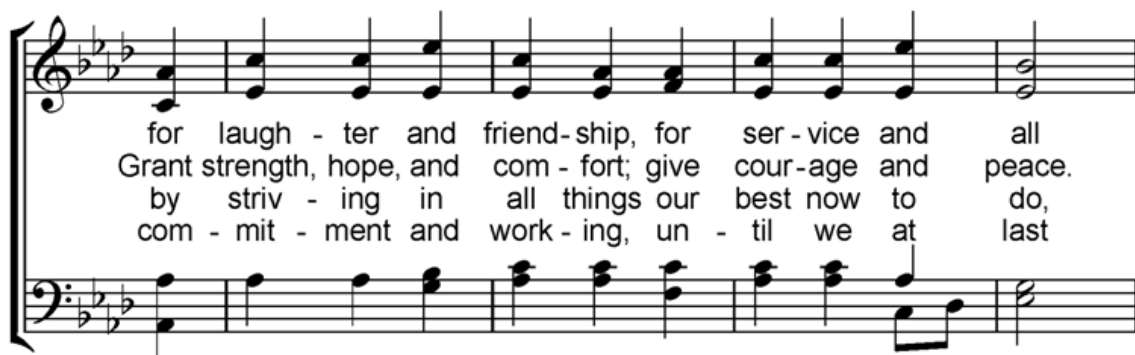
Maestoso



1. O Fa - ther, Cre - a - tor, we of - fer you now
2. O Sa - vior, Re - deem - er, be with those, we pray,
3. O Spir - it, the Guide of us all, let us pray
4. And thus may the com - rades who've gone on be - fore



our thanks for those lives which have touched us some - how,
who mourn for the loss of thier loved ones to - day.
to hon - or the mem - ory of those gone a - way
still give to the pres - ent a reas - on for more



for laugh - ter and friend - ship, for ser - vice and all
Grant strength, hope, and com - fort; give cour - age and peace.
by striv - ing in all things our best now to do,
com - mit - ment and work - ing, un - til we at last



of those me - mo - ries that we here do re - call.
May glad - ness and whole - ness re - turn and in - crease.
for God and for Coun - try, for friends old and new.
shall join them in heav - en, your king - dom so vast.

text: Darryl S. Jeffries

423 The Star-Spangled Banner

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. Ps. 118:9

1. O say, can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly light, what so
 2. O thus be it ev - er, when free men shall stand be -

proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last gleam - ing, whose broad
 tween their loved homes and the war's des - o - la - tion! Blest with

stripes and bright stars, through the per - il - ous fight, o'er the
 vic - tory and peace, may the heaven - res - cued land praise the

ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing? And the
 Power that hath made and pre - served us a na - tion! Then

WORDS: Francis Scott Key, 1814
 MUSIC: Attr. John S. Smith, c. 1775

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER
 Irregular

rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst - ing in air, gave
con - quer we must, when our cause it is just; and

proof through the night that our flag was still there. O
this be our mot - to: "In God is our trust!" And the

say, does that star - span - gled ban - ner yet wave o'er the
star - span - gled ban - ner in tri - umph shall wave o'er the

land of the free and the home of the brave?
land of the free and the home of the brave!

418 America, the Beautiful

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Ps. 33:12

1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
 3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 a thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat a - cross the wil - der - ness!
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law!
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - ery gain di - vine!
 and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!

WORDS: Katharine L. Bates, 1893, 1904
 MUSIC: Samuel A. Ward, 1882

MATERNA
 C.M.D.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee 417

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Prov. 14:34

1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,
3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
4. Our fa - thers' God, to thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,

of thee I sing: land where my fa - thers died, land of the
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and
sweet free - dom's song: let mor - tal tongues a - wake, let all that
to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with free-dom's

pil - grims' pride, from ev - ery moun - tain side let free - dom ring!
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
breathe par - take; let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
ho - ly light; pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King!

WORDS: Samuel F. Smith, 1832
MUSIC: *Thesaurus Musicus*, c. 1745

AMERICA
6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

God of Our Fathers 419

In you our ancestors . . . trusted, and you delivered them. Ps. 22:4

1. God of our fa - thers, whose al-might - y
 2. Thy love di-vine hath led us in the
 3. From war's a-larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4. Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
 past; in this free land by thee our lot is
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de -
 way; lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing

band of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
 cast; be thou our Rul - er, Guard - ian, Guide and
 fense; thy true re - lig - ion in our hearts in -
 day; fill all our lives with love and grace di -

skies, our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 Stay, thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 crease, thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 vine; and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

WORDS: Daniel C. Roberts, 1876
 MUSIC: George W. Warren, 1892

NATIONAL HYMN
 10.10.10.10.