

DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON CHAPLAIN
VFW Auxiliary
February 2024

What it means to be a chaplain

The Chaplain is expected to be a spiritual advisor to the VFW organization and its members according to the VFW National Chaplain. We are here to encourage and counsel those that are going through tough times.

Please remember to communicate with each other when someone needs emotional support. A member and family may need more than one phone call, inspirational message, or a card in the mail. If a request is made not to share the information, then please respect their wishes. Always ask your members if there is a brother or sister in need of encouragement at every meeting.

The Chaplain nurtures the members by spending time with them when needed and works closely with immediate family when a loved one passes. The Chaplain is to perform the draping of the Charter and hold an annual District Memorial Service for the departed.

Remember the Auxiliary Traditions – Podium Edition Bylaws and Rituals 2024

- No member is allowed to enter the Auxiliary room during the opening and closing prayer.
- No movement or noise when the Chaplain is opening and closing the Bible.
- Draping of the Charter: The Charter to remain draped for a period of 30 days.
- Memorial Service altar cloth to be one-yard square of white material with 6" purple boarder.
- The opening and closing prayers in the Podium book are to be used only in your Auxiliary meetings.

Honoring Gold Star Ritual for family, parents, and wives

- The members shall refrain from applauding during the ritual.

Memorial Services

- Auxiliary may offer to hold a Memorial Service for a deceased member with members in attendance.

Suggestions for oral prayer reading.

- Speak slower than normal and speak clearly for effective oral reading of the prayers.
- Speak to be heard
- Enunciate for meaning and attention to the prayer.
- Hold the prayer at eye level and do not look down.
- Observe though and sentence units. Remember, punctuation marks are there for a reason. A period means pause and count to two. A comma means pause and count to one.

Sincerely

Tracie Tomsen Department of Washington Auxiliary Chaplain

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