



“Grampa would be very proud of you today for you stood tall and saluted him proudly.”



This journey is not easy for death is never easy on anyone especially if it is someone you loved very much. But wait there is something that we can all do when the time has come to give your....



Final

Salute to a Veteran

When a Veteran has passed, especially in a hospital or Veterans Home, a family can request that their loved one receives this “*showing of respect*” brief ceremony for his/her service to their country provided the facility is able to carry it out. This is important and should be shared with all Veteran families to

make them aware.....hopefully the facility will remember to ask all patients and their families when they are admitted, this particularly important question:



Did you Serve?

“*The Final Salute*” for deceased veterans is a way to acknowledge their dedication and sacrifice in serving their country. It is a time to honor their commitment to protecting our freedoms and to express gratitude for their selfless contributions for their service.

The Honors Escort Program or as it is sometimes referred to as a “Final Salute” can show honor & respect for one’s military service to his or her country. It is a tribute and a unique way of saying thank you to this Veteran that has now passed. Surrounded by his loved ones, or in some instances just staff, a short prayer is shared and then the American Flag now covers this Veteran as he is escorted from the facility with “Taps”



being played.....

Auxiliary members, our Mission at hand is to **“Challenge the Needs of our Veterans” & their Families by “Banding Together for Our Veterans”** and being the spokesperson to find out or put into place.....

- If the question is asked when a patient is admitted, “Are you a Veteran?”
- Would something of this nature take place based on current circumstances (i.e., covid protocols in place if in fact this patient is a Veteran and does pass while at their facility?)
- Most facilities have some form of Clergy available that can offer a comforting prayer as the deceased is draped with the American Flag for his/her exit from the facility.

- Is there a way we can work together with facilities to be a source of making sure we have a contact person in place around the state that can easily supply the facility with American Flags to be used in the case of a Veteran passing and they were able to carry out a Final Salute for the Veteran. This can be shared by multiple contacts based on the hospital/medical facilities location in the state.

Remember the final mission is not whether they have full hospital participation, or just the family and a hand full of staff, what truly matters that the dearly departed Veteran receives this “Final Salute!”



“So, like I said, Grandpa who was a very proud Veteran that served his country, is very grateful he was able to be honored with a Final Salute just for him today, and especially your salute too!”

This is an important goal of our Hospital Program, and we all must do our part to educate and share this information with the medical facilities and nursing homes in our state. Let us roll up our sleeves and spread the word, we are the VFW Auxiliary, and this is who we are and what we do, **Support Our Veterans especially when they need it most!**

Thank you!

Madeline Dreusicke, Hospital Chairman