



Prayers, Scripture, Last Alarm, Memorial Resolution for Firefighter Memorial Service

Compiled by Jim Burns

Invocation

Let us pray.

Holy and Eternal God, help us in sadness and darkness as we remember our fallen comrades. Comfort and strengthen us, as we honor those who have offered selfless service and the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives in response of their duty; and may, we, O God, pray that they have taken their rest from their labors, and have entered into the light of God's eternal rest.

Holy and Eternal God, we pray for their families, friends, and us. May they, and we, be comforted in our sorrow in the sure confidence of everlasting hope.

And, direct us in Thy Great Wisdom, as we remember those who have gone before us. In Thy Matchless and Holy Name we pray. Amen.

Scripture

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to proclaim the good news to the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prisons to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow upon them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning; the garment of praise instead of the spirit of heaviness and despair; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. And they shall build up the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations (Isa. 61:1-4). I will be with you and when you pass through the waters, they will not sweep over you, and when you walk through the fire you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel your Savior (Isa. 43:1-3a).

The Word of the Lord.

Reading of the Last Alarm

Memory is the priceless heritage of the ages. It echoes voices of happy days, sad emotions, fond recollections, beautiful traditions, cherished friendships and joyful camaraderie.

Today we stand in memory of the departed brothers and sisters who have responded to their “last alarm.” Throughout most of history, the lives of firefighters have been closely associated with the ringing of a bell. As they began their hours of duty, it was the bell that started it off. Through the day and night, each alarm was sounded by a bell; the bell called them to fight fire and place their lives in harms-way for the good of their fellow man. And when the fire was out, and the alarm had come to an end, the bell rang three times to signal the end. And now our brothers and sisters have completed their tasks, their duties well done.

Those responded to their last alarms between October 21, 2010 and October 18, 2011, each name will be read, one-by-one, and the bell will ring once; and at the completion of all names read, the bell will ring three times in memory of, and tribute to, their lives and sacrificial service.

With deepest reverence, let us bow our hearts in silent prayer in repose as the names are called of our departed comrades, and the bell tolls.

A Memorial Resolution

The Board of Directors of the Federation of Fire Chaplains has offered a Resolution to the memory of and honor to all of those who have responded to their “last alarm”:

Whereas, members of fire departments and citizens throughout the United States and Canada, we call on you today to remember those who have paid the supreme sacrifice of giving their lives to save their fellowman, and

Whereas, we pray for and express our most sincere sympathy to their families - widows, children, parents, siblings, their friends, their fellow firefighters, and

Whereas, we are continually mindful that the greatest love anyone can show is to give their life that another might live, and

Whereas, it may be understood that the incident which caused the death of our beloved fellow firefighters happened when they were serving their communities as they responded to their last alarm,

Be It Therefore Resolved, that the firefighters to be remembered here today are the record of their service and achievements made public in this place.

Be it finally Resolved, a copy of this resolution is placed in the minutes of the Federation of Fire Chaplains and a copy made available on the website to the families of those names of the deceased being read during this Memorial Service.

Signed by the President, Secretary and Executive Director

Memorial Prayer

Almighty God, Supreme Chief of the Universe, we humbly bow before Thy Sovereign will, as in Thy providence Thy has seen it fit to call our brothers and sisters home, their higher calling completed their earthly careers, and now received to the glorious entrance into eternal bliss and everlasting joy.

And we have called, one by one, the names of our brothers and sisters who faithfully discharged their duty when flames were raging, and when they offered their supreme sacrifice in service to others; and we solemnly sounded the bell in their memory and in their honor.

O, Lord, Our God, we cherish their memories in our hearts as we feel their absence. Nothing can make up for the presence of our brothers and sisters who lived and worked with us who have fallen, and it would be wrong to try to do so. Thinking of those brave men and women who died in the line of duty for their fellow man, our hearts are aching, our spirits are darkened in the blackness of night; we are feeling numb, saddened, and heartbroken.

However, by faith, in the darkness of our night, we know that God's light scatters our darkness. We know, O God, that He is our shepherd, that there is nothing that we should go wanting; knowing that when we are tired and weary, He leads us in fresh and green pastures; and beside still waters that restores our dark and drooping spirits.

We know, Heavenly Father, that He guides us along the right path, true to His name. And He walks with us through the deep dark valley of death, while being not overcome by it. We know that He supports us with a crook and a staff, and gives us comfort in the midst of our grief – in the families and relatives bereaved of those of our fallen comrades, and us; He consoles us in our sorrow. He supports active firefighters facing daily hazards in their duty of protecting our citizens from the devastating ravages of fire, and keeps them in their earthly tasks and in their own day of their last alarm .

O God, we believe that, You, have prepared a banquet for our fallen comrades in the sight of all who do not understand their doings. O God, in, Your mercy and love, You will anoint us with oil and our cups will be overflowing with mercy and grace. And, by our faith, surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, dwelling now and forever in His house.

And now, O Lord, God of Power and Might, in heaven and in earth, may be full of your glory now and forevermore. Amen.

Memorial Benediction

Holy God, Lord of life and death, you made us in your image and you hold us in your care.

We thank you for your servants, brave Fire Chaplains and Firefighters, for the selfless untiring duty and gifts they have given with their very lives.

Holy God, may the fire chaplains and firefighters who have heard your words of welcome, "Come to you, blessed of my Father" and may they have received Your unfailing crown of glory. May they have angels surrounding them, and the saints welcomed them in peace.

And, Now Bless all who have witnessed this memorial in honor of those of our own;
And, Be honor and praise and glory to Our God, be now and forever more. Amen

Updated 042011