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Order of Service

for

**FAREWELL AND GODSPEED**

**to a Member
Departing for Military Service**



**FAREWELL AND GODSPEED**

**TO A MEMBER DEPARTING FOR MILITARY SERVICE**

*This rite is used to bid farewell and Godspeed to a member who is departing for service in the armed forces of our country. It also might be adapted for someone departing for employment in civilian industry overseas or some other endeavor that will separate him or her from the home congregation for an extended period of time.*

*Immediately before the Benediction in the Divine Service, the individual who is leaving comes before the altar. The pastor addresses the congregation with these or similar words:*

**[P]**  People of God in Christ, ***Name*** is entering the service of our country in the ***Branch of Service*** . At this time of farewell and Godspeed, we look to the Word of our Lord for comfort, peace and guidance.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. … God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. … The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. … Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Ps. 103:1–2; 46:1, 11; 37:4).

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

 ***Name*** , when you were baptized you began your vocation as a Christian. Through these years, God has blessed you with unique, special gifts and interests that have led you to service in the ***Branch of Service*** . Today it is our privilege to affirm you as you represent our country. Let your Christian light shine wherever your military service may take you. Our ascended Lord assures you, “Lo, I am with you always.” With His forgiveness and the constant presence of His Spirit, with all His grace and fatherly care, He is with you,  ***Name*** . We commend you and your family to His gracious care and pledge to you and your family our prayers and continued spiritual support.

Let us pray: O God, You called Abraham from his home and led him in safety on many journeys. Now, we pray, go with ***Name*** , as he/she departs for service in our country’s armed forces. Stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war and in times of peace. Keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty, and grant that, in all things, they may serve honestly and without reproach; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Benediction