

28TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
POLICY LETTER #5
FUNERALS

Proposed by Chaplain: 30 Jan 2022

Approved by Board of Directors: 27 Feb 2022

President's Signature: _____

This policy letter is to establish a course of action when the association is informed of a member's death in order to provide assistance, comfort and instruction to the spouse/family.

Once a death notification is received by any association member it is imperative to immediately notify the association chaplain. The chaplain will contact the family to ascertain their desires and gather any needed information. He then will notify all association members.

If association involvement is desired, the chaplain will determine the extent of involvement requested by the family and contact the nearest association members to determine attendance. If other members plan to attend the services they will notify the chaplain immediately.

If there are enough attendees one of them, as determined by the chaplain, will be appointed as the OIC. It will be that person's duty to arrange for pall bearers if desired and available. He will also cause a eulogy to be delivered as appropriate. The chaplain should have a standard eulogy prepared that can be appropriately modified.

If the soldier's cross packet is desired the chaplain will send it by the most expedient means available. The packet will be returned by the OIC.

The OIC will share the contents of Attachment 1 with the spouse/family to ensure they are aware of necessary actions and services available to them on the veteran's behalf. The OIC will coordinate with the funeral director to arrange desired military honors.

The association president will send a card/letter of condolence to the family.

ATTACHMENT # 1

Association members should leave an instruction sheet for the spouse/family and familiarize them with its contents.

Following is an example of suggested content. (a very informative check list can be accessed at <https://www.military.com>benefits>)

1. Important documents should be kept in a safe/lockbox. Make sure family/spouse know location and combination/code.
2. Need copies of DD 214(discharge form)
3. Need certified copies of the death certificate (funeral director usually helps with this) Life insurance companies, social security, military retirement, other retirement accounts, bank, court will require a copy of the death certificate
4. Instructions on funeral and burial place. Most states have veteran cemeteries.
5. Phone number for US Military Retirement—1-800-321-1080
6. Phone number for Social Security—1-800-772-1213
7. Spouse will need to change these documents into their name
 - + Any deeds to property
 - + Bank accounts
 - + Vehicle titles
 - + Remaining insurance policies
8. Location of Will

28th Field Artillery Regiment Association
Burial Detail Checklist

OIC/NCOIC take charge of UPS box which contains: Soldier's cross, sample eulogy, rank insignia, dog tags with chain, unit crests, white gloves, and ties.

Emplace soldier's cross. It should look like the diagram but we will have a stand for the M-16 and bayonet to be placed on.

Take pictures of soldier's cross, 28th FARA personnel in attendance, and next of kin.

Write name and install rank insignia on camouflage band on helmet.

Put dog tags and chains on soldier's cross. Give one dog tag, the small chain, rank insignia, and camouflage band to next of kin after the service.

Take pictures, as appropriate, of the display, coffin, etc.

Obtain:

Copy of obituary

Funeral home memorial brochure

Names and addresses of military personnel involved: OIC, NCOIC,
pall bearers, bugler, rifle detail, etc.

Name and address of pastor

Name and address of POC from the funeral home.

The president or secretary will write and send letters of appreciation to everyone involved.

Give 28th FARA pall bearers unit crests to be worn on left lapel, white gloves to wear if serving as active pall bearers, and regimental ties. Make certain all items are returned.

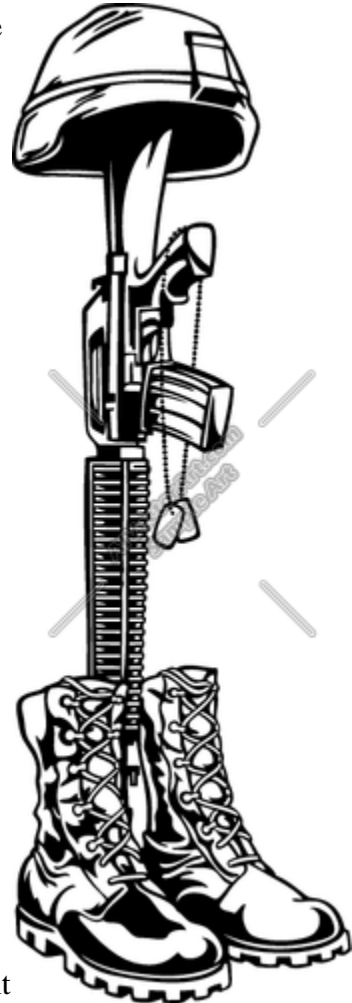
Designate one member to write an after action review of the events. Focus on what went well and what we need to improve upon. Include ideas for future events.

Obtain four expended rounds of rifle detail. Give three to the next of kin and send one back with other items. We will mark the cartridge with the name of the warrior and date of death. It will be kept in our archive.

Designate one member to deliver any eulogy. A sample one will be included with modifications made as necessary.

OIC/NCOIC will re-pack and return the UPS box to indicated address. Include the obituary, funeral home memorial brochure, death certificate, and names of everyone involved.

E-mail any pictures and the AAR to bdunham53@yahoo.com.



Scripture tells us, ‘Though an army encamps around me, my heart will not fear; though a war breaks out against me, I will keep my trust. Though an army besieges me, my heart will not fear; though war breaks out against me, even then I will be confident. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid.’

As we gather today to honor our fallen brother in arms, (Name) I believe it is necessary to provide you context of his service to our nation.

He served in the 2nd Battalion, 28th Field Artillery, Bleidorn Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany. His service was during what was known as The Cold War that lasted from 2 September 1945 until 26 December 1991. This war was between our country and NATO against the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact.

The mission of the battalion was that within two hours of notice we had to be ready to deploy to our General Defense Positions in the Hof Corridor along the Czechoslovakian Border to support the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The battalion was equipped with the M109A2 self-propelled, nuclear capable howitzer. We fired a 98 pound projectile a maximum of 23.5 kilometers or 14.5 miles and was capable of tremendous accuracy and destruction. It is the most widely used and longest serving piece of artillery in US Army history.

Fortunately we never had to actually perform our wartime mission but we lived those days with the understanding that on any day we would leave our kaserne and head east to face the Communist horde sent to invade Germany. In fact, we practiced this deployment monthly, at 0-dark thirty (usually 0400) and regardless of the

weather. We also understood that we would probably not survive the initial days of the conflict. We were there to delay the invasion as long as possible to allow our stateside forces to mobilize and arrive in the theater of operations.

(Name) served as (MOS). His job would have been to (description).

Maintaining peace and order is exactly what (Name) did in his term of service. He and his fellow veterans risked their lives, abandoned comfort, and underwent trials to protect our country from all forms of war and tragedy. While many of us here were soundly sleeping, these once soldiers were busy doing their duties to ensure that the rest of the country and world was safe.

At Snow Hall on Fort Sill these words are displayed: “Greater love hath no man than this: That he lay down his life for his friends.” (Name) was willing to do this during his service with this artillery regiment.

(Name) when you fall in at God’s formation tomorrow for PT with CSM (Salt/Stewart/Watters) in charge, hold your head high, stick out your chest, and know that your valiant work on this mortal coil is done.

To quote a Vince Gill song, “Go rest high on that mountain. Son, your work on earth is done. Go to heaven a-shouting, love for the Father and the Son.” All of us say to you, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Rest easy. Rounds complete.”

13 Dec 18
After Action Report
Internment of CSM David L. Stewart

2/28 FA Association Members:

CSM Stewart joined God's formation on 3 Dec. Tommy Houston was notified by his wife, Che, a day or two later. Tommy notified us on 6 Dec of his death and the details of the funeral.

I immediately made plans to attend (being completely retired gives me that flexibility and luxury). As it turned out (the weather played an important factor) I drove to Raleigh and picked up Dave Dehnel. We drove to Pittsburgh and were joined by Dave Davenport (drove in from Toledo) and Bob Michaud and the lovely Elizabeth who flew in from San Clemente. Ralph Ripley drove up from Big Canoe, GA (north of Atlanta).

We met at the church at 1100, 11 Dec for the services. Tommy had written a eulogy and Che asked me to deliver it. I must admit that I cried like a baby giving it. We then met at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies for the military burial. It was a very moving tribute to a great soldier and leader.

Afterwards we met for lunch and hoisted a brew to our friend.

In the end we have identified some serious deficiencies that we need to correct immediately as unfortunately we will be doing this more and more frequently.

Dave Dehnel had a great idea that we would have a display of boots, upturned M-16, and helmet. We should have red neckties and unit crests for any of us in attendance. We should have white gloves for any of us acting as pall bearers. I, for one, will make certain that I purchase a red tie in the immediate future and I know I have a unit crest around here somewhere.

We should have a checklist on our website for the widow. When Tommy told Che that she needed Dave's DD Form 214, she had no idea what he was talking about. I must admit that Vicki would be clueless as well. The checklist should contain suggestions of whom to call upon the death of one of our comrades. Upon notification to a member of the association the word must then be immediately disseminated. Time will be of the essence.

Once we create a display it could be housed in a hardened container and shipped to the POC asap. The container would include the display, crests, gloves, and ties. It would be up to the family to decide if they wanted us to serve as pall bearers and if they wanted the display at all.

So fellow members, we need to let our spouses know of our desires now.

All in all, it was a solemn occasion and I believe we acquitted ourselves admirably. The VFW and the active service members who performed the military ceremony were top notch. I wish now I would have gotten the names of the active members (SSG and a MAJ) so that the association could write them a letter of appreciation. That should be something we do in the future as well. We should also write one to the VFW that fired the volleys and played taps, and to the VA that oversaw the entire ceremony.

Perhaps we should include the pastor and the funeral director. Just something simple to let them know that we appreciate their professionalism and decorum.

I will write something to the pastor and funeral director. Tommy if you can find out the VFW chapter and the names of the active duty personnel I will write something for them.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dunham