

Targhetta & Wooldridge Funeral Home
Brighton, IL
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Our Tribute To Veterans

The dictionary describes a hero as: “a person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose or a person noted for special achievement in a particular field.”

The staff at Targhetta & Wooldridge Funeral Home describe a hero as: “any past or present, active or reserve member of the United States Armed Services.” From the American Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, each and every person, male or female, black, white or any other ethnic background that has served in the United States Military, we say, “Thank you.”

President Ronald Reagan described so eloquently the sacrifice that each veteran gives in the eulogy he delivered at the memorial service for the crew of the Space Shuttle “Challenger” on January 31, 1986 at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

“The sacrifice of your loved ones has stirred the soul of our nation and through the pain, our hearts have been opened to a profound truth-the future is not free, the story of all human progress is one of a struggle against all odds. We learned again that this is America, which Abraham Lincoln called the last hope of man on earth, was built on heroism and noble sacrifice. It was built by men and women, who answer a call beyond duty, who gave more than was expected or required, and who gave it with little thought to worldly reward.”

As funeral professionals we are accustomed to a traditional military funeral. It is the country’s way of expressing its gratitude for the sacrifice that the veteran had made.

They do so by draping the flag over the casket, the playing of taps and the twenty one gun salute. But, how does our funeral home staff give a “personal tribute” to the families of the veterans?

Our tribute begins at the first contact with the surviving family members. Whether on the telephone or in the arrangement conference, the family is inquired about the deceased military service. If the deceased had any military service (regular, reserve or National Guard), the flag of the branch of service in which the deceased served is immediately flown under the United States flag at our funeral home.

The tribute continues at the visitation or funeral/memorial service. A plaque is displayed in the cap panel of the casket or it rests on a distinctive display. The plaque is embossed with the seal of the armed service in which the deceased served. This piece of recognition is given to the family after the service has taken place.

The tribute concludes with a small, but very informative, postcard. This postcard is presented to the family. The card is inscribed with a picture of the military flag which is being flown. The postcard contains the history of the flag. Each branch of the military is represented in our tributes.

Although our tribute to our veterans is small and inexpensive, it expresses our gratitude that the individual had made to protect our freedom and way of life.