

SUGGESTED FUNERAL PLAN "C"

(Extremely high recognition, long-time National & Regional Staff- most probable candidates)

(Written by ALAN GELL, National ERA Field Advisor)

1. **NOTIFICATION:** Widow or Next-Of-Kin should notify the Regional Coordinator and /or the National Office. If these two persons can not be reached, contact any other District or Regional staff member. The family should only notify two or three "key" Royal Ranger leaders, depending upon the level of involvement and personal relationship with these leaders. Most likely, the Regional Coordinator or District Commander will be the primary point of contact for any or all Royal Ranger interface.

It is advised that you prepare a list of close & personal "old-timers" names in advance. A suggested start for this list might be your annual Christmas Card mailing list. This list can be given (faxed or emailed) to the District Commander or Regional Coordinator, so that these "special" people can also be contacted.

2. **UNIFORMS:** It is appropriate for the former Royal Ranger leader to be dressed in either the khaki uniform or blue blazer uniform for burial. It is advised that a trusted and knowledgeable commander look over the uniform in advance of any display or visitation, so that "correctness" of badge placement can be corrected. Generally, the preference for the khaki or blazer would be the personal preference of the deceased commander. If the commander was extremely involved in the FCF and was more widely know for that, it would even be appropriate for the commander to be dressed in his "outfit."

It is suggested that the District Commander or Regional Coordinator be advised if Blue Blazers or the Khaki uniform is preferred to be worn by visitors to the funeral service. They can disseminate that information during the notification process.

3. **VISITATION:** Depending upon the wishes of the family, a Royal Ranger display should probably be arranged during the visitation time in the viewing room. This could include some photos, the Royal Ranger flag, a few special FCF items, etc. It is recommended that these be kept to a reasonable number and are intended only to help visitors remember very special and important points in the life of the honored commander.

The visitation time is spent by many to talk and remember very special times they had with the deceased - at a training camp, at a special training conference, at a Pow-Wow, or something else. Pictures and items displayed by the family are very appropriate. Often, the visitors only know the "RR" side of the deceased and will enjoy seeing family photos and items as well.

The family should probably ask to have two teenage Royal Rangers IN UNIFORM standing at each end of the casket as special Honor Guards during the visitation time.

If the Commander was extremely active in the FCF, and the family wishes, it would also be appropriate to have "pickin' & ginnin'" Gospel music playing softly in the background. In a few special cases, it would even be appropriate to have some live singers and/or guitars & banjos.

4. **FUNERAL SERVICE:** Depending upon the wishes of the family, the Royal Ranger flag could be displayed on a flagpole adjacent to the coffin, on the wall directly above the coffin, or draped over the coffin itself.

PALLBEARERS: If Royal Rangers or Commanders are utilized as Pall Bearers, they should either all be in khaki uniform or all be in Blue blazers. If only a few of the pall bearers are Commanders, then they should wear the blue blazer uniform or a suit like the other pall bearers.

MUSIC: If the Commander was extremely active in the FCF, and the family wishes, it would also be appropriate to have "pickin' & ginnin'" Gospel music playing in the background while guests arrive for the funeral. During the service, it would not be out-of-place to have this type music for specials, if that was desired, although most families would probably prefer the more traditional hymns.

SPEAKERS: In addition to the minister's message, it would probably be expected to have two or three select Royal Ranger commanders take the podium to make a few comments and remember a few key RR highlights of the commander's life. Don't select these persons based on their RR positions, but select two or three well-known Royal Ranger commanders who were close to the deceased and knew him well. A son or daughter might be a good choce for one of these, if they were

willing to do it. The minister could be a Royal Ranger leader as well, depending upon the wishes of the family. It is probably a good idea to coordinate these selections with the Regional Coordinator or a National Staff member.

FILING OUT, COFFIN TO HEARSE: It would be very appropriate for all Royal Rangers, boys & leaders, that are in uniform of any type, to form a double line from the door of the chapel or church to the back of the hearse. They would all serve as a silent honor guard while the coffin was moved. One commander would be asked to be in charge and call the group "Attention" when the doors opened and the coffin began moving. Then the group would be called to "Hand Salute" until the coffin reached near the end of the hearse. The group would be called to "Ready Two" when the coffin reached the end of the line, before it was moved into the hearse.

COMBINATION MILITARY - ROYAL RANGERS: If the deceased was a member of the military and wished military honors, these can be easily mixed with the Royal Ranger honors. For example, the coffin could be covered by a United States flag and the Royal Rangers flag mounted on the wall. OR the visitation time could be Royal Rangers emphasis and the service more military - or vice-versa. OR the service could be Royal Rangers emphasis and the Cemetery service military oriented. There is no "right" or "wrong" way to do this. It is totally up to the desires and wishes of the deceased and the family. It is strongly recommended that this particular item be discussed between Commanders and their families IN ADVANCE, if at all possible.

5. **CEMETERY SERVICE:** It would be appropriate and is suggested, if the family wishes, to have a Royal Rangers presence at the cemetery service. Remember, however, that these are usually very short in length, unless they are separated by time and distance from the main memorial service.

BUGLER: These are generally difficult to obtain, but with a little advance notice, quite possible. If a Royal Ranger bugler is desired to play TAPS at the conclusion of the cemetery service, it can sometimes be arranged. If the deceased was a long-time National Staff member or a Regional Coordinator, it is recommended that a bugler be obtained if possible. The Sectional or District Commander should be asked several days beforehand, to check with area Outposts to see if they have a Royal Ranger or a commander who plays the trumpet. With just a little bit of practice time, the trumpeter can normally do an adequate job of playing TAPS, although not always perfectly. The addition of a Royal Ranger boy or leader in uniform playing TAPS is a very touching and moving conclusion of the services to honor a departed Royal Ranger commander, especially a former District Commander or Regional Coordinator.

RIFLES: It is not recommended that any type of firing squad be utilized unless the deceased was a member of the military and this is being conducted by the military. Depending, however, upon other circumstances, such as if the deceased was a Territorial Rep or long-time Wilderness member, and an organized group from the District or Region could make the arrangements, it would certainly be appropriate to have an FCF rifle squad to fire at least one volley. All FCF and black powder safety rules would have to be strictly followed and enforced.

6. **FRONTIERSMEN:** It is recognized that some Royal Ranger commanders are extremely active in the FCF and they, or their families, prefer the visitation, memorial service, cemetery service, or what-have-you, be in the Frontier style. That is acceptable if that is the wishes of the family. Notify the Regional Coordinator or District Commander in advance so that all commanders can be notified to wear the "Outfits". It is recommended that FCF Outfits either be worn by all FCF members or not at all. It is not advisable to "mix" these and have them worn by only one or two persons.

7. **PERSONAL WISHES:** Remember, these are merely ideas and suggestions to be used as guidelines. Funerals are personal and should be used to honor the deceased as well as allow consolation of the family and provoke good memories for friends. Please use as much or as little of these guidelines as you wish or change them in any way you desire.

NOTE: If a Pre-Need Funeral Plan exists, it is strongly advised that a copy of this suggested plan, along with a list of special Royal Ranger contact names and phone numbers be included and given to the funeral director at your earliest