May 1—Loyalty Day, annually.
May 8—VE Day: German unconditional surrender signed, 1945.
May 30—Memorial Day.
June 6—D Day: Allied invasion of Europe, 1944.
June 14—Flag Day.
July 4—Independence Day.
September 2—VJ Day: Japan surrendered, 1945, ending World War II fighting.
September 11—Patriot's Day
September, third Friday—POW/MIA Recognition Day.
October 18—Recognition of Women in Military Service.
November 11—Signing World War I Armistice, 1918. Veterans Day
December 7—Pearl Harbor Day, since 1941.

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**SPECIAL PRAYERS**

Additional special prayers are included in the Chaplain's Handbook. (The Chaplain's Handbook is part of the VFW Leadership Reference Guide CD.)

**PRAYER OF THANKS**

Our Heavenly Father, we come to You in this moment because we believe that You are our God and we are Your people, and You are the creator and sustainer of life.

We acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from above and that all that we have comes from Your divine beneficent hand.

We thank You for this food and ask for Your blessing upon us as we partake. Teach us to be always mindful of Your loving kindness and tender mercies. Amen.
BENEDICTION

Our Heavenly Father, we ask that You will dismiss us with Your blessing, and grant that we may continually experience the calmness and serenity of heart and soul which comes from You. Make us useful servants in all things. Amen.

VETERANS DAY PRAYER

Almighty God, Father of us all! We, Your servants, turn to You for continuance of Your blessings upon us. You who have spared us veterans from the grasp of our enemies, grant us the full understanding of Your precious comfort.

We thank You for the privileges of life and the blessings we enjoy through Your graciousness in our country, the land in which we are given the freedom of speech, religion and the pursuit of happiness. Assist us to know You better and the wisdom to acknowledge You as the God of the universe and our ideal.

In Your mercy, may we the living find our peace. Grant us from above, this day, the challenge of high endeavor, the beauty of an humble spirit, the strong courage and will, without exertion, to continue to glorify You; to praise You, and to love You to the end of time. Amen.

PEARL HARBOR DAY MEMORIAL PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are gathered here to commemorate those among Your servants who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Because of their dedication to duty we still enjoy the freedoms we inherited from our forefathers. Because they served well, we are proud to call them our own. We ask that, following in their footsteps, we may continue in Your service until Your summons comes. Then, in the knowledge that we have striven to observe Your councils and precepts, may be worthy to be united with them and with You forever. Amen.
PRAYER FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS

O Lord, we thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon us and on our Country. We ask You to bless and to comfort our Gold Star Parents who are here today. Give them the strength to do their daily tasks and the courage to meet the problems of life. Grant that their example may be our inspiration. Amen.

PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of obedience to government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large; and, finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy Nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, O Lord!

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.
A PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Lord, Almighty God, we pray Your healing grace in behalf of (Name of Person). May (Name) know the blessing of good health in this hour and throughout life. Bless all who minister to (Name) in body, mind and spirit and grant that we may always give praise to You, our heavenly Father. Amen.

PRAYER AT A FUNERAL WITHOUT FORMAL RITUAL

Eternal Father, giver and sustainer of life, we come before You in the joy of our Faith and in thanksgiving for the life of (Name of Deceased). We commend the soul of our departed Comrade (Sister) to You. Lord, we ask You to help us honor the memory of (Name) by service to the living. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE OPENING OF AN INFORMAL MEETING

Almighty God, we thank You for bringing us together this day. Inspire us to worthy deeds and sound decisions and direct us toward the attainment of our goal. We pray that You would bless and protect all of our people. Guide us on the path to unity and harmony that we may serve You and Your people in keeping with Your holy will. Amen.

PRAYER AT THE CLOSING OF AN INFORMAL MEETING

Glory be to You our Lord and our God as we behold the blessings You have given us as citizens of these United States of America. We thank You Lord, for this blessed and bountiful Land. Help us to renew our loyalty to this great Country and enable us to rededicate ourselves in Faith to Your service. We pray Lord, in Your holy name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR DECEASED COMRADES AND/OR SISTERS

Heavenly Father, we are gathered here to commemorate those among Your servants who have been called to Your bosom in the land of light. We pray that Your mercy and justice
have made right their human failings and faults. We pray that whatever justice was denied them in this vale of tears has been granted them a hundredfold. We pray that whatever comforts they were denied in this life, whatever evil they endured, may now redound to their everlasting happiness.

We are thankful for their companionship and association in this life. By their efforts we are assured security and strength. Because they served well, we are proud to call them our own. We ask that, following in their footsteps, we may continue in Your service until Your summons comes. Then, in the knowledge that we have striven to observe Your truths and precepts, may we be judged worthy to be united with them and with You forever in heaven. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD

O God, source of all holy desires, right counsels and just works, grant us that peace which the world cannot give, so that we may be obedient to Your commands and that under Your protection we may enjoy peace in our days and freedom from fear of our enemies. We ask this in Your great and holy Name. Amen.

A PRAYER AT THE CONCLUSION OF A MEMORIAL SERVICE

Almighty God, our gratitude for Your generosity grows with each passing day. We acknowledge this day's special blessings. We have honored those who now enjoy Your eternal embrace. We ask Your blessing on all here present. Especially do we seek Your consolation for those recently bereaved. May Your grace be with them and with us now and forever. And, if it be Your will, may we all be favored to gather again in these circumstances and in this company before another year has passed. Amen.

VETERANS PRAYER OF THANKS

Almighty God, Father of us all! We, Your servants, turn to
You for Your continuing blessings upon us. You, who spared us, combat veterans, from the grasp of our enemies, grant us the full understandings of Your precious comfort.

We thank You for the privileges of life and the blessings we enjoy through Your graciousness to our country, the land in which we are given freedom of speech, religion and the pursuit of happiness. Continue Your presence with us always and may we continue to serve you faithfully. Amen.

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**BALLOTING FOR CANDIDATES**

(Section 103 of the Manual of Procedure, provides that applications for membership may be grouped and accepted by viva voce vote. Upon request of any one member, any individual's application must be voted upon separately by written ballot; and upon the request of any three members, all applications must be voted upon separately by written ballot. Regardless of the method of voting, acceptance or rejection of candidates is by majority of votes cast. Following is the procedure for written balloting. The Adjutant reads the name and brief service record of each candidate.)

**Commander:** Comrades, you are about to ballot upon the applications of (give names) who desire to become comrades of this Post.

**Commander:** Officer of the Day, you will prepare the ballot.

(Officer of the day distributes the ballots.)

**Commander:** Comrades, you will now cast your ballots. Vote for the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

(After each member has marked his ballot, the ballots are collected by the officer of the day and counted by the Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander.)

**Commander:** Comrade Senior Vice Commander, how do you find the ballot?

**Senior Vice Commander:** Comrade Commander, I find the ballot favorable (or unfavorable). (A majority of the votes...