

TWO CEREMONIES FOLLOW FOR YOUR PERSONALIZED (CUT AND PASTE) USE FOR YOUR CEREMONY. [You can be creative as long as you have the basics in place: Greeting, Colors, Invocation, Introductions, Speaker, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, Benediction.]

CEREMONY #1 - FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY

MC: Good afternoon. I'm _____. It is truly an honor for me to serve as the master of ceremonies for this event. We are gathered here for an important patriotic and solemn purpose – to witness the dedication/presentation of the Flag of our country, “Old Glory” to _____ by _____.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS [OR HAVE COLORS IN PLACE – AND GO DIRECTLY TO INVOCATION]

Now, please rise for the presentation of our Colors and remain standing for the Invocation. All veterans may salute; all others, please place your hand over your heart.

“Color Guard, Advance the Colors” **RETIRE HONOR GUARD** [OR SKIP IF COLORS WERE IN PLACE]

INVOCATION

MC: Let us stand while _____ pronounces the invocation (local minister).

MC: Thank you _____.(minister)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

I'd like to recognize our guests on stage, and distinguished guests in the audience:

READING

EMCEE: I'd like to introduce _____ who will give us a reading of “Your Flag and My Flag,” by Wilbur D. Nesbit. (Check school or local library for other appropriate verse on the Flag.)

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

CHAIR OR OTHER DESIGNATION PERSON: A brief explanation of purpose of presentation, the organization or person presenting the Flag and the organization or individual to whom the Flag is to be presented.

PRESENTATION OF FLAG

Person making the presentation should have the Flag ready. Be sure Flag has been properly folded in form of colonial hat with only the blue field and stars thereon showing. Person who is to receive the Flag is called from the front of the audience, and after a few well-chosen words by the presenting person, receives the Flag.

(EXAMPLE: It is a great privilege and pleasure to have the honor of presenting this beautiful symbol of our country, the Flag of the United States of America, “The Stars and Stripes,” to _____, on behalf of _____. May it always fly over

our land, representing a government instituted by our founding fathers, that will always champion Freedom and Justice.)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FLAG

Person receiving Flag makes acceptance speech.

(EXAMPLE: With sincere thanks and appreciation, I accept this beautiful and precious Flag on behalf of _____. Thank you.

PROGRAM CAN BE EXTENDED HERE, if more elaborate program is desired, such as **RAISING THE FLAG ON A FLAGPOLE**. If a Flag raising is included in the ceremony, it's recommended an Honor Guard, consisting of at least 7 riflemen, 2 Color Bearers carrying the American Flag (and organization flag, if any), and 2 organization members to raise the Flag, be marched to the flagpole. (A 150-foot distance is recommended, although this will vary as space permits.) After the Flag is raised and/or National Anthem is played/sung, the Honor Guard should fire one volley as a salute to the Flag. If a band is not available to play the National Anthem, a bugler could be substituted to play, "To The Colors."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EMCEE: Would everyone please stand and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" (or "America" or other appropriate patriotic song, depending on whether you used the longer program and already sang The National Anthem.)

BENEDICTION

EMCEE: Let us stand while _____ pronounces the invocation (local minister).

CEREMONY #2

DEDICATION OF COLORS

EMCEE: "The assemblage will rise. Color Guard, display the colors." (Colors will be advanced to a position in front of the stage or platform and will halt within 10 paces of the emcee.

EMCEE: "The bugler will sound 'To the Colors' and the audience will stand at salute or attention." (The organizational flag, if applicable, will be dipped at a 45 degree angle in salute, during the music).

EMCEE: In the name of _____, I dedicate these Colors. May they fly perpetually as the emblem of the cause for which our country has fought and continues to fight. Here is the Flag of our Country; safe within its folds is the freedom and fealty of our nation. (Beside it is the flag of [organization][brief description of flag]. I dedicate these Colors to the purposes of [our organization], community, state and Nation, and with them I dedicate this organization to the faithful service of our Nation, our people, and our Flag. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.