

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 17 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES  
COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Establishment of Uniform Military Funeral Flag Presentation Verbiage

Effective immediately, flag presentation verbiage for military funeral honors ceremonies conducted by the Department of Defense will be standardized. The following verbiage will be used when presenting the American flag during the funeral service:

"On behalf of the President of the United States, (the United States Army; the United States Marine Corps; the United States Navy; or the United States Air Force), and a grateful Nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service."

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will ensure that this guidance is incorporated in the next revision of Department of Defense Instruction 1300.15, "Military Funeral Support."

The United States Coast Guard is invited to use the same verbiage.

Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense