

Suggested Presentation Script

Honor Guard Presenter (holding the folded flag):

The flag presentation protocol is as follows:

- Stand facing the flag recipient and hold the folded flag waist high with the straight edge facing the recipient.
- Lean toward the flag recipient and solemnly present them with the flag.

Effective April 17, 2012, the Defense Department standardized the flag presentation language for military funeral honors ceremonies. The following words, mandated by the DOD, are to 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; the United States Air Force; the United States Space Force; or the United States Coast Guard), and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one’s honorable and faithful service.”

(Pause, then continue if including the cartridges inside the flag or presenting them separately)

“Within this flag are three spent cartridges from the rifle volleys fired in tribute. They represent Duty, Honor, and Country — the guiding principles by which your loved one served. May they remind you always of the sacrifice, courage, and devotion shown in defense of our nation.”