

A TIME TO REMEMBER

The Naval Reserve Association sponsors "Navy Sabbath" on the weekend preceding Veteran's Day (November 11th) in cooperation with the National Conference on Ministry in the Armed Forces and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board.

Archibald MacLeish, the distinguished American poet, wrote "How shall freedom be defended? By arms when it is attacked by arms; by truth when it is attacked by lies; by democratic faith when it is attacked by authoritarian dogma. Always and in the final act, by dedication and faith."

On Navy Sabbath we recognize the men and women of our Armed Forces who stand on the front lines of defense of our great nation and who represent our ability to defend freedom. We salute those who by their dedicated service make it possible for all Americans to maintain a democratic way of life.

Clergy and congregations are invited to celebrate November 2-4 as a period of prayers of thanksgiving for past service and intercession for present and future needs of our Armed Forces family. Some mention in a sermon, use of the Navy Hymn or Navy Sabbath Prayer during worship services will demonstrate our support for their sacrifices. Clergy are encouraged to invite Armed Forces personnel to attend their services in uniform and to assist in the liturgy or to participate in a color guard ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance by the congregation. Especially, we want to remember those killed or missing in action.

This brochure is issued to help in making Armed Forces Sabbath Weekend an inspiring and memorable experience as we honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, both past and present, and their families.

Suggested Scripture Text

Exodus 20:11: "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

Psalms 146: 6-7: "Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them - the Lord who remains faithful forever."

Psalms 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

1 John 4:7ff: "Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. The man without love has known nothing of God, for God is love."

1 Timothy 2:1-2: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men, for Kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Suggested Hymns

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Now Thank We All Our God

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Faith of Our Fathers! Living Still

Eternal Father, Strong to Save,

The Navy Hymn

Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory

O God of Truth, the Power of Nations Free

Lord of the Worlds Above

O God of Love, O King of Peace

Lead Us, O Father, in the Paths of Peace

PRAYERS FOR THE ARMED FORCES

O eternal Lord God, you alone spread out the heavens and rule the raging sea. Take into your most gracious protection our country's **Navy and Coast Guard** and all who serve therein. Preserve them from the dangers of the sea and from the violence of the enemy; that they may be a safeguard unto the United States of America, and a security for such as sail upon the seas in peaceful and lawful missions. In serving you, O Lord, may our sailors serve our country. *Amen.*

O eternal Father, we commend to your protection and care the members of the **Marine Corps**. Guide and direct them in the defense of our country and in the maintenance of justice among the nations. Sustain them in the hour of danger. Grant that wherever they serve they may be loyal to their high traditions, and that at all times they may put their trust in you. *Amen.*

O Lord God of hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm to strengthen and protect the soldiers of our country's **Army**. Support them in the day of battle, and in the time of rest and training keeping them safe from all evil. Imbue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach. *Amen.*

O Lord God of hosts, you stretch out the heavens like a curtain. Watch over and protect, we pray, the airmen of our country's **Air Force** as they fly upon their appointed tasks. Give them courage as they face the foe, and skill in the performance of their duty. Sustain them with your everlasting arms. May your hand lead them, and your right hand hold them up, that they may return to the earth with a grateful sense of your mercy. *Amen.*