



Arlington National Cemetery Wreath Laying

- REGC and Sir Knights participating in the wreath laying (walking down to place wreath with guard) follows instructions on paperwork provided in reference to where and when to report. The gates open at 8:00 am for entry and parking. You will need to pass through security when you enter.
- Sir Knights that are watching should be at the memorial 15 minutes prior to the ceremony in uniform with chapeau and gloves, **no sword. SILENCE all cell phones/smart devices prior to arrival.**
- Sir Knights will line the steps on the outside of the rails/chains designating the procession area down to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or line up outward from the rails/chains on one level of the steps. Sir Knights will stand at attention and as the service starts and will follow commands for “Present Arms” from the Guard leading the ceremony. The Present and Order arms should be done on a two count, slow and reverent, not a snap from one position to the other.
- Sir Knights watching should remain at attention until the REGC and party recess back up the stairs to finish the ceremony, then move out of the way for other groups that are participating so they are able to get pictures and view the representatives of their group as they process down the stairs to the Tomb.
- Sir Knights still on the steps or in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a wreath laying for any other group should stand at attention and salute as ordered by the Guard leading that ceremony.
- Many visitors may stop and ask questions about your uniform or the group you are with. Please be courteous and take time to explain to them who we are and what we are about. If they would like photos with you stand tall, smile, and look good for them. We represent Sir Knights all over the world and we want to make a good and lasting impression on them.
- While walking in the cemetery if a funeral procession passes nearby, it would be appropriate to stand in line at attention and salute the flag draped coffin as it passes.
- Remember, this is a solemn place of honor and respect, govern yourself accordingly. Sir Knights you are with may have served in the Armed forces and/or have family and friends buried there. I’m sure they would appreciate your respect for this place of eternal rest.



Easter Sunrise Service, George Washington Memorial, Alexandria, VA

- Information should be distributed to all Recorders several weeks prior to the Easter Sunrise Service relative to the time Sir Knights should report to the George Washington Masonic Memorial, where they should report (on Shooters Hill by the name plate for Pennsylvania), the proper uniform with sword, address for the Memorial if they are driving themselves there, and any other helpful information. Usually the road up to the Memorial is closed at 7:30 am, and the march up the hill steps off at 7:40 am, but that is subject to change. Remind the Sir Knights that it is a steep climb up the driveway and they may prefer to meet us at the top. Information can also be distributed at the PA hospitality suite and at the banquet Saturday night.
- 15 minutes prior to the start time the Sir Knights assembled should be organized/lined up by the Grand Marshal or the Grand Captain General in columns of 2's, 3's, or 4's, as the REGC prefers, on the inside of the curve in the road. REGC in the front, followed by the United States Flag on the right and the Grand Commandery banner on the left in the second row. Then the elected Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, GSW, GJW, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, Trustees, Prelates, Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos, Captains General, and any other Sir Knights. The Sir Knights should be facing out toward the outside of the curve so they can observe the units that are down the hill further passing by.
- **SILENCE all cell phones/smart devices**
- Once again remind the Sir Knights that it is a steep climb up the driveway and they should now be able to see. If anyone feels they can't keep up for some reason, just drop out to the side of the roadway, rest and walk at your own pace. They will most likely be able to catch up. They can also wait closer to the top of the hill and fall in at the back of the lines.
- The Grand Encampment at the bottom of the hill leads the march up the hill and the states fall in behind them as the Grand Encampment passes by. Grand Captain General should watch the bottom of the hill for the US Flag and Grand Encampment Banner to start moving.
- The REGC is seated with the Grand Encampment officers and REGC's from other states.
- Sir Knights take seats on the benches. Make sure to leave any spots designated for **Maryland** empty so those Sir Knights, if they are not already sitting there, can move into those spots to form the cross with their black feathers.