



SOCIETY OF THE HONOR GUARD, TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

P.O. Box 1111, Hermitage, PA 16148

www.tombguard.org www.facebook.com/societyofthehonorguard <https://twitter.com/shgtus>

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September 11, 2022

RE: National Salute

The Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS) Centennial Committee is proud to announce the continuation of one of the key projects of the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (1921-2021) in Arlington National Cemetery.

The National Salute, re-instituted in 2015, is a means to show our deep respect for all of our Unknown Soldiers buried in the plaza of the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery and all veterans. We are asking you to be the leader in your community and create a local and unique National Salute ceremony on the 11th Hour, of the 11th Day, of the 11th Month.

A simple commemoration provides the opportunity to express individually and collectively, your sense of service and national unity; and give thanks for what this country has done for you and your family. This powerful concept and belief are witnessed every day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where, as Congressman Hamilton Fish intended, it is a place to serve as a focal point where all of America can come together.

The second page gives examples on how to create your National Salute ceremony in your community. Please join us again this year and express your respect to our veterans.

For more information on how you can help the project please contact the Public Affairs Director at publicaffairs@tombguard.org We look forward to sharing pictures and the story behind the National Salute you create.

Gavin McIlvenna
v/r

Gavin McIlvenna (1997-98)
Commemorative Committee Chair
publicaffaris@tombguard.org

“Soldiers never die until they are forgotten, Tomb Guards never forget.”

The American People's National Salute consists
of three parts:

OPENING: 21 Count Honors (five second interval between counts) -- by all available means -- gun salute (land and sea), church bells, rifle salute, police and fire dept. sirens, etc. This calling to "Attention" of the freedom loving people of the World for purposes of rendering the highest honors to those Americans who have paid the ultimate price for freedom. All military installations on land, at sea and in the air should use whatever means they have to celebrate and honor those who have given their life for this country. Likewise, other organizations are invited to pay respects to the honored dead. Religious organizations, patriotic organizations, scouting organizations, schools, communities, libraries, industrial and business entities of all sizes, unions, communications media, social media, transportation services and individuals across the land are invited to participate in these highest honors. The idea is for the American people to pause, show their gratitude and render their highest honors to the people's unsung valor.



RECOGNITION: Great Silence – for two minutes, the first minute for those who have already sacrificed and the second minute for those who will sacrifice in the future with their lives for the American way of life. This two-minute silence ceremony is a reenactment of the respect shown by our nation during the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the 11th hour, 11th day, 11th month, 1921. It is a universal feeling for those who gave their all and for whom we can never fully repay. It is a grateful nation pausing to honor our Nation's promise to never ever forget or to forsake America's glorious and immortal dead and missing. It is a centennial commemoration due those who "gave their tomorrow for our today."

ENDING: Taps – The sounding of Taps across the nation is an easily recognized emotive and powerful twenty-four notes bugle call that is the international melody for "lights out" -- final resting for deceased soldiers. This synchronized playing of Taps by individuals and organizations is a solemn calling for the defense of free peoples worldwide.

What you can do if you don't have bells or the ability to play Taps: Gathering with veterans in your community to pause, reflect, and honor. Talk about the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, and how this binds all Americans together regardless of race or economical.

You can help by reaching out into your community. We keep track of every organization that has been approached, and every organization that is willing to participate.

Please provide the Public Affairs Committee with:

- Name of the organization
- Organization or individual address
- Point of Contact email and phone number

You can send this information to: publicaffairs@tombguard.org with the attention to National Salute.

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