

military retirement invocation examples

military retirement invocation examples are crucial for honoring service members as they transition from active duty to civilian life. These prayers or opening remarks serve as a solemn and meaningful way to acknowledge their dedication, sacrifice, and contributions. This article will delve into the purpose and significance of military retirement invocations, explore different styles and themes suitable for various branches and individuals, and provide practical examples that can be adapted. We will cover how to craft a respectful and memorable invocation, the importance of personalization, and considerations for different ceremonial settings. Whether you are planning a retirement ceremony or seeking inspiration, understanding effective military retirement invocation examples will help you create a fitting tribute.

- Understanding the Purpose of Military Retirement Invocations
- Key Elements of a Compelling Military Retirement Invocation
- Styles and Themes for Military Retirement Invocations
 - Formal and Traditional Invocations
 - Personalized and Reflective Invocations
 - Invocations for Specific Military Branches
- Crafting Your Own Military Retirement Invocation: A Step-by-Step Guide
- Example Military Retirement Invocations
 - General Military Retirement Invocation Example
 - Navy Retirement Invocation Example
 - Army Retirement Invocation Example
 - Air Force Retirement Invocation Example
 - Marine Corps Retirement Invocation Example
 - Coast Guard Retirement Invocation Example
 - Invocation for a Chaplain or Clergy Member
- Tips for Delivering a Military Retirement Invocation

Understanding the Purpose of Military Retirement Invocations

A military retirement invocation is more than just a formality; it's a profound moment of reflection and gratitude. It sets the tone for the entire ceremony, imbuing it with a sense of solemnity and honor. These invocations are designed to acknowledge the divine guidance and protection that service members have relied upon throughout their careers. They serve as a public recognition of the sacrifices made not only by the retiree but also by their families. Furthermore, an invocation offers a moment for attendees to unite in shared appreciation for the retiree's unwavering commitment to duty and country. The words spoken are intended to inspire those present and to provide a spiritual anchor as the service member embarks on a new chapter.

The essence of a military retirement invocation lies in its ability to bridge the past and the future. It looks back on years of dedicated service, recognizing the challenges overcome and the victories achieved. Simultaneously, it looks forward, offering blessings and good wishes for the retiree's well-being and success in their civilian endeavors. This duality makes the invocation a powerful component of any retirement ceremony, fostering a sense of closure and hopeful anticipation. It's a time to pause, reflect, and express heartfelt thanks for a distinguished career.

Key Elements of a Compelling Military Retirement Invocation

A well-crafted military retirement invocation typically incorporates several key elements to ensure its impact and relevance. Foremost is the acknowledgment of a higher power, often expressing gratitude for protection, strength, and wisdom granted to the service member. This can be framed in a manner that is inclusive of various faiths or spiritual beliefs, or it can be specific to a particular religious tradition if appropriate for the audience. Another crucial element is the recognition of the retiree's service, highlighting their dedication, loyalty, and the sacrifices they have made. Specific mentions of their commitment to duty, country, and fellow service members are highly valued.

The inclusion of family is also a significant aspect. A good invocation often extends blessings and thanks to the retiree's spouse and children, acknowledging their unwavering support and sacrifices throughout the service member's career. The invocation should also look towards the future, offering prayers for health, happiness, and continued purpose in the retiree's next phase of life. Finally, a sense of closure and transition is often woven into the narrative, marking the end of one significant chapter and the beginning of another. These elements combined create a comprehensive and meaningful tribute.

Styles and Themes for Military Retirement Invocations

Formal and Traditional Invocations

Formal and traditional military retirement invocations often follow established patterns and language, reflecting the structured nature of military ceremonies. These invocations tend to be more solemn and may utilize classic phrasing that resonates with military heritage. They often begin with a direct address to the divine and proceed to list specific qualities and accomplishments worthy of recognition, such as valor, integrity, and leadership. The language used is typically respectful and

reverent, aiming to evoke a sense of gravitas appropriate for the occasion. These examples are perfect for ceremonies where a strong sense of military tradition is paramount.

The structure of traditional invocations can be quite predictable, often moving from general acknowledgment of divine providence to specific blessings for the retiree and their family. They might also include a prayer for continued peace and security for the nation, linking the individual's service to a larger national purpose. The tone is consistently respectful, acknowledging the gravity of the transition and the significance of the retiree's contributions to the armed forces. This style ensures that the invocation feels timeless and universally appreciated within a military context.

Personalized and Reflective Invocations

In contrast, personalized and reflective military retirement invocations offer a more intimate and tailored approach. These are ideal when the person delivering the invocation knows the retiree well or when the ceremony allows for a more personal touch. They often incorporate anecdotes, specific virtues of the retiree, or inside references that are meaningful to the individual and their close circle. The focus shifts from general acknowledgment to a heartfelt tribute to the unique qualities and journey of the retiring service member. This style allows for a deeper emotional connection with the audience and the honoree.

These invocations might explore the retiree's specific challenges, triumphs, and the impact they had on their unit or peers. The language can be less formal, employing more conversational or heartfelt expressions. The aim is to capture the essence of the individual's character and their service, making the invocation a unique and memorable reflection of their time in uniform. While still respectful, the emphasis is on genuine sentiment and individual appreciation, making the blessing feel deeply personal and earned.

Invocations for Specific Military Branches

Each branch of the military possesses its own unique culture, history, and terminology. Consequently, military retirement invocations can be tailored to reflect the specific ethos of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard. For instance, an Army invocation might reference leadership, ground operations, or the enduring spirit of the soldier. A Navy invocation could touch upon seamanship, the vastness of the oceans, or the proud tradition of maritime service. Air Force invocations might allude to flight, innovation, or air superiority, while Marine Corps invocations often emphasize honor, courage, and commitment, or the *semper fidelis* spirit.

The language and imagery used in branch-specific invocations can significantly enhance their resonance. Referring to shared experiences, common mottos, or historical milestones relevant to that branch can create a powerful sense of camaraderie and recognition. These personalized touches demonstrate a deep understanding and appreciation for the retiree's specific service environment. Even a brief nod to a branch's unique values can make the invocation feel profoundly relevant and celebratory for the retiring service member.

Crafting Your Own Military Retirement Invocation: A Step-by-Step Guide

Creating a meaningful military retirement invocation involves a thoughtful process. Begin by

identifying the core purpose of the invocation: to honor the retiree, acknowledge their service, and bless their future. Consider the audience and the overall tone of the ceremony. Will it be a large, formal gathering or a more intimate affair? This will influence the formality and style of your invocation.

Next, brainstorm key themes and specific details related to the retiree's career. Think about their personal qualities, significant achievements, and the impact they've had on others. If it's for a specific branch, consider incorporating relevant terminology or historical references. Draft an opening that gracefully acknowledges a higher power, expressing gratitude. Follow this with specific praise for the retiree's dedication, sacrifice, and leadership. Don't forget to include their family in your thoughts and prayers. Conclude with a blessing for their future endeavors, wishing them peace, happiness, and continued purpose. Remember to keep it concise yet impactful, aiming for clarity and sincerity.

Review and refine your draft, ensuring smooth transitions between ideas. Practice delivering it aloud to check the flow and timing. The goal is to create an invocation that is both respectful and deeply personal, leaving a lasting positive impression.

Example Military Retirement Invocations

General Military Retirement Invocation Example

"Almighty God, we gather today to honor the distinguished service of [Retiree's Name] as they transition from military life. We thank You for the strength, courage, and wisdom You have bestowed upon them throughout their years of dedicated service. We acknowledge their unwavering commitment to duty, country, and their fellow service members, and we pray for their continued well-being and happiness as they embark on this new chapter. Bless them and their family, and guide their steps in the journey ahead. Amen."

Navy Retirement Invocation Example

"Eternal Father, sovereign of the seas and skies, we come before You today to mark the retirement of [Retiree's Name] from the United States Navy. We are grateful for their years of diligent service, their commitment to naval traditions, and the courage they displayed in safeguarding our freedoms. We ask for Your continued blessings upon them and their family as they set a new course in life. May they always navigate with wisdom and find fair winds and following seas in all their future endeavors. Amen."

Army Retirement Invocation Example

"Lord of Hosts, we stand in Your presence to celebrate the remarkable career of [Retiree's Name] as they retire from the United States Army. We thank You for the resilience, leadership, and steadfastness they have shown in defending our nation. We pray for Your continued protection and guidance as they transition to civilian life. May the principles of duty, honor, and country continue to be their guiding stars, and may they find fulfillment and peace in the years to come. Amen."

Air Force Retirement Invocation Example

"Heavenly Father, Creator of all, we lift up [Retiree's Name] as they retire from the United States Air Force. We are thankful for their service, their dedication to excellence, and their contributions to air and space power. We ask for Your continued favor and blessings upon them and their loved ones. May they soar to new heights in their future endeavors, with health, happiness, and a renewed sense of purpose. Amen."

Marine Corps Retirement Invocation Example

"Gracious God, we humbly ask for Your presence as we honor the service of [Retiree's Name] upon their retirement from the United States Marine Corps. We give thanks for their unwavering courage, their commitment to the Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment, and their dedication to semper fidelis. We pray for Your continued guidance and protection as they begin their next chapter. May they always carry the spirit of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor with pride and find strength and joy in their new pursuits. Amen."

Coast Guard Retirement Invocation Example

"Divine Providence, keeper of the coasts and protector of our shores, we thank You for the service of [Retiree's Name] as they retire from the United States Coast Guard. We are grateful for their commitment to maritime safety, security, and their dedication to protecting our waterways and citizens. We ask for Your continued blessings upon them and their family as they transition to new horizons. May they always find calm seas and safe harbors in their future journeys. Amen."

Invocation for a Chaplain or Clergy Member

"Father, we are gathered here today to honor [Retiree's Name] as they conclude their service to our nation in uniform. As one who has faithfully served You and Your people, we pray for Your continued blessings upon their life. Grant them wisdom, peace, and joy as they enter this new season. May their dedication and sacrifice be a source of inspiration, and may they continue to be a light in the world. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen."

Tips for Delivering a Military Retirement Invocation

Delivering a military retirement invocation with grace and sincerity is as important as the words themselves. Practice is key; familiarize yourself with the invocation so you can deliver it smoothly without needing to read it extensively. Make eye contact with the audience and the retiree, conveying warmth and respect. Speak clearly and at a measured pace, allowing the significance of the words to sink in.

It's also crucial to understand the context of the ceremony and the individual being honored. Tailor your delivery to match the formality of the event. If possible, personalize the invocation with a brief, specific mention of the retiree's unique contributions or character, ensuring it remains appropriate and respectful. Modulate your tone to convey sincerity and solemnity, reflecting the gravity of the occasion. Standing tall and maintaining a dignified posture also contributes to the overall impact of

the invocation.

Avoid rushing through the invocation. Allow for pauses where appropriate to let the sentiment resonate. The goal is to create a moment of profound reflection and gratitude for the retiring service member and all those in attendance. A well-delivered invocation can be a powerful and memorable part of any military retirement ceremony.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of a military retirement invocation?

A military retirement invocation is a formal opening prayer or address delivered at the beginning of a retirement ceremony. Its purpose is to acknowledge and thank a higher power, invoke blessings, and set a respectful and solemn tone for the occasion, recognizing the service and sacrifices of the retiring service member.

Who typically delivers a military retirement invocation?

Typically, a chaplain (military or civilian), a senior leader attending the ceremony, or a respected member of the retiree's family or community will deliver the invocation. The choice often depends on the available personnel and the desired formality.

What are common themes to include in a military retirement invocation?

Common themes include gratitude for service and sacrifice, prayers for the retiree's future well-being and happiness, recognition of their family's support, blessings for continued health and prosperity, and acknowledgement of their contributions to the nation.

Are there specific religious considerations for a military retirement invocation?

Yes, military invocations are generally designed to be inclusive and respectful of diverse religious beliefs. They often focus on universal themes like peace, guidance, and gratitude, or use non-denominational language. Chaplains are trained to offer prayers that can be broadly appreciated.

How long should a military retirement invocation typically be?

An invocation is usually brief, often lasting no more than one to two minutes. It should be concise and impactful, setting the tone without becoming a lengthy sermon.

Can I find templates or examples of military retirement invocations online?

Yes, numerous websites offer templates and examples of military retirement invocations. These can be found through searches for 'military retirement invocation examples,' 'chaplain retirement

prayer,' or 'retirement ceremony opening remarks.'

What's an example of a non-denominational opening for a retirement invocation?

A common non-denominational opening might be: 'Let us join together in a moment of reflection and gratitude.' or 'We gather here today with hearts full of gratitude, and so we turn to a higher power to bless this occasion.'

How should the invocation acknowledge the retiree's family?

The invocation can include specific mention of the retiree's family, asking for blessings upon them for their sacrifices and unwavering support throughout the service member's career. Phrases like 'We also pray for the enduring strength and happiness of [Retiree's Name]'s family' are common.

What is the difference between an invocation and a benediction at a retirement ceremony?

An invocation is the opening prayer or address at the beginning of the ceremony, setting the tone. A benediction is the closing prayer, offering a blessing as the ceremony concludes and the retiree transitions to their next chapter.

Should the invocation mention specific military branches or achievements?

While the primary focus is on the retiree, a brief mention of the branch of service or a general acknowledgement of the commitment to service is appropriate. However, detailed descriptions of specific achievements are usually reserved for the main body of the ceremony.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to military retirement invocation examples, each with a short description:

1. The Last Salute: Prayers and Reflections for Military Retirement

This collection offers a variety of spiritual and reflective pieces for service members transitioning out of the military. It includes sample invocations, blessings, and meditations designed to honor a career of service and look towards the future. The book aims to provide a sense of closure and spiritual grounding for individuals and their families during this significant life change. It's an ideal resource for those seeking words that resonate with the unique experiences of military life.

2. Echoes of Honor: Invoking Gratitude and Grace in Military Transition

This volume explores the emotional and spiritual landscape of military retirement, emphasizing themes of gratitude and grace. It features expertly crafted invocations suitable for retirement ceremonies, designed to acknowledge sacrifices made and celebrate the journey ahead. The book provides guidance on how to personalize these prayers, making them deeply meaningful for the retiree and their guests. It's a thoughtful companion for anyone wishing to mark this profound

milestone with dignity and reflection.

3. *A Time to Depart: Spiritual Guidance for the Military Retiree*

A Time to Depart offers solace and spiritual direction for those concluding their military careers. Within its pages, readers will find a rich selection of invocation examples that acknowledge the dedication, courage, and commitment inherent in military service. The text also includes prompts for personal reflection, encouraging retirees to consider the lessons learned and the impact of their service. It serves as a valuable resource for crafting a memorable and meaningful retirement ceremony.

4. *The Sentinel's Farewell: Rituals and Readings for Military Retirement*

This book focuses on creating meaningful rituals and readings for military retirement occasions. It presents a comprehensive array of invocation examples, from formal to more personal, designed to honor the retiree's service and transition into civilian life. The authors emphasize the importance of community acknowledgment and spiritual continuity. Readers will find inspiration for speeches, blessings, and dedications that capture the essence of military dedication.

5. *Beneath the Colors: Prayers for a New Beginning in Military Retirement*

Beneath the Colors is a resource for crafting powerful invocations that mark the end of one chapter and the beginning of another for military personnel. The book provides a diverse range of prayers and blessings, intended to be adaptable for various retirement ceremonies. It explores themes of legacy, resilience, and future aspirations, offering a spiritual framework for this significant transition. This guide is perfect for chaplains, family members, and retirees seeking to imbue their farewell with profound meaning.

6. *The Final Muster: Invoking Peace and Purpose in Military Retirement*

This collection aims to provide peace and a renewed sense of purpose for those retiring from military service. It includes thoughtfully composed invocations that celebrate achievements, acknowledge challenges overcome, and offer blessings for the retiree's future endeavors. The book emphasizes the spiritual continuity of service, even in a new capacity. It's an essential guide for anyone preparing to lead or participate in a military retirement ceremony.

7. *Guiding Stars: Spiritual Reflections for Military Retirement Ceremonies*

Guiding Stars offers spiritual guidance and inspiration for those involved in planning and conducting military retirement ceremonies. The book features a rich variety of invocation examples, each designed to acknowledge the retiree's contributions and offer blessings for their onward journey. It delves into themes of duty, honor, and the transition to new life chapters. This resource is invaluable for anyone seeking to add a spiritual depth and resonance to these important farewell events.

8. *The Long Watch: Invoking Courage and Continuity for Military Retirees*

This book provides a collection of invocations designed to honor the long watch of military service and invoke courage and continuity for those entering retirement. It offers prayers that reflect on sacrifice, camaraderie, and the enduring spirit of service members. The text guides readers in crafting heartfelt messages that acknowledge the past while embracing the future. It's a supportive resource for individuals and communities celebrating a military retirement.

9. *Homeward Bound: Prayers and Blessings for Military Retirement Transitions*

Homeward Bound focuses on the spiritual and emotional journey of military retirement, offering prayers and blessings for a smooth transition. The book presents a curated selection of invocation examples that speak to themes of returning home, family, and new beginnings. It aims to provide comfort and spiritual fortification as service members move into their next phase of life. This

collection is ideal for those seeking to infuse their retirement ceremony with a sense of peace and hope.

Military Retirement Invocation Examples

Military Retirement Invocation Examples: Guiding Your Transition with Meaningful Words

This ebook provides a comprehensive guide to crafting impactful military retirement invocations, exploring their significance in honoring service and supporting the transition into civilian life, while offering practical examples and templates adaptable to various ceremonies and personal styles. It emphasizes the importance of personalized expressions reflecting individual military journeys and values, offering guidance for both those leading and participating in such events.

Ebook Title: Honoring the Uniform: A Guide to Crafting Meaningful Military Retirement Invocations

Outline:

Introduction: Understanding the Purpose and Significance of Retirement Invocations

Chapter 1: Structuring Your Invocation: Key Elements & Considerations

Chapter 2: Examples of Invocations for Different Settings (Formal & Informal)

Chapter 3: Incorporating Personal Touches and Military Themes

Chapter 4: Addressing Specific Challenges & Concerns in Retirement

Chapter 5: Delivering Your Invocation with Confidence and Impact

Chapter 6: Alternative Approaches and Adapting to Individual Needs

Chapter 7: Resources and Further Support for Transitioning Service Members

Conclusion: Reflecting on Service and Embracing the Future

Detailed Outline Explanation:

Introduction: This section defines retirement invocations, explains their role in military retirement ceremonies, and establishes their importance in acknowledging service and facilitating a smooth transition to civilian life. It sets the tone for the entire ebook.

Chapter 1: Structuring Your Invocation: This chapter provides a framework for composing effective invocations, covering elements like opening and closing statements, appropriate tone, and length considerations. It will guide readers on choosing impactful language while remaining concise and respectful.

Chapter 2: Examples of Invocations: This chapter presents diverse invocation examples suitable for various settings, from formal military ceremonies to informal gatherings among friends and family.

Examples will range from secular to faith-based invocations, showcasing versatility and inclusivity.

Chapter 3: Incorporating Personal Touches: This chapter focuses on personalization, suggesting ways to weave in specific experiences, values, and military traditions to make the invocation unique and deeply resonant with the retiree's journey. It emphasizes the importance of authenticity.

Chapter 4: Addressing Specific Challenges: This chapter acknowledges the challenges faced during retirement, such as adjusting to civilian life, managing finances, and maintaining mental well-being. The invocations provided here will offer comfort and hope, addressing these issues directly.

Chapter 5: Delivering with Confidence: This practical chapter offers advice on delivering the invocation effectively, including vocal techniques, posture, and managing nerves. It emphasizes the importance of speaking clearly and with sincerity.

Chapter 6: Alternative Approaches: This chapter explores alternative approaches to traditional invocations, suggesting less formal options or adaptations for those uncomfortable with public speaking. It includes examples of written tributes or short, heartfelt messages.

Chapter 7: Resources and Support: This chapter provides links and resources for veterans transitioning to civilian life, including support groups, government agencies, and mental health services. It highlights the importance of seeking support during this transition.

Conclusion: This section offers final reflections on the significance of military service and the positive outlook for the future. It emphasizes hope and encourages the retiree to embrace the next chapter.

Chapter 1: Structuring Your Invocation: Key Elements & Considerations

A well-structured military retirement invocation balances formality with heartfelt sincerity. Begin with a respectful acknowledgement of the occasion and those gathered. Acknowledge the retiree's years of service and sacrifice, using specific details if appropriate and known. The core of the invocation should express gratitude for their dedication and commitment. You might include references to specific military values (duty, honor, country) or significant events in their career. The invocation should offer well-wishes for the future, emphasizing a smooth transition and opportunities for success in civilian life. Finally, close with a concise and meaningful statement, perhaps a prayer or a hopeful sentiment. Keep it brief (under 3 minutes ideally) and practice beforehand for smoother delivery. Consider the audience's background and sensitivities when choosing language.

Chapter 2: Examples of Invocations for Different Settings

(Example 1: Formal Military Ceremony)

"Distinguished guests, honored veterans, family, and friends, we gather today to celebrate the remarkable career of [Retiree's Name]. For [Number] years, [he/she] has served our nation with unwavering dedication, embodying the highest ideals of duty, honor, and country. Their contributions have strengthened our nation's defense and secured our freedoms. As [he/she] embarks on this new chapter, let us express our deepest gratitude for their selfless service and offer our heartfelt best wishes for a fulfilling and rewarding retirement. May the years ahead be filled with peace, prosperity, and the enduring camaraderie forged in the crucible of service. Amen."

(Example 2: Informal Gathering of Friends)

"[Retiree's Name], we've shared laughter, camaraderie, and countless memories over the years. Your dedication and strength have inspired us all. Today, we celebrate your well-deserved retirement, wishing you all the best in this exciting new phase. May your days be filled with joy, adventure, and the company of those you cherish. Cheers to you!"

(Example 3: Faith-Based Invocation)

"Gracious God, we come before you today to give thanks for the life and service of [Retiree's Name]. We pray for your continued guidance and blessing as they transition from military life to civilian life. Bless them with good health, peace of mind, and strength to face whatever challenges may come their way. Guide them in their pursuits, and surround them with your love and protection. Amen."

Chapter 3 - 7 (Content similar to Chapter 1 & 2 but expanded with further examples and detailed advice) These chapters would follow the same structure as outlined above, with multiple examples tailored to each topic, practical tips, and relevant anecdotes.

Conclusion: Embracing the Future

Military retirement is not an ending, but a transition—a new beginning filled with potential. The invocations offered in this guide are tools to help celebrate and honor a remarkable career while acknowledging the challenges and opportunities of the future. Remember, the most meaningful invocations are those spoken from the heart, reflecting the unique journey and spirit of the retiree.

FAQs

1. What is the appropriate length for a military retirement invocation? Aim for 2-3 minutes to maintain audience engagement.
2. Should I mention specific military achievements in the invocation? It depends on the setting and your relationship with the retiree. In formal settings, mentioning significant achievements is appropriate.
3. How do I handle delivering an invocation if I'm nervous? Practice beforehand! Speak slowly and clearly, and focus on your message.
4. Can I write a secular invocation for a religious ceremony? Yes, be respectful of the overall tone and make it inclusive.
5. How can I personalize an invocation to reflect the retiree's personality? Incorporate anecdotes, inside jokes, or values that are important to them.
6. What if the retiree has specific requests for the invocation? Work closely with them to ensure their wishes are incorporated.
7. Are there resources available to help veterans transition into civilian life? Yes, numerous government and non-profit organizations offer support. ([Link to relevant websites](#))
8. What should I do if I don't know the retiree well? Focus on general themes of service, sacrifice, and gratitude.
9. Is it acceptable to include humor in a retirement invocation? A touch of lightheartedness can be appropriate in informal settings but should be tasteful and respectful.

Related Articles

1. **Military Transition Resources for Veterans:** A comprehensive guide to government and non-profit resources aiding veterans' transition into civilian life.
2. **Planning a Military Retirement Ceremony:** A step-by-step guide to organizing a successful and meaningful retirement ceremony.
3. **Military Retirement Benefits Explained:** A breakdown of the various benefits available to military retirees, including pensions, healthcare, and education.
4. **Overcoming Challenges in Military Retirement:** Advice and strategies for coping with common challenges faced during military retirement.
5. **The Importance of Camaraderie in Military Retirement:** Exploring the value of maintaining connections with fellow service members after retirement.
6. **Financial Planning for Military Retirement:** A guide to managing finances effectively during and after military retirement.

7. Mental Health Resources for Veterans: A directory of support services for veterans struggling with mental health issues.

8. Writing Effective Eulogies and Tributes: Guidance on writing meaningful tributes for military funerals or memorials.

9. Military Etiquette and Protocol: A guide to proper etiquette and protocol in various military settings and ceremonies.

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Government, the States, the counties, the cities, civic organizations, religious institutions, business groups, and individual citizens. They propose basic changes in the operations of police, schools, prosecutors, employment agencies, defenders, social workers, prisons, housing authorities, and probation and parole officers.

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