

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of New Jersey  
2023-2024 Book of Prayers**



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# THE POW/MIA FLAG UP CLOSE

WE ASK THAT YOU TAKE A MOMENT AND REFLECT UPON WHAT THIS FLAG SIGNIFIES.

THE FLAG, IN BLACK AND WHITE, STARK AND PRECISE COLORS, THAT SHOW THE TRUE AND UNDENIABLE FACT THAT AMERICAN MEN ARE STILL MISSING. THE PROFILE OF THE PRISONER SHOWS HE IS BENT IN SORROW, NOT IN DEFEAT!

HE FACES TO HIS RIGHT, TOWARDS HIS HOMELAND, AMERICA, IN THE CONTINUING BELIEF THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN. HE WAITS, ENDURING THE INDIGNITY OF CAPTIVITY, FOR THE DAY, WHEN THE FREEDOM THAT HE FOUGHT FOR, WILL BE RETURNED TO HIM.

IN THE BACKGROUND, A GUARD WATCHES THE PRISONER, DISTANT AND APART FROM THE POW – BOTH IN BODY, AND SPIRIT, BECAUSE THE GUARD DOES NOT CARE. BARBED WIRE SEPARATES THEM, JUST AS THE LOVE OF FREEDOM, SEPARATES US FROM THOSE, WHO WOULD TAKE AWAY FREEDOM.

THERE IS A PARTIAL WREATH, ABOUT THE POW. THE WREATH IS THE SYMBOL, OF THE HERO, AND THE VICTOR. YET, IT IS ONLY A PARTIAL WREATH, BECAUSE HE IS NOT HOME WHERE HE CAN RECEIVE THE FULL HONORS, HE IS ENTITLED TO, AS A TRUE AND BRAVE WARRIOR.

THERE ARE THE WORDS “YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN”. THESE ARE NOT EMPTY WORDS. THEY TELL OF THE GREAT CONCERN, THAT ALL OF US, MUST HAVE FOR THESE MEN. THE WORDS ARE MEANT, FOR EACH AND EVERY POW/MIA, AND THEY MUST REMIND US THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW ANY GOVERNMENT, GROUP, OR PERSON TO STOP US, FROM SEEKING THEIR RETURN.

AND FINALLY, THIS FLAG FLIES, BENEATH OUR COUNTRY’S COLORS, IN THE TRUE, AND UNDENIABLE BELIEF, THAT THE SYMBOL OF OUR NATION, STILL WAVES IN THE HEARTS, OF OUR MEN, HELD PRISONER!



# JULY

## **INVOCATION:**

Dear Lord, I am reminded of one of your Irish Blessings: May love and laughter light your days and warm your hearts and homes. May good and faithful friends be yours wherever you may roam. May peace and plenty bless your world with love that endures. May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours. Amen

## **BENEDICTION:**

Dear Lord, thanks to all of our brave soldiers, we are surrounded by freedom. The changes that the seasons make and the colors that they weave here in New Jersey, the beautiful roaring seas and the eagles soaring high, have all been made possible by the service of our current military, veterans, those who died in combat and those who remain missing in action. We proudly stand with our hands on our hearts. We sing to you our sweet gift of freedom. We appreciate our freedom. We are thankful for our freedom. God keep our current military safe. God bless our USA. Amen.

## **QUOTE:**

*"We all shine so beautifully when we shine together. One sky, many stars"*

*~Stacie Martin*

# AUGUST

## INVOCATION:

Dear Lord, we ask that you guide us to be helpers for those in need. Consolers for those in distress. Illuminators for those in darkness. Protectors for those in times of danger. Inspirers of good thoughts and kind words, faithful companions, sure friends, prudent counselors and mirrors of humility and purity. Amen

## BENEDICTION:

Dear Lord, remind us to be kind to others and take a good look around. Although we are different, similarities abound. Remind us to try not to judge, pick on or tease. Remind us to treat each other fairly, with kindness and ease. Amen

## QUOTE:

*“Live Hand and Hand and Together We’ll Stand On The Threshold Of A Dream “*

*~ The Moody Blues*

# SEPTEMBER

## INVOCATION:

Dear Lord, we ask that you guard over us, our families, our children, our country, our spiritual beliefs and the world. Please continue to watch over our American Legion Family, our Veterans and our current Military. Please help us to continue with the repatriation process of our soldiers, who remain unaccounted for to date. Amen

## BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen

## QUOTE:

*"Sometimes you dream, sometimes it seems like life's nothing but lost horizons. But someday you'll see, yes someday it'll be that your dreams have turned into new tomorrows."*

*~Lisa A. Mayer*

# OCTOBER

## **INVOCATION:**

Dear Lord, when we are burdened, give us strength. When we are wearied by life's difficulties, uplift and renew us. When we are ill or troubled, lead us to your goodness. Keep us free from useless anxiety and grant us a sense of serenity. Dear Lord, please be our comfort, our strength and our joy now and forever. Amen

## **BENEDICTION:**

Dear Lord, pray for us, that we may experience calmness, tranquility and peace in all our emotions. Help us to grow in respect, understanding and kindness for others. Protect us from hardships. Help us to obtain serenity of mind, body and spirit. Bless us with mercy, grace and goodness that will bring us happiness, health and well being now and always. Amen

## **QUOTE:**

*"Kindness paints a picture of our lives with all its different colors, tones, forms, textures and style. May your canvas be a beautiful display of kindness"*

*~ Lisa A. Mayer*

# NOVEMBER

## **INVOCATION:**

Dear Lord, we offer you heart-felt thanks for all the gifts you have given us. We thank you for another day, with our families and friends. We thank you for those we had in our lives but have passed on. Help us to have compassion for those who are hungry, those in need of a job and a home. Make us concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. We thank you for our freedom and peace that our Country has. We thank you for our Veterans and ask that you protect our current Military. Amen

## **BENEDICTION:**

Dear Lord, please remind us that kind hearts are the gardens. Kind thoughts are the roots. Kind words are the flowers. Kind deeds are the fruits. Take care of your garden and keep out the weeds. Fill it with sunshine, kind words and kind deeds. Amen

**QUOTE:** *“Come on people now, smile on each other; everybody get together try to love one another right now”*

*~The Youngbloods*



# DECEMBER

## INVOCATION:

Dear Lord, we thank you for the great gifts of kindness and happiness. Kindness and happiness are gifts that are sure to please, more precious than pure gold. They are gifts that are meant for everyone from the young to the old. Both are popular yet fragile. Both need to be nourished with great care. People enjoy giving kindness and happiness as well as receiving both every day. Kindness and happiness are priceless. Both need to be shared with others. The Holidays are the perfect time to give some kindness and happiness to others. Amen

## BENEDICTION:

Dear Lord, we thank you for the gift of friendship. It is great to have some friendships to cherish from day to day. Someone who will listen and encourage, a friend along the way. Just an ordinary person to help laugh each care away and to gently pull you back together when your threads begin to fray. Sharing all the memories that are tucked within the heart, because a friend is a precious treasure – a priceless work of art. So as you journey on life's highway, look for that friendship road, for to have a friend along life's way eases the bearing of the road. Amen

## QUOTE:

*“Like the Little Drummer Boy, let's give each other something genuine and real. Let our gift to each other, our families, friends and even strangers, be some kindness.*

*~Lisa A. Mayer*

# **GOD BLESS AMERICA**

God bless America, land that I love

Stand beside her and guide her

Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies

To the ocean white with foam

God bless America, my home sweet home,

God bless America, my home sweet home.

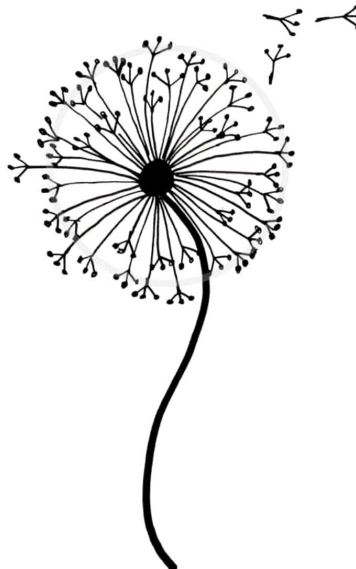


# THE DANDELION

The official flower of the military child is the dandelion.

Why? The plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it's almost impossible to destroy. It's an unpretentious plant, yet good looking. It's a survivor in a broad range of climates.

Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They're ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands and new friends.



# JANUARY

## **INVOCATION:**

Dear Lord, bring us together and keep our American Legion Auxiliary in perfect unity of kindness, respect, love and mutual support. Infuse in each member, the spirit of understanding, restraint and affection for each other. Please help us to keep quarrels, bitterness and pettiness at a distance and for our occasional failures – please instill forgiveness and peace. Instill in us self-respect so that we may respect others. Make our mutual affection, respect and kindness for each other be part of our resolutions in the New Year. Amen

## **BENEDICTION:**

Dear Lord, remind us that people need to be encouraged. People need to be reminded of how wonderful they are. People need to be believed in – told that they are brave, smart and capable of accomplishing all they dream and more. Please help us to remind each other of this. Amen

## **QUOTE:**

*“We can’t always choose the music life plays for us. But we can choose how we dance to it”*

*~Kate B. Jackson*

# FEBRUARY

## **INVOCATION:**

Dear Lord, as we live our daily lives, help us in our daily activities and direct us spiritually so we can know and understand your plan for each of us. Give us the grace and strength to assist those in need. Help us to care for those who need our care. Grant us the courage and determination to always do what is right for our families, friends and others. Amen

## **BENEDICTION:**

Dear Lord, as long as we have memories, yesterday remains. As long as we have hope, tomorrow waits. As long as we have love, today is a beautiful day. Amen

## **QUOTE:**

*"One kind word can change someone's day"*

*~Andrea Reiser*

# MARCH

## INVOCATION:

May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark. May you always hear, even in your sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark. When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone. May you always remember when the shadows fall, you do not walk alone. Amen

## BENEDICTION:

Dear Lord, I am reminded of the following: When I woke up this morning, I asked myself "What is Life?" I found the answer in my room. The fan said "Be cool". The roof said "Aim high". The window said "See the world". The clock said "Every minute is precious". The mirror said "Reflect before you act". The calendar said "Be up to date". The door said "Push hard for your goals". The floor said "Kneel down, pray and be thankful for what you have". Amen

## QUOTE:

*"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day, saying, "I will try again tomorrow"*  
~**Mary Anne Radmacher**

# APRIL

## INVOCATION:

Dear Lord, we thank you for when we can make someone happy by the little things that we do. It is in giving not receiving that so enriches us. It is a word of kindness to help one's troubles bear. It is the hand of friendship to show that we truly care. It is sharing with another the things that we possess. It is the kind way of living that brings us happiness. Amen

## BENEDICTION:

Dear Lord, remind us that we are all messy. We are all struggling. We are all flying high in some ways and falling flat on our faces in other ways. Nobody has it all figured out. It is our job to cheer each other up, lift each other up, and push each other to keep giving it our best. It matters who we surround ourselves with. We need to be better to each other. We are all we have. Amen

## QUOTE:

*"Welcome to the garden of life, where each flower's beauty may go unnoticed. But where the passer-by will praise a rose garden rather than each rose.*

*~Lisa A. Mayer*

# MAY

## **INVOCATION:**

Dear God, let the rose remind us that Mothers (including Step-Mothers, Grandmothers, Great-Grandmothers, Aunts and Godmothers) are your special gifts. They give joy & beauty to their children's lives. They give unconditional love to their children day in and day out. They take the time to listen & laugh with their children. They dry their tears & walk beside them all along life's journey. Dear Lord, bless all our mothers, who have gone to their rest. May they be at peace, watching over us. Amen

## **BENEDICTION:**

A Blessing from above: May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home. May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam. May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures. May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours. Amen

## **QUOTE:**

*"A garden of kindness is a reflection of the love, care & attention we give to ourselves and the world around us".*



# JUNE

## **INVOCATION:**

Dear Lord, we thank you for the gift of our American Legion Family. Help us to work together for peace and harmony in our relationships. We are proud Auxiliary Members because of our loyalty, commitment and pride that we have for our Veterans and current Military. We ask that you watch over our new slate of officers. Grant us the grace to accept each other's faults and weaknesses. Protect us from harsh words and hurt feelings. Assist us to encourage one another's strengths and abilities. Lead us to mutual understanding and support. May we always forgive each other's failings and rejoice in one another's successes. Amen

## **BENEDICTION:**

Dear Lord, we ask that you watch over our American Legion Family. Bless us with good health and happiness. Fill our hearts with love, patience and kindness for one another now and always. Amen

## **Quote:**

*"The Pessimist complains about the wind: The Optimist expects it to change: The Realist adjusts the sails.*

*~ William Arthur Ward*

## THE BALANCE

After he had journeyed and his feet were sore, he was tired. He came upon an orange grove, and he rested. And he lay in the cool and while he rested, he took to himself an orange and tasted it, and it was good. And he felt the earth to his spine, and he asked. And he saw the tree above him, and the stars, and the veins in the leaf, and the light and the balance. And he saw magnificent perfection, whereon he thought of himself in balance, and he knew he was.

Just open your eyes and realize the way it's always been; Just open your mind and you will find the way it's always been; Just open your heart and that's a start.

And he thought of those he angered, for he was not a violent man; And he thought of those he hurt, for he was not a cruel man; And he thought of those he frightened, for he was not an evil man.

And he understood, he understood himself. Upon this he saw that when he was of anger or knew hurt or felt fear, it was because he was not understanding. And he learned compassion. And with his eye of compassion, he saw his enemies, like unto himself, and he learned love... then he was answered.

Just open your eyes and realize the way it's always been; Just open your mind and you will find the way it's always been; Just open your heart and that's a start.

~

The Moody Blues

# THE KINDNESS POEM

Kindness breaks down barriers with words, a smile, a touch. It links us all together. It's a word that says so much. It shows concern for neighbors, for communities and friends. To be there for each other, is the message kindness sends.

Reaching out in friendship, taking time to show you care. Being the anchor in their stormy lives, when they're drowning in despair. Kindness is essential. It is resilient and tough. A global glue to bind us all with gentleness and love.

*~Yvonne Ugarte-Carer*



