



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA
Chaplain
February 2025 Bulletin**

Draping the Charter

I have been asked when and why we drape our Unit Charter. The answer is simple.

When a unit has lost one of its members due to death, it is customary to drape the unit charter with a black crepe during the period of mourning. There is no set time for how long the mourning period should be or how long the charter is draped.

I have provided here a suggested ceremony for draping the charter.

Unit President: We have assembled here at the call of our maker who has taken from us one of our beloved leaders. We have come to give, by a simple token, our official expression of the grief of Unit (unit name). Let us first bow our heads in prayer.

(Chaplain will offer a brief prayer.)

Unit President: We stand before the document which gave our unit life and being. Under its authority, years of devoted service were given by (name of deceased member). He/she contributed to its significance. His/her service is ended, but the results of his/her loyal efforts will go on and on for our American Legion Auxiliary and for God and country which the Auxiliary serves.

It is therefore fitting that on our charter, we should drape this black crepe, an expression of the sorrow in our hearts and of the mourning of (unit's name) over its great loss.

(Unit president then drapes the charter.)

Unit President: Now we ask God's blessing for our departed friend and co-worker, then go silently to carry forward the tasks to which he/she was giving so much when called away.

(Chaplain gives a brief concluding prayer.)

MEMBER DATA FORM

The Department Chaplain shall receive a Member Data Form from the Unit Chaplain when notified of a member's death. This notification will provide me with the auxiliary member's name, so she will be remembered at the Department Convention Memorial Service.

A courtesy Member Data Form should also be sent to the District Chaplain with the deceased member's current year information, so again she will be remembered at the district meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless,
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