



# Washington State Patriot Guard Riders

Standing For Those Who Stood For US



## HONORS PROTOCOL

### WHAT:

The Patriot Guard Riders attends funerals of Fallen Service members to show the bereaved that there are those of us out here that respect and honor the sacrifice and pain they are enduring due to the loss of a loved one.

### WHO:

All Members and guests that join us in support of a PGR Mission are requested to follow this protocol while providing Honors to our Fallen Heroes and their Families. Please do not be offended if you are observed not following these protocols and are corrected on the spot. We are there to show Respect and Honor with our silence.

### HOW:

The PGR Members will arrive at the service site a minimum of 60 minutes prior to the start of said service. At the direction of your Ride Captain after he or she has coordinated with the site manager (usually a Funeral Director; family member; LEO; or CAO) we will take up a position and form a Flag Line.

Members will hold the "COLORS" in their right hand VERTICAL as possible.

Once in position, Members holding flags should space out at a double arms length and will be adjusted as needed by your Ride Captain. As always, geography and the available number of Members will effect our ability to accomplish this effectively.

**Remember always: Flexibility, Patience, Tolerance, and Respect.**

Please, no smoking, talking or joking while holding the "Colors". If a member needs a break, quietly ask a person who is assigned relief duties to assume your position.

Road Captains and Ride Captains in attendance will distribute beverages and relieve the "Flag Line" as needed.

Do not jeopardize or compromise your health!

If you are feeling faint or sick, get the attention of someone to help you, we do not want anyone at anytime to endanger their health.

At the conclusion of the service, all Flag Bearers please quietly proceed to the Support Vehicle keeping your Flags in the vertical position. When we reach the Support Vehicle we then can roll up our flags. At that time we will be directed to the next phase of our Mission or if concluded, we will take a moment to debrief and address any questions, comments, and concerns.

## **WHAT TO DO IF U G's SHOW UP**

(U G's = **Undesirable Guests**, any protesters who show up at a soldiers funeral)

### **HOW DO WE SHIELD THE MOURNERS FROM U G's?**

If protesters are in attendance we simply hold our flags with our backs turned to the protesters Take you cues from your Ride Leadership, we may say the Pledge of Allegiance, we may start engines and rev them up to drown out them out. Leadership will make the call.

### **WHAT DO I DO IF A UG ATTEMPTS TO PROVOKE ME?**

Stand with your back to them and ignore them. Your only function at the Mission is to pay your respects to the Fallen Hero and His/Her Family.

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## RENDERING HONORS

### HOW:

Veterans / Active Duty do not remove head gear when rendering Honors, give a slow (Respectful) Hand Salute. Civilians or Veterans desiring to do so rather than saluting; will remove their head gear and place their right hand over their heart. When holding a American Flag, you may also render Honors by placing th Flag at “Present Arms”. Right hand at the middle of your chest with you left hand above you right. Service Flags are never raised higher than the American Flag. For “Present Arms” Service Flags are extended straight out from your body directly in front of your right side with the pole base still on the ground at your right.

Service Flags are displayed in the following sequence:  
Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force,  
Coast Guard, POW, Patriot Guard.

### WHEN:

Present Arms as follows (As Directed by your Leadership):  
The Honor Guard American Flag (if there is one)  
passes your position.  
The Flag Draped Coffin passes your position.  
Coach with the Flag Draped Coffin passes your position.  
Surviving Family Members pass your position.

Honors are Rendered during the Military Gun Salute.  
Honors are Rendered during the playing of Taps.  
Honors are Rendered during the folding of the Fallen Heroes Flag.  
Honors are Rendered during the Presentation of the Flag  
to the Family Member.

Remember always: Flexibility, Patience, Tolerance, and Respect.