

In preparation for a funeral of a fallen soldier:

Meet with the police chief, fire chief and the highway department to set up a plan when the funeral procession will come thro town.

Will the funeral be in town –have the fire department hook up with two aerial ladders to give the Arch with a flag over the roadway that the procession will go.

Contact businesses in town and ask for their support to line the street with people holding the traditional 8” X 12” stick flag as the hearse goes by.

Ask for support from the service organizations to get as many people as you can to line the streets.

The military will take care of the cost of the funeral etc. There should be a casualty officer from the military, who will coordinate a lot of the issues. Get in touch with the family , and offer your support to assist, either at the wake and or the funeral. Tell them what you would like to do as far as the support from the town in making his last visit to the town a memorable and yet somber visit.

I had contacted a bank and asked for money to purchase the flags that would be given to those who lined the streets. The more people you have the better. This sends a strong message that the town is there in the time of need, and or support.

In most cases, the Governor will be there. You should try and make contact with him.

A collation should be set up following the funeral, if the family desires. It should be suggested to the family what is their desire. You are not responsible for this tab, but the service organizations may pitch in.

As far as police motorcade etc, this is generally done by the chief. Perhaps the military will make those arrangements and also contact the Patriot Guard(a motorcycle veterans group.)

Issues to consider when working with the Casualty Assistance Officer(CACO)-Obtain the DD-1300 so that you may file for the state annuity. You will also need the marriage certificate, if applicable. A death certificate may be made available from the military.

I am sure that I have not covered everything, but give me a call at the office or my cell phone 781-738-7117. Please, if anything comes up give me a call and I will try and help.