

## OPENING CEREMONY

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** *(Gives one rap of the Bone to bring Growl to order)* Police Dog, you will satisfy yourself that all Dogs present are qualified to remain for the deliberation of this body.

**NOTE:** At all levels of the Kennel, an official Growl necessitates the presence of the American Flag and three other items; The Holy Bible, the Charter, and the Bone signifying the Presiding Officer's authority. In accordance with Article XI, Section 1107, these articles are considered "sacred;" and, Article II, Section 216(C), Article III, Section 316(D) as well as Article IV, Section 407(D) require the presence of these three "sacred" articles.

**NOTE:** In all references to "saluting;" this action is defined as the right arm raised parallel to the shoulder, with the forearm bent at the elbow, forming a 90-degree angle and with the paw clenched in a "human-like" fist, except that the normal hand salute shall be given during Honors to the colors.

**POLICE DOG:** *(Saluting)* I have inspected the qualifications of the members assembled, and find that all are qualified to remain. *(Exceptions must be reported.)*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Watch Dog, I now declare this Growl secure, and you will permit no one access to the Growl until after the completion of the Opening Ceremony. Police Dog, you will now advance the colors and lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. *(Presiding Officer gives two raps of the Bone to bring Growl to Attention. The Police Dog will issue the command "Hand Salute," advance the colors, and then recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Police Dog will then issue the command "Ready Two."*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Uncover. The Dog Trainer will lead us in prayer.

**NOTE:** Before leading the assemblage in prayer, the Dog Trainer will open the Holy Bible to a scripture selected by that Officer. At the conclusion of the prayer, the Dog Trainer will close the Holy Bible, which will remain closed until the Dog Trainer is called upon for ceremonies (Rite of Obligation, Rite of Installation, Memorial Service, Closing Ceremony, etc.) in which they take the leading role. It is inappropriate to collect fines over an open Bible; and none may be collected nor assessed while the Holy Bible is open.

*Dog Trainer advances and takes post in front of Altar and gives opening prayer:*

**DOG TRAINER:** "Let us pray. Almighty God, Supreme Being over us all, we ask Thy Blessing upon this Growl. We ask thy divine guidance during our deliberations, and keep us ever steadfast in the purposes and principles upon which the Marine Corps League and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs are founded. We ask Thy Blessing upon those Marines who have died in the service of our Country, and are now recorded on that Heavenly Roster, upon which all of us will in time be enrolled. Grant, Heavenly Father, that the League and Order may grow and prosper in the purposes and principles upon which they are founded. Amen." *(Close the Bible).*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Recover. I now declare this Growl of Military Order of the Devil Dogs, open for the Transaction of all business which may properly come before it. Watch Dog, you are now free to admit latecomers to this Growl *(gives one rap of the Bone to seat members).*

