

The meaning of the items on this special table.

The table is round - to show our everlasting concern for our fallen comrades.

The tablecloth is white - symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of our fallen comrades, and the loved ones and friends of these comrades who keep the faith.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to remember our fallen comrades.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those who will never return.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by the families of those who have sacrificed all.

The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us.

The chair is empty because they are no longer with us.

A Toast to Our Fallen Comrades

"Let us give thanks for the many blessings we have received. Let us give thanks for the security of America and for the freedoms we enjoy and experience every day. However, let us also remember the great price that has been paid for that freedom too many times.

We knew them. They lived, they felt, they were as vibrant, as energetic, as immortal as you and I. They were brave. They fell for peace and for freedom in the service of their country. Many may argue about the futility of death and of war, but one should never forget that they died, not in vain, but in honor.

Many times down through the years our country has called, and many men and women have answered the call. Let us not forget our fallen comrades, but remember them always, for they have earned our respect and admiration with their lives.

We knew them, we'll remember them, and they will not be forgotten.

To our fallen comrades!"