

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION No. 1

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary North Hardin Post 10281 Department of Kentucky

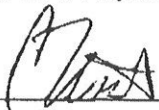
Whereas, Auxiliaries and Departments have been slow to remove deceased life members from their rosters and report these members to the National Organization via MALTA or any other official means, which has led to Auxiliaries and Departments erroneously accepting "life payouts" to their Auxiliaries for members who have been deceased for many years; and

Whereas, The amount of "life payouts" could be increased if deceased life members were reported and entered in MALTA.

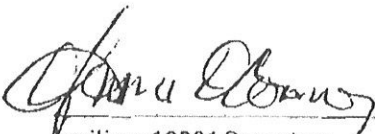
Therefore, be it resolved, that Auxiliaries and Departments are required to review their rosters annually and ensure that all deceased members are entered as deceased in MALTA or by other official means; and

Be it further resolved, that should the National Organization identify a deceased life member who has been deceased over three (3) years, the National Organization may recoup any life payouts received for that member in excess of those three (3) years. Recoupment may occur by deduction from a later "life payout" or other payment to that Auxiliary or Department. The National Organization must notify the affected Auxiliary or Department no less than thirty (30) days prior to that recoupment and allow the Auxiliary or Department opportunity to prove that the member is either not deceased or provide justification as to why recoupment should not occur.

Adopted by VFW Auxiliary 10281 at a meeting held at North Hardin VFW Post 10281 in Vine Grove, KY on 9 May, 2024.

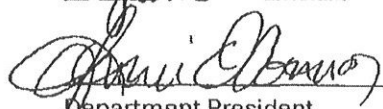


Auxiliary 10281 President

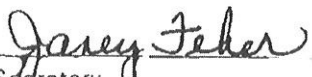


Auxiliary 10281 Secretary

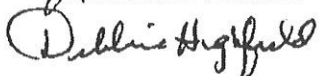
Adopted as revised above by the VFW Auxiliary Department of Kentucky at Bowling Green, KY on June 22, 2024.



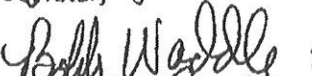
Department President




Secretary




Resolution Chairman




Vice



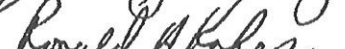
Resolution Member



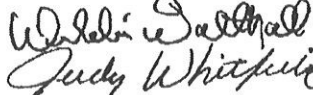
Vice



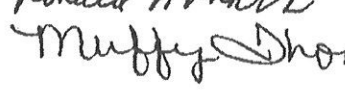
Chief of Staff



CHAPLAIN



Treasurer



conductor

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION No. 2

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Section 804E – Proposed Resolution – National District Council Members

WHEREAS, Bylaws Section 804E, National Bylaws pertains to the election of National District Council Members;

WHEREAS, Concerns about Departments not having a candidate for their turn to elect their National District Council Member for the subsequent term have been raised;

WHEREAS, Bylaws section 804 E, does not provide guidance in the event a candidate cannot be found for the ensuing year:

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that an addition be added to Bylaws Section 804 E to read as follows,

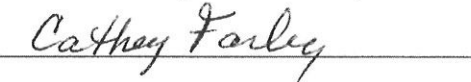
C. Should a department fail to elect a National District Council Member as scheduled, the department will be placed on suspension and a protem council Member from that department will be appointed by the Department President to fill that vacancy until such time as the department council can elect one.

Submitted to the Department of South Carolina by the Department Resolutions Committee at the Mid-Winter Conference 01/25/2025.

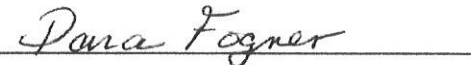
Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair, Kathleen Brock, PDP



Committee Member, Cathey Farley, PDP




Committee Member, Dana Fogner, PDP

This Resolution was adopted by the Department of South Carolina at the Mid-Winter Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on January 25, 2025.

The Department requests this resolution be presented to the National Convention to be held in Columbus Ohio, August 9 - 13, 2025.

Respectfully,


Donna Marie King
President, Department of South Carolina
391 Jardinere Walk
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION No. 3

Sec. 101-Eligibility – Belief in God

WHEREAS, The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary has Objects of our Organization, one of which states: "...to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women..."; and

WHEREAS, The current statement - "Profess a belief in God" - goes against those equal rights and justice to all men and women; and WHEREAS, Maintaining and extending American freedom - One of those freedoms is, Freedom of Religion, which includes Freedom to not believe; and

WHEREAS, The VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws did not require a belief in God statement until 2012; and

WHEREAS, The fact that our Bylaws are based on the VFW Bylaws which do not mandate a member profess a belief in God; and

WHEREAS, The US Military Oath of Enlistment has changed to allow the enlistee to choose to say affirm not swear, and to not include the last sentence; "So help me God"; and

WHEREAS, Changing the Bylaws would not be declaring that an individual does not believe in God, only that you do not need to believe in God to support Veterans; and

WHEREAS, It is the understood responsibility of the National Organization of the VFW Auxiliary to be ever mindful of its duty to advance the interests of our organization and its members.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the National Organization remove the sentence - "Profess a belief in God" - from Section 101 Eligibility.

Submitted by National Bylaws Review and Resolutions Committee

Chairman: *Sandra Onstwedder Messenger* Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: *Lois Callahan* Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: *Betty Arnold* Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: *Ann Panteleakos* Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: *Cortina Barnes* Date: April 16, 2025

AMENDED THEN POSTPONED

RESOLUTION No. 4

Sec. 210-Meetings , Regular and Special

WHEREAS, currently the National Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual Sec. 210 does not address the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of the Auxiliary Business Meeting; and,

WHEREAS, it has proven to be problematic in solving issues within the Auxiliaries.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that Sec. 210 add the letter H. to be read as follows:

H. Divulging of VFW Auxiliary private business outside of the actual VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting, *to non-members*, shall not be allowed.

Submitted by National Resolutions Committee

Chairman: *Sandra Onstwedder Messenger* Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: *Lois Callahan* Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: *Betty Arnold* Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: *Ann Panteleakos* Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: *Cortina Barnes* Date: April 16, 2025

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

RESOLUTION NO. 5

Sec. 509-Suspension and Revocation of District Charter

WHEREAS, Sec 509, A., of the Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual currently reads:

A. A Department President may suspend the Charter of a District; and

WHEREAS, Sec. 509 does not currently address notification to the National President by the Department President.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that Sec. 509A read as follows:

A. The Department President ~~may~~ shall recommend the Suspension of a District Charter to the National President.

Submitted by National Resolutions Committee

Chairman: Sandra Onstwedder Messenger Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Lois Callahan Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Betty Arnold Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Ann Panteleakos Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Cortina Barnes Date: April 16, 2025

NOT CONSIDERED SINCE RESOLUTION NO. 7 WAS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Sec. 809 E National (A)

WHEREAS, Sec. 809 A of the Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual currently addresses vacancy for President and Senior Vice-President.

WHEREAS, there is currently no elaboration as how to address the vacancies of the Junior Vice-President, Chaplain, Conductor, or Guard.

AND WHEREAS, it would cause discussion and concern if it were to occur.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that this clarification be addressed in Sec. 809 E to read as follows:

In the event of a vacancy in the office of National VFW Auxiliary Junior Vice President, National Chaplain, National Conductor, or National Guard, each chair officer will ascend to the next level vacant position. They need not be installed. The National President will appoint a pro-tem Guard for the remainder of the Auxiliary year. *Pro-tem Officer would not have a vote at the Council of Administration Meetings or at the National Convention.

1. An Election will be held at the next National Convention to fill the positions of National Auxiliary Conductor and National Guard.

Submitted by National Resolutions Committee

Chairman: Sandra Onstwedder Messenger Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Lois Callahan Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Betty Arnold Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Ann Panteleakos Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Cortina Barnes Date: April 16, 2025

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Sec. 809E-National (B)

WHEREAS, Sec. 809A of the podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual clearly describes the process for filling the vacancies of the National President and National Senior Vice-President.

WHEREAS, Sec. 809E Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual currently does not address the subject of vacancies in the positions of National Junior Vice-President, National Chaplain, National Conductor, or National Guard.

AND WHEREAS, It could cause discussion and concern in rendering a fair decision should it occur.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, Sec. 809E-National include the addition of letter E. to read as follows:

E. In the event of a vacancy in the office of VFW Auxiliary National Junior Vice-President, National Chaplain, National Conductor, or National Guard, a Pro-tem will be appointed by the National President. The selection will be a member from within the Conference where the vacancy occurred, keeping the Conference rotation intact. *Pro-tem Officer would not have a vote at the National Council of Administration Business Meeting or the National Convention.

1. An Election will be held at the next National Convention to fill the open position by a member from the Conference that the vacancy occurred.

Submitted by National Resolutions Committee

Chairman: Sandra Onstwedder Messenger Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Lois Callahan Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Betty Arnold Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Ann Panteleakos Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Cortina Barnes Date: April 16, 2025

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Sec. 814-Trustees Duties of (All Levels)

WHEREAS, Sec. 814—Trustees Duties of (All Levels) of the National Bylaws currently states under E. Number 1,

“It shall be the duty of the Trustees to see that the offices of the President and Treasurer are bonded with an indemnity company authorized by National Headquarters or the Department.

1. As surety in a sum at least double the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, the President and Treasurer may be accountable.”

WHEREAS, we no longer have all dues processed through the Treasurer. And, understanding twice the amount can cause financial hardship on Auxiliaries.

THEREFORE, Let it be Resolved, that Sec.814 E. 1., of the National Bylaws to read as follows:

- 1. As surety in a sum of at least 1.25 times the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, the President and Treasurer may be accountable.**

Submitted by National Resolutions Committee

Chairman: Sandra Onstwedder Messenger Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Lois Callahan Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Betty Arnold Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Ann Panteleakos Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Cortina Barnes Date: April 16, 2025

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

RESOLUTION NO. 9

Sec. 915-Solicitation of Funds

WHEREAS, Sec. 915 currently does not address the time frame of dispensing funds raised for a specific program or project.

AND WHEREAS, Auxiliaries should not be holding on to funds designated for programs or projects.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, Sec. 915 include the addition of letter E. to read as follows:

Sec. 915. E. All monies collected, for special projects, shall be forwarded to the designated program/project within that fiscal year, unless the program/project specifies a different time frame.

Submitted by National Resolutions Committee

Chairman: Sandra Onstwedder Messenger Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Lois Callahan Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Betty Arnold Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Ann Panteleakos Date: April 16, 2025

Committee Member: Cortina Barnes Date: April 16, 2025

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

ARTICLE XI—DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Sec. 1101—Discipline of Members

(See Guide to Disciplinary Action for complete details)

A. Prior to taking formal Disciplinary Action, an Auxiliary, District, or Department must document the following attempts for solution:

- Discussion and/or verbal warning of offense based on Bylaws.
- Written warning of offense based on Bylaws.

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws and the Guide to Disciplinary Actions, no member shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in Section 1107, unless such member shall have been advised in writing of the charges against them and afforded the opportunity to request that such charges be heard and determined at a Disciplinary Hearing as hereinafter provided.

B. All forms of harassment (sexual or otherwise) submitted in writing to the appropriate President or Department Council of Administration must be investigated by an Investigating Committee consisting of three (3) impartial members prior to any disciplinary action being initiated.

C. No disciplinary action may be initiated with respect to conduct that has been the subject of previously initiated disciplinary action, but it can be presented as evidence in a subsequent disciplinary action to establish a pattern of behavior.

D. All costs incurred by Disciplinary Action will be paid by the initiating entity (*Auxiliary, Department, or National*).

Sec. 1102—Offenses

A. Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Auxiliary **MAY** be subject to disciplinary action and **MAY** be assessed the penalties provided in this Article.

B. Offenses recognized by the Auxiliary are:

1. Disloyalty to the United States of America.
2. Failure to fulfill the obligations taken at time of application and admission or the obligations taken upon installation of any office.
3. False representation or deliberate concealment concerning eligibility to membership, office, or permitting ineligible persons to become members or officers.
4. Disobedience or disregard of the provisions of the Bylaws (at all levels), Booklet of Instructions, Ritual, General Orders or any other laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary or any order of the National President.
5. Conviction of or entering a guilty or no contest plea to a felony, or to a misdemeanor, or ordinance violation involving illegal moral acts, in any court of the United States. A conviction alone cannot be used as the sole basis for the filing of an incident report or initiation of a disciplinary action unless justification can be offered that said conviction currently jeopardizes the organization or a member thereof.

Note: Background checks as a general rule may not be run on any member. In most cases, explicit consent must be obtained from the person you are running a background check on AND the purpose of the background check needs to be legitimate such as employment screening. It must also adhere to all Federal and State laws.

6. Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct unbecoming a member in their relations to the VFW Auxiliary or the VFW organization or any member(s) thereof to include all forms of harassment.
7. Conduct requiring documented law enforcement intervention (police report) **or** attempts to maintain order (Section 810 – President, Duties of - All Levels, Letter C) have failed.

8. Preparing or signing any false record, return, regulation, order or other official document of or concerning the Auxiliary, knowing it to be false, or making any other false official statement with the intent to deceive.
9. Selling or otherwise disposing of money or property without proper authority or willfully or negligently damaging, destroying or losing any such money or property belonging to the Auxiliary, or any Auxiliary, District or Department.
10. Aiding, abetting, counseling, concealing, commanding, conspiring, soliciting, procuring or causing any act to be done which, if done, would be punishable under this Article.
11. Knowingly making or causing to be made a false entry in or false alteration of a government record. Knowingly conveying or causing to be conveyed in any form false information concerning one's military record.
12. Knowingly providing false information or statements in connection with the initiation of charges against another member.

Sec. 1103—Disciplinary Actions or Alternative Actions

Disciplinary actions shall be initiated only when Section 1101A has been followed and there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offense has been committed by the person charged and a signed incident report or appropriate documentation is submitted by the accuser to the appropriate President (i.e., Auxiliary, Department, National President).

Charges and Specifications must be prepared and delivered in the manner described and authorized in the Guide to Disciplinary Actions.

Sec. 1104 – Appeal

- A. Any member against whom disciplinary action is taken under this Article shall have the right to appeal such action. Such an appeal shall be made in the manner prescribed in the Guide to

Disciplinary Action.

- B. If the member fails to properly appeal the action in the manner specified in the Guide to Disciplinary Action, the appeal will not be considered.
- C. At any time during the Disciplinary Action, the member may ask for a Resolution Agreement. Resolution Agreements are not subject to appeal.

Computation of Time

- A. Whenever these Bylaws or Guide to Disciplinary Actions requires action, with respect to appeals, within a specific number of days it refers to calendar days.
 - 1. The time shall be calculated beginning with the day upon which the decision at the previous level was delivered or an attempt at delivery was made to the last known address of the member.
- B. Any required action by the member must be made in writing and mailed via US Postal Service by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and postmarked no later than the date due.
- C. The National President may grant an extension provided the request is received prior to the expiration of the time frame originally prescribed and that the request is for good and sufficient cause.

Sec. 1105—Suspension from Office

- A. At any time after charges are initiated against a member holding office, the National President or Department President having jurisdiction, may suspend the accused member from any office pending a final decision on the disciplinary action.
 - 1. Provided that with respect to salaried officers, said suspension shall be with pay.
- B. During the suspension of an Auxiliary, District or Department President, the office shall be temporarily filled by the Senior Vice-

President. For any other office vacated due to suspension from office, this office shall be filled by a pro-tem until the case is adjudicated.

- C. In the event a suspension carries from one year to the next, the suspended officer cannot hold that office until the case has been adjudicated. The suspended officer can be elected to any office, however, the office must be filled by a pro-tem until the case has been adjudicated.
- D. Suspensions affected under this Section shall not be subject to appeal.

Sec. 1106—Prima Facie Case

- A. If the accused member has been convicted of a violation subjecting them to discipline under Section 1102, certified copies of the judicial record of conviction or plea shall be conclusive evidence of a violation of said Section and a President or Disciplinary Hearing Panel may consider the matter as if the accused was willfully absent.

Sec. 1107—Penalties

- A. Penalties for offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be:
 1. Reprimand.
 2. Removal from office for a specified period of time for no less than one calendar year.
 3. Suspension of certain rights or privileges of membership for a specified period of time for no less than one calendar year.
 4. Suspension from membership for a specified period of time for no less than one calendar year.
 5. Termination of membership.
 6. By other administrative action deemed appropriate.

Sec. 1108—Administrative Actions

- A. A member who has been suspended from membership in any Auxiliary by Sentence of Disciplinary Action properly carried into execution shall be placed as Department Member At Large.
- ~~A.~~ *B.* Upon completion of the suspension of membership a transfer is permitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Bylaws.
- ~~B.~~ *C.* When reasonable grounds exist to initiate disciplinary action, the accused member may not transfer to another Auxiliary until the disciplinary action has been adjudicated. The Department President or the National President shall transfer the member back to the Auxiliary where the disciplinary action will be initiated.
- ~~C.~~ *D.* Any member, or former member, sentenced will be allowed one (1) opportunity to petition directly to the National President to have their conviction pardoned or their sentence commuted provided at least five (5) years of the pertinent sentence have been served.

End of Article XI.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Proposed Ritual Revisions for 2025

Page 2	Heart Salute - add	Per Flag Etiquette at Parades: It is not necessary to salute every American Flag that passes. If it is carried by an honor guard or in a group with other flags (other flags as in our banner, POW/MIA Flag), stand up and salute... Do not salute small hand-held flags carried by parade attendees... For Auxiliary meetings salute when the colors are brought in to open and close the meeting. You do not need to salute when the color bearers are performing other parts of the ritual (e.g. escorting, Draping of the Charter etc.). However, you must stand.
Page 4	Officers' Instructions - add a bullet	The Chaplain will open and close the bible as directed. <i>Suggestion close during breaks, raffles, skits</i> <i>Optional close during awards</i> <i>There is no need to close the bible for guests or awards unless you expect someone to be walking around (in sacred area) for pictures, etc. You must be respectful.</i>
Page 4	Officers' Instructions add to The Color Bearers' Flag bullet.	Finger pointing up while carrying the flag is optional and at the discretion of the Conductor.
Page 4	Officers' Instructions remove from the Color Bearer carrying the Flag bullet and make a new bullet.	While seated, Floor Officers to include Flag Bearer, Banner Bearer, POW/MIA Flag Bearer, Color Bearers, Conductor and Assistant Conductor shall sit at attention with feet on the floor or crossed at the ankles.
Page 5-6	Add #9.) Foreign Based Auxiliaries	Add Pledge - a.) I pledge allegiance to the Flag my veterans served under, with the ideals of Liberty and Justice for all. b.) New Foreign Based Auxiliaries can do a Round Table meeting for all meetings
Page 7	Add to diagram Handling a Motion	Under Member makes a motion (I Move)

Page 9 & 23	Under 1. Aux/Dist. Opening Ceremony	Change the word station to station/office.
Page 32	Add verbiage to Contemporary already in Traditional pages 9 & 23.	Add what's on page 9 & 23 to page 32 - If an Officer is unable to be present, they should notify the President. The President shall than appoint a member to fill their station/office before the meeting starts.
Page 13, 25 & 34	Opening Prayer - Chaplain	Add to the beginning of the current prayers: Please join me in prayer to the extent that your religious and/or personal beliefs will allow.
Page 15, 26 & 35	Add Verbiage before "I now declare this meeting open...."	Brothers and Sisters, we are assembled again to transact business. Do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations. Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish fellowship and loyalty to our organization. I now declare....
Page 16	2.A. Escort through Aisle of Honor...	Add: See Booklet of Instruction F. F3) Escort of CIC or NP for instruction and verbiage.
Page 17, 28 & 37	Are there any corrections?	Change to - Are there any corrections or omissions?
Page 32 & 41	At the top of Contemporary and Round Table meeting	Add in parenthesis: Room set up is at the discretion of the Auxiliary.
Page 41	Roundtable Meeting - add	After pledge (See below for Foreign Based Auxiliaries) Add Pledge - I pledge allegiance to the Flag my veterans served under, with the ideals of Liberty and Justice for all.
Page 41	Roundtable Meeting - take out (to include Program information after business)	Add asterisk, then list after closing prayer: Any item not listed above may be added into a round table meeting, per Auxiliary needs. E.g. Voting on New Members, Audits, Programs, Communications, etc.

Page 55 & 70	Add to the end of the installation	Add: (Optional) Ask New President for comments (e.g. introducing family). Pinning the Past President. Past President's closing remarks.
Pages 57 & 58	Add introduction of guests as it's own number	Will be #7 on page 57 and will be #5 on page 58, all consecutive numbers will advance.
Page 65	At the end of page 65.	Remove "President: Is there anything further to come before this meeting?" <u>Add as a note:</u> Return to Department Convention Order of Business.
Page 76	National Installation at the end.	Add: Chart Line Up similar to page 70.
Page 94, 101 & 109	Add to all parts referencing "Abide with me"	Add: in parenthesis (or other song of their choosing <i>an appropriate song of their choice.</i>)
Page 100	Draping the Altar - middle instructional paragraph.	Add in parenthesis after The Conductor places the Bible on the altar and step back one (1) step.(White Bible Optional)
Page 110	Soloist will sing "Lead Kindly Light"	Change to Soloist will sing an appropriate song of their choice.

Updated Floor Plans 9-12

To show Memorial Altar Cloth or blank when the cloth has been removed, where it currently say Altar Cloth.

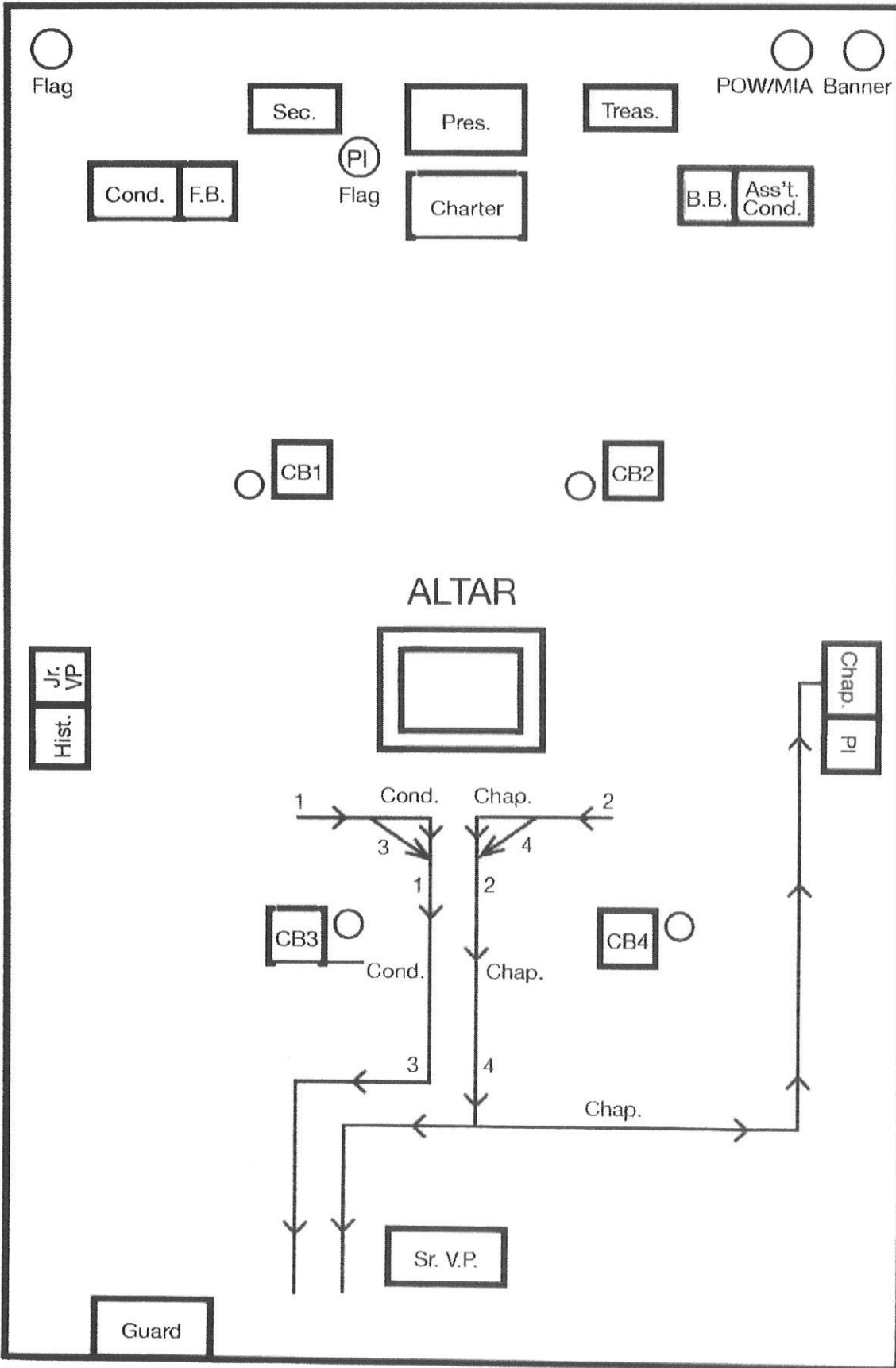
Typos, formating and numbers to be updated. This is housekeeping and does not need to be voted on.

Page 2	2.a. (see diagram 1, page 6)	Correct page number
Page 3, 4, & 5	Bullets	Change bullets to small letters to be consistent
Page 35	Middle of the page	Change process to proceed - fix page in #2 escort
Page 35	Bottom of the page	Change page 5 to Section F. F3 and Guests to CIC & NP
Page 45	Top of the page	strike to after please, not necessary
Page 65	In the middle, reffering to Dept Ins	Change 806D to 806C

FLOOR PLAN 9

Memorial Service

Retiring for Altar Cloth

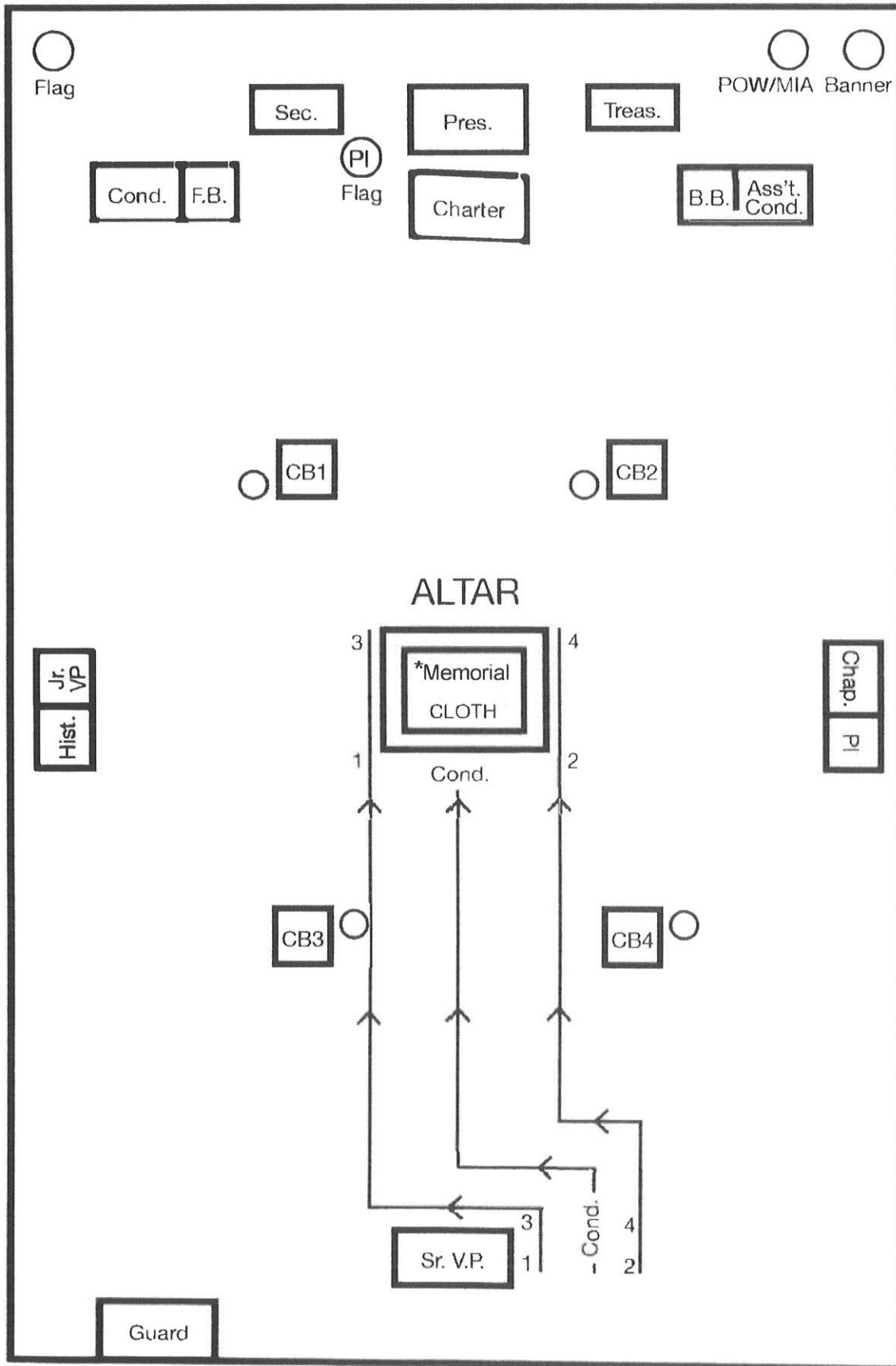


FLOOR PLAN 10

Memorial Service

Draping Altar

*with white/purple Memorial Altar Cloth

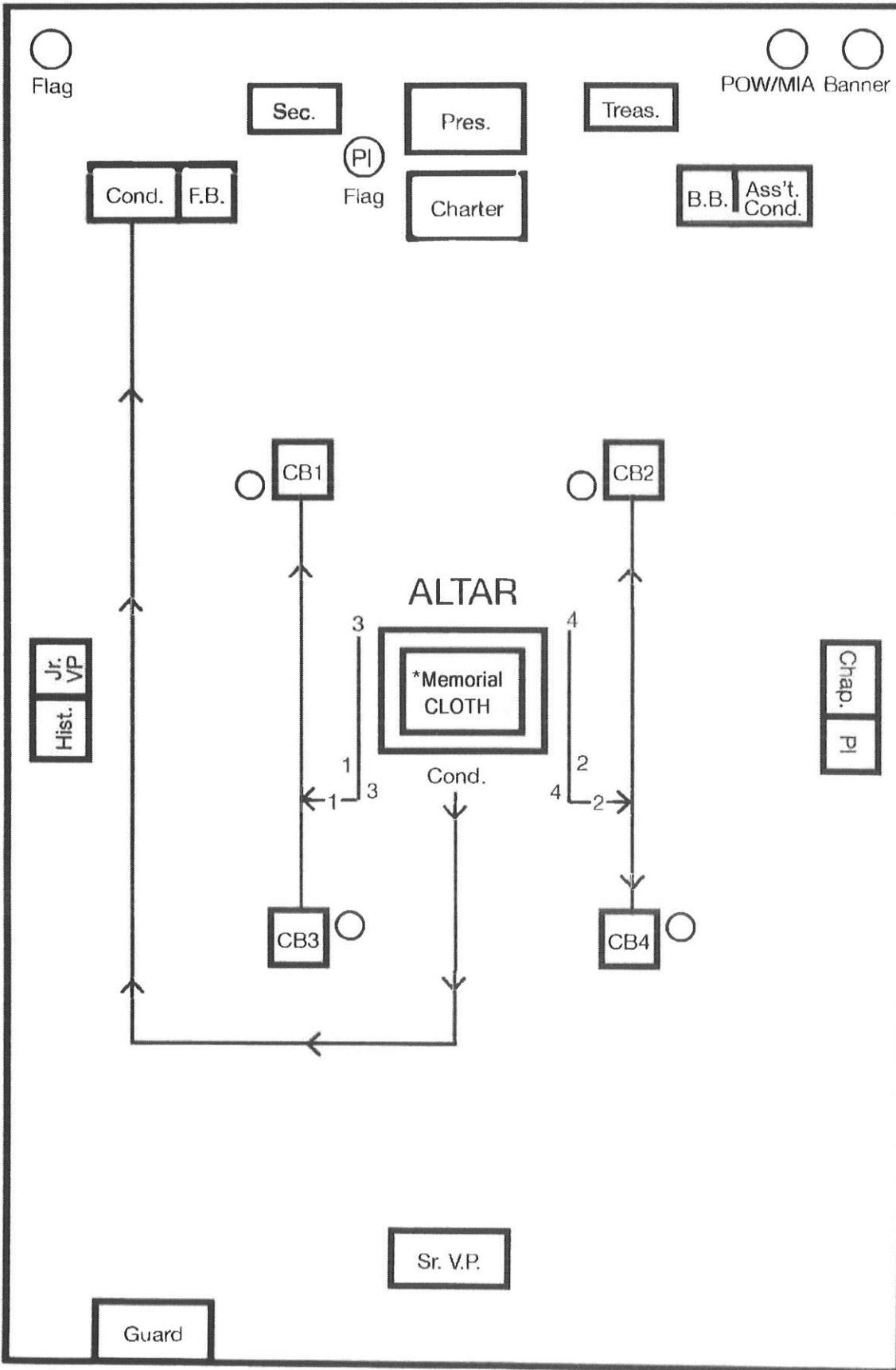


FLOOR PLAN 10A

Memorial Service - Cont.

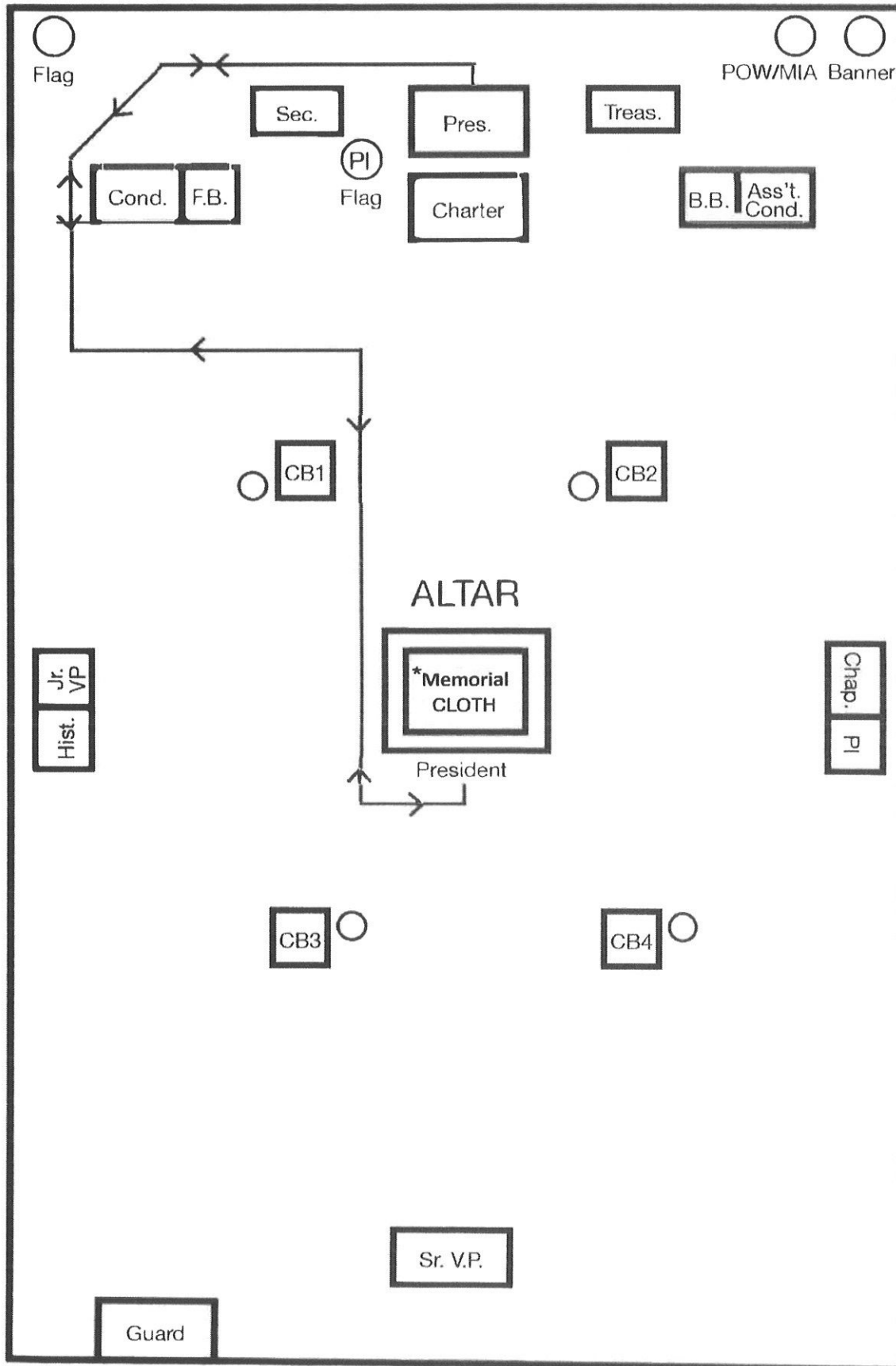
Draping Altar

*with white/purple Memorial Altar Cloth



FLOOR PLAN 10B

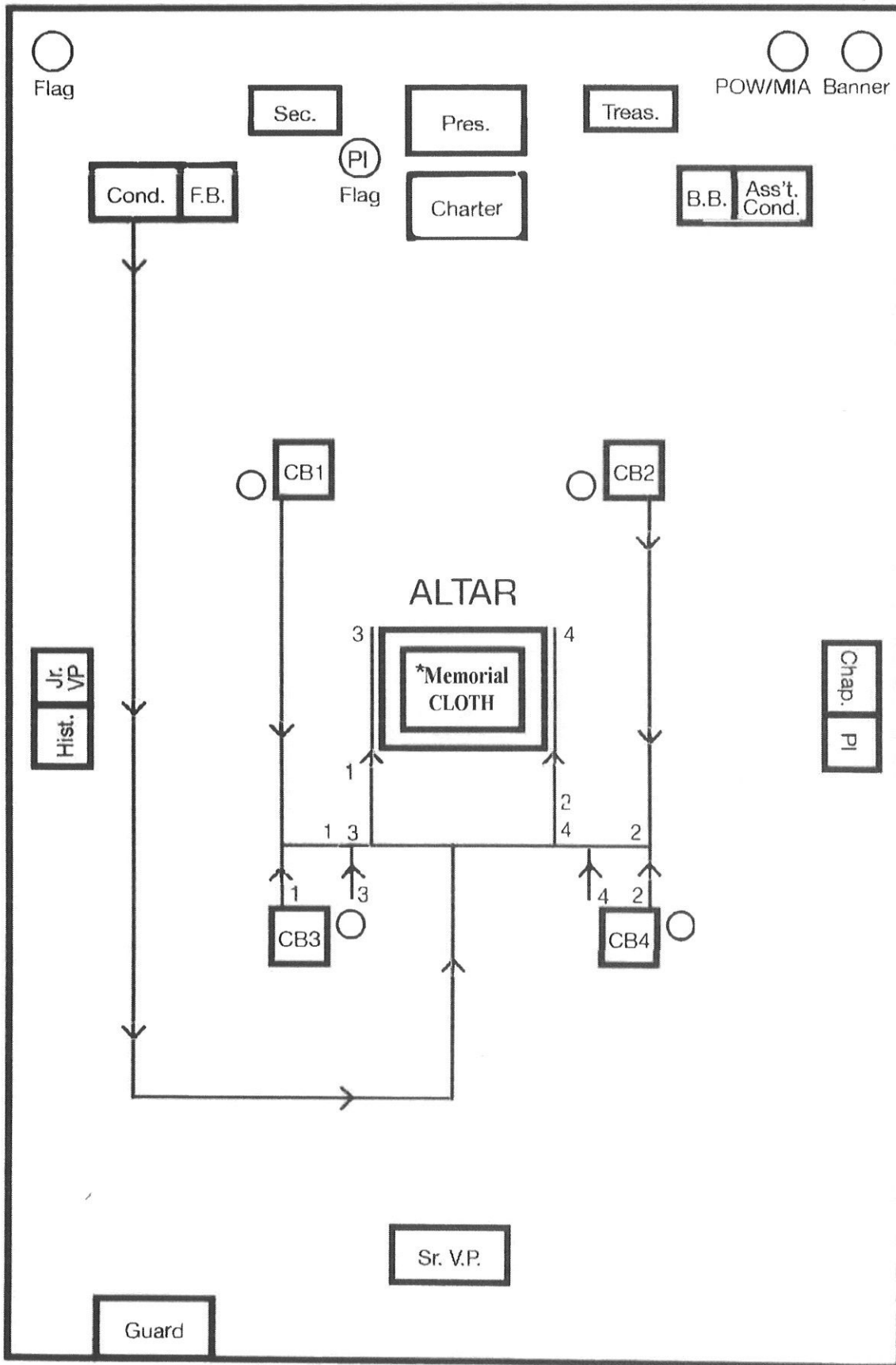
Memorial Service - Cont. *with white/purple Memorial Altar Cloth
President advancing to Altar



FLOOR PLAN 11

Retiring Memorial Altar Cloth

Approach to Altar (*with white/purple Memorial Altar Cloth)



FLOOR PLAN 12

Retiring Memorial Altar Cloth

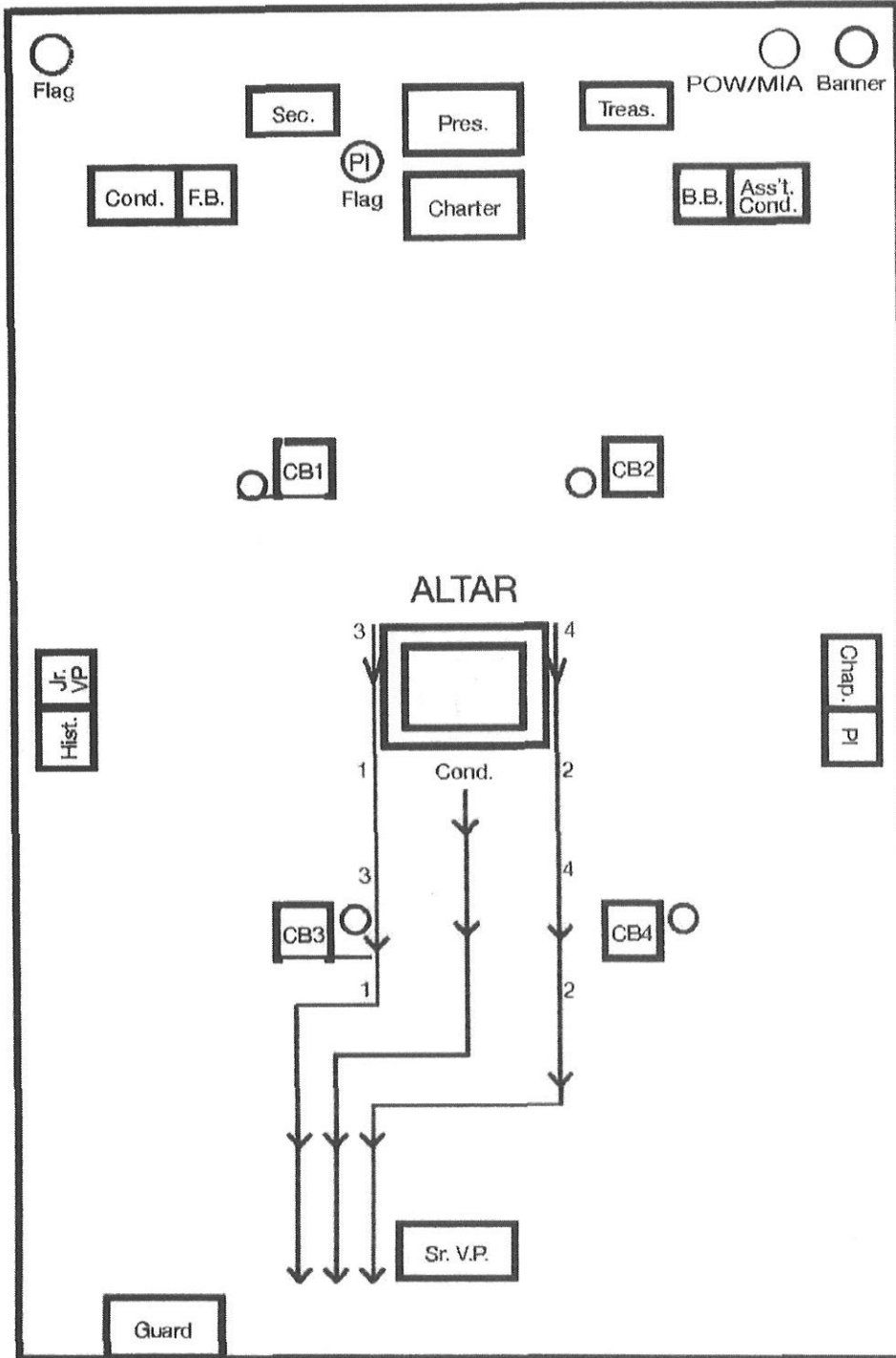


Diagram #1

Military Salute
(veteran)



Heart Salute

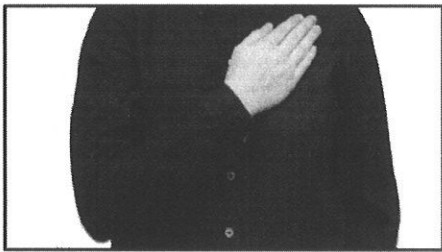


Diagram #2

Flag shall be held as
straight as possible.



Diagram #3

Parade Rest

