



---

# VETERANS SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CEREMONY

---



MARCH 29, 2025

American Legion Chaplain, Sunny "Dos" Dosanjh



# National Vietnam War Veterans Day

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War | March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Spiritual Renewal Ceremony | American Legion Chaplain, Sunny “Dos” Dosanjh

As your American Legion Area 2 Chaplain for the Bay Area, I’ve had the honor of conducting a “*We Honor Veterans*” ceremony for Veterans in hospice during their final days. For 10 years, I’ve personally observed Veterans “*putting down their war baggage*” and finally their “*Soul*” is ready to Rest in Peace.

As your American Legion District 13 Honor Guard Captain, I’ve seen how families are able to reconcile and recognize the duty, honor and sacrifice of a loved one when we conduct Military Funeral Honors.

There is a “Spirit of Love” that allows Grief to have its moment while also opening the door to healing and moving forward with the Grace of the Almighty.

Today, our United States Military Branches have recommended that Veteran Organizations conduct a similar ceremony akin to what took place in ancient times. In those times, Warriors who had served in Military Campaigns were required to undertake seven days of rituals that culminated in a Spiritual Renewal Ceremony.

The purpose of this ceremony was to cleanse and purify the inner “Self” which led to:

- Releasing the negative energies that had accumulated
- Removing the psychological stain associated with war
- Providing a path towards Moral Healing and realigning with the “Soul” within

This was required for all who wore the uniform, regardless of where or how they served. It applied to the cooks, medics, infantry, and anyone who was associated with the duties of a Military Campaign.

Symbols that were used during the ceremony are as follows:

- **Water:** Representing the cleansing and purification of the moment
- **Earth:** A Laurel Wreath representing healing properties and God’s Victory over evil
- **Fire:** Light to guide the Soul back to God’s Grace

Today, we will conduct the Ceremony by including the following elements:

- **Sword of the Unknown:** It was the last belongings of a lonely Veteran who passed away and his Military Sword was dropped off at our American Legion Post – we do not know his name
- **Certificate of Honor:** Veterans Name, Branch of Service and the Ceremony Verse
- **Ceremonial Pin:** Commemorating the Service



# Veterans Spiritual Renewal Ceremony

## Beginning of the Spiritual Renewal Ceremony

**[Chaplain]** To begin the Ceremony, I'd like to request those Veterans who had signed up, to line up next to the 1<sup>st</sup> Color Guard Team Member by the Entrance Doors

**[Chaplain]** 2<sup>nd</sup> Color Guard Team Member, please carry the Sword of the Unknown and give it to the first Veteran in line

**[Director]** To the Veteran, {Name} {Branch of Service}

- Please come forward to the Chaplain
- Unsheathe the Sword and Salute the Chaplain
- Sheath the Sword and Hand it to the Chaplain

**[Chaplain]** Read the Certificate of Honor, with the following:

- To {Name} {Branch of Service}
- Certificate of Honor Verse
  - We Honor You in Fulfilling Your Military Oath
  - We Welcome You as a Fellow Veteran
  - And With God's Grace, We Welcome You Home

**[Chaplain]** Affix a Spiritual Ceremony Pin to the Veterans lapel and render a hand salute

**[Chaplain]** State "Thank You for Your Service and Please be seated"

**[Chaplain]** 2<sup>nd</sup> Color Guard Team Member, please carry the Sword of the Unknown and give it to the next Veteran in line

## Closing of the Spiritual Renewal Ceremony

**[Chaplain]** Prayer: Please Uncover:

Almighty God, We Thank You

For Allowing Us This Moment To Recognize Your Grace

For Allowing Us to Honor Our Fellow Veterans as Part of the Spiritual Renewal Ceremony

Remembering Those Killed in Action, Missing in Action, Prisoners of War and the Unknowns

For Allowing Us To Fulfill Our Oath as Military Veterans and Live Up To The Mottos:

*In God We Trust, One Nation Under God, So Help Me God and For God and Country*

Amen.

