
Section H. Auxiliary Funeral Services

Introduction	Participation by the Coast Guard Auxiliary in funeral services for deceased Auxiliarists is governed entirely by the wishes of the family of the deceased. The Auxiliary should make known through normal channels of communication that services are available for use at the time of the death of an Auxiliarist. If the deceased Auxiliarist had previously specified, or if the survivor of an Auxiliarist desires that the Auxiliary take an active part in the funeral services, the survivor should make this request known to the mortuary and the clergyman.
H.1. Notifications	Any Auxiliarist having knowledge of the death of a fellow Auxiliarist should notify the FC without delay. The FC should call (in person) on the deceased survivor to offer condolence and assistance. At that time, it can be determined from the family whether participation by the Auxiliary is desired and to what extent. Details of participation can then be worked out with the funeral director. The Director should be notified of the Auxiliarist's passing and the funeral details. It is important that Auxiliarists not put undue pressure on the survivors for the use of the Auxiliary service. A great deal of hurt can be done by overzealous friends of the deceased. Auxiliary involvement should not be restricted to members of the deceased's flotilla. Most Auxiliarists have a wide circle of friends and associates. Auxiliarists at other flotillas, division and district level should be made aware of the situation and the recognition planned, so they may participate. Participating Auxiliarists should be in uniform. Service Dress Blue is appropriate.
H.2. Church Service	If there is to be a church service, or a service conducted at the funeral home by a clergyman, the Auxiliary service should come before the church service. It is usually held the evening before at the funeral home. The committal should be given by the family's clergyman. Not to observe this is to breach an important pastoral relationship between the family and their pastor.
H.3. Participation in Funeral	The Auxiliary participation in an Auxiliarist's funeral may, depending on the wishes of the deceased's family, range from the Auxiliarists arriving as a group to pay their respects, an honor guard posted at the viewing in conjunction with a brief memorial service or participation in the funeral itself. Whatever the level of Auxiliary activity, great care must be taken to maintain the dignity of the occasion.
H.4. More Information	For additional information and general discussion, see the Decedent Affairs Guide, COMDTINST M1770.1 (series).