



## Order of Australia Association Ode Guidelines

The 'Ode' has been scripted as a parting tribute on behalf of members and colleagues of The Order on the passing of a citizen who has;

- Received an award within the Order of Australia and;
- May or may not be a member of the Order of Australia Association.

The Ode may only be conducted at a funeral or memorial service at the request of a member of the deceased's family. This request can be relayed through a trusted family friend, member of the clergy or civil celebrant who will be engaged in the service.

Wherever possible the reciting of the Ode should follow a standard order of service, usually after tributes and just prior to the committal prayers.

The Ode can only be recited by a person who has received an award within the Order of Australia and should be read, not recited from memory.

Prior to reading The Ode, mourners who also have awards within the Order of Australia should be invited to stand after which a brief summary of the deceased's service to our Nation can be presented.

Reciting of The Ode is a final acknowledgement and celebration of significant achievement and service so there should be no allowance for any period of silence. If an acknowledgment by the entire congregation is required it would be more appropriate to conclude The Ode with a period of applause (30 secs).

Also at the request of the family the Australian National Flag can be used to cover the coffin at a funeral service, consistent with the appropriate protocol for such use:

- The upper left quarter or canton should be draped over the 'left shoulder' of the coffin to represent the heart
- The flag should be removed before the coffin is lowered into the ground or after the service at a crematorium.

Australia's National Flag can be obtained from many outlets or by request from your Federal Member of Parliament.