



Press Release No 002- 2019/2020/07

SOBA America Final Goodbye Protocol for fallen member

Purpose:

Our Final Goodbye Protocol was designed to honor our fallen brothers and to pay them our last respects as they transition from this world. It is a very solemn ceremony and all Sobans and ex-students are expected to respect all aspects of this protocol were possible. It is the least we can do for our brothers.

Coordinators:

The President of SOBA America in consultation with the family, chapter and friends of the fallen Soban will select some coordinators to work hand in hand with the family to ensure our fallen brother gets a befitting burial. The team of coordinators will put out guidelines and act as Marshals supervising the execution of our Final Goodbye Protocol.

Wake Keeping-Dress Code:

SOBANS and Ex-students are expected to dress as posted by the Organizing Secretary or Lead Coordinator. The dress code could vary depending on if the burial will be in North America or back home. However, our SOBA America Suits are generally reserved for the day when we are executing our Goodbye Protocol. Our coordinators will work with the NLT and family to include our participation in the wake keeping and funeral service. Any posthumous awards/recognitions and financial support will be given to the family during the segment reserved for SOBA America. The President of SOBA America or his designee will lead all Sobans in singing our anthem and St. Joseph song after all relevant speeches have been made during our segment.

Saturday-Funeral Service:

Our Final Goodbye Protocol is executed in the presence of the casket before and after service. Consequently, we must all wear our SOBA America official attire(SOBA America suit, white shirt, tie and forchette). This Final Goodbye Protocol will be executed only after prior approval from the family. SOBA America normally hopes our deceased brother or his family will dress him in his official SOBA America Attire. 8 Pallbearers will be provided white gloves and red lapel roses. Black shoes are encouraged. While only six carry casket in most cases, two act as backup and to carry the picture of our fallen brother or our flag. It is very strongly recommended that the pallbearers respect the dress code to the letter. It is the least we can do as we bid our final goodbye. The casket will be draped with our SOBA America flag during some segments of the funeral. Sobans and ex-students who don't have our official attire should wear blue-black suits, white shirts and red ties so they can blend in when we line up. Colors closest to our official attire are encouraged. SOBA America's President will speak on behalf of SOBA America.

Arrival at Events:

SOBANS are expected to arrive before all guests and assist the family and chapter were necessary. Given the role SOBANS play in executing this protocol, SOBANS are expected to be at each event one hour before the official start time.

Execution of Entry and Exit of Casket:

Pallbearers will put and take out the casket from the hearse with the assistance of funeral home personnel. **Once the casket arrives church, SOBANS will line up on both sides of the casket(hearse) all the way to the front of the church were the casket will be laid.** The spacing between each SOBAN will be adjusted to ensure we cover the length the casket has to travel. SOBANS on each side of the casket must line up with SOBANS on the other side in a uniform manner. Our Right hands will be placed on our hearts and singing of our fight song (St. Joseph song) if no other music is planned. All SOBANS will be seated at the reserved seats for SOBANS at the front of the church. This will facilitate our assistance and participation in the Goodbye Protocol. The family can conveniently occupy one of the front areas while we occupy another.

During the exit after service, SOBANS will line up in the same way until the exit of the casket. SOBANS will break away from their positions only when given the signal by Marshals that the casket is being loaded onto the hearse. Once again, SOBANS are expected to be singing if there is no music accompanying the procession. Our right hands placed on our hearts whenever we are singing.

Once the hearse in ready to go, It will wait for SOBANS to line up in a formation which will permit us to sing one last time for our fallen brother as the casket drives past SOBANS

on both sides of the road. In the event where driving space does not permit a good drive, the parking lot will be used to maximize the final goodbye drive in front of all SOBANS. SOBANS will line up at about equal distances between each other on both sides of the road, right hands on their hearts as we sing our fight song (With Saint Joseph ever near to guide us). We will remain in our positions even after the hearse has passed. We will leave our positions when signaled by our Marshals/Coordinators after the hearse has left the parking area. Marshals will be recognized by the red lapel rose pins.

SOBANLY

Bertrand Fote
President - SOBA America
Your Servant-in-Chief