

## Freedom of the City

Now receive this benediction:

Blessed are you Almighty and Ever-loving Creator, source of all wisdom and understanding, ruler of all this is, ever was and will be. By your command all things came into being and nothing is beyond your reach.

We are thankful for all the gifts that you have given us for use in the betterment of this, your world. We are especially thankful for these women and men of the SALH, Alberta's regiment, who have offered their lives in service to their country. We are thankful for their willingness to utilize their gifts and their very lives for peacekeeping and protection of this country and the values which it cherishes.

Today is a special day, a time of recognition for this Alberta's regiment as the City of Edmonton recognizes their qualities, their trustworthiness, their honesty, their loyalty, their integrity and their commitment to peace and the betterment of all people. Today we should all feel a sense of pride in this accomplishment. We must also remember them that we didn't make it here alone, that there were many women and men who helped along the way – many who came before us in this regiment and we need to give our thanks to those committed soldiers.

Thus we also remember before You in this moment our departed comrades. We recall with reverence the good deeds they accomplished. We honor these who fought a good fight in a just cause—comrades both in war and in peace who have served this regiment and this Country with dignity and with honor. May they rest in peace. (a moment of silence) We ask your blessing on our City, Province and Country; and to the ideals and principles and hopes of those whom we remember, who have served faithfully and are now at rest.

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Almighty God, help us to remember that freedom does not automatically perpetuate itself, that we have to work at it, nurture it, protect it, and pray for it. Freedom, like faith, needs our attention and our cooperation. God, be with us now to strengthen us; about us, to keep us; above us, to protect us; beneath us, to uphold us; before us, to direct us; behind us, to keep us from straying; and round about us, to defend us.

Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon them O God, Guard them under the shadow of your holy and precious cross in peace. Deliver them from enemies visible and invisible. Make them worthy of the name you have given us all, beloved children of God

Go now, and live as children of the light. Put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. Make the most of all God has given you and encourage one another in Christ. And may God's hand be open to you in kindness;

May God welcome you into his joy; And may God fill you with courage, vigilance, and faithfulness. Go in peace Alberta's Regiment, to love and serve God, you have made us all proud!

[City Chaplain adds his part]

[In unison ]

## **Freedom of the City**

The Lord Bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his countenance towards you and grant you peace.  
Amen.