



**FRANKLIN-SLOAN
POST 7383
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
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Brookdale Flag Retirement at VFW POST 7383 April 30, 2018

Throughout this Nation's history, America's Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard have bravely answered the call to defend our freedom, to aid our friends and allies, and to turn back aggressors.

We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000 American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million who were wounded. We can, however, recognize and thank the 25 million veterans still living today.

The price of freedom is high. We cannot afford to forget those willing to pay it.

With this Flag Retirement Ceremony today, we celebrate America's veterans for keeping this Nation "the land of the free and the home of the brave." We celebrate veterans, and current and future service men and women. VFW POST 7383 gives special thanks to the residents and staff of Brookdale for recognizing the meaning of the Flag and for their participation in this ceremony today.

The Flag has been carried in every battle during our short history. It is displayed by Americans everywhere. It is only fitting that we take the time to retire worn flags that have completed their service representing our great nation and everything it stands for.

The flag from Brookdale will be placed on the fire to represent all flags to be retired today. We will then recite the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to reflect on loved ones lost.