

Ceremonial lowering of flag marks end of repatriations through Wootton Bassett

A special Sunset Ceremony will mark the end of repatriations through Wootton Bassett's High Street on Wednesday 31st August.

The ceremony will reflect the simple and dignified manner of repatriations, and will involve the lowering of the Union Flag as the sun sets, the same flag that will have flown at half mast for the last fallen serviceman to be repatriated into RAF Lyneham.

Starting at 8.00 pm, it will be led by Mayor of Wootton Bassett, Councillor Paul Heaphy and The Reverend Canon Thomas Woodhouse, Chaplain of the Wootton Bassett branch of the Royal British Legion.

The moving words of The Exhortation will be recited before the flag is blessed and the ceremony brought to a close.

QUOTE FROM PAUL

The flag will be transported to Oxfordshire the following day to be presented as a symbolic gesture from the people of Wootton Bassett to the people of Oxfordshire, who, sadly, may see fallen service personnel repatriated into RAF Brize Norton.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Sunset Ceremony, which will be a final gathering of the town to remember those who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to reflect upon the passing of a profoundly significant era for the people of Wootton Bassett.

-ENDS-

Words

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

THE EXHORTATION

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them

Response: We will remember them.

[2 MINUTES SILENCE]

When you go home tell them of us and say -

For your tomorrow we gave our today