

We are gathered here to join in prayer for our friend, brother, uncle ... Robert Dougherty.

Primarily we are here to accompany Robert on the last leg of his eternal journey ... to accompany him with our prayers ... and to show our love for him ... and to honor him with our presence.

Robert served in the US Military, worked at the Saginaw Waterworks, and enjoyed the company of family and friends.

He now goes on to join those who have preceded him in death. And we help him ... and honor him ... with our prayers.

There is a song, the tune or melody is known as “Butterfield’s Lullaby.” It’s a musical piece sounded at dusk on a bugle ... used particularly by the military. It is also used at military funerals.

This song, is titled “Taps” ... and while we may have heard the melody, I’m not sure if we know the lyrics. They are:

*Day is done, gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh.*

*Fading light dims the sight
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright
From afar, drawing near
Falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise for our days
Neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky
As we go, this we know
God is nigh.*

We give thanks to God for the life of Robert; and we pray for him ... even as he now prays for us. Our love for him is the one thing that can never change, and unites us with him in this life and the next.

And so, let us continue our prayers for him ... giving “*Thanks and praise*” for the days we spent with him in the past, and the hope of eternal life; for “[a]s we go, *this we know*” ... “*God is nigh.*”

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.