

We are gathered here today to honor Roy Eagle, husband, father, brother, grandfather, and friend. But more than honoring him for a life well-lived, we join together in prayer to accompany Roy on his final journey into eternity.

Roy was born here in Saginaw, and went to school at St. Mary's - just up the road. He married his wife of 46 years just a bit south of here at Queen of Angels, again in Saginaw. He was a hard worker, and loved the outdoors.

He served in the United States Army National Guard. And later, when military honors are rendered, we will hear a melody played which in its current form was composed by Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield, a Civil War general, and a Medal of Honor recipient. The tune, sometimes known as "Butterfield's Lullaby" is more commonly known as "Taps."

What may not be so commonly known is that it has lyrics ... words ... some of which I'd like to read for our reflection:

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

*Then goodnight, peaceful night;  
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright.  
God is near, do not fear,  
Friend, goodnight.*

Indeed, many more things can be said about Roy, who rode over 700 miles on his mountain bike last year. He was also a General Class Amateur Radio Operator. In the traditions of Ham Radio, operators who have passed away, are known poignantly as "Silent Keys" within the amateur radio community.

Our memories may fade with time, but the love and friendship we shared with Roy will last forever. May this be our consolation and foster our hope of being reunited with Roy some day in eternity with Christ.

Eternal rest ...