

BENEDICTION

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, we praise You and thank You for your divine Providence in the foundation and growth of our nation, under your benevolent protection. You inspired our Country's third president to establish this Military Academy as the premier institution of excellence for the moral, intellectual, and physical development of Soldier-leaders, educated and trained to honorably defend our citizens and dutifully guard the peace among all peoples.

Lord, in your grace, we "Old Soldiers never die." Yet, as we do "fade away" from active duty on earth, we ask that You continue to bless and inspire current and future members of the Long Gray Line. May those who visit this [magnificent] center of learning, with its treasury of knowledge, appreciate the sacrifices of the many faithful and generous souls who made it possible; and may they leave here with a renewed devotion to You, O God, to our Country, and to the United States Military Academy.

Gracious God, may your kingdom come in its fullness and your Will be done on earth as in heaven; so that your Christ might reign as King of all hearts and bestow his abundant blessings of liberty and justice, mercy and peace, upon all here below. We pray these things in your most Holy Name. Amen.

Father Michael J. Cerrone III, USMA Class of 1968