

How to perform a *Final 7-3*

When a beloved ham passes away, many find it awkward to say something about the person on the air, and so we tend to avoid mentioning anything about the now silent key. You might instead want to honor him or her by a small ritual called the *Final 7-3*. It's an on-air ceremony patterned after the way police and public safety do it. Here's a recommended version, all spoken by a single person (Net Control, who is KI7XYZ), often as part of a roll-call net, or sometimes during an appropriate moment in a funeral service (it's traditional for all to stand.)

Key up, and say the following slowly, clearly, and reverently (in **red**):

In honor of our good friend, John Doe KI7ABC, who is now silent key

<un-key, then pause three seconds>

KI7ABC, John Doe

<un-key, then pause three seconds>

KI7ABC, John Doe

<un-key, then pause three seconds>

No contact. John Doe, KI7ABC, silent key. May you rest in peace. Seven-three. KI7XYZ.

And that's it.