



# MEMORIAL SERVICE

an open ceremony  
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# MEMORIAL SERVICE

*This service is written to be either open or private, as the Chapter may decide. It may be used as an annual ceremony to commemorate the death of all the members of the Chapter who died during the year, or it may be used for each brother who passes away. It is obvious that the wording must be changed to fit the situation if the memorial is for more than one deceased brother, as will probably be the case in most services.*

*Required Parts: Master Councilor: M.C., Senior Councilor: S.C., Junior Councilor: J.C., Chaplain: Ch., Orator: O., Senior Deacon: S.D., Seven Preceptors: 1P-7P.*

*Required Paraphernalia: Gavel on M.C.'s pedestal; Holy Bible open on Altar; school books on Northeast corner of Altar; the following flowers:*

- M.C. opening rose of any color
- J.C. full blown rose of any color
- S.C. immortelles (fern or evergreen)
- S.D. sprig of evergreen
- 1P violets
- 2P white lily
- 3P white rose
- 4P rosemary (or any kind of evergreen)
- 5P jasmine (or other yellow flower)
- 6P any white flower
- 7P red rose;

*The Councilors' flowers on their respective pedestals; red and yellow ribbons on Altar.*

*Optional Paraphernalia: Seven candlesticks with candles, Chapter banner in a standard, both situated as on Diagram One; Altar cloth; pedestal covers; baton for Mar.; pedestals at right of each Prec.'s station for appropriate flowers; pedestal at left of S.D.'s station for appropriate flowers.*

**M.C.** \* (rap)

**M.C.** Brethren, we are called upon to pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of a brother who has gone. A place once filled is now vacant. A chair once occupied is now empty. A voice once heard in this Chapter is forever silent to mortal ears. A form familiar to our eyes will never be seen on earth again. Hands, whose helpful clasp cheered us in days gone by, are folded in the everlasting rest. It is fitting, therefore, that we should pause, no matter how engrossing our duties, and pay to our departed brother the tribute due his memory.

*Suggested music cue:*

**M.C.** Brother Scribe, you will call the roll of our Chapter.

*M.C. sits down.*

*Scribe starts as though to call the complete roll, beginning with the M.C., S.C., and J.C., who answer "Here." The name of the deceased is called and there is*

*no answer; a second time, and a third time, with no response. After the third time the M.C. rises and says:*

**M.C.** Brethren, we call upon our brother. There is no reply, but I answer that though his voice is silent in death and his form absent to mortal vision, yet he is here. He is here in the loving memory of his comrades. He is here in the sorrowing remembrance that can never forget. He is here in every cheery, helpful word he spoke, in kindly deeds he wrought, in the brotherly affection that beamed from his eye and in the warm clasp of his hand. He is here in the example of his loyal, clean, filial and patriotic young life. We call his name but he does not speak. We look to the place he filled, but he is not there. We stretch out our hands for the olden greeting, but they fall empty to our sides. Yet the eyes of faith see him, the ears of faith hear his voice, and we are persuaded that we shall again greet him in another world. In the name of that faith, therefore, I answer that he is here.

You will pay heed to the Orator.

*M.C. sits down.*

**O.** *Reads Ecclesiastes, 12th Chapter, 1st to 7th verses:*

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;  
While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain;

In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened;

And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;  
Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail;  
because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets;

Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

**M.C.** \* \* \* (3 raps)

*All stand.*

**M.C.** Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

*All lights except the candles and Altar spot are dimmed.*

*Ch. unescorted goes to Altar, moving X Z I J. Ch. halts at point J, faces East and takes one step toward Altar. As Ch. leaves his station all Active DeMolays in the East and S.C. and J.C. descend to floor level.*

**M.C.** Active DeMolays will kneel on left knee. All others will remain standing.

*All Active DeMolays kneel in unison as Ch. kneels.*

**Ch.** Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the comforting assurance of the faith implanted in our hearts, without which we would indeed sorrow as those without hope. We mourn the departure of a comrade dear to us. His soul has gone to Thee and Thou art love and mercy without bounds. We invoke the consolation of Thy grace upon all those to whom

our brother was near and dear, and especially upon the family circle now broken, its bright hopes unrealized and its loving dream unfulfilled. We pray that Thou wilt help us to learn the lesson of such a life as our brother lived among us and that we may strive, as he, to mold our lives in accord with Thy holy will. Amen.

**ALL** Amen.

*Ch. and all Active DeMolays rise. Ch. takes one step backward away from Altar, faces North, moves J K V Z X, faces West. As Ch. leaves Altar all Active DeMolays in the East and S.C. and J.C. return to daises. Lights raised to full.*

**M.C.** \* (rap)

*All except M.C. sit down.*

**M.C.** Brethren, flowers have been for untold ages the symbol of all the holiest emotions of the soul. They are the mute but eloquent voices that express what the halting tongue cannot put in words. They are the perfumed music, the fragrant poetry, the petaled picture and the nodding sculpture that combine the beauty of all the arts, speaking the universal language that the most beknighted and the most civilized have always understood. They lend their sweet ministry to the bed of suffering, dulling its sharpest pangs. They give their promise of hope and happiness at the Holy Altar where marriage vows are pledged. They speak a thousand messages along the path of life and they bloom on the very brink of the grave, emblems of the unwithering gardens that bloom in the world to come. Brother Senior Deacon, what tribute do you bring to our memorial Altar?

*M.C. sits down.*

*S.D. takes sprig of evergreen, moves X Z U O, places it on Altar.*

**S.D.** As it is the duty of my office to open the door of our Chapter to those who seek admission to our circle, I lay on the Altar of memory this sprig of evergreen, emblematic of the everlasting Chapter into which our brother has entered through the opened door of death.

*Suggested music cue:*

*S.D. faces East, moves O U Z X, faces West, sits down.*

*As S.D. sits down, M.C. rises, takes opening rose, moves X U O, places it on Altar.*

**M.C.** From the station of the rising sun, symbol of the morn of life, I bring this opening rose and lay it on the Altar of memory in token of the young manhood that passed in the morning years, while the dews of life still lingered on them and the hidden promise was unfulfilled.

*M.C. faces East, moves O U X, faces West.*

**M.C.** Brother Junior Councilor, what tribute do you bring to our memorial Altar?

*M.C. sits down.*

*J.C. takes full-blown rose, moves X L N O, faces West, places it on Altar.*

**J.C.** From the station of the meridian sun, symbol of the noon of life, I bring this full-blown rose, and lay it on the Altar of memory in token of the manhood years which our brother never reached, but of whose ripened fullness his life gave such abundant promise.

*J.C. faces South, moves O N L X, faces North, sits down.*

**M.C.** Brother Senior Councilor, what tribute do you bring to our memorial Altar?

*M.C. sits down.*

*S.C. takes immortelles, moves X D J, places spray on Altar.*

**S.C.** From the station of the setting sun, symbol of the eve of life, I bring this spray of immortelles, emblematic of the everlasting day that follows the night of life. Our brother lived well the years allotted to him and our faith has lighted a beacon which guided him over the dark waters of death and enables us to see him through the eyes of hope, on the farther shore, where there is no twilight or setting sun.

*Suggested music cue:*

*S.C. faces West, moves J D X, faces East, sits down.*

**M.C.** Brethren, virtues are the flowers in the garden of life which give it beauty and fragrance, as weaknesses are the tares, and sin the thorns that give it suffering and pain. Brother Preceptors, (*Precs. do not rise*) our brother wore worthily the Crown of Youth you committed to his keeping. What tributes do you bring to our memorial Altar?

*M.C. sits down.*

*1P. rises, takes violets from pedestal, moves X Z N O, faces West, places them on Altar.*

**1P.** I lay these violets of sweet affection on the Altar of memory in token of our brother's filial devotion. He was a good son and the memory of this virtue is one of the consolations which will, as time goes by, lighten the sorrow of those nearest and dearest to him.

*1P. faces South, moves O N Z X, faces North, sits down. As 1P sits down, 2P. rises, takes lily from pedestal, moves X Z I J, places it on Altar.*

**2P.** I lay this stainless lily of the resurrection on the Altar of memory in token of our brother's reverence for sacred things and his profound faith that the dead shall live again. His trust in God was abiding; he loved the companionship of the good and in the holy places of worship he found peace and joy.

*2P. faces South, moves J I Z X, faces North, sits down. As 2P. sits down, 3P. rises, takes white rose from pedestal, moves X Z D J, places it on Altar.*

**3P.** I lay this rose of white, emblem of chivalry and an untarnished shield, on the Altar of memory in token of our brother's courtesy, the crowning bloom of human character. This truly charming virtue refined his life and gave it a beauty which is the flower of that knightliness which flourishes today as in the days of tented fields and tournaments of courage and skill. He was a truly knightly soul, for his was the rare courtesy that makes knights of all who are kind and gentle, patient, considerate and refined.

*3P. faces West, moves J D Z X, faces East, sits down. As 3P. sits down, 4P. rises, takes sprig of rosemary from pedestal, moves X Z D J, places sprig on Altar.*

- 4P.** I lay this sprig of rosemary, emblem of remembrance, on the Altar of memory in token of our brother's spirit of comradeship. He was a loyal friend and brother to the members of our Order. His handclasp was strong and true, and his comradeship was worthy of our precepts, for it exemplified itself in his every act and thought and word. As a comrade he will be most sincerely mourned and his place in our circle can never be completely filled.

*4P. faces West, moves J D Z X, faces East, sits down. As 4P. sits down, 5P. rises, takes jasmine from pedestal, moves X Z K J, faces East, places it on Altar.*

- 5P.** I lay this yellow jasmine, symbol of constancy, on the Altar of memory in token of our brother's fidelity. He was true to the letter and spirit of the obligation he assumed at our Altar and to every unspoken vow of duty. He strove earnestly at all times to live up to his conception of what a right-thinking and right-living young man should be, and the motto of his life might well have been "Semper Fidelis," for he was ever faithful to every trust reposed in him.

*5P. faces North, moves J K Z X, faces South, sits down. As 5P. sits down, 6P. rises, takes white flower from pedestal, moves X Z K J, faces East, places it on Altar.*

- 6P.** I lay this white flower of purity on the Altar of memory in token of our brother's cleanness of body, heart and mind. Our circle held no finer type of clean-living, clean-thinking, clean-speaking young manhood, and this flower is the most fitting symbol of the purity and beauty of his life.

*6P. faces North, moves J K Z X, faces South, sits down. As 6P. sits down, 7P. rises, takes red rose from pedestal, moves X Z P O, faces West, places it on Altar.*

- 7P.** I lay this red rose of courage on the Altar of memory in token of our brother's love of country. Though he was not called upon to offer his life in its defense, he represented the highest type of patriotic young American manhood. Our flag had no more devoted lover and had it needed him, it would have had no braver defender.

*7P. faces North, moves O P Z X, faces South, sits down. M.C. rises, moves X U O.*

- M.C.** Brethren, you have heard the tributes to our departed brother and have seen the symbolic flowers laid upon the Altar of memory in token of his virtues. I bind them together with the cord of loving remembrance.

*Suggested music cue:*

*M.C. ties them with yellow and red ribbons of the Order.*

- M.C.** I lay these flowers upon our Altar as a votive offering in this temple of holy things. This memorial garland is a pledge we give to the dead to be true to the principles to which he was faithful and a vow we make to the living to strive to deserve the same tribute if we should be called by death. Let us, around this sacred Altar, rededicate and reconsecrate ourselves to the teachings of our Order. The brethren of this Chapter will rise and repeat "I do so promise and vow."

*Done.*

- M.C.** May we go forth from this place restrengthened in every fine, pure purpose that animates a DeMolay. These flowers will wither in a few short hours. Their fragrance will pass away

and their petals become but perfumed dust. They are only symbols of things that live forever. Let us take with us through the days and years to come the lessons they teach. Thus shall our lives become gardens where the fleeting flowers of earth shall never wither or decay.

*M.C. faces East, moves O U X, faces West.*

**M.C.** Brethren, we place our right hand over our heart in token of our fidelity to the principles to which he subscribed and as a symbol that he will always live in our hearts. We invoke the divine favor upon all who held him near and dear, and we bow to the majesty of death and to the inscrutable will of our Heavenly Father...

*M.C. raises his right hand in benediction.*

**M.C.** ... and may God sanctify to us all the lessons of this hour.

\* (rap)

*M.C. sits down.*

*Suggested music cue:*

*A short address may be given at this time.*

**M.C.** This concludes our memorial service for Brother \_\_\_\_\_.

*Officers may march out. If the service is held for but one brother, let the flowers be given to the mother, if she be present.*

# APPENDIX

## Pronouncing Glossary

abundant	ə-bŭn'dənt. Plentiful.
animate	ăn'ə-māt'. To fill with spirit.
brink	brīngk. An edge; the point at which something begins.
chivalry	shĭv'əl-rē. Customs of knighthood such as bravery, honor, and courtesy.
cistern	sĭs'tərn. A receptacle for holding water or other liquids.
consolation	kŏn'sə-lā'shən. Something that gives relief or comfort.
constancy	kŏn'stən-sē. Being faithful to purposes.
eloquent	ĕl'ə-kwənt. Movingly expressive, as in speech.
engrossing	ĕn-grŏ'sĭng. Occupying one's complete attention.
exemplify	ĭg-zĕm'plə-fĭ'. To illustrate by example.
filial	fĭl'ē-əl. Of, relating to, or befitting a son or daughter.
fleeting	flē'tĭng. Passing quickly.
garland	gār'lənd. A wreath of flowers, used as a decoration.
immortelles	ĭm'ŏr-tĕlz'. Flowers that retain their shape and color when dried.
inscrutable	ĭn-skrŭ'tə-bəl. Difficult to understand; mysterious.
nigh	nĭ. Near.
pangs	păngz. Sudden sharp spasms of pain.
reconsecrate	rē-kŏn'sĭ-krāt'. To rededicate solemnly to a service or goal.
resurrection	rĕz'ə-rĕk'shən. The state of one who has returned to life.

sanctify	sǎngk'tə-fī'. To bless; to purify.
Semper Fidelis	sēm'pær-fī-děl'īs. Latin for "always faithful".
spray	sprā. A small branch bearing buds or flowers.
sprig	sprīg. A twig of a plant.
tares	târz. Unwelcome elements; weeds.
votive	vō'tiv. Given in fulfillment of a vow or pledge.
wrought	rôt. Worked on; created.