

O. E. S. GRAND
CHAPTER LIBRARY INSTALLATION NIGHT SPEECH - KEYNOTE "SERVICE"

21
F. 20

Salutation, --- --- ---, (Installing Officers, members, guest, etc., --to suit yourself.)

I want the first words I shall speak, from my newly acquired station in the East, to be words of thanks and appreciation.

I wish to thank each and every one who has had any part in this lovely installation. You have given me a wonderful evening which I shall always remember.

The perfect work of the Installing Officers has formed the fundamental outline for the picture which I shall always cherish in my memory of this--my installation night. The decorations, the lovely flowers, the members and friends who are present have provided rich and glowing colors for my picture. For this I thank you, too.

Since my election to this office, I have given thought to the selection of a motto or watchword for this ensuing year, because I have felt it would be helpful to have one. I have decided that the one thing which is of utmost importance to us all and to our order is SERVICE, for Service is the main reason for our order's and chapter's existence and growth.

The dictionary defines service as "duty done" -- "an office of devotion and love". As Worthy Matron of this chapter, I realize that I shall have an enormous field for service because I shall have ample room and opportunity for the performance of labor and service for and an office of devotion and Love to others.

Service is demonstrated to us each time some one performs an act for our benefit. It is made manifest to us in new friendships, through affections, by comfort in sorrow and sickness, support in time of need, and protection through united efforts against oppression and wrong.

I realize that selfishness, arrogance, lack of interest, and indifference are enemies of Service, and I hope that we shall be eager in our endeavor to eliminate these should they try to exist.

In our Order throughout the year, I shall strive to give service accompanied by Love and Loyalty--Love for our Order, Love for one another, and Loyalty to our principles, loyalty to each other.

I thank you again for all you have done for me and for this chapter tonight. I hope you will all aid me in my new obligation; for then we shall not fail in our Service, in our Love, or in our Loyalty.

So--let us this year,
Be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Good achieving, Truth pursuing,
Let us labor, watch, and wait.

* * * *

THIS IS MY CREED

(This poem would be good on the program--if you have a printed one)

Service for others--not for ourselves,
That is the way we should live.
Turning our thoughts from the center within,
And, striving our utmost to give
A hand where it's wanted--a word of cheer,
A gift or a lift or a smile;
Trying to get other people to think
That though life is hard, it's worthwhile.

Service for others, it's easy to say,
But harder to carry out.
We know we're God's children, and like to appear
Unselfish, sincere and devout;
But, if we're absorbed in our own little lives,
And blind to the other man's need,
In spite of professions--it proves we've missed
The point of fulfilling God's Creed.
--Selected.