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MY THANKS TO YOU
Retiring Matron's Thanks To Officers

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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
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Worthy Matron - As we come to the close of another year's work in our Order, I find myself unable to express to you my appreciation for your many acts of kindness and for the sincere cooperation which I have received from you as officers and members of this Chapter. I want to thank you for making it possible for me to serve as your Worthy Matron. It has been an experience which has broadened and enriched my life. If through my efforts any member has been made to realize more clearly the teachings of our Order, I shall feel that my work has not been in vain. If any success has been mine, I am sure it has been because of the hearty cooperation which you have given me at all times, and for this I am grateful.

I am especially indebted to the officers and all other members who have served so faithfully on committees the past year. Your earnest effort to assist me at all times, and your hearty cooperation will always be a lasting and happy memory to me. You have truly helped to lighten the burden of active duty, and for this I thank you.

I've found that friends are wonderful, so loyal and sincere,
Friends share with us what life can bring, friends who are always dear,
For there's no gift more precious, and there is no joy more true,
Than just the thought that I do have such loyal friends as you.

To the elective officers may I say that the close of the year has become a reality. One year ago you were elected because we had faith in you. Now we can truly say, "Well done. You have been most faithful."

Whatever your wishes, I hope they'll come true,
Whatever you plan for, I hope you can do;
Whatever your efforts, I wish you success,
And may life give you always a great happiness.

To my Star points - You are the floral center of our Chapter. You have been most loyal, and for this I thank you.

To make a lovely garden, it takes rain, and sun, and dew,
To make a lovely Chapter, it takes Star points just like you;
It takes the blue of Heaven to make the violets grow,
It takes the rain, and sunshine too, for jessamines to show;
The lily with it's lovely white was not made in a day,
The mossy green of lacy ferns slowly grow along the way;
The rose unfurled it's petals fair to a lovely crimson hue,
And the love you shared with us each day we wish to share with you;
For the lovely garden of our Star you have watched with greatest care,
You have given all with kindness for the flowers of life grow there.

To my other appointive officers - You have been most loyal to me through the year. I do not have words to express to you my appreciation for your kindness. You have rendered valuable service to this Chapter, and for this we are grateful.

I tried to think of words to say,
That you have been so true,
But all my words just seem to small
To fit such friends as you;
To say just what I want to say,
My words will never do,
So I must say with all my heart
Just simply "I thank you."

To the incoming officers -- My best wishes are with you for a year of success and happiness. You will find loyal friends to help you, and I am sure that the coming year will bring many joys to you.

We speak few words when the heart is full,
And these words seem empty when spoken,
But a prayer for you in my heart I'll keep,
For joys that will never be broken.

In closing, may I say to members and friends:-

I've tried to give my very best,
And my best has been poor enough,
But if I have faltered along the way,
It was times when the road was rough;
I hope you can say that I did my part,
That I shouldered my every test,
I hope you can feel that I stuck to the wheel,
That I tried to do my best.

I want to feel as the days go by
That what you have done for me,
Has been a part coming from the heart,
That was given full and free;
I want to know as the years go by
That the ties of the past hold true,
For deep in my heart, I have set apart,
A place that I'll keep for you.

As soon as retiring Matron is through speaking, two helpers approach the East. The Worthy Matron gives each a basket in which has been placed gifts or flowers. These helpers pass outside of labyrinth, one north and one south, and present gifts or flowers to officers in passing. As these are presented, soloist sings:-

Song - Tune: Close To Thee (Hymn)

For your many acts of kindness,
For your help all the year through,
For the service you have given,
May I give my thanks to you.

Chorus: Thanks to you, thanks to you,
Thanks to you, thanks to you,
For the service you have given,
Let me now say I thank you.

May success be near your pathway,
May your friends be ever true,
May all joys be yours forever,
Is my daily wish for you.

Chorus: (Repeat)

Thanks for Past Matrons Jewel:-

I want to thank you sincerely for your kind words, and for this most beautiful gift. I am indeed happy to be eligible to wear it. I appreciate it not only because of its intrinsic value, but because of the motive which prompted the gift, and because it carries with it your love and your loyalty. It shall always be one of my most cherished treasures because it is a gift from the members of my Chapter. I thank you sincerely.

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