

Folder 32
#17A

ETERNAL SPRINGTIME

Memorial Service

N. Dak. Grand Chapter, 1982

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

In this sacred hour of our NATURE: EVER CONSTANT SESSION, we
pause to pay loving tribute to the memory of those Sisters and brothers
who have passed Beyond the Sunset to the beauty of God's ETERNAL
SPRINGTIME. This service is not intended to bring sadness to our hearts,
but merely to encourage tender memories and to strengthen our Faith.
We believe in the immortality of the human soul. All about us NATURE
throbs with ETERNITY, the LESSON OF LIFE NEVER Ending. We see this in
the mighty Ocean and in the changeless majesty of the HILLS. It is
revealed to us in the beauty of bud and blossom, and in the rhythm of
the SEASONS; in the serenity of the STARS. For every WINTER there is
a SPRINGTIME; for every soul who walks by FAITH there is an ETERNAL
SPRINGTIME.

Those whom we honor today walked with us for a time and now have
attained the ETERNAL SPRINGTIME OF A GREATER LAND.

(Grand Conductress, Assoc. Grand Conductress and Grand Chaplain
approach the altar. The Grand Conductress carries the Altar cloth
and with the aid of the Assoc. Gr. Conductress drapes the Altar
while the Chaplain removes the Bible, holds it and then replaces
it when Altar is draped. When the Narrator has completed
reading the verse the Grand Conductresses step back into the
circle of Star Officers between Esther and Martha and Esther and
Ruth.)

NARRATOR:

"As we drape the Altar gently
For the loved ones gone before,
Who have crossed the Silent River
And arrived on the Golden Shore
We shall see them in His likeness
When we, too, have passed beyond....
Hand in hand around God's Altar
When our work on earth is done."

(Worthy Grand Matron calls up the Grand Chapter, Grand Chaplain kneels at the Altar and offers a prayer:)

GRAND CHAPLAIN:

Our Father who art in Heaven, as our thoughts turn to our dear departed members; give us the strength and the courage to continue with unfaltering efforts to do the work which is left for our hands to do. We thank Thee for the lives of our departed loved ones and in honor of their memory may we consecrate ourselves anew to Thy service. Comfort those who mourn, and give them faith to believe that there is no death; for after the SUNSET comes the DAWN of a new day with Life Everlasting.
Amen.

(Grand Conductresses and Grand Chaplain return to their stations while soft music is played.)

WORTHY GRAND PATRON:

Grand Secretary, you will place on our sacred Altar the scroll on which is engraved the names of those who have departed this world since our last Grand Chapter.

(Grand Secretary rises, carrying Scroll and walks toward West, entering the labyrinth between Grand Esther and Grand Ruth; places Scroll on Altar.) (As Grand Secretary goes to the Altar the Narrator will read the Psalm 121.)

NARRATOR:

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

(As the Grand Secretary places the Scroll on the Altar the Worthy Grand Patron says: *Then returns to her station.*)

WORTHY GRAND PATRON:

In loving memory of the dear departed members of General Grand Chapter, Other Grand Jurisdictions, Our own Past Grand Matrons, and Past Grand Officers and the members of the subordinate chapter of North Dakota we place this Scroll on the Altar of Remembrance.

SOLO: The Place Where I Worship is the Wide Open Spaces

Willian Syverson

TRIBUTE to Sister Isabel Flath, Past Grand Matron of North Dakota

TRIBUTE to Sister Laura Chernasek

FLORAL TRIBUTE OF THE STAR POINTS

(the Star Points all rise at the same time and remain at their stations until the Narrator mentions the color of their station, then each in her turn and advance to a position near the Altar. They each carry flowers in the color appropriate to her station.)

(Adah has flowers of blue)

NARRATOR:

Sister Adah's flowers of blue symbolize SPRING. "For Lo the snow is over and gone, the flowers appear on earth." It is the time of HOPE and PROMISE. We liken this Season to the Fidelity and faithful efforts of those dear members, who were true to their obligations, loyal in service and sincere in purpose.

(Ruth has flowers of yellow)

NARRATOR:

The glowing beauty and warmth of the SUMMER SUN are reflected in Sister Ruth's flowers, and the golden hues of the ripening grain. The sun and soft summer rain mirror the season of fulfillment. Yellow symbolizes CONSTANCY and the PATIENT INDUSTRY of our Past Matrons and Past Patrons who exemplified FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE to the DEMANDS of HONOR AND JUSTICE in service to our Order.

(Esther has flowers of white)

NARRATOR:

Soon the splendor of SUMMER gives way to AUTUM, producing a myriad bounty of God's gifts to us. In token of sincere affection for our SISTERS, Sister Esther lends her flowers of white. They symbolize the PURITY and JOY of dedication and the LOVE of KINDRED and FRIENDS that was manifest in the lives of OUR SISTERS who have gone before.

(Martha has flowers of green)

NARRATOR:

The WINTER Season brings wondrous frost and the continuing miracle of Snowflakes falling silently from the sky to weave a feather-like blanket upon the ground. Seedlings and bulbs are aslumber in deep repose awaiting the warm sweet breath of SPRING again. The Season of the EVERGREEN, NATURE'S LIFE and BEAUTY is Martha's tribute in honor of the BROTHERS who have entered upon their journey through Eternal Life.

(Electa has flowers of red)

NARRATOR:

Our dormant WINTER world will be called forth to life again and our FAITH in HEAVEN'S ETERNAL SPRING will be renewed. Sister Electa offers her flowers of red as a tribute of our LOVE and RESPECT for our FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS. Those GOLDEN STARS have more than exemplified the glory of LOVE in their SERVICE of TRUTH to God, to themselves and to our beautiful order.

As the links of the Golden Chain that represent our life on earth have fallen away in death, may they be joined again in the world where death comes not, BEYOND THE SUNSET, where it is ETERNAL SPRINGTIME.

(on the word joined the Star Points lay their flowers on the Altar; back away and return to their stations and are seated.)

WORTHY GRAND PATRON:

And so, we, too, have come full circle in our Grand Chapter Year; SPRING, SUMMER, AUTUMN, WINTER, SPRING. NATURE: EVER CONSTANT is a cycle of seasons; planting, growing, reaping, EVER CHANGING resting, planting. No one SEASON stands alone. No MAN stands alone. There is a continuity in all Seasons, in trees, in plants, in flowers and in Man.

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

The earth reawakens every morning with a feeling of HOPE and PROMISE; and every SEASON is a continuing miracle of Life. The greatness and goodness of God is evident in each day's SUNRISE and SUNSET. The Sunrise is a reminder that 'today is the first day of the rest of your life'. The Sunset is a radiant ending to any day, no matter how that day might have been. Let us go forth from this time of remembrance with renewed FAITH and HOPE that , we, too, may dwell some day BEYOND THE SUNSET , in the ETERNAL SPRINGTIME of GOD's tomorrow, with those who have gone before.

SOLO: Sunrise, Sunset

William Syverson

BENEDICTION by GRAND CHAPLAIN:

"The Lord support us all our day, 'til the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed; and the DAY IS DONE. Then bring us to a safe and quiet rest and peace at last."