

THE STAR OF MEMORY
O.E.S. Memorial Service
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Feeder 35

By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,
Hamilton, Missouri.

from Mrs. E. W. Juhnke, P.M.
Acacia Chapter No. 12
February 1st 1965
7:30
before regular meeting

Lights are lowered.

As some sacred hymn is played softly, the Secretary, Marshal, Chaplain, and Treasurer approach the Altar slowly, each with lighted candle, entering the labyrinth between Adah and Ruth, and Martha and Electa, respectively. Four members with candles may come from opposite direction at the same time, if desired, entering labyrinth between Ruth and Esther, and Esther and Martha, respectively. They place the lighted candles on the outer edge of the Altar, after which they return to their stations. *Back out to marching side. Turn & go to station.*

The Conductress approaches the Altar slowly, without music, and in the same manner as when opening the Bible. She carries on both hands a white pasteboard star, not less than 18 inches in diameter. (This star is very pretty edged in black). When within a few steps of the Altar, she bows, and speaks.

Conductress:

We pause in the quiet of this hour, to honor the memory of our departed members who have passed beyond the realm of human vision. (We realize that the burdens they once carried have passed from their shoulders to ours). As we come with our expression of sympathy, may we dedicate ourselves anew in the service of our Order, facing its problems with faith and courage. As I place this Star upon the Altar, may it be a loving tribute to the memory of those who have passed beyond the Golden Gates to join the Order above. (Places star on Altar and steps back to position between Ruth and Esther.)

Each Star point carries a point which fits a point in the large Star, and which corresponds in color to that of her station. These points may be decorated with flowers or crepe paper. If paper is used, make in form of flowers. As soon as Conductress steps back in position, each Star point approaches the Altar slowly, one at a time, or together as may be desired, and without music. After speaking, each places point in proper position. These points should be fastened to large Star with thumb tacks or rubber bands.

Adah:

As a token of memory, I bring my tribute for those who were true to their obligations by loyalty in service and sincerity of purpose. I place the blue upon our Star that it may symbolize the faithful efforts of our departed members.

Ruth:

Yellow symbolizes constancy. As we pass through the labyrinth of human life, we must be obedient to whatever station it may hold for us. In token of appreciation of those who were obedient to the demands of honor and justice, I deposit this tribute.

Esther:

In token of sincere affection, I place upon our Star the emblem of purity and light. It symbolizes the sincere motive, and love for

kindred and friends, that was made manifest in the lives of our departed members.

Martha:

Green is the symbol of immortality, and teaches us that there is no death. With the full assurance that our departed members have entered upon a glorious immortality, I deposit the green point of our Star.

Electa:

Red symbolizes fervency. In memory of those who were preeminent in charity, and heroic in the wrongs of persecution, I place upon our Star this tribute of love.

Star points return to stations.

Associate Conductress approaches the Altar. She carries the center of the Star in white.

Associate Conductress:

As I prepare candidates for the ceremony of initiation, I am reminded that this world is but a preparation room for the life that is to come. We realize that time brings many changes. Only a short time ago, we walked with those for whom we now mourn, and as we come with a tribute sacred to their memory, we are again reminded of the uncertainty of human life, and of our need to be true to each other, to our Obligation, and to our God. Upon our Star of Memory, have been placed the floral tributes of our Order, - the blue of faithfulness, the yellow of constancy, the white of loyalty, the green of immortality, and the red of love. We are kept in touch with these symbols only by the Divine guidance that radiates from the center of our Star, the Altar, upon which rests our Holy Bible. It is in this Word of Truth that we find comfort in our sorrow, and it is here we find the words of Jesus, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." It is here also we find His words, "Let not your heart be troubled, Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." May these words be a comfort to sad hearts in this hour. In loving memory of our departed ones, I complete our Star of Memory with the center of truth.

Associate Conductress places center in Star and returns to station. Chaplain kneels at Altar for prayer.

Prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the assurance of eternal life. We thank Thee for the companionship of those who walked with us for a time. We thank Thee for the blessed hope that beyond the Gates, our loved ones are living, guided by the light of our great Star. Comfort sad hearts in this hour, teach us to be loyal to each other, to be charitable to those in need, and above all else, our Father, grant us more faith. In the name of our Christ, we ask it.

Amen.

Chaplain steps back to position between Esther and Martha.

Solo:

No Night There.

At close of song, Associate Matron advances to Altar, takes Star on both hands, carries it to the East where she is met by the Worthy Matron, who takes the Star and places it in front of the dais. Officers return to stations.

If candles or Star cannot be placed upon the Altar, they may be placed on pedestal in front of dais or between dais and Altar.

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~~Before Regular meeting starts
Take out Star
Place Bible properly
Remove Candles from Altar~~