OUR ABSENT ONES

(7, Memorial Ceremony)

Published by
Lowness, Inc.

This ceremony may be given under the "Good of the Order" or just before or immediately after the closing of the chapter.

The Worthy Matron sounds gavel and Secretary rises.

SECRETARY:

Worthy Matron, each year new members are added and welcomed to our group; however, at the same time (one or however applies to your chapter) have answered the summons of Death's Angel.

During the past year of . . . . (several years if you desire), the names of . . . . . have been erased from our roll. Although they are no longer with us, their memory lingers on. Let us pause in remembrance and direct our thoughts to those members—"Our Absent Ones".

WORTHY MATRON 'ANSWERS:

It is fitting and right that this should be done. In the East where our lovely Star shines to give us light for our way, I decree that we shall pause in loving remembrance and deepest respect for those members of . . . . Chapter who have passed on during the year . . . . (or years)

ASSOCIATE MATRON ARISES AND SAYS:

When the effulgent sun sets in the West, the colorful rays of light cover the horizon with the glorious blaze of beauty; so it is with those 'Absent Ones' of ours whose memory we honor tonight.

Their goodness, kindness, courtesy, and grace shine brightly and will remain in our memory like the gorgeous, never-to-be-forgotten sunset.

Music: "In the Garden" or "Sweet By and By". Scholast, duet, choir may sing first verse.

Star points rise and face altar. Associate Matron, Sentinel, Associate Conductress, Treasurer, Secretary, and Marshal follow line of march indicated in Diagram I in formation of Star.

Conductress and Chaplain go to place indicated and stand within the Star formation. Conductress carries a basket of flowers or a spray of flowers to be placed on altar in memory of "Our Absent Ones".

Each Star Point carries a streamer—color appropriate to her point. This

Copyright Lowness, Inc. MCMXLVII
streamer may be of paper or ribbon and must be long enough to reach to the altar and make a point of appropriate color as per illustration.

As the officers go in toward the altar, they receive the ends of the colored streamers which they are to hold during memorial service.

When they retire to their stations, they place the ends on the altar, and the Star Points drop the streamer that they are holding so that the streamers fall loosely (to lie on the floor and to make a star outline around the altar).

When the officers are in position of Star formation:

ADAH SPEAKS:

Blue is the color of the sweet forget-me-not. It is also the color of the ray of the point of our Star which teaches that when we are faithful or obedient, we can face even death without fear.

In remembrance of those faithful ones who have passed on, we form this blue point in our Star.

RUTH SPEAKS:

The hours spent in service for those we love are as precious as gold. The companionship of dear ones satisfies our human longing; just as much as the golden grain satisfies our natural hunger.

May this yellow point of our Star bring a loving remembrance of the golden hours spent with our 'Absent Ones'. Our time together seems as beautiful as the setting sun's last ray which glides into the sick chamber for a last, long, lingering caress.

ESTHER SPEAKS:

White is the color emblematic of those who have washed in the blood of the lamb and have made their clothes as white as snow.

In the remembrance of those who were pure in heart and who lived above the tongue of reproach, we ask that each of us may live so that when we come into the presence of our Heavenly King, the golden sceptre of pardon may be extended to each one of us. We hope that we may win and wear an eternal crown of victory over evil.

MARtha SAYS:

The faith of Martha has sustained many a weary heart in its sorrow.

Martha's color is green--the hue used by Nature to express that which is alive.

In the Bible, it is written, 'Because I live, ye shall live also'--Though ye were dead, yet shall
ye live.'

May this green point of our Star remain as a symbol of our Faith in Life Eternal.

ELECTA:

The rose of Electa is red—as red as the precious blood which flowed from Calvary in order that all might be saved from death. Jesus died for us so that we might know that life is eternal.

Of the maid whom he raised from the dead, he said, 'She is not dead, but sleeps.' and he wakened her.

So it is with our Absent Ones.

The red ray of our Star teaches of a love which is constant and undying. This is the Love that we have for our 'Absent Ones'—those of us who have gone away.

Conductress advances to altar, places basket of flowers or spray there upon, and says:

In memory of our absent memers I place this spray or basket of flowers as a token of the love and respect which they have in our hearts.

We know that there is no death to such as these; neither darkness nor shadow of dark; only such a bright fading as the long shining gleam of a morning star.

For Jesus said, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.'

Conductress steps back to original position designated in diagram. Chaplain goes to altar and offers following prayer:

Dear God, we ask Thy blessing upon all who are assembled here this evening;

With loving hearts, chastened by grief, we ask Thee to give us patience in affliction, faith during separation, and courage for the sorrow which seems to enclose us.

Comfort those who have drunk from sorrow's cup,

Strengthen the weak—those weak in hope and faith; and grant that we may grow into a fuller knowledge and understanding of Thee. For to know Thee, God, is Life eternal.

We know that we can entrust to Thy Tender Care, all whom we have known and loved; and we hope to
grow in peace and understanding until we come into Thy Kingdom through a Knowledge of Thee.

All this we ask in the name of Him who taught us to pray: (In unison):

Our Father which art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power,
And the glory forever.' Amen.

All retire to stations to music suggested below.
Music: Chorus, duet, solo, or whatever talent your chapter provides may sing "No Night There" (In the land of fadeless days lies a city four-square, etc.) Or--a song "There is No Death" by Geoffrey O'Hare and published by Chappel-Harms, Inc., New York, would be very effective. Perhaps you or your chapter have another selection which you would prefer using at this time.

Members and officers are seated and memorial service is ended by blow of gavel.

Diagrams: