CLOCK OF LIFE
MEMORIAL SERVICE

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Sisters and Brothers, at this time (Name of chapter or association) deems it appropriate that honor be paid to those of our membership who have within the last (state time period) been called from the labors of this life to a land of peace and happiness.

The cycle of our Chapter life may be likened to a beautiful night when one star goes down and another rises.

Reader carrying a lighted candle enters to soft music, advances to a position in the center, in front of the Associate Matron, faces East, while the Worthy Matron recites the following lines:

WORTHY MATRON:

CLOCK OF LIFE

"The clock of life is wound but once
And no man has the power
To say just when the hands shall stop,
At late or early hour."

"And this brief journey that we know as life, must really be the gateway to a finer world – the vast Eternity."

Just why the all-seeing Power sees fit to still the clock for some at a certain hour, passing others by is a deeply shrouded mystery, a mystery which we can neither understand nor seek to fathom.

At this time the sisters of our Chapter desire in recognition of faithful and devoted service, to pay a loving tribute to the memory of those who have left for us so rich a heritage of fundamental virtues.

Participants with unlighted tapers, corresponding in number to those to be commemorated, enter by opposite doors, advance East via respectively North and South aisles until in line with Conductress' Station, where they advance to the altar, forming two rows facing each other.

Simultaneously the Reader times her approach to the West side of the altar.

PRESIDING OFFICER OR READER:

MEMORIAL POEM

Hour by hour, day by day,
Just as the river flows,
The stream of life is passing by,
Silently nearing its close.
None may know the appointed hour
    When the hands of life's clock will be stayed,
None may foresee when the glimmering light
    From a loved one's eyes will fade.

But we cherish a faith that beyond our ken
    A welcoming voice will say:
"Come thou up higher and be at rest"
    For such is the Master's way.

The conclusion of the poem is the signal for the Secretary to read the names of those members who have passed away during the interval since the last previous meeting.

To preserve the clock simile she may say as each name is read:

It was on (date of death) that the hands of Life's Clock were stilled for Sister or Brother (names). Add one of the obituary sentiments selected from the list on the last page of this ceremony. Attendant lights a corresponding taper as each name is read. Chaplain approaches the altar.

CHAPLAIN:

PRAYER

Dear Saviour, hear us as we pray
    Reverent at thy feet.
Grant us grace to know Thy way,
    Guide us, we entreat,

Silently the shifting sand
    Through the hour glass seeps,
As with slowly moving hand
    The Clock of Life its record keeps.

Help us to know that thy great heart
    That doeth all things best,
Within the shelter of thine arms
    Gives our beloved rest.

In all humility we ask it — Amen.

Song
Tune "Coin' home"

Eventide, eventide
    As the shadows fall,
At the still sunset hour,
    When loved voices call
Silently, tirelessly
    Swift the moments flee
As the clock the record files
    For all eternity.

The Worthy Matron calls up the Chapter and all stand with bowed heads.
This also is the signal for the participants to pick up the candles, turn West, and with bowed heads walk quietly out of Chapter room, while the Worthy Matron slowly repeats the poem:

**CLOCK OF LIFE**

"The Clock of Life is wound but once
And no man has the power
To know just where the hands will stop,
At late or early hour."

In case there has been perhaps a single death in the organization or even just a few, to make the service more impressive a group instead of an individual may participate.

**OBITUARY TRIBUTES FOR A SISTER**

She was a woman of rare attainments, of education, of culture, of high ideals and lofty aims.
Her labor was characterized by the wholehearted devotion to which she ever gave her utmost endeavor.
She possessed a high degree of courage, zeal and enthusiasm.
She was a woman who sought to teach others the higher, better things of life.
Her long continued service speaks far more eloquently than any eulogy or tribute.
When __________ came to the close of life's short day she had gained the love, companionship and confidence of her many friends.
Her passing leaves a void difficult to fill.
Through all the years she has not wavered from the high ideals we seek to maintain.

**FOR A BROTHER**

He was a faithful, loyal worker for the good of our Order, ever eager to aid in its advancement.
Brother __________, genial companionship and high ideals ever paid big dividends in the confidence and love of all who knew him.
He was always helpful and broadminded in our Eastern Star relations.
His goodness of heart and strong personality endeared him to us.
He gave of himself unsparingly whenever and wherever he found opportunity to serve the Order.
He achieved marked recognition because his sterling qualities and cheerful devotion have been invaluable in furthering and maintaining the dignity of our Order.
He was regarded as an example and an inspiration for the higher ideals of citizenship and this community sustained an irreparable loss in his passing.