MEMORIAL CEREMONY
The Altar of Memory

To begin the ceremony the Organist plays "Morning Has Broken".

As she begins the second verse the officers enter from the north and south doors with the Worthy Patron leading the officers on the north side and the Worthy Matron leading the south side. They assume their stations and the Worthy Matron seats the officers.

WORTHY MATRON: Sister Conductress, you will open the Bible.

WORTHY MATRON: Sisters and Brothers, we have met here at this hour to pause in our busy lives to pay honor to the memory of our departed members-----This is an HOUR OF MEMORY. We dedicate this time to the memory of the dear departed who, in days gone by, have met with us in the holy bonds of fraternity--to those departed members who once sat with us in this room and who were tied to us in the ties of fraternity. They walked these halls and joined with us in our work. They made the way easier for us who followed after them. So tonight we would remember them and pay tribute to their memory. And we will add to the number of our earlier sisters and brothers, the names of those who have gone to a higher rank of service during the past year. Also, we pay tribute to those who have lost loved members of their families who perhaps were not a member of our Order. To all these we dedicate our thought at this time. This is a HOLY HOUR OF MEMORY. The altar tonight shall be called the ALTAR OF MEMORY. This candle that I light in the East shall be called the CANDLE OF MEMORY. (W. M. lights candle before her)

Sister Conductress.

CONDUCTRESS:
Worthy Matron.

WORTHY MATRON:
Will you approach the East. (W.M. gives lighted candle to Cond.) Accept from me this LIGHT OF MEMORY which you shall carry to the Sisters of our Star who represent the five distinguished heroines of our Order and, after all their candles are lighted, return the CANDLE OF MEMORY to the East. (Cond. accepts candle from W.M. and faces west.)
CONDUCTRESS:

Sisters and brothers, as we conduct this memorial service, may we hear the voice of Him whose coming was heralded by the Star in the East, speaking to us in his ever comforting words:

(As the Conductress goes to each star point and lights their candle the W.P. and A. P say:

WORTHY PATRON:

"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." And "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were no so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there ye may be also."

ASSOCIATE PATRON:

And let the comforting assurance come to us, "That if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

(When the Conductress has lighted all the candles she returns to the East, placing the Candle of Memory on the pedestal in the East, still lighted, and returns to her station.)

WORTHY MATRON:

Sister Secretary, do the records of this Chapter show the names of our members who have received their promotion into a higher sphere of existence so that we may lay their names upon the Altar of Memory tonight?

SECRETARY:

Worthy Matron, my records show the names of sisters and brothers, who have received their promotion. They are: (reads list of names of departed members with history of date of admission to the Chapter, offices held, and date of death. The secretary then goes to the altar and reverently places the scroll containing the names of the departed on the altar.)

WORTHY MATRON:

(As the secretary places the scroll on the altar the W. M. says:)

May this hour be filled with the spirit of love that can bridge time and space and bring back to us in our thoughts and in our
prayers the memory of all those we hold most dear.

WORTHY MATRON:

Sister Associate Matron, will you call upon the Five Points of our emblematic Star to offer their tribute to our beloved departed members.

(Associate Matron leaves her station, walks to the East, faces west, bows to the Star Points who rise, taking their lighted candles, and form a circle around the altar.)

ASSOCIATE MATRON:

Sister Adah, (Adah replies, Assoc. Matron)

What is your tribute of memory as symbolized by the blue ray?

ADAH:

Blue symbolizes Fidelity and is appropriate to Jephthah's daughter, who, in the morning of life, surrendered to the grave the brightest of earthly hopes, that she might be faithful to her convictions of right and preserve her father's honor. As a token of faithfulness to the memory of our departed members, I place this candle as a tribute of faithful love upon the Altar of Memory. (Steps forward to altar and deposits candle; then returns to her place in the circle; makes a slight bow to the A.M. Other Star Points do likewise.)

ASSOCIATE MATRON:

Sister Ruth, what is your tribute of memory as symbolized by the yellow ray?

RUTH:

Yellow symbolizes Constancy, teaching faithful obedience to the demands of honor and justice. Ruth exemplified these virtues in humble station and sought the society of the good and true. In token of appreciation of these virtues, I place this candle as a tribute of steadfast constancy upon the Altar of Memory.

ASSOCIATE MATRON:

Sister Esther, what is your tribute of memory as symbolized by the white ray?
ESTHER:
White symbolizes Light and Purity. The heroic Queen Esther evinced the purity of her motive and love of kindred and friends by her willingness to risk the loss of crown and life to save her people from death. In token of sincere affection for our departed members, I place this candle as a tribute of light and purity upon the Altar of Memory.

ASSOCIATE MATRON:
Sister Martha, what is your tribute of memory as symbolized by the green ray?

MARTHA:
Green is a emblem of nature's life and beauty. The evergreen is a symbol of Immortal Life and teaches us that in the economy of God, there is no death, forms change, but the spirit survives. Martha, beside the grave of her beloved brother, avowed her trustful faith and hope of immortal life. In the full assurance of our departed members entrance upon a glorious immortality, I place this candle as a tribute of trustful faith upon the Altar of Memory.

ASSOCIATE MATRON:
Sister Electa, what is your tribute of memory as symbolized by the red ray?

ELECTA:
Red symbolizes Fervency and Zeal. Electa represents those who have been pre-eminent in charity and heroic in endurance of the wrongs of persecution. In token of the fervency of our affection for our departed loved ones, I place this candle as a tribute of love upon the Altar of Memory.

ASSOCIATE MATRON: (turns and addresses W.M.)
Worthy Matron, the five rays of our emblematic Star have told of the virtues exemplified by those who were once of us, but who are now living in a holy realm, and have made their tributes at the Altar of Memory.

(A.M. and Star Points return to their stations and are seated)
Sisters and brothers, realizing that death and separation are not the plan of God, and knowing that His boundless love fills all space, let us gather at the altar and ask His blessing upon those who are away and those who are here.

(*** Calls up entire Chapter)

(All form a circle and join hands as in initiation. AFTER Chaplain has assumed her place at altar and has knelt.)

CHAPLAIN:

Our Father, with a heart full of love for Thee and for all of our members who Thou hast called to a higher plane of service, we bow at this altar honoring Thy name and accepting Thy promises. We know that because of Thy love we all shall be united again when this life of service is over. We gather at this altar in their memory and ask Thee to bless this sacred moment. Our loved ones are precious in Thy sight. Their memory is holy to us. The golden circle is forming in Heaven. And when "one by one" (members drop hands) we enter Thy portals may we again find in happy association those loved ones who have gone before. All this we ask in love. AMEN.

(All join in singing "Blest Be The Tie". All officers remain in the circle until the Chaplain has returned to her station; then all return to their seats. The Conductress, without instruction extinguishes candles on altar and W.M. extinguishes candle on the pedestal in the East.)

(Worthy Matron seats the Chapter)

WORTHY MATRON:

This concludes our Hour of Memory. The Officers will retire.

(As the officers retire the organists plays, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" also known as "Christ, the Lord is Risen Today")