

# CEREMONY FOR WELCOMING RETIRING MATRON AND PATRON INTO PAST MATRON'S AND PATRON'S CIRCLE



*Past Matrons and Patrons form a line back of Esther's chair. The Junior Past Matron and Patron lead the line of march. Lines form a circle around the Altar leaving space for the Retiring Worthy Matron and Patron to join the circle. Junior Past Patron repeats, addressing the Worthy Matron and Patron:*

We welcome you into our circle  
Since you have traveled far  
Radiating the love and wisdom  
Of our glorious Eastern Star.  
A message of gratitude awaits you  
For your service, so earnest and true  
And may your kindness to others  
Return a hundred fold to you.

*Junior Past Matron and Past Patron escort them into the circle.*

**Junior Past Matron** repeats, addressing Worthy Matron:

Dear Sister..... It is my happy privilege to welcome you into this circle of Past Matrons and Past Patrons. You have indeed well earned this honor. We, who have first in our hearts the true growth and welfare of our Chapter, have looked to you with pride, seeing how wonderfully the ideals of our Chapter have been furthered. For the noble ideals that lift the hearts of men and women heavenward and teach them to be better men and women, for your earnest service so willingly given, ..... Chapter wishes to honor you with this lovely gift. Whenever you look upon this remembrance may it convey to you happiness and peace, which you have rightfully attained; and the love and gratitude we have in our hearts for you.

**Junior Past Patron** repeats, addressing Worthy Patron:

Dear Brother..... We are most happy to have you join the ranks of Past Patrons. Although from now on you will be addressed as Past, your splendid year of service will cause you to realize more than ever the responsibility of serving and uplifting your Chapter. In your heart tonight, I'm sure, lies the determination to continue giving whole-hearted service in all the years to come. Kindly accept this token of your Chapter's friendship and esteem, and may you heartily enjoy the associations of this circle of Past Matrons and Past Patrons.

**Past Matron** repeats:

Tonight, as a seal of this rite  
We, the Past Matrons and Past Patrons renew

Our pledge of service and loyalty  
To.....Chapter, through you  
May our lives and paths blend forever  
Within this circle of faith and love  
Radiating peace and loving kindness  
Like unto our Star rays, from above.

*All join in singing one verse of Blest be the Tie that Binds. All resume their respective stations while the organist plays one verse of the hymn softly.*