

MASONIC FUNERAL/WAKE SERVICE

MASONIC AT THE GRAVE SERVICE

MASONIC MEMORIAL SERVICE

HISTORIC MEMORIAL SERVICE

Approved by

The Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M.

of the State of Connecticut

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

(Revised 2002)

1. Any Mason regardless of his standing is entitled to a Masonic Service at the request of the deceased or his relatives. A member committing suicide is considered temporarily insane and therefore not barred.
2. A Masonic Service should be accorded either by his Lodge or by a Lodge within whose jurisdiction he may die. The Lodge of which he was a member must be consulted if practicable.
3. A Lodge of Masons, as such, should never attend a funeral unless it is permitted to perform a Masonic Service. For the purpose of performing a Masonic Service, a Lodge may be congregated by the Worshipful Master, or by the Senior Warden or by the Junior Warden, at the place where the Masonic Service is to be performed without opening a special communication of the Lodge. Aprons, Jewels, and Regalia shall be worn. (The use of a top hat by the Worshipful Master is not recommended as it is often misinterpreted by the uninitiated). A record shall be kept by the Secretary of the Lodge as to the name of the deceased Brother, the date, time and place of each service, and of the officers and members attending. A detailed report thereof shall be read at the next stated communication of the Lodge and recorded in the minutes.
4. While it is the prerogative of the Worshipful Master to conduct the Masonic Service, it is not a requirement that he does. The Worshipful Master may designate another Brother to perform the service on his behalf. However, the service should be conducted with dignity and respect, since the manner in which it is performed is a reflection on Masonry.
5. If the deceased was a Grand Lodge Officer or Past Grand Lodge Officer, the Grand Lodge may be asked if it wishes to take charge of the service. Or, the Grand Lodge may request the Officers of a Constituent Lodge to perform the service.
6. The proper dress is dark clothing and aprons. Officers should wear their Aprons and Jewels. The gavel, columns, staffs, sword and baton should be trimmed with black crepe.
7. Whenever other services are held by another fraternal society or military organization, these services should precede the Masonic Service. However, at the grave, taps may be blown and a volley may be discharged; or a benediction may be given by another person or persons at the close.
8. There should be no smoking during any part of the service, including the procession. The Marshal should see that this rule is strictly enforced.
9. Memorial Service should be used if no remains are present.

10. The following is the suggested typical formation at the funeral home if space permits:

Marshal Tiler
Junior Steward Senior Steward
Brethren by twos
Past Masters
(Grand Lodge Officers, if present)
Secretary..... Treasurer
Jr. Warden (with Columns)..... Sr. Warden
Chaplain
Three Great Lights
Junior Deacon Senior Deacon
Worshipful Master

MASONIC FUNERAL/WAKE SERVICE

Worshipful Master:

Friends and Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called and one Master Mason has not answered to his name. He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use. His labors here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his soul as a living stone for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. In reverence then, let us lift our prayer to the Divine Being to insure the favor of that Eternal God.

Let us pray:

PRAYER

(Chaplain reads one of the following. It might be well to check with the Clergyman prior to the service to determine what scripture he plans to use. The Lodge should not repeat any scripture used by the Clergyman.)

Chaplain:

God, our Heavenly Father, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, age after age the living seek thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion; still to their children be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night. Where, but in thee, have we a covert from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and art ever nigh; in sorrow, thy pity revives the fainting soul; in our prosperity and ease, it is thy spirit only that can wean us from our pride and keep us humble. O thou only source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints who have trusted in thee and were not ashamed. May the benediction of thy loving favor, sweet as the dews that fall on Hermon, soothe the anguished hearts of these, our Brother's loved ones, and lead them into the way everlasting. And to the one invisible and everlasting God, without beginning of years or end of days, be all the glory, world without end. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

-or-

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Amen.

All: So mote it be.

Worshipful Master:

My Brethren, we have assembled in accordance with the ancient customs of our Craft to bid farewell to the mortal body and Godspeed to the immortal spirit of him who dwelt a Brother among us.

(A brief biography of the deceased Brother or appropriate words should be offered at this time.)

Brother.....

Born:.....

Raised:.....

Passed to the great beyond:.....

Worshipful Master:

Ours is a ceremony, not of grief and despair, but of faith and hope. These last rites we accord Brother signify only our parting with his flesh, from which the immortal spirit has achieved emancipation. We perform them serenely, supported by our knowledge that each of us in his time must follow the pathway his soul has taken and, beyond the vale of sorrow, meet again to part no more.

Having faithfully discharged the great duties which Brother owed to God, his family, his neighbor and himself, it has pleased the Grand Master of the Universe to summon him into His Eternal presence.

(Optional):

May the trestle board of his whole life pass such inspection that it may be given unto him to "eat of the hidden manna," and "to receive the white stone with a new name," that will insure perpetual and unspeakable happiness at His right hand.

How often, when the day is ended and the sun is gone to rest, we pause to stand in awe, beholding the western sky transformed with a radiance that seems to shine out from the very gates of heaven, a wonderful picture painted by the hand of God, and we are lifted and exalted by the beauty and glory of nature.

And when a life's day is ended and a loved one is gone to rest, we are somehow lifted above the plane of our everyday life and our souls are permitted to catch faint gleams of the ineffable glory of that spiritual world, and we are comforted with a new assurance that:

"There is a mystic borderland that lies just past the limits of our workday world."

THE LAMBSKIN APRON

Worshipful Master:

The lambskin or white leather apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle and, when worthily worn, more honorable than the Star and Garter or any other Order.

Its pure and spotless surface is to us an ever-present reminder of purity of life and conduct, a never-ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements. This apron, a symbol of service, is placed over one who has served faithfully and well.

(If a Symbolic Apron is used, the Apron shall be placed on the casket, not in it.)

THE EVERGREEN

Worshipful Master:

This evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of the illustrious dead, is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded that we have an imperishable, immortal spirit, which survives this death, and which will never, never die. By it we are admonished that we too, like our Brother, shall soon be clothed in the habiliments of death; yet, through the loving kindness of the Supreme Grand Master, we may confidently hope that our souls hereafter flourish in eternal spring.

(The Evergreen is deposited by the Master, Wardens and Chaplain in three distinct motions, releasing the evergreen on the third motion. No other sign, motion or words are necessary. (Optional) At the discretion of the Worshipful Master the Evergreen may be deposited by all members present following the Master, Wardens and Chaplain.)

Then follows Funeral Grand Honors.

FUNERAL GRAND HONORS

(Funeral Grand Honors are now given, taking time from the Worshipful Master. The Grand Honors are repeated three times. The first two times with the motions only. The words and motions are given only on the third time).

"HIS BODY WE CONSIGN TO MOTHER EARTH",

(Arms extended toward casket, palms up, fingers extended and joined).

"HIS MEMORY WE CHERISH HERE",

(Arms crossed, left in front, palms flat against shoulders).

"HIS SPIRIT WE COMMEND TO GOD WHO GAVE IT".

(Arms extended toward Heaven, palms inward).

Worshipful Master:

The thoughts of this hour are and should be solemn thoughts. They should not be heavy with a weight of woe nor clouded with grief. They should rather be solemn with the moving of the great ideas and deep emotions which stir to life in the hours when we are brought face to face with the great realities which underlie our existence.

The body of our Brother will be committed to the kindly embrace of Mother Earth; in a profound sleep that shall not be disturbed; but his spirit has winged its flight to that blissful Lodge which will remain open during the endless ages of eternity. In that Heavenly Sanctuary, the Mystic Light, unmingled with darkness, will reign unbroken and perpetual; and there, amid the sunbeam smiles of immutable love, under the kind guidance of the All-Seeing Eye, by the Infinite Grace of the Almighty Father, we shall meet again.

To the family and friends of the departed, we tender our heartfelt sympathies. He was our Brother, and we are deeply sensible of the aching void caused by his passing. May He who never forsakes those who put their trust in Him, ever have you in His Holy keeping.

And so let him sleep. We say neither "good-night" nor "good-bye", but "good-morrow, Brother," in the confident knowledge that this seeming end is but the sleep of the wintertime with the bud even

now swelling to a glorious blossoming.

So then let us be unceasingly grateful for every God-given virtue which the life of Brother expressed and let us be comforted and sustained by the assurance that life goes on unbroken and uncorrupted and that God alone is the Life and Light of men.

As the soul attends the Celestial Lodge, there remains for a few hours among mortal men, the physical being, wherein dwelt the spirit while upon this earth; that physical being through which, by the teachings of Masonry, the passions had been subdued.

(Optional):

A Link in the chain of Masonic Brotherhood has been broken. Death has severed that chain without a sound, and the soul which was that link has departed this earth. Death has come to a Brother Master Mason.

(Optional):

Masonry cannot help him, for even now he stands before the Supreme Architect, there to be judged by the squareness of his work. Ten thousand words of living men cannot avail, as He judges by the Square, by the Level and by the Plumb. His work is finished, and his wages shall be paid as he has earned them.

(Optional):

At such a time as this--- "I never gaze on some well loved face but what I think 'one more to welcome me, when I shall cross the intervening space between this land and that one over there one more to make the strange beyond seem fair."

(Optional):

THEY ARE JUST AWAY

"I cannot say, and I will not say that they are dead, --they are just away!
With a cheery smile, and a wave of the hand,
They have wandered onto an unknown land,
And left us dreaming how very fair, it needs must be, since they linger there.

And you --o you, who the wildest yearn
For the old-time step and the glad return,
Think of them faring on, as dear
In the love of there as the love of here:
Think of them still as the same, I say: they are not dead --they are just away!"

(Optional):

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep
Too full for sound and foam
When that which drew from out the boundless deep

Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell
And after that the dark
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.

For though from our borne of time and place
The flood may bear me far
I hope to meet my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

(Tennyson)

BENEDICTION

Chaplain or Master:

Let us Pray:

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy to the only wise God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

All: So mote it be.

Worshipful Master:

And now may the blessing of Heaven rest upon us all; may Brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

SERVICE AT THE GRAVE

FORM AT THE CEMETERY

At or near the location where the service is to be performed, the Lodge is formed by the Marshal in the following order:

MarshalTiler
Junior Steward Senior Steward
Brethren by twos
Past Masters
(Grand Lodge Officers, if present)
Secretary..... Treasurer
Jr. Warden (with Columns)..... Sr. Warden
Chaplain
Three Great Lights
Junior Deacon Senior Deacon
Worshipful Master

(If the Grand Master or his representative is present, he walks on the left of the Worshipful Master).

The Grand Lodge Officers march last in the procession if the Grand Lodge is in charge of the service. The Lodge Officers of which the deceased was a member and all other organizations march first.

On arriving at the head of the grave, the Marshal moves to the right (or left) around the mound of earth, changing direction parallel to the side, then again parallel to the foot of the grave, halting when he and the Master have reached the head, thus forming three sides of a rectangle. Then all face the grave. This leaves the side opposite the mound for the family and mourners.

The bearers deposit the casket (unless previously placed) and then move by the foot of the grave to a position in line near the Tiler. The officers take their stations after the bearers are in position.

The Master is at the head of the grave with the Senior Warden on his right, the Chaplain on his left. The Junior Warden is at the foot. The Marshal takes a position at the foot near the Tiler. The Senior Warden places his column upright at the head of the grave, and the Junior Warden places his column prone at the foot of the grave. The Deacons, stand at the head and the Stewards at the foot.

After the Master and Wardens have deposited the evergreen, they step back one pace. Then the Marshal followed by the Brethren in single file, march around in the rear of the mourners, between the Master and the head of the grave, and deposit the evergreen. They then continue back to their original position and face the grave. The passing about the grave is frequently impossible or difficult and may be omitted.

There should be no smoking during any part of the service, including the procession. The marshal should see that this rule is strictly enforced.

SERVICE

Worshipful Master:

Friends and Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called and one Master Mason has not answered to his name. He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use. His labors here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his soul as a living stone for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

In reverence, then, let us lift our prayer to the Divine Being to insure the favor of that Eternal God.

Let us pray.

PRAYER

(Chaplain reads one of the following. It might be well to check with the Clergyman prior to the service to determine what scripture he plans to use. The Lodge should not repeat any scripture used by the Clergyman.)

Chaplain:

O God, our Heavenly Father, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, age after age the living seek thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion; still to their children be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night. Where, but in thee, have we a covert from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and art ever nigh; in sorrow, thy pity revives the fainting soul; in our prosperity and ease, it is thy spirit only that can wean us from our pride and keep us humble. O thou only source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints who have trusted in thee and were not ashamed. May the benediction of thy loving favor, sweet as the dews that fall on Hermon, soothe the anguished hearts of these, our Brother's loved ones, and lead them into the way everlasting. And to the one invisible and everlasting God, without beginning of years or end of days, be all the glory, world without end. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

-or-

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Amen.

All: So mote it be.

-or-

All mighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful, and the strength of the weak: May the prayers of those that in any tribulation or distress cry unto thee, graciously come before thee, so that in all their necessities they may mark and receive thy manifold help and comfort; through Our Lord. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

THE EVERGREEN

Worshipful Master:

This evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of the illustrious dead, is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded that we have an imperishable, immortal spirit, which survives this death, and which will never, never die. By it we are admonished that we too, like our Brother, shall soon be clothed in the habiliments of death; yet, through the loving kindness of the Supreme Grand Master, we may confidently hope that our souls hereafter flourish in eternal spring.

(The Evergreen is deposited by the Master, Wardens and Chaplain in three distinct motions, releasing the evergreen on the third motion. No other sign, motion or words are necessary. (Optional) At the discretion of the Worshipful Master the Evergreen may be deposited by all members present following the Master, Wardens and Chaplain.)

FUNERAL GRAND HONORS

Brethren, join me in affording our Brother Funeral Grand Honors.

(Funeral Grand Honors are now given, taking time from the Worshipful Master. The Grand Honors are repeated three times. The first two times with the motions only. The words and motions are given only on the third time.)

HIS BODY WE CONSIGN TO MOTHER EARTH,

(Arms extended toward grave, palms up, fingers extended and joined).

HIS MEMORY WE CHERISH HERE,

(Arms crossed, left in front, palms flat against shoulders).

HIS SPIRIT WE COMMEND TO GOD WHO GAVE IT.

(Arms extended toward Heaven, palms up).

BENEDICTION

Chaplain:

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy to the only wise God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

Worshipful Master:

And now may the blessing of Heaven rest upon us all; may Brotherly Love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

MASONIC MEMORIAL SERVICE

Worshipful Master:

Friends and Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called and one Master Mason has not answered to his name. He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use. His labors here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his soul as a living stone for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. In reverence then, let us lift our prayer to the Divine Being to insure the favor of that Eternal God.

Let us pray:

PRAYER

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Chaplain:

God, our Heavenly Father, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, age after age the living seek thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion; still to their children be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night. Where, but in thee, have we a covert from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and art ever nigh; in sorrow, thy pity revives the fainting soul; in our prosperity and ease, it is thy spirit only that can wean us from our pride and keep us humble. O thou only source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints who have trusted in thee and were not ashamed. May the benediction of thy loving favor, sweet as the dews that fall on Hermon, soothe the anguished hearts of these, our Brother's loved ones, and lead them into the way everlasting. And to the one invisible and everlasting God, without beginning of years or end of days, be all the glory, world without end. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

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The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Amen.

All: So mote it be.

Worshipful Master:

My Brethren, we have assembled in accordance with the ancient customs of our Craft to bid Godspeed to the immortal spirit of him who dwelt a Brother among us.

(A brief biography of the deceased Brother or appropriate words should be offered at this time.)

Brother.....

Born:.....

Raised:.....

Passed to the great beyond:.....

Worshipful Master:

Ours is a ceremony, not of grief and despair, but of faith and hope. These last rites we accord Brother whose immortal spirit has achieved emancipation. We perform them serenely, supported by our knowledge that each of us in his time must follow the pathway his soul has taken and, beyond the vale of sorrow, meet again to part no more.

Having faithfully discharged the great duties which Brother owed to God, his family, his neighbor and himself, it has pleased the Grand Master of the Universe to summon him into His Eternal presence.

(Optional):

May the trestle board of his whole life pass such inspection that it may be given unto him to "eat of the hidden manna," and "to receive the white stone with a new name," that will insure perpetual and unspeakable happiness at His right hand.

How often, when the day is ended and the sun is gone to rest, we pause to stand in awe, beholding the western sky transformed with a radiance that seems to shine out from the very gates of heaven, a wonderful picture painted by the hand of God, and we are lifted and exalted by the beauty and glory of nature.

And when a life's day is ended and a loved one is gone to rest, we are somehow lifted above the plane of our everyday life and our souls are permitted to catch faint gleams of the ineffable glory of that spiritual world, and we are comforted with a new assurance that:

"There is a mystic borderland that lies just past the limits of our workday world."

THE LAMBSKIN APRON

Worshipful Master:

The lambskin or white leather apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle and, when worthily worn, more honorable than the Star and Garter or any other Order.

Its pure and spotless surface is to us an ever-present reminder of purity of life and conduct, a never-ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements. The apron, a symbol of service, was worn by our brother while laboring among us.

THE EVERGREEN

Worshipful Master:

The evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of the illustrious dead, is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded that we have an imperishable, immortal spirit, which survives this death, and which will never, never die. By it we are admonished that we too, like our Brother, shall soon be clothed in the habiliments of death; yet, through the loving kindness of the Supreme Grand Master, we may confidently hope that our souls hereafter flourish in eternal spring.

Worshipful Master:

The thoughts of this hour are and should be solemn thoughts. They should not be heavy with a weight of woe nor clouded with grief. They should rather be solemn with the moving of the great ideas and deep emotions which stir to life in the hours when we are brought face to face with the great realities which underlie our existence.

The body of our Brother is committed to the kindly embrace of Mother Earth; in a profound sleep that shall not be disturbed; but his spirit has winged its flight to that blissful Lodge which will remain open during the endless ages of eternity. In that Heavenly Sanctuary, the Mystic Light, unmingled with darkness, will reign unbroken and perpetual; and there, amid the sunbeam smiles of immutable love, under the kind guidance of the All-Seeing Eye, by the Infinite Grace of the Almighty Father, we shall meet again.

To the family and friends of the departed, we tender our heartfelt sympathies. He was our Brother, and we are deeply sensible of the aching void caused by his passing. May He who never forsakes those who put their trust in Him, ever have you in His Holy keeping.

And so let him sleep. We say neither "good-night" nor "good-bye", but "good-morrow, Brother," in the confident knowledge that this seeming end is but the sleep of the wintertime with the bud even now swelling to a glorious blossoming.

So then let us be unceasingly grateful for every God-given virtue which the life of Brother expressed and let us be comforted and sustained by the assurance that life goes on unbroken and uncorrupted and that God alone is the Life and Light of men.

As the soul attends the Celestial Lodge, there remains for a few hours among mortal men, the physical being, wherein dwelt the spirit while upon this earth; that physical being through which, by the teachings of Masonry, the passions had been subdued.

(Optional):

A Link in the chain of Masonic Brotherhood has been broken. Death has severed that chain without a sound, and the soul which was that link has departed this earth. Death has come to a Brother Master Mason.

(Optional):

Masonry cannot help him, for even now he stands before the Supreme Architect, there to be judged by the squareness of his work. Ten thousand words of living men cannot avail, as He judges by the Square, by the Level and by the Plumb. His work is finished, and his wages shall be paid as he has earned them.

(Optional):

At such a time as this--- "I never gaze on some well loved face but what I think 'one more to welcome me, when I shall cross the intervening space between this land and that one over there one more to make the strange beyond seem fair."

(Optional):

THEY ARE JUST AWAY

"I cannot say, and I will not say that they are dead, --they are just away!
With a cheery smile, and a wave of the hand,
They have wandered onto an unknown land,
And left us dreaming how very fair, it needs must be, since they linger there.
And you --o you, who the wildest yearn
For the old-time step and the glad return,
Think of them faring on, as dear
In the love of there as the love of here:
Think of them still as the same, I say: they are not dead --they are just away!"

(Optional):

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.
But such a tide as moving seems asleep
Too full for sound and foam
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell
And after that the dark
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.
For though from our borne of time and place
The flood may bear me far
I hope to meet my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

(Tennyson)

BENEDICTION

Chaplain or Master:

Let us Pray:

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy to the only wise God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

All: So mote it be.

Worshipful Master:

And now may the blessing of Heaven rest upon us all; may Brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

HISTORICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Purpose

To honor a long dead brother who served as Grand Master for The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of The State of Connecticut or another Brother from Connecticut who has contributed significantly to the history of our country. This service is not to be used at the funeral of a Brother who has just recently died.

Discussion

This service should be performed by the Lodge with which the Brother was affiliated. However, if the Lodge is no longer in existence, the Lodge closest to the interment site should perform the ceremony.

While it is the prerogative of the Worshipful Master to conduct the Masonic Service, it is not necessary that he perform the service. The Worshipful Master may designate another Brother to perform the service on his behalf. However, the service should be conducted with dignity and respect, since the manner in which it is performed is a reflection on Masonry.

If the deceased was a Grand Lodge Officer or Past Grand Lodge Officer, the Grand Lodge may be asked if it wishes to take charge of the service. If the Brother was not a Grand Lodge Officer the District Deputy should be advised of plans for such a service and he should, in turn, advise the Grand Lodge of plans for the service.

The proper dress is dark clothing and aprons for all Brethren. Historically appropriate costumes may also be worn by Officers and Brethren. Casual attire is inappropriate for members of the Fraternity. Officers should wear aprons and jewels of office.

There should be no smoking during any part of the service, including the procession. The Marshal should see that this rule is strictly enforced.

The following is the suggested typical formation if space permits:

Marshal Tiler

Junior Steward Senior Steward

Brethren by twos

Past Masters

(Grand Lodge Officers, if present)

Secretary..... Treasurer

Jr. Warden (with Columns)..... Sr. Warden

Chaplain

Three Great Lights

Junior Deacon Senior Deacon
Worshipful Master

(If the Grand Master or his representative is present, he walks on the left of the Worshipful Master).

The Grand Lodge Officers march last in the procession if the Grand Lodge is in charge of the service. The Lodge Officers of which the deceased was a member and all other organizations march before the Grand Lodge Officers.

Historical re-enactors in costume who are not members of the Fraternity may participate but only as spectators.

Attendance

Lodge Brothers and Grand Lodge Officers. If the Lodge decides the ceremony will be open to the public, a concerted effort should be made for a significant (12 or more) level of attendance by Brethren.

On arriving at the head of the grave, the Marshal moves to the right (or left) around the gravesite, changing direction parallel to the side, then again parallel to the foot of the grave, halting when he and the Master have reached the head, thus forming three sides of a rectangle. Then all face the grave. This leaves the side opposite the gravesite for the family and mourners.

The Master is at the head of the grave with the Senior Warden on his right, the Chaplain on his left. The Junior Warden is at the foot. The Marshal takes a position at the foot near the Tiler. The Senior Warden places his column upright at the head of the grave, and the Junior Warden places his column prone at the foot of the grave. The Deacons, stand at the head and interlock staffs so as to form an arch. The Stewards, at the foot of the grave.

After the Master and Wardens have deposited the evergreen, they step back one pace. Then the Marshal, followed by the Brethren in single file, march around the rear of the spectators, between the Master and the head of the grave, and deposit the evergreen. They then continue back to their original position and face the grave. The passing about the grave is frequently impossible or difficult and may be omitted.

Upon completion of Service the procession will depart grave site in the same order as they entered. Ceremony should not last more than twenty (20) minutes.

Service

Worshipful Master: Friends and Brethren, we are gathered here today to honor and remember a Brother who dedicated his life to his country and who exemplifies the principle of Freemasonry. In reverence, then, let us lift our prayer to the Divine Being to ensure the favor of that Eternal God.

Chaplain: O God, our Heavenly Father, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, age

after age the living seek thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion; still to their children be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night. Where, but in thee, have we a cover from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and art ever nigh; in sorrow, thy pity revives the fainting soul; in our prosperity and ease, it is thy spirit only that can wean us from our pride and keep us humble. O thou only source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints who have trusted in thee and were not ashamed. May the benediction of thy loving favor, sweet as the dews that fall on Hermon, lead us into the way everlasting. And to the one invisible and everlasting God, without beginning of years or end of days, be all the glory, world without end. Amen

All: So mote it be.

-or-

Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful, and the strength of the weak: May the prayers of those that in any tribulation or distress cry unto thee, graciously come before thee, so that in all their necessities they may mark and receive thy manifold help and comfort; through Our Lord. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

Worshipful Master: Presents a brief biography of the Brother, and then states:

Born - (Date)

Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason – (Date)

Entered the Celestial Lodge – (Date)

THE LAMBSKIN APRON

Worshipful Master: The lambskin or white leather apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle and, when worthily worn, more honorable than the Star and Garter or any other Order. It's pure and spotless surface is to us an ever-present reminder of purity of life and conduct, a never-ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements. This apron, a symbol of service, is placed in memory of one who has served faithfully and well.

(If a Symbolic Apron is used, the Apron shall be placed on the gravestone or marker.)

THE EVERGREEN

Worshipful Master: This evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of the illustrious dead, is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded that we have an imperishable, immortal spirit, which survives this death, and which will never, never die. By it we are admonished that we too, like our Brother, shall soon be clothed in the habiliments of death; yet, through the loving kindness of the Supreme Grand Master, we may confidently hope that our souls hereafter flourish in eternal spring.

(The Evergreen is deposited by the Master, Wardens and Chaplain in three distinct motions,

*releasing the evergreen on the third motion. No other sign, motion or words are necessary.
(Optional) At the discretion of the Worshipful Master the Evergreen may be deposited by all members present after the Worshipful Master, Chaplin and Wardens.*

WREATH LAYING (Optional)

Worshipful Master: In recognition of this Brothers service to his (insert name of appropriate body, e.g. Grand Lodge, country) the Fraternity now places this wreath.

Worshipful Master:

We part upon the square, for the world must have its due, we mingle in the haunts of men, but keep our manhood true, but the influence of our gatherings, is always fresh and green, And we long upon the level, to renew the happy scene.

There's a world where all are equal, we are hurrying toward it fast, and we shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past, we shall stand before the orient, and the Master will be there, our works to try our lives to prove, by His unerring square.

We shall meet upon the level there, but nevermore depart, there's a mansion bright and glorious set, for the pure in heart", there's a mansion and a welcome, and a multitude is there, who in this world of sloth and sin, we did act upon the square.

Let us meet upon the level then, while laboring patient here, let us meet and let us labor though, the labor is severe, already in the western sky, the signs bid us prepare, to gather up our working tools, and part upon the square.

Hands round ye Royal Brotherhood, close in the Golden Chain, we part upon the square below, to meet in Heaven again, each link that has been broken here, shall be united there, and none be lost around the throne, who've acted on the square.

BENEDICTION

Chaplain or Master: Let us pray:

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy to the only wise God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

All: So mote it be.

Worshipful Master: And now may the blessing of Heaven rest upon us all; may Brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen.

All: So mote it be.

Ritual and Ceremonies Committee

W.B. Eric W. Manner, Chairman
R.W.B. F. Matthew Heinrich Jr.
R.W.B. Richard R. Jones Jr.
R.W.B. Marshall K. Robinson
R.W.B. Martin L Rudnick
W.B. Francis G. Way
W.B. H. Bradford Wylie

Revised 1966
Revised February 2002
(Memorial Service Added)
Revised November 2011
(Historical Service Added)