



## Public Rituals - Founders Day

### **OVERVIEW**

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March 17th, 1906, is the Founders Day of Phi Kappa Tau. Founders Day is celebrated differently at each chapter, however it is always a day of celebration and pride for the organization. Many chapters will hold banquets in honor of Founders Day, and potentially tie them into their own local founding as well.

The following is less of a ceremony and instead written pieces to contemplate on Founders Day and consider including in any celebration the chapter holds, or piece of Founders Day related content that the chapter puts out.

### **CEREMONY PREPARATION**

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As stated above, the following script and poem are to be considered for use as a basis for a tribute to the Founders and can be presented as a part of a Founders Day Program.

These are best served delivered by someone in the chapter with excellent public speaking skills. In the absence of a formal celebration such as a banquet it is encouraged to read these aloud at your weekly chapter meeting in advance of Founders Day.

## **FOUNDERS DAY POEM**

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Great Architect of Heaven and Earth  
to whom all beings owe their birth;  
On Friendship's alter rising here,  
The sacred fire we guard sincere.

'Twas reared in honor of Thy name,  
By Brothers whom this day we fame  
Though strong and firm our numbers now,  
To those who builded first, we bow.

The sacred truths by them revealed  
Shall be our cornerstone and shield;  
That by and through our mystic tie,  
This truth, and light, shall never die.

May Tau and Kappa, Crowned by Phi  
continue as our torch on high,  
To future ages give the Right;  
This vision of unerring Light.

Adieu, my Brother all, adieu  
Ye honored and enlightened few;  
These moments may We ne'er forget,  
Companions leave as we have met.

-Howard S. Stephenson, Theta '19

## ***A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORED FOUNDERS***

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Brothers of Phi Kappa Tau:

The occasion which we commemorate today is the anniversary of the founding of our Fraternity, on March 17, 1906, at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The existence of Phi Kappa Tau as a great Fraternity is due to the activity and thought of four men, all of whom were students at Miami University: Taylor Albert Borradaile, Clinton DeWitt Boyd, Dwight Ireneus Douglass, and William Henry Shideler. These men and those others who aided them, inspired by the ideals of brotherhood and motivated by a sincere desire for expression of these ideals, conceived and established the order which is today The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

The growth of Phi Kappa Tau since its inception has been steady. Its ideals have been true and appealing. Thousands of college men have accepted its teachings in their search for true happiness. The unquenchable desire for perpetual progress, for truer manhood, and for nobler life flames high in their lives as they follow the brightening star ever toward an ever widening horizon of achievement.

The future of Phi Kappa Tau can have no limitation except that of the measure of our loyalty to its ideals and our fidelity to its principles. We have become united as brothers at the call of Phi, Kappa, and Tau, Guided by their true light we shall yet achieve the goal which they envision.

To those whom we shall ever revere as Honored Founders our tribute is due. To them, our solemn salute as we go forward is an undying memory.